

Service-Learning

Fall 2010

Trafficking & Child Abuse: A Personal Story of Survival and Healing

Have you ever wondered what it would feel like to be forced into labor, to not have control of your own life, or your own body?

For many individuals, this is reality.

Human trafficking is modern day slavery, and an estimated 27 million people are currently enslaved today.

This issue affects us locally, nationally, and internationally.

The Service-Learning Program would like to invite you to take part in an event to raise awareness on this topic.

Minh Dang, Bonner Leader Program Director UC Berkeley, will be joining us on campus on November 16th to share her personal experience with human trafficking, namely, the sex trade.



She was recently featured in a documentary on MSNBC, "Sex Slaves: Minh's Story".

The event will be held at

6:00 p.m., Gorecki 204 A/B.

The evening will begin with a showing of her documentary, and will be followed by an interactive workshop, featuring Minh.

Please join us on November 16th, to learn more about this issue.

It surprises people that there's actually a very large number of slaves in the world today—our best estimate is 27 million...we're not talking about sweatshop workers or people who are just poor, we're talking about people who are controlled by violence, who cannot walk away...

President of Free the Slaves,
Kevin Bales

Galen Himrich

Service-Learning Academic Coordinator

Inside this issue:

Mass Media in Elections 2

Student Highlight: Arlington Place 2

Somali Cultural Training 3

Student Highlight: SASSO 3

Service-Learning 4

Service-Learning...

- Integrates classroom theory with practical experience
- Enhances leadership skills
- Encourages active community commitment
- Increases awareness of social justice issues

Upcoming Events!

- Trafficking & Child Abuse: A Personal Story of Survival and Healing, November 16, 2010 @ 6:00 p.m. Gorecki 204 A/B

Mass Media in Elections

Colorful yard signs, television advertisements, and people knocking on your door with pamphlets: It is clearly election time! But have you ever thought about all of the work that goes in to running a political campaign?

The students of Associate Professor Terry Check's Mass Media in Elections class are doing just that. The 24 students in the class have spent this fall completing service-learning projects by working on campaigns for various local and national political candidates. Students chose which candidate(s) they would like to work with and have completed various tasks, from designing flyers and literature to door knocking on and off campus.

Junior Maura Sullivan has been working on campaigns for both Taryl Clark and Larry Hosch and has made connections between her coursework and her service-learning project.

"We do readings that focus on door knocking and phone banking. We also have centered many readings on who to target, how you advertise your campaign and basically everything that goes on in a campaign, so all of the readings are relevant when it comes to volunteering," she says.

Sullivan has spent most of her time making phone calls to residents or phone banking and door knocking in the community and on campus. She has found the project to be very rewarding. "I really like the service-learning. I like getting involved in the



campaign; it gives me a better understanding of everything that happens with it."

Adia Zeman

Service-Learning Academic Coordinator

Student Highlight: Arlington Place

Arlington Place is unique in the St. Cloud area as it offers one-level assisted living services in a comfortable setting. Residents of Arlington Place may need more assistance than your typical Assisted Living tenant or prefer our small facility where they receive more one-on-one attention.

www.arlingtonplacemn.com

CSB/SJU Service-Learning partners with Arlington Place and sends several students to the site each semester to engage with its residents. One CSB/SJU student, Elizabeth Hoffman, shares her experience.

Did you feel any sense of trepidation in choosing a site in which to serve?

I did not feel any sense of trepidation when choosing a service learning site. I have always loved helping and working with the elderly and I was therefore thrilled to hear about the Arlington Place in class. Also as a nursing major, I have always been interested in geriatrics so a service learning site where I would be able to work with the elderly was optimal.

What encouraged you to sign up with this site?

The wonderful presentation by Kari Salzer really made me interested in choosing the Arlington Place as my site.

Did you have any particular goals as you began serving your hours?

My main goal was to engage with the residents and learn

more about them on a personal level before I started learning any lessons or anything. Getting to know the residents on a personal level has been great and has then made it easier for me to see many of the cognitive, behavioral, and physical differences between my age group versus these elderly adults in an assisted living.

Has this site impacted you in any way?

This site has impacted me in a very positive way. The residents help remind me to be grateful of all of the opportunities the American 21st century has presented me. They also remind me to be grateful that I am young and to live each day to the fullest.

Overall I have really enjoyed

my Service-Learning experience. I have made many wonderful connections with some amazing people, I have learned a lot about the effects of aging, and I have become more humbled.

Sergio Aguilera

Service-Learning Academic Coordinator



CSB/SJU student,
Elizabeth Hoffman

Somali Cultural Training



Earlier this semester, the Service-Learning Program hosted a Somali Cultural Training as a way students working with the Somali population could engage with each other and learn about the Somali culture. Service-Learning held two separate sessions, one facilitated by Ahmed Abdulle a junior from St. John's University who recently immigrated to the United States and is Somali, and Mohammed Yusuf, from Lutheran Social Services facilitated the second.

