



# SPRING EDITION 2007

## E-Newsletter

### Project Highlights

#### **Project PROP (Preparing Our Pets), Carl Sagan Academy, Hillsborough County**

The students at Carl Sagan Academy have been busy this year researching and identifying designated emergency shelters in the Tampa Bay area that are specifically pet-friendly. The 5<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> graders involved in PROP have contacted local animal shelters and first responders for information regarding what a pet owner can and should do during a natural disaster. The students compiled all their information and created a brochure to distribute to their peers, families and community.

CSA students did not stop there. In order to become better acquainted with service-learning and learn about what service-learning projects other kids around the country are doing, six scholars traveled to the National Service-Learning Conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico. They wasted no time at all while there, participating in sessions, hearing renowned scientist Jane Goodall speak and volunteering off-site at a Habitat for Humanity Project. Please join me in congratulating Executive Director, Dr. Kelly Browning, and her students for a job well done!

#### **Hurricane Leo Attacks, Glenridge Middle School, Orange County**

The 6<sup>th</sup> grade Trailblazers at Glenridge Middle School have been very busy this year incorporating hurricane awareness and preparedness into their everyday studies. As they learned about disaster preparation, they also educated their peers, parents and community through their service-learning projects.

Their year-long efforts included: creating and disseminating a hurricane preparedness survey and checklist; holding a preparation poster contest; mapping and tracking a fictitious hurricane (Hurricane Leo); and writing and performing a skit geared toward hurricane readiness for families. Their many community partners and community-wide performances, as well as the countless hours of planning put in throughout the year to make GMS's project a success, is due in large part to their grant coordinator, Ms. Nancy Pflingsten. Congratulations, Trailblazers, for educating your community about the importance of disaster preparation!

***"The life I touch for good or ill will touch another life, and that in turn another, until who knows where the trembling stops or in what far place my touch will be felt."***

**- Frederick Buechner**

### News Updates

#### **New Summer of Service Campaign for Youth Aims for Early Start to Volunteering**

Washington, DC—The Corporation for National and Community Service and 20 national nonprofit organizations today launched a campaign designed to help America's youth take their first steps along a lifetime path of volunteering and service by serving their communities over the summer months.

Called the Summer of Service, the nationwide campaign will engage youth between the ages of 5 and 21 in high-quality volunteer activities from June through August. The drive, which puts special emphasis on involving youth from disadvantaged circumstances, recognizes the enormous potential of children to identify issues, develop projects, and provide lasting benefits to their communities through volunteer service.

Joining the agency in launching the initiative are some of the nation's largest youth organizations including America's Promise, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Camp Fire USA, MENTOR/National Mentoring Partnership, the YMCA, Youth Service America, and 16 other nonprofits. Collectively these groups reach nearly 60 million youth. The Corporation welcomes other national and local organizations that work with youth to become part of the campaign, and more are signing on every week.

"The Summer of Service will empower youth and get them on a path of service and success," said David Eisner, CEO of the Corporation, an independent federal agency. "Young people make a tremendous contribution to our society, and they already volunteer

### **Katrina Recovery Project: Rebuilding St. Bernard Parish, Rollins College, Orange County**

50 Freshman to Senior-level college students enrolled in a service-learning course entitled *Katrina Recovery Project: Rebuilding St. Bernard Parish*. Students traveled to St. Bernard Parish, New Orleans, LA where they assisted in home gutting and debris removal, and mold abatement for disabled, elderly or homeless families displaced by the hurricane. The students and faculty chaperones ate and slept at Camp Hope, a temporary relief worker home base, with around 500 other volunteers from around the country. After returning to Winter Park, FL each team of 10 students developed an annotated media essay for posting on the web and for use in community and school forums describing the project. Due to the strong and lasting effect the experience had on the Rollins students, another relief trip (this one funded by the students themselves) will take place this spring.

## **Conferences & Events**

**May 5, 2007**

*Join Hands Day*

<http://www.joinhandsday.org/>

**May 14-18, 2007**

*21<sup>st</sup> Annual Governor's Hurricane Conference*

*Fort Lauderdale, Florida*

<http://www.flghc.org/>

## **Attention!**

**No-Cost Extensions** are available for projects needing more time to complete proposed activities. The deadline for requesting a No-Cost Extension is **July 31, 2007**, in order to allow time for processing. If you would like to request a No-Cost Extension, but are unsure of how to proceed, please contact **Amy Kochanasz** at **(850)488-3123** or [akochanasz@admin.fsu.edu](mailto:akochanasz@admin.fsu.edu).

at higher levels than adults. But we need to do better at involving young people in service and helping providers of youth services to engage young people as assets rather than simply treating them as clients. The Summer of Service is a great time to do both, and I'm delighted so many outstanding organizations are joining in this effort."

The Corporation is launching a website today at [www.nationalservice.gov/summerofservice](http://www.nationalservice.gov/summerofservice) that provides background information on the Summer of Service, an online sign-up form for affiliates, marketing tools, and training and curriculum resources about how to incorporate service into summer activities produced in conjunction with Youth Service America and other groups.

The Summer of Service campaign is the latest step by the agency to advance its national goal of engaging three million more youth from disadvantaged circumstances in service by the year 2010. The campaign comes on the heels of a new study that found that while volunteering produces many positive benefits for teens from low-income backgrounds, there is a disturbing "class gap" in teen volunteer rates. Youth from disadvantaged circumstances have a volunteer rate of 43 percent, compared to 59 percent for other youth. The study, "[Leveling the Path to Participation](#)" highlights service as an effective and positive intervention in a young person's life and recommends strategies for engaging more disadvantaged youth in service.

"Summer can be a difficult time for youth when they are not constructively engaged," said Theresa Clower, Special Assistant to the Corporation's CEO for the strategic goal of ensuring a brighter children [sic] for all of America's youth. "This is an opportunity for children between 5 and 21 to spend part of their summer in activities that make a difference in their communities and their own lives."...

To find out more about the Summer of Service Campaign, please visit the websites referred to in the article or contact **Norris P. West** at **(202)606-6840**; [nwest@cns.gov](mailto:nwest@cns.gov)

