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GRINNELL COLLEGE

COMMUNITY SERVICE CENTER

SPRING 1993 OPPORTUNITIES

1127 PARK STREET, 269-4247

username: CSC (AVAX)

Amy Eilert, Coordinator
Susan Cox, Assistant
Tammy Cohen, Assistant

The Community Service Center functions as a clearinghouse for students service projects. Founded in 1988, the mission of the CSC is to support volunteer projects that address poverty-related issues, promote positive social change, and develop cross-cultural understanding. While empowering both students and community members to take action, service projects educate volunteers about pressing social issues. These projects develop a sense of civic responsibility in the participants and strengthen ties between the college and community.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES



Children

ALTERNATIVE HAPPY HOUR--Travel to Des Moines to share experiences with children from low-income families. A car leaves the Forum parking lot every Friday at 4:15pm and returns by 9:30pm. Contact Jessica Goodman, x3658.

BEST BUDDIES--Be a buddy to a teen from the Grinnell community who has mild mental retardation. Buddies see each other 2 or 3 times per month, and participate in activities they both enjoy. Best Buddies is a national organization with a local chapter here in Grinnell. Applications are due in the early fall. Contact Amanda Harshbarger, x3498.

CAMP SUNNYSIDE RESPITE WEEKENDS--Assist with activities for physically and/or mentally challenged children at Camp Sunnyside near Des Moines. Respite runs from Friday afternoon to Sunday afternoon. Contact the CSC, x4247.

DAVIS BUDDY PROGRAM--Work to provide a bridge between the community and the college students by being a big buddy to a local at-risk 4th grade child. The student and the buddy work out what times they will meet. Approximate time commitment: 3 to 5 hours per week. Contact Carly Parry, x3582, or Elisabeth Bailey, 236-4875.

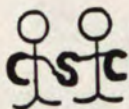
DAVIS SATURDAY ENRICHMENT PROGRAM--Help with an enrichment program for children in grades K through 4. Activities such as music and storytelling are designed to promote learning about other cultures. Approximate time commitment: 1 1/2 hours on Saturdays. Contact Subhesh Pakrashi, 236-5486.

GRINNELL COMMUNITY DAY CARE--Assist with activities for day care children. Approximate time commitment: 2 hours per week. Contact Elizabeth Smith, x4085.

GRINNELL GIRL SCOUTS--Work with girls ages 5 to 17 as a troop leader, co-leader, or assistant. No previous Girl Scout experience is required, and both men and women are welcome to volunteer. Time commitment varies with degree of involvement. Contact Susan Bowles, (800) 342-8389.

HEAD START--Assist teachers with classroom activities for pre-schoolers. Head Start is a federally funded program for children from low-income families. Contact David Friedman, x4007.

MENTORING PROGRAM--Work one-on-one with an at-risk Grinnell Middle School student who faces obstacles which might keep him or her from graduating from high school. This program requires about 3 hours of time per week that are spent on both recreational and academic activities. Applications are available every fall. Contact Lisa McCauley, x3642, Carminda Cuadro, x3341, or Erin Turner, x4123.



Adults With Special Needs

CENTRAL IOWA RESIDENTIAL SERVICES, INC. (CIRSI)--Volunteer to be a special friend to a person with mental retardation. This project works one-on-one, and requires a fairly high commitment level. Approximate time commitment: 2 visits per month. Contact the CSC, x4247.

JASPER COUNTY CARE FACILITY--Join the Special Friends program and visit with developmentally disabled adults each Tuesday. A car leaves the Forum parking lot at 6:30pm. Contact Jeff Stadler, 236-4081, or Mary Cooper, x3813.

POWESHIEK COUNTY CAREER DEVELOPMENT CENTER--Help mentally and developmentally handicapped adults with daily living and pre-vocational skills. Volunteers are needed anytime between 9am and 1pm daily. The time commitment is flexible. Contact the CSC, x4247.

POWESHIEK COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH CENTER--Volunteer to be a part of Friends Unlimited and help with social activities at the clubhouse, a program for chronically mentally ill adults. The time commitment is flexible. Contact the CSC, x4247.

UNIFIED SPORTS/SPECIAL OLYMPICS--Play basketball and volleyball with mentally and/or physically challenged teammates in order to further sports skills, develop friendships, and have fun. This program meets for 1 1/2 hours on Sundays for 6 weeks each semester. Contact Kathy Lange, x3897, or Amy Lubelchek, x3227.



Poverty

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY--Renovate houses in the Poweshiek county area which are then sold at cost to low-income families. Help with fundraising, family selection and support, and construction. Contact the CSC, x4247.

POVERTY ACTION NOW--Volunteer on Saturdays at the Catholic Worker, a community of hospitality for homeless people in Des Moines. A car leaves the Forum grill at 10am, and returns to campus around 4:30pm. Contact [HOMELESS] over the vax.



