



TEACH, SERVE, AND LEARN

the newsletter for Service Learning
at Nassau Community College

SPRING 2014

NASSAU HOSTS FIRST MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY OF COMMUNITY SERVICE

Nassau's First MLK Day of Community Service was held on Thursday, January 23, 2014, to a tremendous reception. The goal of the MLK Day of Service Committee was to create an event that incorporated three key elements--learning, serving, and giving--in the context of relevant community need. The students, faculty, and service clubs at NCC did that and more!

A total of 234 volunteers attended, representing students, faculty, staff, and members of many clubs and organizations, including the NCC Chapter of Student Veterans of America, the Filipino Club, the Student Government Association, the Caribbean Student Organization, the Make-A-Difference Club, CANstruction, the Nursing Department, the Engineering Club and others. Dr. King's famous "I have a Dream" speech was played in the background, adding a touching and poignant atmosphere to the event.

The event was kicked off by Dr. Joseph Muscarella, Vice President of Administration, who gave an inspiring talk on "Kindness" and how NCC was a significant contributor to Sandy relief by operating two shelters on campus for displaced Long Islanders. Dr. Muscarella was followed by Dr. Evangeline Manjares, Dean of the Centers for Service Learning and Veterans Affairs and Diana O'Neill, Executive Director of the Long Island Volunteer Center who helped introduce the activities on the agenda.

“Life's most persistent and urgent question is: What are you doing for others?”

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Volunteers created 250 disaster preparedness kits for three nonprofit organizations that serve vulnerable populations: the Helen Keller Service Center, the Long Island Council on Independent Living, and the Long Beach Magnolia Senior Center. In addition, Six exhibitors, including the American Red Cross, All Hands Volunteers, Nechama, and UMCOR, were on

hand to introduce attendees to additional ways to serve their community.

Volunteers received a certificate of appreciation and a gourmet cupcake at the conclusion of their service act. "Build a kit, get a cupcake" was a tag line of the project and became a fun focal point of the assembly line. The event was even covered by Newsday.

Thanks and gratitude to the faculty, staff, administrators, campus organizations, A/V Department, Printing Department, WHPC, Facilities, Vignette, Library, Lokg Island Volunteer Center, Student Veterans of America, and everyone else who participated for making this a successful event.

MLK Day of Service Committee Members: Dr. Evangeline Manjares, Professors Anne T. Kopestein, Birgit S. Woelker, Joan Buckley, Mary Ann Snow, Lisa Korman, Deborah Kimbrough-Lowe, Theresa Williams, Doreen Davis and the Long Island Volunteer Center Staff: Laura Messano, Simone Leo.

NICKELS FOR NUTRITION

The Evening NUR 101 Fundamentals of Nursing class embraced the concept of Service Learning with a project called "Nickels for Nutrition." The nursing students were asked if they could save their water bottles, collect, and return them for their deposit as role models for others in the NCC community. The students decided to donate the collected money to an after school homework program in Westbury, the Casa Mary Johanna, which would provide "Healthy Snacks" for the children that go there on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Five weeks into the semester, the class had surpassed its goal to collect \$100. The students continued to drop their water and soda bottles into bags in the front of the classroom and many began to go out into their communities to collect and cash in cans and bottles, turning in the change to the faculty each day. Every student had a conscious awareness of the possibilities that were being actualized with this example of caring and recycling.

Two students chose to use this as their service learning project and maintained relationships with local businesses in their communities. Together they collected \$682.00 from the nickel deposit on bottles and cans. Combining their funds with their classmates' collections of \$282.20, the evening nursing students raised \$964.20. This means that 18,684 bottles and cans passed through the hands of nurses to bring food and other gifts to this community.

These are the future nurses of Nassau County and we couldn't be prouder of their collective efforts.



Staff and student volunteers making peanut butter and jelly sandwiches for the Feed the Hungry Program.



