2014 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 spent the past nine months conducting research, developing material and presenting their findings in order to empower these organizations to reach their goals.

Community Partner:

C.R.O.S. Ministries

Class Project:

Management Plan

Issue:

C.R.O.S. Ministries was given gleaning rights to a mango grove owned by the Solid Waste Authority in exchange for the grove's. All gleaned fruit will be donated to the Palm Beach County Food Bank to help decrease food insecurity in Palm Beach County. In order increase production of the grove, C.R.O.S. needs an easy-to-use management plan.

Goals:

Recruit agricultural experts to visit the grove, diagnose problems and recommend best practices. Write an easy-to-use management plan specifically for the care of this grove that can also serve as a model for replicated projects.

How you can help:

We encourage everyone to help participate in an easy-to-use manual to replicate to other gleaning projects in Palm Beach County. Please contact:

Keith Cutshall, C.R.O.S. Ministries
561-233-9009 Ext. 107
www.crosministries.org

2014 Civic Engagement Projects

Community Partner:

Drowning Prevention Coalition
of Palm Beach County

Class Project:

Development of organization's mascot

Issue:

The Drowning Prevention Coalition is seeking to supplement its education of children (up to age 7) and enhance the brand of the organization. They have decided to accomplish this by creating a "cute" mascot that is relatable to their targeted demographic of small children.

Project Goals:

To enhance our branding in a visual and positive way. Turn "drowning prevention" from a negative connotation into something upbeat. Bring families over to our educational display tables and get children excited to learn about water safety when presentations are given at their school, camp, etc. Can easily be transported and used at school assemblies, health and safety fairs and other community events for mass appeal. Has long lasting appeal.

How you can help:

We encourage everyone to help spread the importance of drowning prevention with the new mascot and to teach children the importance of water safety. Please contact:

Drowning Prevention Coalition of Palm Beach County
561-616-7068
www.pbcgov.org/dpc

2014 Civic Engagement Projects

Community Partner:
Families First of Palm Beach County

Class Project:
Coordinate & Execute the
1st Families First Scavenger Hunt

Issue:
Our team was tasked with the development and implementation of a plan to create an event to raise awareness and funds for Families First.

Goals:
In addition to planning and executing the event on March 29th, we will provide a plan for future events including best practices, event details etc.

How can you help:
We encourage everyone to continue the development of future locations for the annual Scavenger Hunt. Please contact:
Families First of Palm Beach County
Samantha Whiteman, Director of Development
3333 Forest Hill Blvd., 2nd Floor
West Palm Beach, FL 33406
561-318-4219
www.familiesfirstpbc.org

2014 Civic Engagement Projects

Community Partner:

Gulfstream Goodwill Industries at
The Senator Phillip D. Lewis Center

Class Project:

Breaking Bread, Breaking Barriers

Issue:

The Lewis Center provides comprehensive services to individuals and families to help them end their homelessness. The reviews from clients have been exceptional, except for the meals provided. They need improved quality and variety in their meals, as well as an improved meal presentation. There is also an opportunity for outside community groups to provide these meals and to spend time with clients of The Lewis Center.

Goal:

Identify an alternative or an improved meal program from the meal provider; establish a community partnership program for outside groups to engage with clients by creating a framework for a volunteer program and how-to manuals; provide marketing materials to recruit groups to community partnership program; and identify 2-4 groups which can commit to participate on a regular basis.

How can you help:

We encourage everyone to volunteer their time to help make meals and help bring an end to homelessness in Palm Beach County. Please contact:

Ezra Krieg, Program Director
561-904-7900
ekrieg@lewiscenterpbc.org

2014 Civic Engagement Projects

Community Partner:

Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies Coalition of Palm Beach County, Inc.

healthy mothers, healthy babies
Coalition of Palm Beach County, Inc.

Class Project:

Teen Mom Mentoring Program

Issue:

Develop a mentoring program through which teen girls who are pregnant or parenting are partnered with a professional woman who is also a mother. The mentor will meet with the mentee for at least one hour each week for a minimum of one year. The mentor will be encouraged to work with and help her mentee with any issues she may facing such as finishing her education, identifying a career path, and support, encouragement and advice on parenting.

Goal:

Meet with representatives of at least two local high schools with the goal of establishing the program in those schools. Create marketing materials to announce and describe the program. Develop applications for both the mentors and mentees. Match mentors and mentees. Sponsor a "Meet and Greet" so that the mentors and mentees can meet at least once as a group to get to know one another. Create a manual that can be used in the future to start the program in other schools.

How can you help:

We encourage anyone who has a heart for helping and would like to consider being a mentor – to contact Michelle Gonzalez, Director of External Affairs, Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies Coalition of Palm Beach County, at 561.665.4504 or mgonzalez@hmhbpbc.org.
www.hmhbpbc.org