



Compact Connects

The Newsletter of the Montana Campus Compact - February 2002

MTCC Breaking News...

~ICEBREAKER~ A Celebration of Service

The Montana Campus Compact is proud to present the 2nd annual ICEBREAKER: A Celebration of Service. The event will take place March 9th from 7pm to 1am at the Holiday Inn Parkside in Missoula. The celebration will feature live music from local favorites The Moonlighters and Bob Wire and The Fencemenders, as well as a Large Silent Auction. The ICEBREAKER celebrates all people throughout Montana who generously give of themselves and their time to their communities. The celebration will also raise money for The Montana Campus Compact, a statewide non-profit organization that promotes community service on Montana's college and university campuses. The Public is invited, so come help us celebrate Community Service in Montana! Tickets \$5 Call (406) 243-5177 ext. 3 for more information.

Around Montana...

MISSOULA:

The Montana Campus Compact AmeriCorps*VISTA Project had their first ever Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service. The MTCC VISTA Project partnered with Missoula Youth Homes, therapeutic group homes for at-risk youth, to do service projects with community volunteers and the youth in the homes. On Monday, January 21 Approximately 35 volunteers pitched in to paint and clean at three different sites with the youth. The volunteers were community members, University of Montana students, and Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) Volunteers.

After the service projects were completed, volunteers and youth from the Youth Homes came together for a Multicultural Service Reflection Event. The second half of the MLK Day of Service consisted of a reflection on cultural diversity. It was a fitting compliment to the first half of the day and people were genuinely excited to participate. Twelve volunteers, international students and community members with international experience, shared their knowledge of world cultures with the youth. The volunteers shared their knowledge of Cambodia, India, Japan, Russia, Kyrgyzstan, Ecuador, Kenya, Bosnia, Native Americans, China, Taiwan, and the Buddhist religion. Young People from seven area homes, approximately 40 in total, participated in the event.

All in all, the Montana Campus Compact VISTA Project's first Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service was a great success. It helped create great partnerships with Missoula Youth Homes, community members, University of Montana students, and RSVP Volunteers. The day would not have been possible without generous contributions from

the Corporation for National and Community Service, several Missoula businesses and the outpouring of support from community members and RSVP Volunteers.

GREAT FALLS:

At the University of Great Falls the Campus Corps participated in the Nationwide MLK Day celebration. They chose five organizations in which to utilize their volunteers: YWCA, Community Food Bank, 1st English Lutheran Church Food Bank, Salvation Army, and Foster Grandparents. It is their hope that, by promoting volunteerism on that special day, members of campus and community would be encouraged to continue giving their time and talents throughout the year. The day began with the National Bell Ringing Ceremony in front of the Chapel Bell Tower. Afterwards several prominent speakers from the community addressed the assembled group. Inside the Student Center the 80 plus attendees from the University and the community were treated to the Mount Olive Sounds of Joy Choir. Perhaps the high point of the ceremony was having Governor Martz in attendance. She gave a twenty minute speech on the importance of community service. After the ceremonies were over the volunteers went to their predetermined sites where they began their Day of Service. This went extremely well. All of the organizations were impressed with the energy and enthusiasm of the volunteers

Welcome Erin Robbins

MTCC HEADQUARTERS:

We want to Welcome Erin Robbins! Erin is the new service-learning program manager. She manages two fellowship programs for The Montana Campus Compact- Faculty Fellowships and Student Fellowships, which support curricular and co-curricular service-learning at MTCC member institutions. These fellowships are awarded annually to faculty and students who write successful proposals to engage with their communities. She is responsible for researching, writing, and administering the MTCC Learn & Serve America grant from the Corporation for National Service. Erin comes to us from San Francisco where she was a program manager for the Management Center. We are very excited she has joined our team!