Health

GRINNELL GENERAL HOSPITAL--Volunteer in any number of areas, ranging from direct patient contact to support services. For current, specific opportunities, contact Elaine Noe, 236-4467.



Senior Citizens

CARING ADULT CENTER--Provide activities and support for older persons who need assistance maintaining a healthy, independent life. Volunteers are encouraged to come on a regular schedule, but are welcome anytime the Center is open: Monday-Friday from 10am to 3pm. Assistance is also needed with publicity, newsletters, and art/design projects. Contact Margi Ness, 236-6481.

GRINNELL SENIOR CENTER--Help with activities or special projects at the Senior Center. Volunteers are needed for weekly shifts during the hours of 8am to 4pm. Contact the CSC, x4247.

NURSING HOMES AND MAYFLOWER RETIREMENT COMMUNITY--Spend time with elderly people who live in one of Grinnell's two nursing homes or in the Mayflower Home. Activities include talking, playing games, etc. Special events will be planned as ideas arise. Contact Melanie Leavitt, x3187.



Social Services

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES--File, organize, and help with front desk work. The time commitment is flexible, but usually around 2 to 3 hours per week. Contact the CSC, x4247.

JOB SERVICE--Help out with desk work and other agency jobs. The time commitment is flexible, but usually around 1 to 3 hours per week. Contact the CSC, x4247.

MICA (MID-IOWA COMMUNITY ACTION)--Help in the food pantry, work with low-income families, or provide child care. Contact the CSC, x4247.

SECOND MILE--Sort, size, and mend clothing for the clothing closet. Help with the Christmas Sharing program or with other special projects. One time volunteers are often needed. Contact the CSC, x4247.



Peace

IOWA PEACE INSTITUTE--Help with mailings, conduct tours of campus, translate foreign languages (Russian, German, Japanese, and Chinese), organize library materials, work at conference registrations, or help with photography, food preparation, or computer work. Contact Judy Hall, 236-4880.



Women

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ALTERNATIVES/SEXUAL ASSAULT CENTER--Coordinate a support group within Grinnell for battered women and sexual assault survivors, work on the crisis line, advocate for children's rights, or help with shelter maintenance. DVA provides 20 hours of training. Contact the CSC, x4247.

JEANNE BURKLE WOMEN'S CENTER--Join the program committee to plan and participate in Center programs. Help staff the center Monday-Friday from 11:30am to 1:30pm. to provide a relaxed meeting place. Babysit for programs, or work with one time events. Contact Holly Mahling, x3562, or Margi Ness, 236-7376.



Tutoring Projects

ADULT LITERACY PROGRAM--Tutor adults in basic English and mathematics skills. Help recruit adults and publicize the program. Volunteers usually work about 2 hours per week. Contact Tammy Cohen, x4119 or the CSC, x4247.

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE--Tutor non-native English speaking students in a variety of academic subjects. Tutoring takes place at the schools, once or twice per week for 30 to 45 minutes. Contact Twila Rosenow, 236-6324.

AFTER SCHOOL FOREIGN LANGUAGE (ASFL)--Work to increase global awareness by introducing foreign languages at the elementary and middle school levels, once a week for 45 minutes after school. Share your knowledge, perfect your own abilities, and introduce students to a new culture. People of all languages, backgrounds, and abilities are welcome. Contact Jessica Goff, x3910, Stephanie Arnold, x3544 or Jeremy Giltner, x3782.

GRINNELL-NEWBURG SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS PROGRAM--Tutor area elementary, junior-high, and high school students in a variety of academic subjects. Help with after-school programs, or serve as a classroom aide. Sessions take place at the schools during times that the tutor and the student arrange. Approximate time commitment: 2 hours per week. Contact the CSC, x4247.

NATIVE AMERICAN INTEREST GROUP--Tutor children at the Mesquakie Settlement on Thursday evenings. Tutoring sessions usually last about 3 hours per week. Contact Katya Ricketts, 236-8749, or Jessica Roff, 236-4382.

From the Participants

Head Start volunteer: "(College students) just see older people and students; children have a different perspective. It's interesting to talk to other people with different outlooks."

ESL tutor: "It's most important that students get away from the college campus in order to get a different perspective."

An adult literacy tutor: "Working one-on-one with a person from the town of Grinnell was a refreshing experience; also, watching my tutee make progress was immensely satisfying."

A day-care center volunteer: "I enjoy working with children and have found that hugging little babies is a good stress buster."

A special buddy: "I think the [buddy] program can be quite beneficial for the kids involved. Attention and care definitely make all the difference in the world to a child's self-image, and it is from there that he or she will develop."

