



WITH DISTINCTION FOR GENERAL COMMUNITY SERVICE

Literacy

Central College

Community & Economic Development, Education, ESL, Literacy, Youth Leadership, Service Learning

¡Juntos Todos Aprendemos!

During the 2005-2006 academic year, more than 125 students from beginning, intermediate, and advanced Central College Spanish courses volunteered at seven organizations who serve Latinos. The Central College Office of Community-Based Learning collaborates with approximately 35 agencies who serve Latinos in Central Iowa. This work was accomplished with the help of grant funds provided through Learn and Serve America (program administered by the Upper Midwest Consortium of Campus Compact). More than 20 individuals and small groups completed a beginning term of English language instruction and daycare and after school assistance was provided to approximately 100 Latino children. More than 50 families received assistance at income tax preparation clinics and 12 Latino high school students visited Central College and received information about higher education and financial aid. All of these students indicated that the activity resulted in an increased understanding of the college application process and financial assistance; and 75% said that they were "very likely" to apply to an institution of higher education following high school. College students who participated in this project realized increased Spanish language acquisition and enhanced cultural awareness. This is an ongoing effort; the Office of Community-Based Learning continues to promote the growth of existing partnerships while cultivating new ones.

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WITH DISTINCTION FOR GENERAL COMMUNITY SERVICE

Literacy

Connecticut College

Education, Health/Nutrition, Literacy, Tutoring, Service Learning

Project Kids, Books and Athletics

Project Kids, Books and Athletics (KBA) at Connecticut College fosters the love of reading, increasing the physical fitness of New London Children and their families and encouraging family literacy and parental involvement in children's learning. Research documents the inter connectedness of mind and body wellness for learning. Statistics document that obesity is a growing problem among children and even toddlers. Poor nutrition and the lack of physical activity are primary cited reasons. Research has also shown that children who have parents who are involved in their learning have a higher success rate in school.

Staff worked with faculty and Athletic Department coaches to recruit and train over 100 students to participate in Project KBA. Teams of students met weekly at seven community sites to lead a half hour of structured, age appropriate physical activities and a half hour of guided reading. Three Connecticut College courses have service-learning components that include student participation in KBA. In addition to leading weekly KBA sessions, students in these courses organized and implemented field trips to Connecticut College to visit the library, Athletic Center, and Arboretum and led special KBA activities on campus. They organized successful KBA family events at the sites and completed other projects including: an age appropriate exercise guide, a nutrition brochure that was distributed to the participants' families, and a multicultural book list.

All of these projects have strengthened KBA and our community partnerships. In return, the college students have developed a better understanding of education in urban settings and have increased their teaching and coaching skills. KBA also provides the College students the opportunity to examine public policy related to literacy and child wellness. Over 300 children participate in Project KBA each year.

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WITH DISTINCTION FOR GENERAL COMMUNITY SERVICE

Literacy

Hamline University

At-Risk Youth, Hunger, Literacy, Day of Service, Fundraiser

30-Hour Famine

The 30 Hour Famine takes place on Hamline University's campus and in the surrounding communities in February. During the Famine all participants fast for 30 hours while learning about hunger and homelessness and while participating in various local community service projects. Participants also raise money by finding sponsors for their fast. Each year a planning committee organizes and plans the events that will take place during the 30 hours that all participants are together fasting. In 2006 there were about 50 participants including high school students and Hamline students and faculty. Over five thousand dollars was raised and distributed by World Vision to feed hungry children in the US, Africa, and Asia.

Some of the community service projects included helping Habitat for Humanity build a set of houses, sorting books for Books for Africa, baking cookies for a senior home, and data entry for Housing Minnesota, among other activities. Some of the other activities that occur during the 30 hours of fasting include a benefit concert open to the public involving Hamline student and faculty groups. All attendees participate in a game that focuses on an aspect of hunger; in 2006, the topic was what homelessness and hunger looked like in Kenya and different things that a young person living in that area of the world might deal with on a daily basis. The goal is for every participant to come away from the 30 hours having a greater understanding of hunger and advocacy.

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WITH DISTINCTION FOR GENERAL COMMUNITY SERVICE

Literacy

Hobart & William Smith Colleges

At-Risk Youth, Community & Economic Development, Education, Literacy, Fundraiser

First Book

First Book Geneva is the Hobart & William Smith College campus sponsored chapter of First Book, a Washington, D.C. based non-profit organization that works to establish personal libraries in the homes of America's children living in need. A critical factor in children learning to read and growing up with a love of books is the presence of books in the child's home. First Book's mission is to provide a home library for children from low income homes. First Book Geneva earned an initial grant of 4000 books which it is in the process of granting out to children enrolled in America Reads, Jumpstart Geneva, and other local agencies such as the Child and Family Resource Center that serve children and families.

Additionally, First Book utilizes fundraised dollars to purchase books through First Book for \$2.50 each and buy large cartons of books when they are available on-line. Approximately 10 students serve with community members to decide on granting of books and formulate fundraising strategies. This program has benefited hundreds of children and has the potential to impact hundreds more.

A unique event was a "Speed Read" held at the local comedy club prior to the regular show. Tickets were sold by the group with a percentage going to First Book. Participants, who included the Colleges' President, Director of Athletics, Presbyterian minister, head of the community lunch program, an America Reads partner principal and the director of Literacy Volunteers competed to see how far they could read aloud from a children's book in 15 seconds. It was a positive event for everyone involved, with a crowd of over 150 at the club (double the normal crowd) and raising \$1,000 for books from ticket sales and a donation from the club. The group will continue in the future and partner with the local Rotary Club on the Bright Red Bookshelf Project, which will place bookshelves in areas throughout the city and allow children to take books to keep for their libraries. The shelves are replenished through donations.

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