

National Day of Service

Honors the Memory and Legacy of
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



by Christine Cardellino

*'Everybody can be great,
because everybody can
serve.'*

— Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., quoted on
www.mlkday.org

Although they had different reasons for volunteering, the Holy Family University students, staff, and faculty who participated in the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Day of Service agree their contributions made a difference in the community.

"The Holy Family mission statement contains the core value of 'Service and Responsibility,' which reflects the University's goal of educating students to become responsible citizens as well as competent professionals in their fields," said Director of Alumni Relations and Annual Fund Megan C. Mangefrida, MA. "Being in a real-life situation such as the service project is not something that can be recreated in a classroom and as such, became an extremely valuable—possibly life-changing—experience for students who participated."

On January 16, 2006—the 20th anniversary of the federal holiday honoring the slain civil rights pioneer—38 volunteers from Holy Family boarded

a bus to North Philadelphia, where they donated their time and talents to the Mary Jane Home Enrichment Center, a homeless shelter. Volunteers painted hallways, reorganized the pantry, helped prepare and serve lunch, folded and organized clothing, and more.

"The Mary Jane homeless shelter was thrilled and asked us to come back and help out again," said Director of Residence Life Lisa Corbin-Kalinowski, co-organizer of the event. "The students were able to get a detailed explanation of the shelter and how it became what it is today." Diversity Team member Patricia Dunne also planned and participated in the event.

For everyone involved, the satisfaction of serving others far outweighed the small sacrifices of the day—true to the Mission and Core Values of Holy Family University.

"The Holy Family Mission Statement is filled with references to 'service,'" said Interlibrary Loan Coordinator Debby Kramer. "By actually sponsoring and participating in events such as this, the University is showing we truly do care for the needs of those we serve, respect the dignity of the human person, have a concern for social justice, and have a part in creating responsible citizens while deepening social awareness."

"Through projects like this, students and faculty are exposed to problems in the community and a reality that they may not be aware of otherwise," reflected Jen

Andrews, a senior Biology major. "Aware of the problems, students may be inspired to think about how to make changes in their communities and realize that changes begin on the individual level first. By reaching out to the community, Holy Family can better prepare students to be active citizens."

Holy Family's involvement with Mary Jane Home Enrichment Center continues now, months after that one special day.

"On the bus ride home, many of the students were asking if we could go back to the shelter," explained Corbin-Kalinowski. "They already were planning ways of helping again. And once we returned to campus, the University had some funds sent down to the shelter to help out with their gas bill. We found the volunteers were cooking lunch with an electric burner because the gas was turned off because they didn't have any money to pay the bill."

In addition, the University donated some unused furniture and office equipment and made a cash donation, which was coordinated by Vice President for Student Services Sister Patrice Feher.

"There are many teachable moments outside the classroom—and this is one of those examples," said Corbin-Kalinowski. "I believe every student should volunteer for a community service project before they graduate."





Meaningful Memories: Volunteers Reflect on their Day of Service

"The most meaningful part of the day for me was the prayer that was offered at the end because I felt the appreciation from the people we came alongside to help out. I was filled with hope and grief at the same time because I wanted to do more."

Jen Andrews, '06, Biology

"I was touched most by the gratefulness in one resident's eyes as we painted his very depressing room and by the size of the group that lent a helping hand."

Kathy Bess, Circulation Coordinator

"We were a family that day. We were a family in an unfamiliar atmosphere doing uncomfortable volunteer work, respecting and helping people we ordinarily may be afraid to look at on the street. We opened our family up to these homeless folks and welcomed them with open arms."

Lisa Corbin-Kalinowski, Director of Residence Life

"I was deeply moved upon our arrival at the site when I noticed many whites and fewer people of color were representing Holy Family University in the heart of a depressed section of North Philadelphia where many homeless gathered to receive food and clothing. I thought how Dr. King might have felt, in some small way, that his dream was being realized through these acts of charity in his name."

Gloria Kersey-Matusiak, PhD, RN, Professor, School of Nursing, and Diversity Coordinator

"Satisfaction for me comes in knowing that our group contributed in a small way to the total service effort. I'll remember the faces of the individuals we met that day...and the feeling of being thankful for the many blessings God has given my family and me."

