116 participants were hosted by 12 communities across the country, along with 17 coordinators. 11 Freshmen, 88 Sophomores, 29 Juniors, 11 Seniors, and 7 professional students participated.

**2009 Fall Sites**

Albuquerque, NM  
—Trinity Catholic Worker

Calhoun City, MS  
—EXCEL After-School Program

Clinton, IA  
—L’Arche Community

El Paso, TX  
—Project Puente

Morton, MS  
—EXCEL After-School Program

Omaha, NE  
—OneWorld Community Health Centers

Omaha, NE  
—Comite Maya Pixan Ixim

Omaha, NE  
—Siena/Francis House

Pilsen, IL  
—Latino Community

Rosebud, SD  
—Native American Community

Stroud, OK  
—Habitat for Humanity

Wind River, WY  
—Native American Community

After months of formation, this fall break allowed 116 participants to serve and learn with host communities of different cultures in Omaha and around the country. 160 students applied for this opportunity, beyond the capacity of this newly expanded program led by students and administered by the Creighton Center for Service and Justice (CCSJ). 17 student coordinators who had worked for more than a year in preparation served to facilitate 12 trips this fall break. Participants included 7 professional students, 2 staff members, and 38 members of the sophomore Cortina Community for the first time. The program was orchestrated by two teams of seven students who in conjunction with the CCSJ facilitate all aspects of the transportation, food, host-site communication, send-off ceremony, and fundraising to make possible this fall program.

The students were educated by Native American elders, immigrant adults learning English, children and Catholic Workers in communities listed on the left. Students tutored math, reading, and English; worked in organic gardens, participated in the daily care of the adult members of the L’arche community. They worked from slab to shingles on a Habitat house along with the new homeowner and they learned first-hand from members of our society who have difficulty with healthcare access, those who are still recovering from a genocidal civil war in Guatemala, and cultural survival in our own country.

**2009 Photos & Reflections**

“The sweat was the best experience for me. It was something totally different to whatever I’d experienced before and the atmosphere in the place was incredible. It also helped me understand the culture more and connect with the people.”

—Wind River, WY
Inspired by a Service Trip, CU student invites her own Omaha community to get involved:

(From St. Vincent de Paul Parish Bulletin)

The St. Vincent de Paul garden was a huge success this year due to the efforts of Kelsey Wilhelm, a SVdP graduate, and many other SVdP volunteers. The many vegetables that were produced on the modest plot at SVdP benefitted several key charitable organizations in our community throughout this past summer. Kelsey came up with the idea for the garden based on a spring break service trip through Creighton University’s Center for Service and Justice. A small group of Creighton students traveled to their service site at the Oscar Romero Catholic Worker House in Oklahoma City. On this trip, the group learned about social justice issues, sustainability, and simplicity while serving members of the Oklahoma City community. The group lived on a three dollar-a-day food budget. In addition to the limited food budget, the group learned many unique ways to conserve water, how to garden organically, and about many other environmental issues. The group made their own meals, recycled, composted and fed the leftovers to the worms! During Kelsey’s experience, she saw the big difference just a few inspiring individuals could make in a community. She wanted to bring back to Omaha the lessons learned and the simplified lifestyle she lived while on her service trip. As a parish, Kelsey feels, “We can learn to grow our own food, and give to others less fortunate in our community. We are all part of one com-munity and responsible for all of our members. It is easy to turn a blind eye to a need, and so much more difficult to do something about it. Service to others is at the core of my faith, and I hope to inspire others to put their beliefs into action. I am not an expert gardener, but I saw the need for food in my community, and for more education regarding gardening. I am eager to see our parish come together to fight hunger and live a more sustainable life.” The charities that benefited from the garden and the efforts of the many volunteers included the Siena Francis House, the Catholic Worker House and low income families served by Holy Family Parish.

“Creighton volunteers are our blessing. We are happy for this collaboration.

-Alchhoun City Hosts

We were astonished by your generosity. Now we can finish our roof. We were touched by your recognition of the work we do. Please keep sending groups with such interest, it’s the highlight of our year!

-Albuquerque Hosts

Sustainability—on all trips, only reusable water bottles

“One major change I hope to bring into my life is living sustainably. I have realized how important keeping the earth healthy is to other people and I have realized I want to help be part of this positive change.”

-participant quote

Frankie provided inspiration because he is the perfect role model for all the kids there. He is a hard worker and intelligent, and he is attending Creighton with the hopes of preparing himself to come back to his community and help with the knowledge he acquired.

-Rosebud, SD

Check out these links to read more about Fall Break Service Trips!

President’s Update

www.creighton.edu/ccsj

# Service Trip Total Participants

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