



SERVICE-LEARNING
Growing In Service • Grounded In Learning

Service-Learning Connections

Fall 2007

Vol. 4 Issue 1

The Breakfast Club!

By: Cassie Moore

No, we aren't talking about Molly Ringwald or Anthony Michael Hall—we're talking about our new semi-annual Service-Learning Community Partner Breakfast as well as our newly re-established Service Club! It is with no surprise that the Service-Learning Center is continually growing here at CPCC. Not only are orientations and participation on the rise, but also the number of programs and events sponsored by Service-Learning.

Late summer heat couldn't stop Service-Learning instructors and Community Partners coming together on August 15th for the Service-

Learning Breakfast. At the roundtable feast, twenty instructors had the chance to present what they teach at CPCC and how they would want students to tie in Service-Learning hours to class material.

In turn, twenty community partners had their chance to share what they do for the Charlotte area

and also, comment on what areas of study they could work with best. The breakfast was essentially an opportunity for instructors and volunteer coordinators to come together face-to-face to discuss projects that will make a meaningful impact on the community.

Another benefit of the breakfast for instructors was simply seeing the broad range of service opportunities out there for students. Psychology instructor Mona Yektaparast believes that she had more students participate in Service-Learning this semester simply because she "personally knew more about it."

The Service-Learning Center was very happy about the success of the first breakfast, so another spread is being slated for January 9th with all CPCC community partners and instructors invited to attend. We are hoping for an even better turn out, with the addition of some of our many new CPCC partners we have added since August.

The Service Club is also another "new" program this year, with 13 very active and driven members from all types of diverse backgrounds. Last year, the club was inactive when the previous year's members graduated. Fortunately this year the club has been reinstated.

Since the first meeting back in August, Service Club has held a two-day bake sale on Central Campus selling homemade goods and Starbucks

coffee. During Fall Fest, the club organized a Sundae Stand, selling made-to-order frozen treats to fellow students.

Every dollar of the money raised is being put towards a Spring Break Strip to Sumter, SC working with Habitat for Humanity.

In addition to the spring break service trip, members also have been participating in Service in Action, totaling 186 service hours so far this semester over only 13 members!

We look forward to the success of these two programs and the Service-Learning Center is excited to see great service being done for Charlotte.

By the Numbers

**Total CPCC Service Hours
2006-2007:**

20,417

**Total CPCC Service Participants
2006-2007:**

1,535

In this Issue:

Service in Action
2

ARC: Blood Drive
2

Festival in the Park
3

S-L Orientations
4

Change the World
4

Student Reflection
5



Service Club members at a Halloween service event

CPCC Students are Students in Action!

By Cassie Moore

Hitting the snooze button at 8am isn't an option for the men and women alike who come together on Saturday mornings to participate in service and give back to their community. While most college sophomores and freshman are attending football games or sleeping off Friday night, these students are pulling weeds, trimming hedges, mucking pastures, removing batteries from waterways, or fixing fence posts.

Service in Action is a series of 8-10 service events per semester started in Fall 2006. For each event, students go to a different community partner for a



Sarah Carpenter gets tough

one day event for 3-4 hours.

Fall 2007 was kicked off this year at Joshua's Farm, where 31 volunteers from CPCC

came together to help the local non-profit. Joshua's Farm works with young adults and children with disabilities, and through the agency's program and activities, individuals with special needs experience improved motor skills, posture, muscle strength, and cardiovascular function. Through CPCC's work on the overall appearance and upkeep of the farm, the agency will now better be able to focus on a client's needs.

Students have also spent their weekends participating in Big Sweep to clean Little Sugar Creek, at Epic International to sort donated clothing and toys, as well as at the CROP Walk registering walkers that raise money to help fight hunger. Out of the first 6 events alone, 175 volunteers have come together to complete **541 ½ hours of service**.

The students who have participated typically are Service-Learners looking to fill up some of their 20 hours for course requirements. Also, some students may do a one-day event to fill an extra credit fulfillment for a related class. The Service Club has also put in their fair share of work at events.



Jonathan Junus & Will Cook

Next semester, CPCC can look forward to events at the Battered Women's Shelter working in the community kitchen, being a companion to a senior citizen at Weddington Assisted Living, and even volunteering as an usher for a Children's Theater of Charlotte's production of The Big Friendly Giant.

For more information or if you would like to sign up, please contact Cassie Moore at 704.330.6824 or email her at cassie.moore@cpcc.edu.

Fall into donating with American Red Cross!

