



Center for Service and Social Action Bulletin

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JCU participates in interfaith dialogue

By Alyssa Brown '14

For the past 20 years, the Center for Service and Social Action has provided students, staff, faculty, and administrators opportunities to engage with local and international communities in the mission to build faith through service. From weekly service opportunities to international immersion trips, there are many ways for the JCU students to excel in learning through service that inspires a deeper commitment to those most in need.

Responding to a faculty committee request, University president Fr. Michael Lavelle, S.J., created the Center for Community Service in 1992. According to Dr. Margaret Finucane, current CSSA Director, Fr. Lavelle's vision was a comprehensive office for the campus that would be a place where faculty who wanted to integrate service into the classroom and students interested in service could find opportunities to connect with community partners. Mary Beth Brooks, current secretary for Dr. Paul Murphy in the Institute for Catholic Studies, served as the secretary in the Center for Community Service from 1995-1999. Mary Beth has watched the tremendous growth in the department over the years and remembers some of the early community partners such as Project H.O.P.E. and the Robert Fulton Elementary School.

In 2006, JCU President, Fr. Robert L. Niehoff, S.J., reinvigorated the center to make service a more integral part of the student experience because it is at the core of the University's mission. Two years later, in 2007, the center officially changed its name to the Center for Service and Social Action.

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In an effort to promote interfaith dialogue and intercultural cooperation, John Carroll University participated in the President's Interfaith and Community Service Campus Challenge. This challenge advocates advancing interfaith cooperation and community service in higher educational institutions.



To be accepted, campuses submitted a year-long plan for interfaith and community service, including a description of

the plan for program implementation, documentation, impact evaluation, and sustainability of interfaith engagement and service on campus.

As part of JCU's plan, the campus has been engaged with US Together, a refugee resettlement organization based in Cleveland Heights. In addition to weekly citizenship test preparation and homework help sessions, JCU hosted regular "Super Sunday" events that have grown in popularity on campus. During these Sundays, adult and child refugees from the

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Since that time, CSSA has grown more than 500% in terms of the number of weekly service placements, campus-wide service events and immersion experiences. For weekly service during the 2011-2012 academic year, approximately 1,000 students served at more than 75 sites throughout the Cleveland area. Community partners include schools, hospitals, assisted living facilities, faith-based institutions, social service programs, and neighborhood outreach centers that are chosen based on a criteria that includes serving in under-resourced areas where students can provide direct service. Re-

~ 1996



~ 2001



reflection is also an important component of weekly service as students take an introspective look at what their service experience provides.

Melissa Bresnahan '13 has served as a CSSA Student Liaison for the past two years and feels that service has given her the opportunity to establish strong bonds with members of the community. "This year, I helped create lesson plans for the English as a Second Language program at Our Lady of Lourdes Church on Cleveland's near west side. Each Sunday, we worked with the families at the church and it was such a rewarding experience, because I was not only able to work on my Spanish skills, but to also develop strong friendships with other JCU students and the families at the church."

In addition to weekly service, CSSA offers one-time projects and special events. Some of the one-time projects include sorting food at the Cleveland food bank or helping a formerly homeless family move to a new house or apartment through the Family Promise organization. Each August, CSSA coordinates the Cleveland Neighborhood Project for first year students to assist with clean-up and yard work at Fatima Family Center and the surrounding neighborhoods. On April 28th of this year, JCU took part in the Jesuit Day of Service with eight other Cleveland institutions where 600 volun-



~ 2004

teers served with community members at various locations throughout the region. (see article on page 3)

~ 2005



The other major service area is the immersion experience, which provides students and faculty with opportunities to interact with communities both domestically and internationally. Students immerse themselves in the experience to learn about other cultures and environments. Current and past international locations include Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala, Rwanda and Uganda. Domestic locations have included Joplin, Missouri and New Orleans, Louisiana.

