172 participants served and learned with 22 host partner communities across the country, including 3 right here in Omaha. For 108 of the 172 participants, this was their 1st CCSJ Service and Justice Trip.

This spring we welcomed two new host partner communities: Albuquerque, where students stayed with a Jesuit Volunteer at St. Martin's Hospitality Center; and White Rose Catholic Worker in Chicago, where students learned about hospitality for those in need, sustainability, and opposing torture with the community.

This year, we are celebrating the 30th year of the Service & Justice Trips program! The first group of 7 students went in March of 1983. In the past 10 years, over 2,500 students have been formed through these trips.

“The Jesuit tradition is rooted in experience. Ignatius did not simply want people to think about God and the world but to find God actively laboring in this broken but lovable world. In a recent articulation, the head of the Jesuits called students to experience the ‘gritty reality’ of our world. The service trips of the CCSJ are similarly guided by this same wisdom. After extensive preparation before their service trips that helps prepare their minds and hearts, students then are unleashed to engage in this ‘gritty’ world where God is active.”

-Michael Rossmann, SJ, Jesuit Scholastic, Okolona, MS participant
Living Out...

The seven Service & Justice Trips pillars

- Service
- Justice
- Solidarity
- Simplicity
- Sustainability
- Community
- Reflection

“I think what makes our trips special is the reflection aspect. Through the praxis spiral model, we discuss what the problems are and how they can be fixed permanently, not just a temporary patch.”
- Shadowbrook coordinator

“A note on the photos and quotes: Each Service & Justice Trips group sent in photos for the pillar pictures 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 evaluations and reflections.

Service: Stroud

“I was not aware of the major need for positive reinforcement for the Native American youth living on the reservation.”
- Wind River participant

Solidarity: Montgomery

“It was shocking to me that someone my age could already be addicted to drugs. The participants of the recovery program in general were inspiring. They have really built up a community that supports each other, loves each other, and holds each other accountable.”
- Siena/Francis House, Omaha participant

Reflection: Detroit

“My best experience was all the conversations I had with people. I never felt so welcome as I did at the various shelters we visited; there was truly a sense of community there, and it was great to talk to people and share a meal with them.”
- Cleveland participant

Sustainability: Chicago Su Casa

“Living sustainably is possible! And it helps build community because we must depend on each other.”
- White Violet participant

A Wind River participant’s quote: “I was not aware of the major need for positive reinforcement for the Native American youth living on the reservation.”
Want to see more pictures and reflections from the Service Trips?
Check out our website!
www.creighton.edu/ccsj
Like us on Facebook
www.facebook.com/creightonccsj
Follow us on Twitter
@creighton_ccsj

This year we held our annual soup luncheon & auctions in the Skutt ballroom. With over 300 attendees, this was our largest ever! Thank you to everyone who came out to support the Service & Justice Trips Program and a special thank you to Jim Dorsey and Mary Ann Danielson, our official auctioneers. We hope to see you next year on February 1, 2013!

“I love feeling like I have helped others gain a clearer understanding of who they are as people – whether it be through nightly reflection, tough questions, or just spending time together. Throughout my years of service trips, that has definitely been my best experience.”
- Albuquerque (St. Martin's) coordinator

“By the end of a meal together, I knew a man’s entire rise and demise. He was so honest with me, a stranger, no less. His trust in me was very uplifting.”
- Cleveland coordinator

The Day of Formation was a great introduction to coordinator preparation. It gave all of us a chance to think about the pillars and how we would present them and emphasize their importance on our trips. The day was also a good practice for reflection because we were broken up into groups to reflect on and discuss the various pillars.”
- Annie Hagerty,
Chicago White Rose coordinator

Leadership formation is a key component of our Service and Justice Trips Program. Formation begins in October with student coordinators sharing in a common service experience. Then they hone their reflection skills and social analysis skills by talking and asking questions about their experiences with each other. At Day of Formation, a one day retreat, the coordinators learn about our 7 pillars and foster small group leadership skills. Coordinators then lead their participants through formation on the seven pillars and the issues of their host sites during three general meetings.
Thank You!

Thank you to all who help sustain our Service & Justice Trips program and enable students to engage in these special experiences. Students fundraise through giving manual labor, sharing stories at St. John's Masses, and various other events. This money is used for need-based student scholarships and to support our community host sites through just donations. Thank you to all who have supported our program, financially and spiritually. As a result of this fundraising, students are asked to pay just $310 of the more than $400 per-student cost. If you are interested in donating to the Service Trips Program, please see our website or e-mail Kelly Orbik (korbik@creighton.edu)

Before Leaving: Send-Off Service

The 22 CCSJ Service & Justice Trip groups gathered with 3 other campus groups to sing, pray, and reflect before beginning their journeys.

Sarah Jones ('03; Chemistry) and Nick Rebeck ('03; Physics) spoke at this year's send-off service. Both are former participants of the Service and Justice Trips Program.

Susan Naatz, associate vice president for University Ministry, was the MC of the send-off service. We hosted a reception following the service featuring fair trade hot chocolate!

Coming Back Home: Advocacy and ‘Now What?’

This year, we continued our emphasis on the “Now What” aspect of the Service & Justice Trips. Participants were encouraged to bring their experiences back with them through advocacy work. The CCSJ’s Ignatian Advocacy team offered various ideas such as writing to senators, starting petitions and meeting with representatives. Each group shared their advocacy action with the other groups at the Service & Justice Trip reunion.

If you would like to get involved with the CCSJ’s Ignatian Advocacy Team, visit this page to learn more about what you can do: http://bit.ly/ccsjadvocacy

Justice actions taken on trips include:
- Immigration Action/Protest - Minneapolis, MN
- Selma Bridge Crossing Jubilee - Montgomery, AL
- Prayer vigil inside detention center - Chicago, IL
- Immigration vigil - Milwaukee, WI

Sustainability Corner

6 examples of how students lived simply and sustainably on their trips:
1. Using reusable water bottles.
2. Having communal toiletries like shampoo and toothpaste.
3. "Unplugging" from cell phones and technology.
4. Walking or using public transportation (30 students took the Megabus to Chicago).
5. Preparing their own meals together (many groups went vegetarian too).
6. Limiting Showers throughout the week (Chicago White Rose even used a compost toilet!).

Creighton University and CCSJ Service & Justice Trips Alumni Hosted Spring Trips!

Nate Tye (left; '11; History & Theology) and the Albuquerque St. Martin’s group
Daniel Lawse (center; '02; Theology) and the Omaha Sustainability group
John Bambrick-Rust (right; former Creighton retreats director) and the Chicago White Rose group