Contribution by: Sara Dopkowski

On October 3rd, the American Red Cross came to Central Campus to conduct a Blood Drive in which numerous people came out to show their support. Even a broken air conditioning unit in the first bloodmobile couldn't stop CPCC from giving back, as 38 donors came out to give blood. Out of these 38 donors, 11 were first timers! Thanks to Central Piedmont, we were able to meet our goal for the day.



American Red Cross

Greater Carolinas Chapter

All of the CPCC Service-Learners we have encountered have brought a broad range of skills and resources to our agency. The Service-Learning Program has helped our mission to attract and involve a diverse and multi-skilled volunteer workforce. Our CPCC volunteers insure that the American Red Cross continues to provide effective services that are responsive to the changing needs of the American public.

The next blood drive is January 16th, from 9am until 1:30pm on Central Campus. More information will be available as we get closer to the date, but we hope to see you there!

For more information how to volunteer with the American Red Cross, please contact Crissy Dopkowski at 704.347.8228.

The Service Learning Program has been a great asset to the American Red Cross. Over the years, many students have completed their Service-Learning hours in Health Education as instructors of CPR or First Aid. Also, CPCC students have worked as donor assistants, canteen coordinators, and canteen packers.

Ah, The Festival in the Park.

By: Pat Moreland, Service-Learning Instructor

“My Service-Learning experience has meant more to me than I ever imagined that it would. I felt a sense of satisfaction working with the Festival in the Park and it is amazing that I feel like I made a difference in my community during the time I volunteered” was one of the comments heard during a reflection session held in my Visual Merchandising class fall semester 2007.

A second student remarked that her Service-Learning experience helped her in several ways; by completing it she has a better understanding of how community involvement affects her everyday life. A third student impressed the organizers of this event so much that she now has a

part-time job. After the festival, many of the students were enthused about how much fun they had participating as well as the learning that took place.

If you haven’t already guessed, this semester my Visual Merchandising class volunteered at the Festival in The Park, which is a fun filled event designed to promote and stimulate interest in the arts in Charlotte.



An art festival is full of visual merchandising, which I believe is a

wonderful opportunity to enhance and reinforce my student’s in-class learning through hands-on experience and group reflection.

“My Service-Learning experience has meant more to me than I ever imagined that it would. I felt a sense of satisfaction working with the Festival in the Park, and it is amazing that I feel like I made a difference in my community”

-CPCC Service-Learning Student

In loving memory of Jim Stewart

Jim was an active Service-Learning Instructor who devoted much of his time to helping and inspiring others. He believed in teaching the benefits of civic engagement and did so by having his Astronomy classes provide night sky viewings for the community and teaching fifth graders at Walter G. Byers about the solar system. We will miss Jim very much and our sympathy goes out to his family and friends.



For this project, students selected the type of activities that they would want to participate in. A great many chose to help the artist’s set-up their individual booths, thus learning first hand how to display goods.

My students quickly made the connection between what they were learning in the classroom and what was taking place at this event, thereby making curriculum content more relevant to the class.

An additional benefit was the development of the sense of community and civic responsibility on the part of the student. Participating in this structured and challenging Service-Learning experience also helped teach these students valuable life skills such as critical thinking, problem solving skills, discussion skills and communication skills.

This partnership created an opportunity for The Festival in the Park organizers to participate in the students learning process, to shape students skills and values and to prepare them for a lifetime of community involvement. Participation by our students helped build community awareness of the marketing curriculum and programs offered by the college. In return, the festival organizers had an opportunity to view the College as a resource for additional volunteer needs.

As a result of the success of my students with the 2007 Festival in the Park, the volunteer coordinator for has already put in a request for next year to work with CPCC students.

Service-Learning this semester was an incredible experience for me and my class room full of students!

Orientations on the Rise!

By: Dena Shonts

The Service-Learning Center is proud to announce that during the first few weeks of the fall semester, we provided 52 orientations for 25 Service-Learning instructors!

We are grateful for the opportunity that we are given to come into the classroom to discuss Service-Learning with the students. Orientations allow the students to learn the process and procedures involved

with the innovative teaching method, but it also allows the students to hear the importance of service and the benefits that service activities can provide to them and the community that they live in.

“Participating in Service events ... is a great way for students to become active and engaged members of their community.”

Participating in Service events either through the classroom or outside of the classroom is a great way for students to become active and engaged members of their community.

One person cannot change the world...

By: Brandon Lewis

Brandon was the Americorps*VISTA for CPCC from 2005-2007. His two year commitment of service recently came to an end, and we wish him continued success on his future endeavors.

In my mind, “growth” is the first word I associate with the Service-Learning Center at CPCC. Our logo is a tree with branches made of hands and our motto is “Growing in Service, Grounded in Learning.” Our office is even decorated with lush vegetation thanks to Terry’s green-thumb. Over the past two years, I have had the chance to grow in this fertile environment. As my time with the Service-Learning Center comes to an end, I would like to share thoughts brought on by our recent Service-Learning Faculty and Community Partner Breakfast.



