During the week of April 2-5, the Bonner Leader Program hosted Engage and Empower. Engage and Empower is an awareness week with events focusing on various issues affecting the community. The purpose of these events is to bring to light the community issues surrounding the College of Charleston campus. We hope that you were able to attend some of these events, but in case you didn’t, here is a description of what we did that week.

On Monday afternoon, there were three speakers on the issue of affordable housing in the Charleston area. The speakers were Geona Johnson, the Director of Housing & Community Development, Dan Riccio, the Director of Livability Division, and Josephine Rex, the Volunteer Coordinator for Sea Island Habitat for Humanity.

That evening, the Bonners hosted another event on the topic of domestic human trafficking. There was a guest speaker who gave an informative first-hand account of her struggle.

On Tuesday, April 3rd, there was a panel of experts to answer questions concerning the elderly population and issues that they are facing. The speakers were Barbara Franklin from Franklin & Associates, Inc., Brenda Sanders from the College of Charleston’s Department of Sociology, and Dr. John Creed from the College of Charleston’s Department of Political Science.

On Wednesday, there was a drop-in event dealing with animal welfare issues. Organizations that were present include Carolina C.A.R.E., Charleston Veggies & Vegans, Pet Helpers, and Charleston Animal Society. There were also puppies up for adoption!

To close the week, the Bonners showed clips from the film Flow and had a presentation about water issues on a domestic and international level.
There are two Alternative Maymester trips this year. One is a credit-bearing trip in coordination with the Honors College to Tegucigalpa, Honduras. The other trip is in Derroran, Whitegate Country Clare in Ireland. During the Maymester service trip to Honduras, we will have the opportunity to put our new knowledge and skills to work to address critical issues. We will be preparing and designing program development models with a non-profit based out of Charleston, SC and Tegucigalpa, Honduras, called LAMB. This organization provides a variety of outreach programs for the local Hondurans, including a microfinance program, a children’s home for abused or neglected children, a program for at-risk youth, and a safe house. We will spend two and a half weeks working with LAMB, helping them develop in a critical area identified by the staff, with the beautifully diverse country of Honduras as our backdrop.

On the trip to Ireland, we will be working with Sunrise Farm doing organic farming, finishing a building to house vegetable oil recycling, removing non-native species and replacing them with native species and building earth-friendly structures. While staying at Sunrise Farm, we will be enjoying local foods from the farmer’s market. Through these projects and on this trip, we will learn about the importance of buying locally, organic farming, and traveling sustainably.

April 2012

Bingo and Beyond

This semester Bingo and Beyond members spent their first and third Tuesdays with the senior citizens at the Ansonborough House. Every session included a different activity that bridged the generational gap between CofC students and the senior citizens. Some of the activities included making healthy snacks, playing board games, making greeting cards for the Meals on Wheels Program, a dance session, and a visit from PetHelpers.

If this program sounds interesting to you and you would like to get involved with it next year, please contact Eliza Blades at emblades@cofc.edu, and she will try to coordinate with your schedule for the upcoming school year.