Spotlight on Service

-Carnille Larson



VISTA Member Reed Mandelko

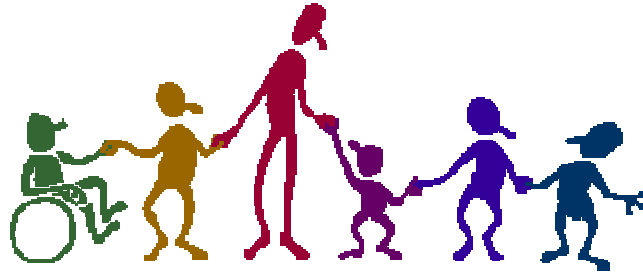
Getting things done as a VISTA meant developing maps with 2 purposes in mind to be used with an extensive database of youth activities. The first purpose is to serve as

resource for parents and kids in discovering positive youth development activities and seeing where those centers of activity lie. Displaying graphically where activities lie will hopefully foster interest in-"what is that activity there on 3rd street, that's right around the corner from us-perfect for my child/me to take advantage of during after school hours"-use of the Youth Activities map. The more aware people are, the more engaged and included youth will be. Linking the plotted activity sites to the Youth Activities Inventory further bolsters the positive youth development efforts of all youth activity providing agencies in their efforts to reach more kids (this link is still in the future, but I will do my best to see it come to fruition).

The purpose of the second set of maps involved examining Missoula through two "lenses" in an effort to determine how well the needs of youth in different areas of town are being met. Two sets of data tied to specific regions in Missoula were employed in categorizing a neighborhood or elementary school attendance area as a priority area for youth development. Total student population eligible for free and reduced lunch was compared between all the schools and the top three were classified as highest priority and those area boundaries were plotted as such on a map. The second investigation of youth well being involved utilizing census data compiled at the block group level (the smallest geographic census unit) in analyzing risk via numerous factors related to income. Eight census questions were selected as indicators of potential risk for youth and responses for block groups as a whole were tallied. Six block groups emerged as high priority and were also plotted on a map as such. These maps illustrate neighborhoods where negative youth outcome risk factors are high and provide the impetus to focus governmental and community attention in those areas. Combined with plotted youth activity locations, it is apparent that the areas of concern need youth activity site developments for intervention and youth enrichment.

The maps, inventory and other positive youth development resources generated in the last six months were unveiled at a presentation for the public in September. These materials are an initial effort in draft form and I will continue to refine the Youth Activities Inventory and mapping information for ongoing and increased utility. Putting the maps to use will necessitate involving community partners; stakeholders and politicians in collaborations and partnerships to direct targeted positive youth development opportunities. To reach very low-income people I will continue to develop a separate listing of free and low cost activities for publication and distribution around Missoula.

Civic Engagement Tip



Each and every one of us can be responsible for the well-being of our communities and our world! How can you become a more active, involved and responsible citizen for your community and your country? Check out these simple ideas that can have a big impact on your community.

How to run a Food Drive:

- 1. Select the date of your drive.**
- 2. Get the word out.**
- 3. Distribute printed publicity materials.**
- 4. Set up the drop off point- easily accessible & clearly labeled.**
- 5. Collect, collect, collect!**



Resource Roundup

Here are some web sites with great information on community service and volunteering. It's time to get involved!

* www.servenet.org

* www.cool2serve.org

* www.nationalservice.org

* www.communityservice.org

Citizenship Competency Corner

DIMOSTENIS YAGCIOGLU

A Brief Introduction to Conflict Analysis and Resolution

Conflict and Conflict Resolution in General: Some Observations

* Conflict is a natural and very typical phenomenon in every type of human relationships, at every level: From intrapersonal (the realm of psychology) to global.

* Conflicts at every level have very significant common characteristics and dynamics, and, therefore, it makes sense to examine them together and comparatively.

* People get involved in conflicts because their interests or their values are challenged, or because their needs are not met.

* What we in the field of conflict resolution mean by 'conflict resolution' is a peaceful and mutually satisfactory way to end or significantly --and hopefully permanently-- de-escalate a conflict. You can end a conflict through violence or war and by destroying your opponent. You can also end a conflict by surrender and capitulation. Or, you can temporarily de-intensify a conflict by deceiving your opponent. Yet, we do not regard such options as conflict resolution. And they do not resolve a conflict, anyway. The conflict remains; it just loses its intensity.

