

☀ Values

- Understanding
- Vision
- Leadership
- Social Responsibility
- Commitment
- Social Emotional Learning

☀ Reflection Questions

Do you think there is a correlation between treating people fairly and doing well?

Do you know any business people who are mentors for students like Van Truong?

If you were to receive a scholarship for public service, what area would you focus on?

☀ Lessons Learned

“Do unto others as you would have them do unto you” is a good business principle

When you practice what you preach, people develop a respect for you.

When people contribute to student scholarships, they are investing in their own future.

The Power of Giving

Arnold Hiatt, Stride Rite Corporation
Boston, MA/Vietnam

Arnold Hiatt is a businessman who always wanted to do more than just make a profit: he wanted to make a difference. As president of the Stride Rite Corporation, he convinced his board to give 5% of the company's pretax earnings to social initiatives, created the nation's first on-site corporate day-care program, and encouraged Stride Rite employees to work with inner-city youth during work hours. In this story, we learn how one young man, a Vietnamese refugee, benefited not only from Hiatt's generosity, but from his example. As a Harvard student who received a Stride Rite scholarship, Van Truong was impressed with the way Hiatt took a personal interest in him and his activities. “He showed us how to be public spirited,” he said. “In the money-crazy 1980s, he was a visionary role model for us all.” Van has decided to dedicate his life to public service, saying, “Arnold Hiatt taught me the power of giving back, one person at a time.”

☀ Language Arts: SEL & Diversity

Create an intergenerational pen pal project with your local nursing home. Have students write about their hopes and dreams for the future and create pen pals to provide them with encouragement and support. Over time, students will re-read these letters and will be able to follow their dreams with more conviction.

☀ Social Studies: Diversity

Read about Vietnam and their process to create a democracy and a stable economy. Write a report comparing life in Vietnam during the 1960's and in the 1990's. Ask Business for Social Responsibility for a list of their members (www.bsr.org). Match each student with a company and study their socially responsible practices and profitability.

☀ Community Service: Service Learning

Write letters to local companies asking about their community relations policy. Encourage them to provide release time for employees who would like to volunteer with a school, hospital or service agency. Tell them about the Stride Rite Corporation and how their policies helped increase their profits and added to their community relations benefits. Suggest that your school's sports teams donate a percentage -of their ticket sales to a charity. Invite your school's economics club to adopt the BSR principles and contribute to a cause.