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Rosemount, MN

## Project Explore and Citizenship Students Volunteer at Feed My Starving Children



*District 196 Community Education participants from River Valley Project Explore and Adult Basic Education civics class team up to volunteer at Feed My Starving Children in Eagan.*

through field trips. In civics class, immigrant adults learn English and increase their knowledge of the local community.

The combined group met at Feed My Starving Children in Eagan and was welcomed by its staff. After a brief introduction, orientation and training session, the group was led into a large, bright, lit room with several stations. Then the group was divided into smaller groups of eight and were asked to go to the individual stations that were equipped with boxes of rice, soy meal, chicken flavoring, a large funnel, scale and bag sealer.

(more)

On a Saturday afternoon, over 70 participants of two District 196 Community Education programs joined together and volunteered their time and talents. The two programs were: River Valley Project Explore, a program that provides educational, social and recreational opportunities for adults with disabilities, and Adult Basic Education's (ABE) civics class, which teaches in the classroom and

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Each participant eagerly performed their duties; pouring the ingredients into the funnel, which in turn, went into a plastic bag and was weighed and sealed. After just a few hours, the participants had packaged enough food for 23 children to eat for an entire year!

Feed My Starving Children (FMSC), a non-profit organization, ships the hand-packaged meals to more than 60 countries around the world. The Eagan facility is easy to get to and is bright and welcoming. For more information regarding FMSC, visit [www.fmsc.org](http://www.fmsc.org) or call 651-379-2775.

District 196 Community Education's civics class helps English language learners practice English in everyday situations, in both the classroom and on field trips. The field trips are planned and organized by the students in the class, which is also a learning experience for them. To date, just this year, over 20 adults involved in ABE's classes and workshops became American citizens! Classes meet on Friday and Saturday mornings from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Rahncliff Learning Center. ABE will also be hosting a ***Prepare for Citizenship*** class on Mondays, April 6 to May 18 at Rahncliff Learning Center, 2030 Rahn Way, Eagan. For more information and to register visit [www.district196.org/abe](http://www.district196.org/abe), email [abe@district196.org](mailto:abe@district196.org) or call 651-683-8585.

River Valley Project Explore coordinates and plans events, activities and learning opportunities such as cooking, arts and crafts, self-help skills and more for adults with disabilities. It is a consortium of five school districts of which District 196 is a member. For more information about River Valley Project Explore and upcoming events visit [www.district196.org/projectexplore](http://www.district196.org/projectexplore), email [rvpe@district196.org](mailto:rvpe@district196.org) or call 952-431-8735.

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District 196 Community Education provides quality lifelong learning opportunities for more than 60,000 participants of all ages. District 196 serves more than 28,000 students in grades K-12 and includes all or part of Rosemount, Apple Valley, Eagan, Burnsville, Coates, Inver Grove Heights, Lakeville and Empire and Vermillion townships. For more information, visit [www.district196.org/ce](http://www.district196.org/ce).