

What Do Your Students Know about Community Service Organizations?

KNOWLEDGE-BUILDER MINI LESSON

STUDENT OBJECTIVE: I can describe the purpose of a Community Service Organization.



Prepare (1-2 minutes)

- Let students know that as Director of the Common Ground Community Center right after a major hurricane, they have an extremely important job. They will be helping the residents of Port Douglas recover from many damaging effects of the storm. Along with their dedicated staff, they will make decisions every day that will affect the lives of the people they serve.
- Tell your students that the Center was serving the people of Port Douglas before Hurricane Dante hit. A *community service organization (CSO)*, the Center has long been committed to improving the lives of the people of Port Douglas.



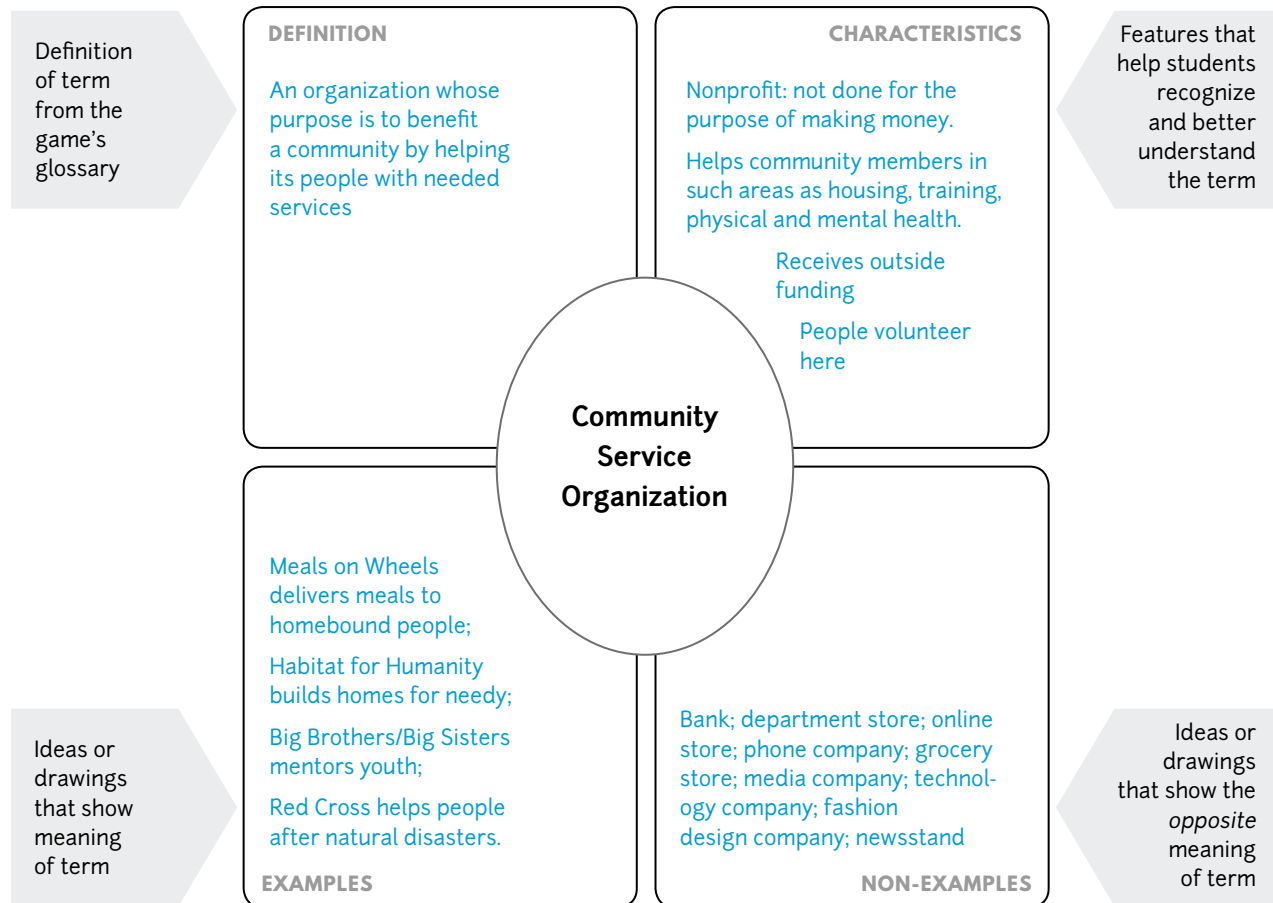
Apply (10-15 minutes)

- Draw the Frayer Model to the right, or display it on a whiteboard. Copy only the headings and the text in the oval. Tell students its purpose is to help them understand what a community service organization is, and the kind of work it does. Work together to fill in the model. **NOTE: Teacher call-outs clarify the purpose of each category. Suggested answers are in blue.**



Discuss & Extend (5 minutes)

- Lead a whole-class discussion with the goal of making sure your students understand the basics of what a community organization is, and what a typical one might do. The following are some questions you might ask your students.
 1. *Can you identify a community service organization near where you live? What is it, and what does it do? (Answers will vary. If students suggest companies or other profit-making organizations, review the differences between their examples and the examples of a CSO on the completed Frayer Model.)*
 2. *We've talked about some ways community service organizations help people. Can you describe in your own words how they help? Can you add any ways we did not touch upon? (E.g., they help people get housing if they're homeless. They teach people healthy eating. They provide food to people who need it. They train people to work and help them get ready for a job. They tutor students.)*



3. *What personal qualities do you think a person who works at a community service organization should have? (E.g., kindness, helpfulness, commitment to the idea that everyone should have a chance to be successful, good at problem solving)*
4. *What do you imagine a director of a community service organization does? (Write students' suggestions on the board. Make sure students understand that the director must supervise staff, deal with financial issues, solve problems affecting the people the organization serves, set goals for the organization and make sure it meets them, review important documents, and make sure the public understands the organization's' goals and services.)*



Review (1-2 minutes)

- Let students know that they will soon enter the Common Ground Community Center as its Director. Remind them they will arrive the day after the storm. Ask them to predict the kinds of problems they will need to solve on that day. (Predictions will vary. Students should realize that the storm might affect internal operations of the Center and will definitely be the source of problems for the people they serve—problems they and their staff will need to address.)