Dr. Finucane's vision for the center is to provide service opportunities to even more students and to develop a stronger advocacy component. She states, "Our mission is to

prepare students to become leaders in service to others, not only today but for the rest of their lives. I am grateful for the support that CSSA has received from the faculty, staff, administrators and community partners over the past 20 years. We look forward to continued growth and the opportunity to be 'men and women for and with others.'"

~ 2011



Fast Fact~ In the 2010-2011 academic year, John Carroll University students provided 57,557 hours of service to our community

Alumni Column

By Sarajane Kukawka '11

Sometimes people ask me why I do what I do. This question usually comes after the realization that I do the same work when I'm not on the clock. I choose to spend my "free time" (ironic phrasing for a full time volunteer) at drop in centers, tent cities and kitchens that feed 200 restless people easily. Whether I'm part of the serving and dishwashing rotation, following up with clients, practitioners and friends, or going right to my desk at 9am on Monday, the focus is the same.

I can usually explain this focus by mentioning John Carroll or my parents: my mom's counseling license that she uses to raise seven kids and my dad's social work degree that keeps him in contact with individual members of the Bricklayers Union. Though I grew up in an isolated small town, my childhood memories include political refugees and neighbors turned roommates while they were between housing. These memories are the lessons that brought me to where I am today.

In May 2011, I graduated from JCU as an Arrupe Scholar on the Sociology Human Service, Health and Social Justice Track. While at John Carroll, I was involved with CSSA and worked with residents and staff at the Domestic Violence Center weekly for 5 semesters. I was also a member of the Take Back the Night collaborative at JCU.

After working and volunteering with the CSSA, I transitioned into my current year with the Capuchin Franciscan Volunteer Corp. In my placement at St. Colman Church on the west side of Cleveland I work with English, literacy, and computer classes; identifying documents for individuals who cannot afford them; and rental referrals and assistance. Each day is different and I don't know all the answers. I'm building a network of contacts, as local as the West Side Catholic Center and as necessary as Vital Statistics in New York City.

The events of this year have truly given me life, whether one on one with a client who passed her citizenship test or in a hall full of 300 people for the St. Colman Christmas Party. I've absorbed so many stories, and been witness to so much suffering. But what I am grateful for is the change that has occurred, in both my own knowledge base and in the lives of the clients seeking assistance.

For that's what it is— assistance, not "help"— in getting them one step closer to stability and safety.



Jesuit Day of Service

On April 28th, John Carroll joined with eight other Jesuit Institutions united in serving the Greater Cleveland Community. Close to 600 people volunteered to participate at sites across the city for various spring clean-up activities, demonstrating that we are men and women for and with others—today and every day.





Michael Green '13 and an eager US Together helper

(Continued from page 1) US Together organization spent the afternoon at John Carroll where they teamed up with student and staff volunteers, working on skills to help them transition into the American lifestyle. These skills have included job searches, resume building and database usage for adults, as well as chemistry and reading lessons for the children. The work with US Together was one of the initiatives toward the “community service” aspect of the President’s challenge.

Jacqueline Wyman '12, worked closely with the program, serving on JCU’s Interfaith Committee and through an internship with the US Together program. She sees tremendous value in the partnership between John Carroll and US Together. “The interactions between John Carroll students, faculty, staff and US Together refugee clients have been greatly beneficial to the further development of the Cleveland community. The purpose of the president’s challenge is to build understanding between different peoples through interaction and service.”

Her work with US Together helped her to see the true effects the partnership had for both the clients and the John Carroll volunteers. “I believe the newly resettled families have had smoother transitions to a new life because of the service of JCU and I believe that JCU has been made better by having interactions with US Together clients who have opened the students, faculty, and staff to new cultures and customs.”

As one part of the “interfaith” portion of the President’s challenge, John Carroll brought Eboo Patel, author of *Acts of Faith* and founder of the Interfaith Youth Core, to speak to the campus and community. During his speech on March 28th, Patel said, “We are better together,” one of the standing points in Carroll’s recent efforts toward creating a community connected by interfaith values. In his visit to the campus, Patel and his colleagues also worked with students in a discussion about their interfaith values.