Debby Kramer, Interlibrary Loan Coordinator

"I truly was rewarded by the experience of working shoulder-to-shoulder with our students. I was extremely impressed with their kindness, politeness, and willingness to do whatever they were asked. The ride back to campus with them was really uplifting. Everyone seemed so invigorated by the experience."

Megan C. Mangefrida, MA, Director of Alumni Relations and Annual Fund

Photos by Robert Annucci

Service

Student Organizations Serve the Community in Good Faith

Volunteer service enhances the educational experience at Holy Family University

by Christine Cardellino

At Holy Family University, student organizations are committed to making a positive impact—on their members, on their professions, and in the communities where they study, work, and live. In this issue of *MOSAIC*, we asked three of the most active student groups—SAYS (Students At Your Service), Education Connections, and SNAHF (Student Nurses Association of Holy Family)—to share what they're doing to help those in need.



Lauren Dickert (left) and Michelle Begnaud join Sister Patrice in preparing meals for the annual Aid for Friends Dinner sponsored by SAYS.

Students At Your Service

According to Special Services Director and SAYS Staff Advisor Linda DiGennaro, this organization offers students opportunities to participate in an array of volunteer projects and helps individuals to develop leadership skills by developing and organizing special events.

"SAYS follows the mission of the University —'teneor votis,' which means we are bound by our responsibilities to

ourselves and society," DiGennaro said. "SAYS members can come to the table with their own ideas. There may be a neighbor in need or a family that needs assistance. The SAYS club supports on-campus service activities and off-campus community programs."

Since the organization's founding in 1994, SAYS members have amassed an impressive list of charitable works. They host an annual Aid for Friends Dinner, inviting area seniors to enjoy a free meal and evening of entertainment and conversation. Twice a year, SAYS members partner with other student clubs to promote American Red Cross blood drives.

"Last semester, SAYS partnered with the Lambda Nu National Honor Society for Radiologic and Imaging Sciences, and we had our most successful blood drive ever," DiGennaro said.

Some of the other beneficiaries of SAYS's good deeds include Locks of Love, Fairy Godmothers, Children's Seashore House, and Special Olympics. Club

members also have collected and distributed blankets to the homeless in Center City Philadelphia, organized baby showers for mothers in need, and sponsored flea markets and Avon® fundraisers to support its many charitable causes.

SAYS membership is open to students, alumni, and staff. The club meets every other week in the Campus Center. For more information, contact SAYS at says@holyfamilly.edu or DiGennaro at 215-281-0922.

"In every opportunity where SAYS gets to participate in a community service activity, more bonding occurs between the members, and the more we learn from the experience. In these opportunities, we become more familiar with the campus itself, the students in SAYS and on campus who choose to participate, as well as become more familiar with the community that is involved with the event."

—Dawn D. Adamoli, '07, SAYS president and Elementary/Early Childhood Education major

"I like how we all work together despite our school schedules to do good things for other people. It is easy to get caught up in school work, so it is nice to make time to help others; it helps to keep what is important in perspective. I have met so many great people in the SAYS club."

—Michelle Begnaud, freshman Nursing student

Service

Student Nurses Association of Holy Family

Any student taking nursing classes at any grade level—as a major or minor; undergraduate or graduate—is eligible to join SNAHF. The opportunity to help others through volunteer work is one of the benefits of membership in SNAHF, which is chartered through the National Student Nurses Association and affiliated with the Pennsylvania State Student Nurses Association.

“Through numerous community service, continuing education, and professional development opportunities, SNAHF aims to help student nurses become socialized to what nursing is and the role of nursing in the community,” explained Susan Miovech, PhD, RNC, Assistant Professor of Nursing, and SNAHF Faculty Advisor. “Over the last few years, we’ve been in a health promotion mode, trying to help people take care of themselves so they don’t get sick. Volunteer activities bring our students in contact with healthy, active people of all ages outside a hospital setting. Holy Family strives to be a good neighbor, and one way we can do that is to help our neighbors maintain good health.”

