

# Service-Learning Program

## 2005-2006 Year in Review

### Service-Learning in ESL

By Inna Zhabko, Clark College Student

#### Socks Week

In January 2006, we, a group of Clark College ESL students, visited SHARE in Vancouver. We were shocked by the number of homeless people in Clark County. As a result, we asked what we could do to help these people. We were told that the things they needed the most were socks and razors. Therefore, we decided to collect socks from Clark College ESL students.

First of all, we made a flyer about our action which we named "Socks Week". Next, we went from class to class and made a little presentation. In the presentation, we told other students about Share House and homeless people. We asked them to help us achieve our goal – collect 300 pair socks for homeless people. It was very pleasant that most of the students cared about the homeless people and wished to participate.

Besides, those presentations were very helpful for us because we are ESL students. First, it was very great practice in speaking and listening, especially when native speakers asked us some questions. Also, it helped us to meet people of different nationalities and Americans, and find out what they think and feel about people who need help.

Finally, we were absolutely thrilled when we realized that with all the help we collected much more than we expected – 566 pair of socks and even some clothes and toiletries! We were very proud that our Clark College students and teachers are so nice and not indifferent people. Moreover, it was very touching to see how glad Share House's personnel was when we brought them all we collected.

In conclusion, I could say it was a great and an unforgettable experience for all of us to help the community and communicate in English.



### What is the Service-Learning?

The American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) defines service learning as the combination of community service and classroom instruction, with a focus on critical, reflective thinking as well as personal and civic responsibility.

#### The Critical Elements of Service-Learning include:

- It is conducted in and meets the needs of a community;
- It is coordinated with an institution of higher education and with the community;
- It helps foster civic responsibility;
- It includes appropriate assessment; and
- It includes reflection as part of documenting the service experience.

(Adapted from the American Association of Higher Education definition of service-learning, 1993)

At Clark College, the Service-Learning Program aims to develop students who are not only prepared for the workforce but are equally prepared to be engaged citizens in their community. The Program supports faculty efforts to incorporate service-learning as a curricular teaching strategy, encourages and provides opportunities for students to become active participants in their communities through co-curricular volunteer opportunities, and enhances the College's mission to strengthen broad based partnerships with non-profit/public agencies.

The 2005-2006 academic year was filled with numerous successful events for the Service-Learning Program. This newsletter highlights just a few of these events and the faculty, students and community partners that contributed to them.



## Other Events

### Clothing Distribution

The Service-Learning Program with endless help from Clark College instructors and staff collected gently used and new clothes for the Clark Clothing Closet. The Clark Clothing Closet distributed the free professional clothing to over 200 students.

### Environmental Volunteer and Internship Fair

In conjunction with Clark College Department of Student Life, the Service-Learning Program organized an Earth Week Environmental Volunteer and Internship Fair that brought 20 non-profit/public organizations to campus to bring awareness about environmental issues facing southwest Washington.

### People in Need of Assistance to MLK: A Day On

For Martin Luther King Day, Clark College students/staff and volunteers from Vancouver Parks & Recreation participated in a service-project and reflection discussion at Nonprofit Northwest, Design Consign Shop. Participants assisted the Home Essentials program which provides household items to nonprofit agencies to distribute to people in need.

### Club for Social Action

The Club for Social Action is a new Clark College based club started by six students. We organized during the beginning of February 2006 with the intention to improve human welfare and deepen civic culture through bringing action and awareness about social issues facing the community to Clark College and engage in community based projects. Since its inception in February 2006 the Club for Social Action has worked to increase campus awareness of the child soldiers in Northern Uganda and domestic violence.  
By Josh Seim, Clark College Student

# Clark College Adopt-A-School Project

By Theresa David-Turner  
Principal, Washington Elementary

The Clark College Adopt-a-School Program has been a huge success at Washington Elementary! We have been fortunate to have four Clark College students work Monday-Friday from 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. at our Homework Club. The purpose of the club is to provide an opportunity for students who prefer to get their homework done at school with adult help. Students choose to complete their homework during their lunch recess time. For some, this is truly the only opportunity they have to get their studies completed whether it is because no one at home can read English or because there is a lack of space and materials. We could not offer this opportunity without Clark College students.

Clark College has also sent students from their Engineering Club to help run Washington's after school Math Club. This club is designed to provide additional math experiences in a game/tournament format. Four Clark students and three community volunteers along with a Washington school employee are running the Math Club on Mondays and Wednesdays from 3:00 – 4:30 p.m. We have over 30 students involved in Math Club. This is another opportunity we would be unable to offer without the partnership of Clark College.

We are very fortunate to have this type of support and have no doubt that student achievement has been increased as a result. We are counting on continuing these programs for next school year!



ESL students visit SHARE as part of Sara Gallow's *Fridays in the Community* project.



Clark College student Kelly Shriner and Luepke Center elder Julius Bippes, listen to the concerns of Tory Blake, Vancouver teen during the Intergenerational Dialogue.

## Intergenerational Dialogue

On Thursday, May 4th five teens from Vancouver Parks & Recreation, five elders from the Luepke Senior Center and four Clark College students gathered in the PSU Fireside Room to take part in a World Café.

