

2015 CIVIC ENGAGEMENT PROJECTS



All members of the Leadership Program partner with Palm Beach County nonprofit and governmental organizations to complete a civic engagement project. This year's class selected five community partners and will have spent nine months conducting research, developing material and presenting their findings in order to empower these organizations to reach their goals.

COMMUNITY PARTNER:

El Sol Neighborhood Resource Center

CLASS PROJECT:

Sunshine Garden Summer Camp



ISSUE:

El Sol provides services to day laborers and their families to ensure quality of life and community integration. During the summer, families lack child care resources which inhibits their ability to work.

GOALS:

Create a six week curriculum with a weekly educational theme using their on-site garden as a foundation for learning. The free camp is also focused on continued education, teaching good eating habits to a population of children who have a high propensity to diabetes and obesity, cultural diversity and learning to be good stewards of the earth. The goal is to develop a modifiable, repeatable process to operate a summer camp on an ongoing basis.

HOW YOU CAN HELP:

We encourage you to be a summer camp advisor, a guest speaker, or bring educational material and experience into the classroom. Please contact:

Jocelyn Skolnik, Executive Director

561-745-9860

www.friendsofelsesol.org

2015 CIVIC ENGAGEMENT PROJECTS

COMMUNITY PARTNER:

Guardian Ad Litem



CLASS PROJECT:

Developing awareness of Guardian Ad Litem's purpose and service to Palm Beach County - to protect a child's right to be safe.

ISSUE:

Guardian Ad Litem's core issues include the lack of awareness of who, what and why GAL exists and its importance to the children in our community who are in danger. This issue hinders the growth of volunteers needed to serve more than 400 children who need a voice.

PROJECT GOALS:

The goal is to leverage cost-effective ways to increase the number of qualified volunteer leads acquired through the GAL Web site. Additionally, creating a 15-second marketing pitch, along with short surveys, to impact community partners, corporations and staff to allow Guardian Ad Litem a platform to share its story, and encourage volunteers. Lastly, there is an opportunity to work with the Court system to expose jurors to GAL's purpose, and encourage them to become volunteers.

HOW YOU CAN HELP:

We encourage everyone to book a lunch-and-learn that will give a voice to Guardian Ad Litem and increase awareness of its purpose and importance to the children in Palm Beach County. Please contact:

Kelly Kerr
561-355-6224
www.galpbc.org

2015 CIVIC ENGAGEMENT PROJECTS

COMMUNITY PARTNER:

Mental Health Association of
Palm Beach County, Inc.



CLASS PROJECT:

Create awareness of the Palm Beach
County Mental Health Resource Line and other programs available through MHA.

ISSUE:

Mental illness is prevalent in Palm Beach County. Often, people don't know where to turn for assistance. The circumstance is particularly acute among young adults and parents who may have children with possible mental illness, primarily because the stigma of being labeled as mentally ill often discourages parents and young adults from seeking assistance of any kind in fear of long term disruption to their lives.

GOALS:

Palm Beach County Mental Health Services Resource Line was created by MHA and is partially funded by a grant from Palm Beach County. The line alleviates the fear of seeking assistance, as the calls are answered by a knowledgeable, non-judgmental live person. Parents or adults can call and be connected to low or no-cost resources, and obtain confidential professional counseling or other services. The goal is to create an informational brochure that not only promotes the Mental Health Services Resource Line but also explains other programs offered by the Mental Health Association of Palm Beach County.

HOW CAN YOU HELP:

We encourage everyone to spread the word about the
mental health resources hotline. Please contact:

Pamela Gionfriddo, CEO
561-832-3755
www.mhapbc.org

2015 CIVIC ENGAGEMENT PROJECTS

COMMUNITY PARTNER:

Peggy Adams Animal Rescue League



Peggy Adams
ANIMAL RESCUE LEAGUE

CLASS PROJECT:

Project CatSnip

ISSUE:

In Palm Beach County there is a severe feral cat overpopulation crisis. Estimates on the number of the cats run into the thousands and they can be found in virtually every community, whether it's rural, suburban or urban. These cats are too wild to be handled or easily adopted. There is a need for increased public awareness of Project CatSnip which is designed to address the community cat overpopulation crisis using the TNVR (Trap, Neuter, Vaccinate, Return) model that has been successfully used in other areas locally and nationally.

GOAL:

Create two Public Service Announcements (both a long and a short version) and a printed piece that can be used by Peggy Adams Animal Rescue to assist with increasing public awareness.

HOW CAN YOU HELP:

We encourage everyone to check out the Project CatSnip Web site at www.projectcatsnip.org. Please contact:
Rich Anderson, Executive Director
561-686-3663
www.peggyadams.org

2015 CIVIC ENGAGEMENT PROJECTS

COMMUNITY PARTNER:

Vita Nova, Inc.



CLASS PROJECT:

Create a new operational, financial and marketing plan for the Vita Nova Thrift Store to provide a platform to increase sales and general revenue for the organization.

ISSUE:

The Thrift Store recently became profitable and the management team is struggling to define the best path toward success.

What sells the best? How much square footage to dedicate to specific items? Should they accept all donations? Should they partner with other thrifts for items that they should not sell?

Do they have the proper technology to help them analyze their sales data? Should they continue to store seasonal and/or other items that do not sell within a specific time period?

Do they have the proper staffing? Are they open on the right days? Should they consider closing on another day to restock the store?

GOAL:

To raise awareness of the store through various marketing tactics, with a goal of recruiting volunteers and attracting donors and funders. Also, to educate the community about Vita Nova's mission to help older foster youth and to integrate the mission into the thrift store model.

HOW CAN YOU HELP:

We encourage everyone to help spread the importance of donating to Vita Nova Thrift Store, and spread the word that Vita Nova needs volunteers in the Thrift Store. For donations or to volunteer please contact:

Sandra Awong, Store Manager, Vita Nova Thrift Store
(561) 689.0035

Sawong@vitanovainc.org
www.vitanovainc.org