Students, faculty, administrators, and staff joined with Masoom Ali outside Bradley Hall to clean lawn areas, plant flowers, and mulch garden beds.



A Nassau student used his creative talents to decorate a brick for NCC's House for Humanity.



NCC101 class volunteers with delicious baked goods who are donating proceeds to the Multiple Sclerosis Foundation.

2ND ANNUAL DAY OF SERVICE WAS A HUGE SUCCESS!

Professor Stella Fox, First-Year Experience Committee

On Wednesday, April 2, more than 500 students, faculty, administrators and staff came together at the College for a day of fundraising, community outreach, and other charitable activities. Participants in NCC's second annual Day of Service generously volunteered their time and talents to work on service projects that met community needs in the areas of hunger, homelessness, domestic violence, literacy, health care, the environment, and more.

In all, there were 35 service projects organized by 19 student clubs and more than 20 departments and offices!

The day began with an inspirational kick-off breakfast and words of welcome from campus administrators and Diana O'Neill, executive director of the Long Island Volunteer Center. Volunteers then fanned out and engaged in numerous service projects and activities held in the College Center and other locations on campus. At the end of the day, everyone was invited back to the CCB to celebrate and reflect on the meaning of their contributions and the impact they had on their community. Some of the activities during the Day of Service included a campus-wide food drive, a campus beautification project, a

school supply drive, a student-created library exhibit, blood pressure screening, cell phone recycling, computer instruction for seniors, an organic garden project, a fundraiser for St. Jude's, a garage sale, story time at the Children's Greenhouse, a Random Acts of Kindness marathon, and more.

Several projects were inspired by the college-wide theme "Speak, Memory." These included an iPod donation drive to benefit Alzheimer's patients, the Student to Student video project, which asked students to share a fond Nassau memory, and Thanks for the Memory, which provided free note cards for participants to express appreciation to members of the campus community.

Some Day of Service highlights include:

- 🌀 700 peanut butter and jelly sandwiches were made and delivered to The INN in Hempstead.
- 🌀 More than 700 and 20 boxes of school supplies and sporting equipment were collected for the School of Masson-Sion in Haiti.
- 🌀 NCC's House for Humanity raised \$368 to help fund Habitat for Humanity's efforts on Long Island.
- 🌀 Over 450 pounds of food and \$350 in donations were collected for a proposed food pantry here at NCC.
- 🌀 The Nursing Department collected 168 pairs of eyeglasses for people in Haiti.
- 🌀 A truckload of pet supplies and \$325 in donations were donated to Last Hope Animal Rescue.

75 used cell phones were collected for Cell Phones for Soldiers, providing 187 hours of free talk time for our troops serving overseas.

There were also several bake sales to benefit worthy organizations like the Coalition for the Homeless, Ronald McDonald House, and the Nassau County MS Society, as well as collections of household and personal items for victims of domestic violence and our troops overseas. In addition, Hospitality students conducted a nutritional taste test, NCC 101 students organized The Good Advice Project, and Flash Mob Zumba ignited the entire crowd!

NCC's Day of Service illustrates what our community can accomplish when we work together. The event was sponsored by the First-Year Experience program, the Center for Service Learning, and the Long Island Volunteer Center. A special thank you to the NCC Foundation for its support!

Congratulations and a big thank you to everyone who participated in this memorable day dedicated to civic engagement, community service, volunteerism, and service learning. Stay tuned for next year's Day of Service!



NCC student volunteers, who donated their time and items to sell at the garage sale.



Many NCC faculty, staff, and students participating in the Flash Mob!



Nursing 105 students organized a collection of used eyewear to be refurbished and distributed to people in need in Haiti.



Senior observers learned how to search and navigate the Internet thanks to the expertise of Administrative Business Technology students and their project leader Dorothy Rabbene.

DAY OF SERVICE

STUDENT REFLECTIONS

At the end of the day, students shared their experiences and reflected on why their participation was meaningful to them:

"I know that I made a difference in someone's else's life, and to me that means I did something right in the world."

