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visit us!

Center for Civic Engagement

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Every year, the Center for Civic Engagement participates in Homecoming Week by providing service opportunities for students and organizations to show their school spirit. For Homecoming this year, we are hosting a service project and collecting pet donations for the Charleston Animal Society and Pet Helpers. Twenty-four volunteers from various organizations will go to Charles Towne Landing to beautify their cougar exhibit. The project will include removing and planting trees and general maintenance. Students will be awarded Spirit Cup points for participating in this event.

In addition to the service project, organizations will be given the opportunity to donate pet supplies for local shelters. Each donation will also be awarded Spirit Cup points. The winning team will have the highest combined total of points.

Donations are being collected now until Thursday, February 9 so it's not too late to join the Spirit Cup competition. Please visit the blog Volunteer.cofc.edu to find a complete list of donation items. Donations must be turned in to Lightsey 203 by 5 pm.

It's a new semester and Bingo and Beyond is still going strong! To start off the new year right, members of BAB made healthy snacks to keep up with New Year's resolutions. Along with some College of Charleston students, the seniors at Charleston Area Senior Center pulled out recipes from a 1940’s cookbook for retro, yet healthy snacks. Together they also made parfaits with two different types of yogurt, granola, and a medley of fruits.

The next sessions of BAB are from 3:30-5:30 pm on the following days:
- 2/21 – Making Cards for the Meals on Wheels Program
- 3/13 – Active Session
- 3/27 – Talent Show
- 4/10 – Puppies & Kittens

BAB is still looking to expand so if you wish to get involved email Eliza Blades at emblades@cofc.edu.
The Bonner Leader Program

Freshman & Sophomore Domestic Trip : Puerto Rico

While other students were enjoying their Winter Break with friends and family, the Bonner Leaders took a trip to a different part of the world to experience a new culture through service. The week of December 15, 2011, nine freshmen and sophomores traveled to Puerto Rico.

In Puerto Rico, Bonner Leaders went to the only North American rainforest to help rehabilitate a trail damaged during Hurricane Irene. Students also worked in a substance abuse shelter for teenagers and made repairs and upgrades to a school for the deaf. This destination was chosen for the variety of service projects available and the opportunity to experience a new culture while in the United States.

“Ghandi once said that “the best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others” but in Puerto Rico I found family with the Bonner Leader Program through service. We saw the beautiful beaches and amazing rainforest, but learned so much more from serving others shoulder to shoulder with one another. Giving up time to serve others is priceless, because I left with family, laughs and memories.”
—Reba Carroll, Freshman Bonner

Junior & Senior Trip : Peru

On December 28, 2011, eleven junior and senior Bonner Leaders traveled to Peru. First, the Bonners spent three days exploring the rich city of Cuzco and a full day dedicated to the lost city of Machu Picchu. After being tourists for a few days, it was time to get to work in Pisco.

In Pisco, students helped residents construct new homes and rebuild the community. The students worked with Pisco Sin Fronteras (“Pisco Without Borders”), a volunteer disaster reconstruction organization that works in and around the city. The organization specifically gives relief to those affected by the 2007 earthquake. The earthquake had a magnitude of 8.0 and destroyed 80% of the homes in the Pisco area. Since then, the government of Peru had done little to reconstruct the area. At Pisco Sin Fronteras, the students worked with children in schools, assisted with a biodiesel program, built playgrounds, painted murals, and rebuilt homes. The effort put in by the Bonners and volunteers at PSF had a noticeable difference in the community just after a week, and the residents were very pleased with the help of volunteers.

“The trip to Peru was phenomenal. I could not have asked for a better experience. I received the opportunity to help build a playground and homes for families so that they will no longer have to sleep on bare ground. Getting the opportunity to visit Machu Picchu was definitely a life changing experience. The place was SO gorgeous. One of the best parts was definitely growing even closer to my Bonner family. I wish everyone could receive a portion of all of the opportunities that I’ve been afforded. If you ever get the opportunity to go to Peru...Don’t think twice about it. JUST GO! Bonner Love, Jacques.
—Jacques Johnson, Senior Bonner.