Brandon Lewis & Mark Helms take a break from helping students

Service-Learning at CPCC is strong because of the people; not only the Service-Learning staff but also our instructors, students, and community partners. We are lucky

to have established this network, but it is certainly not an accident that we have come together. We believe that education is not only about getting a job but also about learning our responsibilities to the community. I do not believe that one person can change the world by him or herself (it’s just too much work!), but I do believe one person can create partnerships that will change the world.

I enjoyed the times when we have brought members of our network together. We always generate ideas for partnerships because we are passionate about our work. I think it’s important to remember that we are part of a network of engaged professionals, where every one has the potential to be an excellent resource or partner for a future project. I encourage you to take the time to explore the relationships you can create. It will energize you as well as those around you!

Upcoming Events!!!

•2nd Semi-Annual Service-Learning Breakfast
January 9th

•MLK Challenge Day
January 21st

•Volunteer Fair
January 30th

•Service in Action-Spring
Starts Saturday Feb. 2nd

•Alternative Spring Break
March 9th-14th

CPCC Student reflects on her dog day afternoon

By: Vanya Todorovo, Service-Learning Student

Before the alarm went off in the morning on September 1st, my excitement had already awakened me. I was getting ready to participate in the Pet Adoption Event held by the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department- Animal Control Bureau. I put on a grey volunteer shirt paired with a volunteer badge and headed to the animal shelter. It took me less time than I thought to get there and at 7am sharp, and so I was



Vanya pets a curious Griffin at CMPD-Animal Control

already standing by the doors waiting for somebody to let me in. After couple of minutes, Linda Hagemann came down the hallway. As a manager of the Animal Control Bureau, she was in charge of the adoption events. I had met with her the previous day to find out more about my duties. She let me in with a smile and walked me to the room where everybody had to first gather to get some instructions

before going out on a walk with the dogs.

For the event, I was assigned to be a dog handler. As part of this task, I was supposed to promote my dog armed with the informational paper given to me by the Animal Control. When we went to the cages to take the pets out, I was delighted to see I was given the cutest puppy of all. His name was Griffin and he was a four-month old shepherd mix with a soft, small puppy belly. There was no doubt that he was going to be the star of the event. I tried to walk him on the grass, but he didn't seem to show any interest in playing with the other dogs. Instead, Griffin got attached to me very quickly and all he wanted was to be held and petted. It wasn't surprising that he got very upset and started crying when it was time for us to go to SouthPark Mall, where the Adoption Event was to take place. After a brief struggle, he was placed into his cage and I headed to my car. Since all of us needed to arrive there at the same time, the police van with the dogs went first and everybody followed.

As soon as we arrived, we started bringing things from the cars to the center court of the mall where the booth had to be set up. I arranged the table with the informational fliers about the adoption process. After that task was done, Amanda, who was a long-term volunteer, gave me a box of pictures to tape on a big, black canvas. The photos were very interesting and most of them showed sick, rescued animals that were healed and adopted.

After everything was set up, it was time to bring the dogs and cats to meet with the big crowd of people anxiously waiting to find a new pet.

For the feline portion of the day, we brought three cats and five kittens that all had to be kept in cages unlike the dogs. Since there were a lot of kids excited to touch, hug and play with the animals, the

ten dogs and five puppies were carefully held on a leash. Several times I saved Griffin's tail from being stepped on and I also had to tell the children to be gentle with him. After all, he was the cutest puppy at the Adoption Event and everybody wanted to pet and hold him.

Finally, at around 11am, a young woman with curly hair and brown eyes came to me and said that she was interested in adopting Griffin. Her name was Christie Andrews and she seemed nice and really liked the puppy. I also found out that Christie was very responsible, because before she was absolutely sure that she could take proper care of Griffin, she spent about an hour playing with him and talking to me. Fortunately for my little fellow, Christie set her mind on having him and went to fill out the adoption papers. Worn out from all the playing, Griffin fell asleep in my arms. Before I realized, it was already time for me to go home, but Griffin wasn't as lucky. He had to stay for one more day in the shelter so he could be neutered before Christie took him home. My work was done and I was very happy that Griffin was adopted.

Service-Learning Staff

Mark Helms

Associate Dean for Student Life and Service-Learning

Dena Shonts

Service-Learning Coordinator

Terry McMicking

Senior Administrative Secretary

Cassie Moore

Assistant Service-Learning Coordinator, North Carolina Campus Compact VISTA