"It showed me how easy it is to help those who have nothing. It makes me feel good and I want to give more."

"It was a chance to give back to the community, both NCC and communities of the world."

"It was great to see so many people working together for a good cause!"

"I believe in volunteering and giving back the blessings I receive."

"I met some amazing people while helping others that I may never meet."

"I was able to give back to my community and participate in a project that really helped others."

"It made me realize I want to help others in different parts of the world."

It was great to see how many students, faculty and staff came out to help."

"I went to support the cause of MS."

"I wanted to support a cause I believe in."

"I believe it's important to be a part of things that benefit others."

"I was able to participate in multiple activities and projects, helping others and exercising too!"

"The Day of Service was good for the soul."

NCC DAY OF SERVICE SCHOOL OF MASSON

by Prof. Kerry Golde

This past February, I had the chance to travel to Haiti and visit a rural school that is sponsored by the NCC Department of Reading and Basic Education (the School of Masson). After returning from Haiti, I came to realize that even though the school was very grateful for our department's help, they were in great need of the bare essentials that we, as educators, often take for granted.

Three years ago, our department raised enough money to get the school internet service – no small effort in Haiti – but to my surprise, the school needed much more. They were lacking basic tools such as pens, pencils, notebooks and curriculum materials. When I asked them what they would like, they told me everything from solar energy, water and classrooms that were not in tents, to the basics – visual aides, pencils, notebooks, paper and sporting equipment. I was quite humbled after attending the school, which is a 2-hour hike up a mountain outside of Port au Prince. I realized that all the help we send to them was appreciated and a miracle to this little school. They run on a budget of \$8,000 per year, which includes salaries for approximately 15 teachers. There is no government funding. The money is raised here in the US and is used to help support the school. Classrooms are built with additional fundraising.

On April 2, 2014, I was lucky enough to participate in NCC's day of service. Fortunately, the Department of Reading and Basic Education had the opportunity to ask the college community for additional support. We formed a School of Masson committee (Kerry Sikingor Golde Susan Newlin-Wagner, Cheryl Novins, Nicole Forchelli, Caryn Crupa, Allison Bressmer and Stella



A student in Prof. Kristin Quinn's Reading 003 class read to a group of preschoolers in the Children's Greenhouse.

Fox) and got to work. Together with our students, we distributed boxes to over 20 departments and LINCC. We asked those departments to consider donating school supplies to help a small school that educates 300 students per year. We collected enough supplies to give the school a good start in the fall. We also collected over \$700, which helped with shipping costs and a small fund to start working on getting the school running water.

We were overwhelmed by the support of the NCC community. We continue to raise money for the school and collect supplies, but we could never have gotten the amount of supplies raised if it were not for the help of the students, faculty and staff of NCC. We are very appreciative of all of your help. The students in Haiti will be getting our shipment next week. I recently Skyped with them and they are very excited and grateful for all of your generosity. We recently started a Facebook account and will be starting other social media efforts in the future, so please look out for more updates.

NASSAU COMMUNITY COLLEGE IS NOW A MEMBER OF NY CAMPUS COMPACT

The NYCC is a membership association of college and university presidents committed to promoting "active citizenship as an aim of higher education." Two-year and four year campuses, public and independent institutions, from Buffalo to New York City, Southern Tier to the North Country, have joined to promote civic engagement, campus/community partnerships and service-learning. The NYCC provides statewide leadership in advocating for, supporting, and increasing student involvement in academic and co-curricular based public service, in order to strengthen the capacity of member institutions to serve society; to enhance student learning; and to develop in individual students the

knowledge, values, skills, and habits of civic responsibility and democratic participation.

Key activities include technical assistance through conferences, publications, consultation; grants to members; support for student volunteerism; recognition of accomplishments in public service collaborations with sister organizations; and public policy development.

Located in Ithaca, NY, the New York Campus Compact (NYCC) is hosted by Cornell University.

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