



SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Scott Miller's dedication to service
- The Stetson community makes a difference during the holidays
- The true meaning of service learning

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Brought to you by the Service Core and the Center for Service Learning.

Scott Miller: A True "Servant Leader"

By Joseph Biondolillo

Imagine a small health clinic dedicated to providing medical care to the uninsured of West Volusia. Inside you see a room in which a few people are waiting to be seen by the medical staff or to be qualified to become a patient at the clinic. The person qualifying these people sits in the adjacent room, working diligently to make sure the people meet the requirements to be seen by the doctors. If he is unsure of how to do something, he immediately asks the administrator to clarify. His demeanor is pleasant and calm. Whenever he is asked to carry out a task, he



does it without hesitation and with a smile on his face. The other volunteers at the clinic admire his willingness to serve, his dependability,

The clinic administrator talked repeatedly about how Scott showed a genuine interest in his service. He inspired the other volunteers, and he was once described as being like a light that never turned off. He illuminated the clinic, bringing feelings of cheerfulness and passion that was welcomed by both patients and staff. I valued the conversations I had with him, often talking about which medical schools we were going to apply to. I know that he would have made a great doctor because he was very intelligent and had a heart for serving others.

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Sixteen Holiday Wishes Come True

By Abbie Heisner

When the Children's Home Society came to the Service Core looking for help around the holidays, the Service Core made it their goal to make a difference. The Children's Home Society provides a home for children and teens ages 5-17

who have been removed from their homes due to abuse, severe neglect and/or abandonment. There are three homes in Deland where these children stay for an unspecified period of time. Two of these homes are dedicated to teenagers 12-17.

Bo Arbel, a member of the Children's Home Society Board of Directors, came to a Service Core meeting last November and explained that the teens living in these two homes had never gotten what they wished for during the holi

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Scott Miller: A True “Servant Leader”

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Patients would have enjoyed having him for a doctor because he was down to earth, kind, respectable, and comforting. I would have enjoyed caring for patients alongside Scott in the future because he was someone that could be counted on to do a good job.

Scott was not only a frequent volunteer at the

Good Samaritan Clinic. He also spent time tutoring math to underprivileged young people, worked as a missionary with Gift of Water, helped with Habitat for Humanity, participated in Into the Streets events, and was active with Phi Sigma Kappa Fraternity. We use the term “servant leader” in the Bonner Program to describe one who inspires others to serve through personal acts of service. Scott absolutely embodied this description, often explaining the reasons for why

service was important to him. He was an honored asset to the community that he served in so many ways, and he is sorely missed. Although he is no longer with us, his love for others and his passion for service will always have a safe place in our hearts.

Early this semester, Stetson University was devastated with the news of the death of Stetson student, Scott Miller. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Scott's family and friends.

“Your gift to him was perfect, you allowed him to give gifts to the only family he has.”

- Shirley Jeter

Sixteen Holiday Wishes Come True

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days, if they even get a gift at all. Bo asked the Service Core to help him raise \$100 for each of the 16 teens they were housing to help give them a holiday they would never forget. The Service Core members were inspired and, as one of Stetson's core values is community service, they decided to raise the proposed goal to \$200 per teen.

Student organizations were challenged by the Service Core to “adopt” a teenager and raise the \$200 for the holiday season. Before long, each of the 16 teens was “adopted” by Stetson's student organizations. One organization, Alpha Kappa Psi, took the challenge to a new level by spreading the word to faculty and staff members of Stetson University's School of Business.

After the two week time period passed, the amount raised totaled over \$2800, allotting \$177 per teen at the Children's Home Society. Each teen was given a gift listed on their wish list and any remaining money was given in the form of a mall gift certificate.

A few days after Christmas, the Children's Home Society began sending multiple thank you notes to show their appreciation to the Stetson community. Shirley Jeter, the Director of the Children's Home Society, sent the following e-mail:

I had a picnic with all of them three days after Christmas and your gifts were all they could talk about. Many showed me what they bought with their gift

cards. Brandon at Brian's House was chosen by Student Activities and received a gift card for \$177.00. When I asked Brandon what he got with his card, he got such a smile on his face and told me he bought presents for his girlfriend and his younger brother and baby sister that live in foster care. Your gift to him was perfect, you allowed him to give gifts to the only family he has. Thank you for that!!!!