As a personal witness of the problems surrounding religious diversity, Mr. Patel was inspired by his own experiences to work toward creating a needed change in the struggle between cultures and religions. He suggested three steps that can help in this work: Voice, Engage, and Act. Today, after being named by US News and World Report as one of America’s Best Leaders of 2009, serving on President Obama’s inaugural Advisory Council of the White House Office of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships, and holding a doctorate of sociology of religion from Oxford University, Patel travels the country speaking to communities on ways to utilize religion as a bridge of cooperation rather than as a barrier of division.

This is all just the beginning. As the semester finishes and next year begins, JCU will continue to provide more interfaith opportunities for the community to engage in ongoing dialogue and understanding.



From left: Dalia Antoon '12, Seyma Saritoprak '12, Eboo Patel, Asurupi Gurung '13, and Jacqueline Wyman '12

Eliza Bryant Village, JCU’s 100th Community Partner!



In January, CSSA welcomed **Eliza Bryant Village** as our 100th community partner!

Eliza Bryant has been meeting the needs of older adults in the Hough community since 1896. EB’s “tradition of care” includes helping seniors thrive through convenient access to health services and to engaging social programs that allow seniors to pursue their passions and make new friends. JCU students engaged in weekly service with the residents at EB, and the JCU community joined EB residents during this year’s Jesuit Day of Service for a day of community gardening, adaptive bowling, worship and music, bingo, and a “Ladies Spa.”

Cathy Zehe provides a manicure to a delighted EB resident.

JCU service award winners

By Kristen Gittinger '15

Campus Awards:



The **George B. Sweeney Endowed Champion Award** is a \$1,000 annual award given to current full-time John Carroll sophomore or junior student leaders who have demonstrated a commitment to community service and social justice motivated by a faith perspective. This year, **Maggie Hutchison '14, Julia Blanchard '14 and McKenzae Bartels '14** stand as proud recipients of the award. Through their widespread involvement, the three JCU students demonstrate great passion and commitment to service.

This year's recipient of the **Curtis W. Miles Faculty Award for Community Service** is **Dr. Gloria Vaquera**. Dr. Vaquera co-founded Project ¿QUÉ with Miles Coburn in 2005. Project ¿QUÉ, in partnership with La Sagrada Familia Catholic Church on Cleveland's West Side, is a multi-faceted program to encourage academic success among middle school Latino students.

From left: Maggie Hutchison, McKenzae Bartels, Tom Reilley, Julia Blanchard and Dr. Gloria Vaquera

Mr. Tom Reilley '99 was selected to receive this year's **Staff and Administrator Service Award**. Tom is a well-known and respected member of the JCU community who truly embodies being a "man for others." Through his participation as an FSA on the New Orleans immersion experience, facilitating the cage ball activity at Fatima Fun Day or rebuilding the community garden on East 95th, Tom is someone who gives freely of his time and talents.

State Service Awards:

2012 David Hoch Memorial Award for Excellence in Service was awarded to **Dr. Tracy Loye-Masterson**. This award recognizes outstanding work in service-learning and/or civic engagement by a faculty or staff member at an Ohio Campus Compact Institution. Dr. Masterson has created five service-learning courses and established a partnership with the Cleveland Clinic Center for Autism.

Dr. John Day, Provost, and Dr. Tracy Masterson



James Haitz '12 is the recipient of the **2012 Charles J. Ping Student Service Award**, given annually to undergraduates from Ohio Campus Compact Member Institutions who exhibit outstanding leadership in their community service endeavors both on their campus and within their community. James is an Arrupe Scholar who was recognized for his leadership on campus for the annual Footprints for Fatima 5K run, the Fatima Food Drive, and the Oxfam Hunger Banquet.

