2011 Host Communities

**Chicago, IL**
Su Casa Catholic Worker

**Clinton, IA**
The Arch Community

**East St. Louis, IL**
Hubbard House

**El Paso, TX**
Annunciation House

**El Paso, TX**
Columban Border Immersion

**Milwaukee, WI**
Cap Corps Midwest

**Montgomery, AL**
Resurrection Catholic Missions

**Morton, MS**
Excel Community Center

**New Orleans, LA**
Duchesne House

**New Orleans, LA**
House of Charity

**Omaha, NE**
Mulumba House

**Omaha, NE**
Oneworld & Pixan-Ixim

**Omaha, NE**
Solidarity with Workers

**Pilsen, IL**
Poder Center & St. Procopius Parish

**Sioux City, IA**
Siouxland Habitat for Humanity

**Stroud, OK**
Habitat for Humanity

**Wheeling, WV**
Appalachian Institute Energy Excursion

**Wind River, WY**
St. Stephen's Mission

**Winnebago, NE**
St. Augustine Mission

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"I felt most alive when I was with the community, because I felt like I belonged in that community. Despite our language barrier they were all so welcoming and accepting. Getting to hear that we not only enjoyed our time together, but that Pixan Ixim also enjoyed our company was blissful. This all made me feel alive!" Pixan Ixim participant

A record number of 193 participants served and learned with 19 host partner communities across the country, including 3 right here in Omaha. This program has seen a 250% growth from 2008!

"...what occurred before the 2011 Fall Break Service and Justice Trips... was a process. A process that is intended to prepare a group of eager, apprehensive, worried, and excited individuals for a week-long experience in a community they are more than likely unfamiliar with... Yes, it is true that we learned and were shaped throughout our trip, but we could not have learned in the same way if we were not at the educated, exposed, prepared position we were in when getting into the van that first Saturday morning." - Milwaukee Coordinator/Service & Justice Trips Core Team Member

This fall there were five new host sites including: East St. Louis, students learned about the poverty affecting the urban poor; Su Casa Catholic Worker in Chicago is a house of hospitality that provides a space of healing and hope to displaced Hispanic families. At Annunciation House in El Paso, TX, students learned about immigration and border issues. House of Charity in New Orleans, LA, is a collaboration between many religious women's orders. Our last new site focused on “Solidarity with workers” in Omaha, NE.
Living Out...

**THE SEVEN SERVICE TRIP PILLARS**

Service • Justice • Solidarity • Simplicity • Sustainability • Community • Reflection

“The talks really made me want to be more politically aware and to act on the issues I want dealt with (Calling for Comprehensive Immigration Reform). I also want to spread awareness about the extent of the immigration problem and violence and division. The Columban focus on conserving water and other resources also made me more aware of how much is wasted every day and how even the little changes can make a huge difference and I guess that applies to what I can do for immigration as well!”

-El Paso, TX Columban Border Immersion

“Reflection calls us back to our center and the reality of our imperfect nature. It allows time to re-evaluate and recharge the direction we seek to give our lives - not just in the big things but in all things.”

-El Paso, TX Annunciation House Coordinator/Core Team Member

“Justice: Clinton

“I learned so much about this community’s experience and way of life. The best experience that I had was while at the mini-pow-wow the community had planned for us. The drumming was extremely powerful, in that I felt in my own heart, it literally shook me. The dancing that accompanied the drumming was just as unique and beautiful. Each song and dance tells a story of the people. I was ecstatic to see how each dancer and drummer held themselves proudly.”

-Wind River, WY participant

“Reflection: Clinton

“I am definitely going to start conserving energy more and be efficient in my energy usage. Energy saving appliances, light bulbs and keeping myself informed about where my energy comes from are all things I want to do.”

-Wheeling, WV participant

“Simplicity: New Orleans (House of Charity)

“Arriving at L’Arche, a core member came up and gave me the biggest hug. Her ability to welcome me so genuinely and her warmth made me feel so alive and made me realize how rare it is to find people that don’t judge. I hope to live my life more like her and to welcome all people into my life no matter how different they are. We are all people and deserve to be noticed and loved by others. I want to be able to let people in more easily and to encourage them to truly be themselves and be present in the moments of life.”