* It is easy to resolve or help resolve a conflict stemming from a clash of interests. It is more difficult to deal with a conflict that emanates from a clash of values. And it is even more difficult to handle a conflict in which at least one party's basic human needs are not satisfied. That is why such conflicts usually are deep-rooted and intractable.

* There are several basic human needs that are especially pertinent to conflict and conflict resolution: The needs for recognition, for development (and self-actualization), for security, for identity, for bonding, and finally for targets to project hate.

* It is extremely difficult for the parties to the conflict, even with outside assistance, to find a way, a solution that would satisfy all of the above needs for both/all of them. What makes things even more complicated is the fact that the need for targets to project hate, a.k.a. the need for enemies, is usually satisfied through the intensification of conflict, and not through its resolution.

* Mediators, intermediaries, third parties, etc. are not really conflict resolvers. They can not resolve the conflict. They can only facilitate directly involved parties in their endeavor to resolve their conflict. Therefore, it is the conflicting parties, the people or groups of people directly involved in a conflict, that can be the true conflict resolvers.

* Yet, some conflicts cannot be resolved without the help of an intermediary, a third party. Parties' perceptions of each other and of the issues of the conflict are so biased, so limiting, that they cannot see mutually satisfactory, mutually beneficial, or integrative options, even when they have the desire to settle their differences. It is in such cases that third parties can be the most helpful. By bringing to the conflict their own knowledge and experience, their own perspective, and, of course, their own power and leverage, they make previously unconsidered options visible and feasible.

* As far as dealing with the need for enemies is concerned, mediators may help the parties understand what makes them the enemy of each other: What social-economic-political conditions, what dynamics, what ideas and ideologies, what misperceptions...The parties may then project their negative emotions and energies to the causes of conflict and may cooperate with each other to eliminate them. (At least that is the theory). As you can see, conflict resolution is a truly multidisciplinary field. It is an amalgam of psychology, philosophy, political science, sociology, anthropology, law etc. Which elements from which discipline are or should be the dominant ones, depends on who you talk to. I, for one, think that the psychological aspects are a little more important than other aspects. Therefore, I believe researchers and practitioners should pay more attention to the psychodynamics of conflict and its resolution.

Some Observations Regarding Ethnic Conflicts

* Ethnic conflicts, especially conflicts between ethnic minorities and majorities (my area of interest) tend to be intractable. They can be settled for a certain period of time, but they can rarely be resolved. Parties in such conflicts very often block the satisfaction of each other's basic human needs. Minorities tend to believe that their identity is not recognized, that they are given less opportunities for development, and that their culture (and sometimes their existence) is under threat. Majorities, on the other hand, may also perceive minorities as a threat to their security, especially if the minority leaders cooperate with enemy countries.

* The leadership and the elites of both minorities and majorities, tend to be more hawkish, more fanatical, more biased than the average minority or majority member. They have accumulated more negative feelings, more misperceptions on their way to the top. In addition, they had to compromise their moral principles to such a degree, that in many cases these principles have become non-existent. It is really difficult to help such people deal constructively with their conflicts. And it is almost impossible for them to achieve conflict resolution, if they do not have the willingness to work towards it. (In that case, mediators may achieve a settlement, but only if they coerce the conflicting parties; see: Bosnia).

© 1996 Dimostenis Yagcioglu



To the first person who answers this Trivia Question correctly:

How many Valentine's Day cards are sent each year?

1. 10 million
2. 100 million
3. 1 billion

Be the first person to e-mail us at mtccinfo@yahoo.com and the T-shirt is yours!

Compact Connects is a publication of
The Montana Campus Compact.

Do you have news, photos or announcements that you
would like published in the next Compact Connects?

Please contact MTCC at (406) 243-5177 or e-mail us at
mtccinfo@yahoo.com.