Excerpts from article on working with student groups.

“School Library Media Specialists provide services to students every day. Students are the heart of the library and everything School Librarians do revolves around increased student achievement.

Students can be a powerful advocate group for the school library. Below are some ideas at getting student groups involved and active in the library. If you have other ideas, please share them with the MAME listserv or email Kathy Lester at kathyL@mimame.org.

* Have a group of students read a book that 'pairs' with a community project. After reading the book, raise money for the charity or do community work. High school examples include:
  - Read a book like Arc of Justice and then have student groups work on Habitat for Humanity
  - Read a book about abuse and bring in speakers and raise money for Child Abuse and Neglect Councils

* If students are involved in other service learning projects, find a way to involve the library. Examples include:
  - During a school-wide food drive for the local food pantry, offer overdue fine amnesty in exchange for canned goods.
  - Offer to be the drop-off point for donations during the clothing drive.
  - Offer to be a teacher coordinator to work with students on a service project

* Have groups of students help design and create bulletin boards for the library or have them make decorations for the library for the holidays.

* Work with counselors and administrators to identify students that could use some one-on-one time in a no-stress zone (the library!). You can have these students assist you in the library.

* Involve the student council or other student groups in a fund raiser for the library. Examples include:
  - Have students make recommendations for books for the library; then, raise money through a bake sale (or other simple fund raiser) to buy the books that students have recommended.
  - Recruit students to serve on a student crew for your book fair. They can take on promotional tasks as well as provide student recommendations for books coming to the fair.

* Get students involved in providing book recommendations or book reviews. Examples include:
• Have a book review contest for students
• Work with teachers to have students write book reviews in your online catalog (if the catalog has this feature)
• Use a 'reading grafitti' wall for recommendations

* Hold 'Special Events' for students in the library. Examples include:

• 'Pop Open a Good Book' - watch Book Trailers with students while they munch on popcorn
• 'Books and Bytes' - have snacks for students and give them time to recommend and share information on books
• Have a story telling session - such as scary stories around Halloween time