-Clinton, IA participant

A note on the photos and quotes: Each Fall Break Service Trip group sent in photos for the CCSJ FBST contest. Of all those submitted, eight were selected as winners (1 for each of the seven pillars and 1 overall). These are featured throughout this newsletter. The quotes are from student evals on which was asked “When did you feel most alive? What most inspired you?”
“Peace. Love. Praxis,” is the message we proudly sport on our service trip t-shirts this school year. In other words, the Creighton Center for Service and Justice emphasizes peace, love and reflection/social analysis. This seems appropriate because as the Reflection Tab in our coordinator binders suggests, “reflection is as important as the service itself.” The binder explains, and I have learned from experience, that reflection is necessary when doing service. If one does not take time to reflect on all that has been seen and witnessed while partaking in acts of service, solidarity and/or justice, the experience will not be as transformational.

- Claire Bowens, t-shirt co-designer

“I am now more aware of the things I can do to make a difference. I am hoping that this experience will inspire me to become more involved in the service community, especially in anything dealing with justice and/or civil rights issues.”

- Montgomery, AL participant

Want to see more pictures and reflections from the Service Trips?
Check out the redesigned website!
www.creighton.edu/ccsj
Like us on Facebook
www.facebook.com/creightonccsj
Follow us on Twitter
@creighton_ccsj

“The Creighton Center for Service and Justice offers Creighton students something more. In Ignatian terms, it’s called Magis. The invitation to serve is built upon Ignatian principles and deep human values. Students who participate in service through the CCSJ take the risk of being transformed and finding God in the hearts, smiles and eyes of those they serve. I am deeply grateful for the excellent CCSJ staff and the amazing students who say “yes.” There is no question that our entire Creighton community is impacted by the service and justice that pours forth from the CCSJ. All of us are truly blessed.”

- Susan Naatz, Associate Vice President for University Ministry

Service and Justice Trips Student Leadership Teams

Service and Justice Associates, four Creighton seniors, assist with tasks such as fundraising, formation, recruitment, and community building for the fall and spring break trips. They participate in a seminar where they reflect on their experiences and continue their formation as advocates for justice.

Chris Boitano, Molly Dellaria, Kelly Orbik, Nick George, Bill Kusek
Stef Haas

Maureen Book, Claire Bowens, Mike Rios, Melissa List, Kate Kogler, Laura Green, Kelly Orbik, Molly Dellaria, Kelsey Cullinan

Core Team is a group of seven seniors who are responsible for fundraising, placing students on fall and spring break service trips, and organizing the formation of the 200 student coordinators & participants. It is a unique opportunity to become more deeply involved in the program and meet students with similar passions.
“I had two groups of students from the CCSJ come to my house to help me with yard work. The students did great work. My yard has never looked better. I enjoyed talking with them and learning about their studies and their service trips. Thank you for helping me and thank you for volunteering on your breaks. Best of luck to you all. I hope your trips were great.”

- Holly Griesemer COBA ’07, CCSJ Service Trip participant ’06

“Spring & Fall 2011 Information

Students went to 46 host partners
8 were in Omaha
409 students participated in trips
91 of which were coordinators
129 students received need-based scholarships totaling $26,110

“This service trip could not have been more perfect. It incorporated community building, faith development, exploring the outdoors, learning about the struggles of the Native American community, education about social justice issues and a hot spring!”

- Wind River, WY participant

“Our host site, the Mulumba House Jesuit Community, was an inspiration. All 5 Jesuits spoke to us about their lives and how Christ led them to where they are today. We had dinner with them one night and they were very inviting and sharing. They made us feel important and not like guests.”

- North Omaha participant

“I really enjoyed getting the opportunity to hear the stories of the two families chosen to receive Habitat Houses. We were able to hear about their lives and how excited and grateful they were to have the chance to finally own a home. This alone made the trip worth it.”

- Sioux City, IA participant

“I felt most alive when I was helping the ESL students at the Poder Center. It amazes me when adults have the courage to take a risk and learn to speak another language. I was working with individuals who allowed themselves to be vulnerable and make mistakes, which is so very hard to do. The students I worked with were so amazing and I am so happy I had the chance to meet them.”

- Pilsen, IL Poder Center participant

“I think that Pauline and Sr. Marge made me aware of my own ignorance, challenged me to recognize things that I need to learn and really humbled me. Both of them are extremely culturally aware.”

- East St. Louis, IL participant

“Chicago: Pilsen

New Orleans: Duchesne House

Montgomery, AL

Service & Justice Trips Labor Auction

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- Holly Griesemer COBA ’07, CCSJ Service Trip participant ’06
“The staff at OneWorld are so committed to care no matter what the status (economic or immigration) of the patient. They fight all barriers at all levels at full force, never taking no unless they have exhausted all options. This standard of care and commitment to the whole experience and understanding of different cultures is very inspiring to me. I want to improve my Spanish and maybe work in a clinic such as OneWorld who provides care no matter what.”