Unified Sports volunteer: "The project allowed the people from Jasper County Care Facility to have direct one-on-one contact with the college students and to have fun. Everyone became friends and learned a lot about each other."

Domestic Violence Alternatives and Alternative Happy Hour volunteer: "[These programs provide] significant involvement with important issues, raise awareness and an understanding of the value and operation of community service/volunteer organizations, and cultivate a desire to be involved in other service activities."

Crop Walk participant: "[I volunteer] just to stretch my heart. I have been very busy this semester, but I will definitely continue my volunteer work next year."



Alternative Happy Hour program participants.

Affiliations

Grinnell College is a member of Campus Compact: The Project for Public and Community Service.

Campus Compact is a coalition of college and university presidents established to create public service opportunities for their students and to develop an expectation of service as an integral part of student life and the college experience.

(Excerpted from Campus Compact's statement of purpose)

Cover: Heather Glenn '92 with Odessa Kerr at Head Start.

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Community Service Center



Service Tradition at Grinnell

Student commitment to social responsibility has been a large part of the college's history. After the Civil War, when the college was a center for abolitionist activity, Grinnell became known as the center of the Social Gospel reform movement. This concept of social justice moved many Grinnell alumni to make significant contributions to social reform. FDR'S New Deal Administration included Grinnellians Harry Hopkins, Chester Davis, Paul Appleby, Hallie Flanagan, and Florence Stewart Kerr.

Today the college's mission statement includes "Our graduates should be equipped to pursue successful careers, a satisfying personal life, effective community service, and physically active and intellectually satisfying leisure... The college should graduate citizens who will make voluntary public contributions wherever possible, especially in local community affairs."

Origin and Purpose of the CSC

Grinnell's Community Service Center (CSC) opened in 1988 through a \$30,000 three-year ACTION grant awarded to the college's Career Development Office. The CSC functions as a clearinghouse for individual and group volunteer projects. The center is staffed by a coordinator and two student assistants, and advised by a board of faculty, administrators, community representatives, and students.

In the second year of operation, 350 students volunteered for service projects. In addition to coordinating volunteer placements, the CSC publishes a newsletter edited by a student assistant. At the end of the year, the center sponsors a picnic for all volunteers and community service agency representatives.

The mission of the Community Service Center is to support volunteer projects that address poverty-related issues, promote positive social change, and develop cross-cultural understanding. While empowering both students and community members to take action, service projects educate volunteers about pressing social issues. These projects develop a sense of civic responsibility in the participants and strengthen ties between the college and community.

Several student groups, active prior to the opening of the CSC, benefit from the renewed awareness of needs and volunteer opportunities and from the support of CSC resources.



Katie Tash '89 with a Jasper County Care Facility resident.

Students Helping the Homeless—The late Mitch Snyder, homeless advocate and leader of the Community for Creative Non-Violence, spoke at Grinnell in 1987. His words motivated several Grinnell students to contact homeless shelters in Des Moines to find out how they could help. Every Saturday student volunteers travel to Des Moines to work in the shelters and to interact with the homeless people. The group states its purpose:

Our group believes that change comes through knowledge and that knowledge is gained through direct experience. Our group's priority is breaking down stereotypes and preconceptions about poverty and homelessness.

Native American Interest Group, (NAIG)

NAIG, a Grinnell student organization, began tutoring at the Mesquakie Settlement in 1988. Members joined a program, founded in 1974, by Iowa State University. Volunteers tutor middle-school children every Thursday evening at the Tama settlement. Tutors develop ties with the students, reinforce the importance of education and cultivate a love of learning in the children.

Mortar Board—Mortar Board is a scholastic/service group whose members are seniors with strong academic records and a commitment to service. Previous projects have included nursing home visitation programs and tutoring of local middle-school and high-school students.

Volunteer Opportunities in More Than 30 Programs

Adults With Special Needs

CIRSI
Jasper County Care Facility
Poweshiek County Career Development Center
Poweshiek County Mental Health Center
Special Olympics/Unified Sports

Children

Alternative Happy Hour
Best Buddies
Buddy Program at Davis Elementary School
Camp Sunnyside Respite Weekends
Grinnell Community Day Care Center
Grinnell Girl Scouts
Head Start
Kinship
Mentoring Program
Saturday Enrichment Program at Davis Elementary School

Homeless People

Habitat for Humanity
Students Helping the Homeless

Senior Citizens

Caring Adults Day Care Center
Chore Service
Friendship Manor
Grinnell Senior Center
Mayflower Home
St. Francis Manor

Social Services

Department of Human Services
Job-Service
Mid-Iowa Community Action
Second Mile

Tutoring Projects

Adult Literacy Program
English as a Second Language (ESL)
Grinnell-Newburg School Volunteer Program
Native American Interest Group Tutoring Project

Women

Domestic Violence Alternatives
Jeanne Burkle Women's Center