Some of SNAHF’s recent philanthropic projects include collecting donations for Hurricane Katrina victims, “adopting” a needy family during Christmastime, and collecting canned goods and nonperishable food for area food banks. You’ll also find SNAHF members participating in University health fairs, where they conduct free blood pressure screenings and distribute educational brochures on smoking cessation, substance abuse awareness, and other health topics. SNAHF members also have collected books and participated in a reading program for developmentally challenged children.

“There’s more to the nursing profession than providing care to sick people in a hospital,” Miovech said. “Assisting with community events lets the students see firsthand what their actions and

activities can bring about. They get to interact with healthy people and make a difference, make a connection between what we’re teaching in the classroom and helping members of the community.”

To get involved in SNAHF, call Miovech at ext. 3294.

Education Connections

Since 1995, the School of Education has sponsored Education Connections, providing students with diverse opportunities to grow personally, professionally, and socially, and promoting the field of education on campus, within society, and in the community. Education Connections is chartered under both the National Education Association and Pennsylvania State Education Association.



Sister Marcella Biknowski is advisor to Ed Connections at the Northeast Philadelphia Campus.

Although the club is composed primarily of Education majors, membership is open to all undergraduate and graduate students. The Northeast Campus advisor is Sister Marcella Biknowski, PhD, Student Services Coordinator, Elementary Education, and Reading. At Newtown, Phyllis Anthony, Lynn Orlando, and Brian Berry share the role of faculty advisor. Members are required to participate in two community-service projects each year, and both clubs have supported a number of good causes—usually involving children.



Members of Ed Connections prepare school supplies for students at a North Philadelphia school the group has adopted.

For a field trip to Sheridan Elementary and Middle School on Broad Street in Philadelphia last fall, students from the Northeast Campus collected stationery supplies and children’s books, which were donated during their visit.

“In addition, we’ve ‘adopted’ other schools or classrooms throughout the community and given children’s book and school supplies,” Marcella said. “We’ve collected clothing and personal-care items for women’s shelters. And in fall 2005, we collected and donated two big boxes of school supplies for children in Laos. Dr. Patricia Duncan, Professor of Secondary Education, helped arrange it. She had an acquaintance working there.”

Most recently, Education Connections members at the Northeast Campus organized a bake sale to raise funds for autism awareness. They’ve also supported other causes, such as muscular dystrophy, through fundraisers.

“Being a teacher requires a willingness to help and serve others,” Marcella said. “Education Connections is designed to give students firsthand experiences they ordinarily might not get in the classroom. Many students develop a personal interest in the areas where they have contributed.”

At the Newtown location, Orlando described the Education Connections members as “active, enthused, and very dedicated to education.”

“We have built some strong community partnerships with Pennsbury, Council

Photo by John McKeith

Service

Rock, and Central Bucks School Districts, where our students volunteer their time in the classroom or assist with special projects," she said.

While New Orleans was busy rebuilding and recovering from Hurricane Katrina, Education Connections members from Holy Family University-Newtown were

brainstorming ways to help. They held a fundraiser and collected books, school supplies, and cash donations for schools in some of the hardest-hit areas.

"Our students really enjoy Education Connections," Orlando said. "They are supportive of each other, and they work as a good network, helping each other and the community. It's rewarding to see them make a difference."

For more on Education Connections, contact Marcella at ext. 3432 or Orlando at ext. 4040.



Representatives from Holy Family recently visited the Sheridan West School to meet with the elementary school's teachers and administrators. Ed Connections has adopted the school, providing school supplies and children's books.

"Since becoming an officer of Education Connections, I have had the opportunity to work on a team with three other students and Sister Marcella. As a team, we have created service projects for the members to participate in. We also have organized bake sales and fundraisers for organizations that involve children. Each semester, the club selects a new group to support."

—Megan Curran, Elementary Education '03

"Another aspect of the club I enjoy is the service we provide. Last semester we collected school supplies for villages in Laos. This semester we are raising money for autism. Belonging to and leading a club that actively makes a difference and shares ideas is the most beneficial aspect of Ed Connections."

—Tarah Gillespie, English-Special Education '06