- OneWorld participant

“Other than the service we did, my best experience was hearing first-hand accounts of people who lived through Katrina. Hearing their stories gave me a better idea of what really happened and what still needs to be done to rebuild the city and change an unjust system.”

- New Orleans, LA Duchesne House participant

“Spring Break 2012 Information

Students will go to 22 host partners
3 will be in Omaha
172-190 students will participate in trips
44 of which will coordinate the trips
62 students will receive need-based scholarships totaling $12,075, 29 have less than 25% EFC (Expected Family Contribution)

“My best experience was going to Repairers of the Breach and hearing the testimonies of two men experiencing homelessness because it really showed me the reality of being homeless instead of just being a concept we talk about.”

- Milwaukee, WI participant

“My favorite part was going to work with our host family. What better way to ‘put yourself in their shoes’ than to go out and work alongside them? It was a valuable experience because I got to fully experience their working day…”

- Omaha: Solidarity with Workers participant

“My best experience was meeting children that are being held in the detention centers for being here undocumented. We sang and danced a few church songs before they did Bible study and some arts and crafts. It was so fun to see how energetic they were, especially knowing that they were all coming from such difficult situations. The energy was definitely contagious.”

- El Paso, TX Columbans participant

“My best experience was going to work with our host family. What better way to ‘put yourself in their shoes’ than to go out and work alongside them? It was a valuable experience because I got to fully experience their working day…”

- Omaha: Solidarity with Workers participant

“Join us for the CCSJ Service Trips Soup Luncheon
Friday, February 3rd
11:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Oral Auction 12:15-12:45
Skutt Student Center Ballroom

“To be really honest, I think the most valuable moment from this trip wasn’t when I was building or meeting the host community (although those were great as well), but when I was bonding with my group members before leaving. I was a little worried that we might be awkward or not very close, but we really bonded and got to know each other at deeper levels. This is definitely a valuable gift from this service trip because it allowed us to truly enjoy the time together, cooperating, playing and led to new friendships that could last a lifetime.”

- Stroud, OK participant
Thank You!

Thank you to all who have helped sustain our Service Trips program and enable students to engage in these special experiences. Through giving manual labor in an email online auction and sharing stories at St. John’s Masses, students help raise money used as donations to host community sites and as scholarships for students who otherwise would not be able to participate. For the first time, also, we had benefit fundraiser nights with Red Mango and Sam and Louie’s Pizza. Thank you to all who have supported our program, financially and spiritually. As a result of fundraising, students are asked to pay just $300 of the more than $350 per-student cost. If you are interested in donating to the Service Trips Program, please e-mail Kelly Orbik (korbik@creighton.edu)

Please join us for our upcoming Service and Justice Trip Events
Soup Luncheon and Oral/Silent Auctions – Friday, February 3rd (11a.m.-1:30 p.m.)
in the Skutt Student Center Ballroom

Before Leaving: Send-Off Service
The 19 different Fall Break Service Trip groups came together the Thursday before commencing their journeys to sing, pray and reflect.

Allison (A&S ’06, MS ’09) and Rob Kinney-Walker (A&S ’06, Law Student) spoke at this year’s send-off service. Both were former participants and leaders for the Service and Justice Trips Program.

Looking Back: Advocacy and ‘Now What?’
This year, we continued our emphasis on the “Now What” aspect of Service Trips. FBST participants were encouraged to bring their experiences back with them by participating in advocacy. The CCSJ’s Advocacy team offered various possible ideas, such as writing to senators, starting petitions, and meeting with representatives. Each group shared their advocacy aspect with all the participants at the FBST reunion.

If you would like to get involved with the CCSJ Advocacy Team, visit this page to learn more about what you can do: http://blogs.creighton.edu/ccsj/justice-and-advocacy/four-justice-priorities/.

The group that traveled to Wheeling to work with the Appalachian Institute Energy Excursion found a way to apply what they had learned to advocacy closer to home. This group wrote letters to President Obama about the Keystone XL Pipeline.

Creighton University and CCSJ Service Trip Alumni Hosted Fall Trips!

Shelly Roder (’97; Theology & Justice and Peace Studies) and the Milwaukee, WI group
Maggie Swanger (’03; Accounting and Management Information Services) and the Sioux City, IA group
Becca Harvey (’11; Justice and Society) and Jacob Huju (’11; Spanish) and the El Paso, TX group