

Community Change Initiatives

Example Community Change Initiatives

Descriptions submitted by Pioneer Leadership students

The B.F.F. Club

Partner Organization: *Highline Academy Charter School*

"The B.F.F Club" acts as a mentoring program to guide middle school girls to "find confidence in their body, feelings, and future." The girls are guided to make smart decisions and commiserate with their peers in order to attain a sense of community and understand the hardships associated with growing up. The development of a strong sense of self is emphasized to overcome the harsh environment our present society creates for teenage girls.

Colorado Worksite Wellness Conference

Partner Organizations: *Colorado Physical Activity and Nutrition (COPAN) and American Cancer Society (ACS)*

Teaming with COPAN and ACS, our group is committed to cultivating a healthier Colorado by planning and executing a Worksite Wellness Conference on May 21, 2008 at the Pepsi Center. This conference will host 325 participants and will stress the importance of creating a healthy workplace. As a part of the conference planning committee, our group is responsible for organizing all aspects of exhibitors and logistics of exhibit booths.

DU Senior Connect

Partner Organization: *Rainbow Bridge*

The main purpose of our CCI was to raise campus awareness about issues effecting senior citizens in the community and also to connect members of the DU community with local elders in order to enrich the lives of both. We decided the most effective way to achieve our purpose was to start a student organization: DU Senior Connect (DUSC). This way, the organization could act as a framework from which we could build campus support, legitimize our efforts and create sustainability for our project. We have done many projects through DUSC including planting events at nursing homes, senior resource tabling and weekly nursing home volunteering. We also have close ties with Rainbow Bridge, a community organization that organizes group or individual visits to lonely nursing home residents.

Environmental Education at Ellis Elementary

Partner Organizations: *Ellis Elementary, Front Range Earth Force, Rowan Community*

Our project's focus is teaching a classroom of twenty-five first-graders about the environment. A local non-profit, Earth Force, has helped us to get our environmental education project off the ground. Each Friday we spend time teaching the students about their surroundings and how to respect the environment. The culminating project for the class will be planting a raised flower bed garden at Rowan Community, an assisted living for elders and for people with multiple sclerosis.

H2O Force

Partner Organizations: *Sigg Water Bottles, Sodexo*

Bottled water is one of the most unnecessary products on the market today. It contributes to pollution and global warming, can cause adverse health effects, and is extremely expensive and less healthy compared to what comes out of the tap. Our goal is to raise awareness on campus through a marketing campaign, ultimately culminating with a booth at May Days to personally give away reusable water bottles and mugs donated by Sigg and Sodexo.

Overtime at Manual High School

Partner Organizations: *Volunteers of America, Manual High School*

Assisting Manual High School students and staff to fulfill the school's mission: "Doing what it takes to keep students in school, help them learn, and prepare them for success in college, their careers, and life." Filling out administrative paperwork, tutoring students one-on-one, and assisting teachers, students, and other volunteers during the after school program, Overtime.

PLP for PSE (PLP for Post-Secondary Education)

Partner Organizations: *Volunteers in Partnership (VIP), East High School*

Our CCI was designed to address the issue of low post-secondary education attendance rates among DPS students. We have worked with the VIP program at DU and with East High School to try to remedy this problem. Our goal is to let students know that they can attend college if they wish, no matter their background. To accomplish this, we have helped organize a DU campus visit for a group of East High School students and we have followed up with these students by making additional visits to East High School.