Dr. Peggy Finucane and James Haitz

Cadia Wiley '13 received the **2012 Ohio Foundation of Independent Colleges Service-Learning Leadership Award** which recognizes the initiative, achievement and excellence of student leaders involved in service-learning at OFIC member colleges and universities. Cadia is an Arrupe Scholar, serves as a CSSA Student Liaison, and a student leader for the Through the Eyes of a Child event.



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Human trafficking awareness events at JCU

By Kayla Shelley '14



Human trafficking affects an estimated 27 million people worldwide who are held in slavery. Efforts to educate students on campus began in February of 2011 when a group of students held a number of activities including a letter writing campaign, a screening of the film, *Taken*, and the sale of "One Girl Bracelets." The culminating event was a presentation by human trafficking survivor, Teresa Flores, whose disturbing story of being trafficked (as a child) out of her own home in Michigan shook the members of the audience.

In March of 2012, the awareness activities continued. This year, we decided to tie this social injustice in with our faith. The theme was "Stations of Modern Day Slavery," or a play on the Stations of the Cross. Stations were first placed in multiple locations

around campus featuring human trafficking statistics to help students realize that human trafficking does not only occur millions of miles away, but can be found much closer to home. After being displayed around campus for several days, the stations were placed around the quad for the evening presentation that featured Sister Anne Victory of the Humility of Mary. Sr. Anne spoke about the realities of trafficking around the world, particularly in the United States. She examined the different types of trafficking and how they impact and challenge victims. She stated that laws are being created, albeit slowly, to eliminate human trafficking. After she spoke, those attending the event moved to the quad for a candlelight vigil, and the Stations of Modern Day Slavery. The evening finished with the ten o'clock mass and a letter writing campaign to state representatives.



Human trafficking is a worldwide problem where the sale of human beings is a \$32 billion annual industry, more than Google, Nike and Starbucks combined. It is not just an international issue, but is also a local issue as Toledo, Ohio is identified as one of the major human trafficking corridors of the United States. This social injustice catches the attention of many and the realities of it are recently coming out in the open. There has been an increase in student curiosity about this issue that encourages us to continue to have awareness events like this to work for a better world.

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Thank you to our community partners

Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Boys & Girls Club of Cleveland, Boys Hope Girls Hope, Buckeye-Woodland School, Buhner Elementary, Caledonia Elementary, Canterbury Elementary, Chambers Elementary, CHAMPS Program, Church of the Covenant, Cleveland Food Bank, Collinwood, Cuyahoga County Juvenile Detention Center, Domestic Violence Center, Entrepreneurship Preparatory School, Eliza Bryant Village, FAMICOS Foundation, Fatima Family Center, Free Medical Clinic of Greater Cleveland, Gearity Professional

Development School, Goodrich -Gannett Neighborhood Center, Greater Cleveland Immigrant Support Network, Heights Emergency Food Center, Heritage, Holy Name, Intergenerational School, Jewish Family Services Association, Jewish Federation of Cleveland, John Adams High School, JFK High School, Koinonia Homes, La Providencia Hispanic Senior Center, L'Arche, Lutheran East, Lutheran Metropolitan Ministries, Malachi House, Many Villages, Mayfair Elementary, Mayfield Adaptive, Medwish International, Miles Park

School, Montefiore, Monticello Middle School, Our Lady of Lourdes, Open Doors Academy, Project Que, Prospect Elementary, Quantum LEAP, Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital, Richmond Heights Public Library, St. Adalbert School, St. Francis Elementary, St. Martin de Porres Family Center, St. Martin De Porres High School, St. Thomas Aquinas School, Shaw High School, South Pointe Hospital, Superior, Thea Bowman Center, US Together, Warner Girls Leadership Academy, Wiley Middle School, and YouthAbility

Center for Service and Social Action Mission Statement

The Center for Service and Social Action seeks to educate for justice by offering opportunities for learning through service. Growing from a rich Catholic intellectual tradition, we promote service that inspires a deeper commitment to those most in need. The Center connects the campus with the local, national, and international communities through sustained partnerships that enable John Carroll community members to become "men and women for and with others."