

## CAPSTONE SERVICE PROJECTS SPRING 2012

### **Bruce Landreth and Nancy Landreth Maynard Musician's Scholarship**

Jennifer Landreth responded to a need for a music scholarship. This scholarship will be provided to a MSU student seeking a degree in Music. Through a letter writing campaign, Landreth was able to more than double her goal of \$1,000 to fund the scholarship. Donations for the scholarship are still coming in and Landreth has gone through applications to select a recipient.

### **Bulldogs on the Move**

John Paul McCarty and Chloe Phillips coordinated a mentorship program called Bulldogs on the Move involving college students who aimed to meet the need for physical fitness for children with special needs. McCarty and Phillips organized multiple meetings throughout the spring semester for the students to meet with about 10-15 children from Ward Stewart Elementary. Activities included basketball, volleyball, kickball, relay races, tag, and obstacle courses. McCarty and Phillips feel as if they learned just as much from the kids as the kids did from them. Ward Stewart Elementary has expressed interest in this program being continued in the future.

### **Environmental Outreach to Oktibbeha School District**

Melanie Smith envisioned a program to promote awareness of the effects of pollution and recycling in our environment. She worked over 20 hours to organize a program implemented at East Oktibbeha Elementary School. Smith has a great turnout with over 200 participants who learned about sustainability and participated in recycling themed activities.

### **Girl Meets World Scholarship**

LaRhonda Glover, Allyson Holloway, and Ashley Stowers developed and implemented a scholarship program for graduating female seniors from Starkville High School called the Girl Meets World Scholarship. This scholarship was to reward one high school female who exemplified dedication and focus on her dream to be successful. In order to receive the scholarship, the recipient participated in a local community service project.

### **Healthy Snacks – Kid Friendly Food Drive**

Beunika Hunter and Jacquise Frison set out with a mission to implement a healthy lifestyle by providing healthy snacks to the children of low income families in the Starkville community. With assistance from Volunteer Starkville and the Maroon Volunteer Center, they distributed sacks in area neighborhoods to collect snacks that would then be donated to various food pantries in the community. Volunteer Starkville has expressed interest in continuing this program in the community.

### **It's Your Choice**

William Harris wanted to instill an understanding of the importance of the decisions individuals make in their day to day lives. He pursued this endeavor by hosting a workshop called "It's Your Choice." The workshop featured a movie and guest speakers. This event took place on April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2012 in South Hall on the campus of Mississippi State. Harris was able to reach out to students and share his beliefs on daily life decisions and good principles. Harris had approximately 35 students in attendance. The event was very successful in its mission of shedding light on some positive principles for young people to live by.



### **Mississippi Christian Family Services**

Mattie Carter aimed to collect much needed bath and hygiene items for Mississippi Christian Family Services. Through support from a vast amount of community contacts such as Sharkey and Issaquena 4H Clubs, First Baptist Church of Rolling Fork, Garden Club, The Student Association, Wal-Mart, and various Greek organizations at Mississippi State, Carter was able to collect over five boxes of products easily exceeding a total of \$500 of product value to be donated to MCFS on May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2012.

### **Montgomery Gardens**

Karla Easterling, Brittany Peeples, and Kayla Warwick planned to enhance the atmosphere of the Montgomery Gardens by providing an attractive landscape and extending friendship to the residents. By doing arts and crafts with the residents, Easterling, Peeples, and Warwick, fostered a lasting relationship with the residents. Through over 50 hours of work, they were able to provide Montgomery Gardens with four raised flower beds, giving the residents an opportunity to garden and enjoy the view. This outdoor area is handicapped accessible. One larger bed provides a place for residents to grow vegetables while three smaller beds that surround the large bed have flowers planted in them. They hope that this garden is just the beginning steps of building an outdoor area for the residents.



### **Now and Later 2-Man Shamble**

Joseph Morgan and Jesse Smith donated 62 hours of work to coordinate a charity golf tournament that was a combination of the traditional four ball and the common scramble. All proceeds from the event were split between the MSU Student Veteran Association and the United Services Organization. This golf tournament took place on April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2012. They hope to see this golf tournament continue in years to come.



### **Palmer Home in Columbus, MS**

Ebony Bolling worked to promote child abuse awareness month and the work of the Palmer Children's Home in Columbus, MS. In addition to this desire to promote child abuse awareness month, Bolling planned a clothing drive for the facility. This clothing drive was held on April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2012 and was a success. Bolling was able to donate 2 boxes of clothing and a donation of \$200 to the facility that same month.

### **Sex Trafficking Awareness**

Sarah McCain worked to empower citizens to help end sex trafficking through educating the student body at Mississippi State on the subject through an event on April 19, 2012. McCain worked over 28 hours to coordinate a showing of the documentary "Sex + Money" that detailed the reality of sex trafficking in the United States and host a forum for questions with experts from the state of Mississippi as well as the University which included members of Advocates for Freedom, a FBI Agent, and student counselors. This event was coordinated in conjunction with Women4Women's week long promotion and was a huge success with over 100 participants.

### **Smoke Free Initiative**

Jessica Blackmon is passionately educated the health of the student body at Mississippi State and on being tobacco-free. Through many hours of service, Blackmon's long term goal is to have a smoke-free campus at Mississippi State University within a few years. This is slowly being accomplished with the assistance of other departments and student groups on campus.

### **Starkville High School Theatre**

Kelly Hairfield sought out to rejuvenate the love for theatre in the Starkville High School student body. She donated 151 hours of time and energy into teaching dances to the students for upcoming production of the musical *Footloose*. The musical was a huge success with a packed house each night of the show. Her enthusiasm while teaching rolled over into the students. The students enjoyed the opportunity to showcase their talents.

### **St. Jude Children's Research Hospital**

Rachel Clarke and Katie Phillips set out with a mission to raise money for the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Clarke and Phillips worked over 30 hours in conjunction with Up 'til Dawn to plan and promote a letter writing campaign and a finale event in the form of a carnival. Their efforts contributed to over \$17,000 dollars that were donated to the research of childhood cancer.

### **Team GIRL**

Shenika Eppenger and Joslyn Kimble strived to encourage junior high and high school aged girls to believe in themselves and to be encouraged about the young women that they will someday grow into. They hosted an event with guest speaker whose primary message to the girls in attendance was to not be afraid to lead in the community. Eppenger and Kimble had approximately 35 participants attend the event.

