We have a new blog! Visit our blog for more information about our three Spring into Service events. Dates will be posted soon!

blogs.cofc.edu/volunteer

Community Service Center

January/February 2010

Students join together for MLK Challenge

Over 150 College of Charleston, Citadel and local high school students from Upward Bound and Beaux Affair joined together to honor the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. during College of Charleston’s annual MLK Challenge. This day of service was designed to help local nonprofits tackle large projects that they don’t have enough time or the staff to complete.

Students were randomly assigned to one of 14 teams and given a van, $75 and just six hours to complete a project for a local nonprofit. This year, projects ranged from building an exercise area for dogs to planting gardens to painting murals to giving high school girls a chance to have their dream prom.

Teams collected over $1000 in donations and successfully complete 14 challenge projects to help impact the community.

THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING NONPROFITS FOR SERVING AS MLK CHALLENGE SITES!

Crisis Ministries
Berkeley Citizens, Inc.
Florence Crittenton
Rural Missions
Lowcountry Children’s Museum
Communities in Schools
Metanoia & Michaux Conservancy
Keep North Charleston Beautiful
Simply Divine Garden
Cannon Street YMCA
Charleston Animal Society
Lowcountry Orphan Relief
St. Matthews Outreach Learning Center
Good Neighbor Center
Children’s Garden Project
Homecoming 2010: Cougars Taking Action

College of Charleston will partner with Charleston County School District for the Cougars Taking Action service component of Homecoming Week this year. In celebration of Homecoming, the College of Charleston hopes to unite the campus and connect with the community while impacting elementary students in the downtown area.

Last year, test scores indicated that one out of every 10 Charleston County rising ninth-graders read at or below a fourth-grade level. To help promote children’s literacy, teams of College of Charleston students will read Where the Wild Things Are, prepare a writing prompt activity and join elementary students for lunch on Wednesday, February 3. The Center for Civic Engagement will be providing a classroom copy of Where the Wild Things Are to grades 1-4 at each participating school.

The College of Charleston will also host a campus-wide school supply drive to benefit Charleston County School District. Bins will be located at the Community Service Center, Hungry Cougar and in the Stern Center Lobby from February 1 – February 4.

Participating schools include Buist Academy, Charleston Progressive, Memminger Elementary, James Simons Elementary and Sanders Clyde Elementary. All downtown elementary schools in Charleston County School District were extended an invitation.

Bonner Leaders spend a week of service in New Orleans

During winter break, the College of Charleston Bonner Leaders traveled to New Orleans for a service trip focusing on the issue of HIV/AIDS. The Bonners worked with three different organizations that serve people living with HIV/AIDS as well as individuals affected by poverty in the New Orleans area. One of the highlights of the trip was working with the organization Project Lazarus; a non profit housing community for people living with HIV/AIDS. On New Years Eve, the Bonner students planned a New Years celebration, including BBQ, games, and decorations for the residents of Project Lazarus. The Bonner Leaders rang in the New Year at Jackson Square with live music and fireworks. Overall the winter break trip was hard work and a lot of fun for our Bonner Leaders!

SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE

Cougars Taking Action

CofC students, faculty, and staff are encouraged to help make the Cougars Taking Action school supply drive a campus-wide initiative! Join us for a PIZZA DROP-IN on Tuesday, February 2 to help collect school supplies for Charleston County School District.

PIZZA DROP-IN

Tuesday, February 2
12:00 pm–1:00 pm
Community Service Center
(Lightsey Center 203)

Get a FREE slice of pizza and drink with donation of school supplies!

Second Annual Engage and Empower

Hosted by the Bonner Leaders Program

Engage and Empower is an awareness week with events focusing on various issues affecting the community. The purpose of this event is to make the College of Charleston campus conscious of social concerns that surround us. This year, the Bonner Leaders have decided to host four events:

- Spoken Word Night about HIV/AIDS
- Faces of Homelessness Panel
- Darkness to Light Training (Child Abuse)
- Women’s Empowerment Photography Gala

At the end of the week there will also be a service project on Saturday, allowing students, staff, and faculty to take action!