Service-Learning students who are completing their service at Southside Boys & Girls Club, SASSO, and Hands Across the World along with staff and family attended these training sessions. The training sessions included information about the history of Somalia, traditions and dress, immigration, and why Minnesota is the destination for many of these immigrants and refugees. Following the presentation was a question and answer seminar. Yusuf stated in his presentation that "Over 50% of all Somalis in the USA live in Minnesota."

According to Minnesota Public Radio,

Somali students now make up about 10 percent of the student population in the St. Cloud Area School District 742 and their numbers have been steadily growing.

This increase of Somali individuals in the schools and area has enlarged a need for a mutual understanding in the community.

There is culture difference that needs to be understood. -Abdulle

The Somali cultural training was an opportunity for students, staff and faculty members to discuss the Somali culture in a comfortable environment and a way for them to gain useful knowledge about the Somali population.

Jackie Carlson

Service-Learning Academic Coordinator

Student Highlight: SASSO

The St. Cloud Area Somali Salvation Organization (SASSO) was founded in October 2001.

Its mission is to help Somali refugees and immigrants overcome language barriers and to become economically and socially integrated in the St. Cloud community. CSB/SJU Service-Learning partners with SASSO and sends several students to the site each semester to act as tutors for both children and adults. One CSB/SJU student, Lauren Thoma, shares her experiences.

Describe your first experience at SASSO.

The first time I went to SASSO I was entirely overwhelmed; at first overwhelmed by feeling out-of-place, and later overwhelmed with excitement. When I walked in, not only did I not know any of the

other tutors who were there, but I didn't know how to connect with them.

I spent the first hour in silence while the others talked around me in other languages. Finally one student came to ask for help, but was taken away and brought to another female tutor who was wearing traditional Somali clothes. I knew little about their lifestyle and they knew little about mine, but once we established a commonality, even one as universal and simple as caring about the kids, similarities seemed abundant and differences seemed trivial.

What are the biggest challenges you face at your site?

Some days it is difficult to understand and properly utilize where the students are coming from. I cannot imagine what it would be like to be them, but it's very important to try. Communication gaps, because of lan-

guage, culture, or history, are always present and demand creative strategies and constant awareness.

What has been the most rewarding moment?

My favorite times at SASSO are not when I can teach a student a concept about geometry or cellular make up, but instead when I can teach them about life. Often times they ask what college is all about, and I do my best to inspire them to find out for themselves. Other times I have given them advice about ignoring bullies, building test taking strategies, or simply being happy. I love being part of their lives.

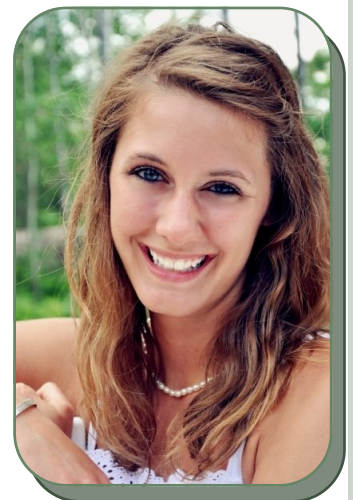
What has your time at SASSO taught you?

I've learned that the basic human needs like acceptance, safety, and esteem, things we are witness to in ourselves every single day, should be recognizable in others and missed when

they are not present. Why is it, then, that we notice complexion or clothes before such basic, universal human traits? SASSO has taught me to change my perceptive filter so that I can learn from these kids and help them to be in a place where they can learn from me.

Molly Kalina

Service-Learning Academic Coordinator



CSB/SJU student, Lauren Thoma



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Service-Learning

Service-Learning is eager to share with you our first newsletter for the 2010-2011 academic school year!

We use this newsletter as a way to keep community partners, faculty, and students updated on the great things we have been accomplishing throughout our community.

We are all able to make a huge impact, even if it seems small at the time, which is evidenced by our outstanding number of hours from this fall.

So far we have had a great semester, partnering over 540 students with about 50 community partners from the surrounding area.

At mid semester, over 2000 hours have been recorded by students from their sites.

We encourage you to take the time to read about Somali Cultural Training, Mass Media, and about two students who are currently completing service-learning projects.

We would especially like to bring your attention to the featured story on Minh Dang, who will be coming to our campus on Tuesday, November 16th to speak about human trafficking.

Thank you to everyone who has made this fall so successful!

CSB/SJU Service-Learning Program

Galen Himrich

Service-Learning Academic Coordinator

You must be the change you want to see in the world.

Mahatma Gandhi
Indian political and spiritual leader
(1869 - 1948)

Engage, Reflect, Change

WE'RE ON THE WEB

WWW.CSBSJU.EDU/SERVICLEARNING

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