“World Café Conversations are an intentional way to create a living network of conversation around questions that matter. A Café Conversation is a creative process for leading a collaborative dialogue, sharing knowledge and creating possibilities for action in groups of all sizes.” (World Café Website, [www.theworldcafe.com](http://www.theworldcafe.com)) Under the facilitation of Heather Tischbein, who is a trained facilitator in the World Café process, teens, Clark College students and elders held three rounds of 20 minutes conversations focused on three sets of questions:

1. What are your hopes for the future? What are your worries and fears? What wisdom do you have to share with others?
2. What legacy would you like to leave future generations? What legacy did you receive or would you like to receive from the generations before you?
3. If we were to build a future together across generations what would it look like? How would we do it? How can we help each other live into our best and brightest future?

The questions proved to be very moving for all who attended. Discussions focused on everyone’s worries of the future including: war, gangs, education system, raising costs of gas, and our fast paced society. As well as ways we can better work together to create more understanding and opportunity to get to know people who may be different than ourselves.

After the three rounds of conversation a group reflection gave all participants the opportunity to share insights and discoveries they learned about themselves or someone else. Here are some of those insights and discoveries:

*“I learned that young people have things to offer me and that I should take this awareness home with me-to my teenagers-and turn off the TV and talk to them more”*—Clark College Staff

*“Slow down, it’s about (building) relationships”*—Elder

*“Be aware of you actions because whether you know or feel it; it may have a long lasting effect on someone, in a manner that you may not have meant”*

—Vancouver Parks & Recreation Staff

*“Lead from example, giving the younger generation a positive productive image to look up to”*

—Clark College Student

*“Hard work and hard play make it easier not to take life from day to day”*—Teen

*“I learned that there are years between us-but today I feel ageless”*—Elder

This inspiring event was put on through a collaborative effort from Lauren Calderera, Service-Learning & Internship Program Manager, Arlisa Hinton, Teen Recreation Specialist and Kelly Lund, 50+ Recreation Specialist at Vancouver Parks & Recreation and especially Heather Tischbein who graciously volunteered to facilitate the World Café Conversation.

### Students in Service

This year Clark College joined Washing Campus Compact a statewide membership coalition of colleges and universities working to increase student civic engagement on college campuses. One of the many benefits for Clark College is the Students In Service program which provides educational scholarships to Clark College students who complete a minimum of 300 hours of service. Students completing service-learning class projects, volunteering, or in a service related work-study position at a non-profit/public agency are eligible. Interested Clark College students should visit the Students In Service website at [www.studentsinservice.org](http://www.studentsinservice.org)

## Thank You to Our Community Partners

Each year community organizations partner with Clark College Service-Learning Program to host volunteers, table at Clark College events, and collaborate to create campus-wide service-projects for all students, faculty and staff. Thank you to:

4 Results Mentoring  
American Red Cross  
Audubon Society  
Bradley Angle House  
Clark College Adult Literacy Program  
Clark College Mature Learning  
Clark County Fair  
Clark County Veterans Affairs  
Clark County WIC  
Clark Public Utilities and Stream Team  
Columbia River Girl Scouts  
Columbia River Mental Health  
Columbia Springs Environmental Center  
ESD 112: Northwest Service Academy and Links Programs  
FISH  
Ft. Vancouver National Historic Site  
Free Clinic of SW Washington  
Friends of Clark County  
Hands on Portland  
Hospice SW  
Human Services Council  
Humane Society of SW Washington  
In Defense of Animals  
Loaves & Fishes  
Loo Wit Sierra Club  
Lutheran Community Services  
Master Composters/Recyclers  
Naturescaping of SW Washington  
Neighborhood Networks  
Neighbors Helping Neighbors  
Open House Ministries  
Renewable Northwest Project  
Rise and Stars Mentoring  
RSVP  
Rudy Luepke Senior Center  
Salvation Army  
SHARE  
Soil Builders  
Solar Energy Association of Oregon  
WA State Department of Fish & Wildlife  
SW Clean Air Agency  
Vancouver Urban Forestry  
Vancouver-Clark Parks & Recreation  
Vancouver Community Cycling Center  
Washington Elementary School  
Water Resource Education Center  
Watershed Stewards  
WSU Extension-CASSEE  
YWCA Clark County  
and many more...

## Are you doing Service-Learning at Clark College?

One challenge facing the Service-Learning Program is getting an accurate number of instructors involved in service-learning each term. If you are currently using service-learning or planning to in upcoming terms please send a short e-mail to Lauren Calderera, [LCalदारera@clark.edu](mailto:LCalदारera@clark.edu).

## Interested in Service-Learning at Clark College?

The Service-Learning Program is a great place to find books, syllabi, and connections to community organizations to help you plan your next service-learning project. The Service-Learning Program Manager can provide you with in-class orientation, service-learning reflections, assessment ideas, and assist with any of your service-learning project needs. Contact Lauren Calderera, Service-Learning & Internship Program Manager, 360-992-2447 or [lcalदारera@clark.edu](mailto:lcalदारera@clark.edu).

## Upcoming Conference:

### 6th Annual International Conference: Advances in Service-Learning Research

Portland State University, October 13-16, 2006

[www.pdx.edu](http://www.pdx.edu)

## People to Profile

We are looking for students, faculty, and community partners engaged in service-learning to profile in future newsletters. Please contact Service-Learning Program at [lcalदारera@clark.edu](mailto:lcalदारera@clark.edu) if you are interested.

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### Service-Learning Advisory Board

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## Clark College *The Next Step*

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