Thank you, Stetson University, for making a difference in the lives of these teens this holiday season. You truly helped make the holiday season one they will never forget.

Experience Without a Degree

By Jessily Ramirez

Q&A with Charlotte Rice, Development Chair from the House Next Door, and Jessily Ramirez, Bonner Senior Intern.

Outlet: Thank you for taking the time to see us. As both of you know, service learning as an experiential learning approach has really taken off across campus. Jessily, can you explain what service learning actually is?

Jessily: For me Service Learning is simply being able to put into action what I'm learning in the classroom and being involved in other organizations, without having to wait until I have a degree. The reality is that we are part of this community while we are in school, so what better way to get the most out of our learning experience and help transform the lives of those around us, than putting our talents to good use? The more we use our talents, the better they get.

Outlet: Charlotte, how has the partnership with our university affected the House Next Door? In other words, what is in it for the community partners?

Charlotte: Our partnership with Stetson is perhaps the best part of my job. Our Stetson volunteers bring so many fresh and innovative ideas to the table. Just to give you an idea of the great impact you all have in our organization... I have two amazing Bonner Scholars who planned a successful toy and clothing drive from beginning to end last Christmas, a group of marketing

students looking into creating a new day care center, a group of management students designing a comprehensive development plan for planned giving, and a business student intern who is putting together our annual report and helping us with our website. The truth is that in the non-profit world we are always short on staff and resources; service learning gives the students and I the opportunity to learn from each other and allows me to focus my time and efforts on other projects that I would not otherwise have the time to invest in.

Outlet: Jessily what is in it for the students?

Jessily: For me personally, it is really important to know that I am helping people through my work. Putting into practice in the community what I have learned in the classroom and elsewhere has allowed me to learn about myself and how to work with individuals and organizations of all types. As a student, service learning gives you a leg up when it comes to professional and leadership development. It really is a symbiotic relationship: we gain experience in our respective fields and our community members benefit from our efforts.

Outlet: Some students might hold off on participating in service learning because there are no financial rewards. What do you all think about that perspective?

Charlotte: Before I worked for the House Next Door I worked in the private sector for several years. I

made great money, but it was not until I started doing what I loved – to help others, especially kids – that I realized how much more rewarding it is to work in a non-profit. I guess in a sense you could say I traded dollars for hugs. I think that being involved with service learning is about making a life choice. I believe that life is short and it is not about what you do with your life but how you live your life. Based on my experience, I receive a higher rate of return when I help change the lives of children and families through my work than when I invest on Wall Street.

Jessily: If you aren't investing in your community because you want more money, perhaps you should re-examine your values; there are more important things than money. Maybe I could be making money elsewhere, but the relationships I have made and the experience and knowledge I have obtained as a leader is priceless. Being engaged in my community has really

shaped who I am and how I hope to do business in the future. I would encourage you to find a cause you are passionate about and where you can put

your gifts and talents to good use and just do it. It is an experience that will turn your life around.

“I believe that life is short and it is not about what you do with your life, but how you live your life.”

- Charlotte Rice

The Outlet is a new community service newsletter available to the Stetson community each month. If you have any questions or concerns, please direct them to either Savannah-Jane Atkins (satkins@stetson.edu) or Abbie Heisner (alheisne@stetson.edu).

UPCOMING COMMUNITY SERVICE EVENTS

February 2008

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
	Alpha Xi Delta Philanthropy Week →					
24	25	26	27	28	29	
ITS Volunteering Day						

March 2008

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Spring Break! →						
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
ZTA Philanthropy Week →					ZTA Taco Bar	Kick Out Cancer Fe'BREW'ary
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
				March MADDness Pool benefiting M.A.D.D.		

If your organization has any upcoming service events and would like them featured in *The Outlet*, please e-mail them to Abbie Heisner at alheisne@stetson.edu.

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