FUN AT THE FAIR

The Community Service Fair in September was a BIG success! SOS extends a “thank you” to all the students who put a lot of effort into contacting agencies and publicizing them, to the agencies that represented at the fair, and to the students and staff who attended the fair. Laurie Risler, program supervisor of Wistariahurst Museum of Holyoke, stated in the Republican Newspaper: “I’m impressed with how many students are interested in volunteer work, even though they’re carrying really heavy workloads.” After all, Smithies want to make a difference! Smith College has a long tradition of student involvement in community service work that continues after graduation.

More than 35 agencies attended the fair and the student turnout has been one of the biggest ever. The Fair’s location at the new Campus Center captured the attention of many students. Volunteering, even for one hour a week, matters. Human services agencies are suffering greatly from budget cuts and need all the help they can get. Participate anyway you can: short-term projects, long-term projects, or house projects. If you happened to miss the fair, stop by the S.O.S. office to see how you can get started as a volunteer!

Thanks to Stacey Braverman and to those who donated and volunteered at the Fall Blood Drive!
What is "S.O.S" anyway?
who what why and how...
by Kasha Ho

Service Organizations of Smith (SOS) is a comprehensive community service program dedicated to facilitating connections between Smith students and the local community. It does so by providing opportunities and support for students to work with local agencies that address relevant community concerns. SOS works with over 60 different agencies whose missions range from environmental issues to multicultural awareness, women's issues, literacy, medical and legal concerns. Information about these agencies is available at http://www.smith.edu/sos/forms/Directory.pdf.

Students are able to deepen their education, strengthen their understanding of social issues, and establish connections with diverse communities through community work. These connections and experiences take shape in many forms. SOS helps students find long-term and short-term placements with agencies that they are interested in. Opportunities include internships and America Reads work-study. SOS also helps facilitate community-based learning programs in Smith courses. Smith students also contribute by organizing fund drives, blood drives, meal preparations, and holiday gift activities each year.

How it works...

Student members of the SOS executive board play a key role in promoting community service in the college body. The board meets weekly to plan events and to discuss ways to support local agencies and the Smith students, who are interested in volunteering. These plans and events are then circulated to S.O.S house representatives from each house on campus, and these representatives spread the word to interested students within their houses. Each member holds a different position to specialize in certain areas of volunteering.

The SOS program is supported by several stellar staff members including Director Tiertza-Leah Schwartz, and Office Manager Sandy Scott, Car Coordinator Erica Toler, General Office Assistant Nikki Bartolini, and Bookkeeping Assistant Jill Angelosanto.

Jennifer Chan
Agency Outreach Intern
Hi! I am from West Lafayette, IN and an '05 bio major. Serving on the SOS Board as an Outreach Intern has provided me with the great opportunity to understand the roles of agencies and their impact in the community. My involvement in SOS did not start until last year when I was accepted in the Community Service Internship Program. I interned at the Big Brothers/Big Sisters’ after-school program, and that experience alone initiated my enjoyment in being with children—a feeling that I never thought would happen. Volunteering leads to many nice surprises! I also like to play the piano, listen to jazz, do art, play squash and pool, and curl up with issues of NewScientist magazines. My current favorite snacks are munching on soy nuts and raisins!

Esi Woarabae Cleland
Community Education Chair
Esi, a sophomore engineering major, was impressed by the spirit of volunteerism in Smith students. She became interested in making a positive impact on people’s lives through volunteer work, and got started at Smith through the S.O.S. She holds the Albert Schweitzer quote, “I don’t know what your destiny will be, but one thing I know: the ones among you who will be really happy are those who have sought and found how to serve,” dearly to her heart. Her belief is that everyone is called upon to serve. As a Community Education Chair, she educates Smithies about community concerns and ways to address them through volunteer opportunities in the Valley. She hopes to promote volunteerism in her own country Ghana someday.

My Yen Le
Student Recruitment Intern
My name is My Yen Le. I'm a senior with a government major. I love to cook and travel. One of my major accomplishments from last summer was teaching my puppy how to ride on a motor scooter. This is my fourth year working with S.O.S and I enjoy it very much. It's a place that offers education and hands-on experience outside of the classroom, which is important to my future career goal in community development.
I was born on Kauai, Hawaii, and a most of my family remains in the Islands. I lived with my mother in Northern Idaho for ten years, where I graduated from high school prior to coming to Smith College. I am an '04 Anthropology major and Environmental Science and Policy minor interested in exploring the ways that cultural differences impact local communities’ environmental decision-making processes. I joined up with S.O.S immediately upon my arrival in Northampton, through the First Link program. I was a house rep my first year at Talbot House, and served on the S.O.S board my sophomore year as the long-term service chair. I began working with the American Friends Service Committee my junior year as a work-study position, and this experience changed my experience of living and attending school in this community much more than any other aspect of college. I continue to work with AFSC now. Connections made with the community are essential to a whole and healthy college experience here at Smith, and I am honored to be chairing the Board this year because I want to help others find their links.

Christina Knowles
Fund-Drive Co-Chair

After returning from JYA in Senegal, Christina Knowles was appalled to learn how recent state budget cuts were affecting the service orgs she has volunteered with in Hampden and Hampshire Counties. So, being the cheesy idealist she is, she decided to join the S.O.S board as fund drive co-chair. In addition to raising money for good causes, Christina enjoys Wilder house seniors, economic theory, long runs, and caramel sauce straight from the jar.

“\(I \text{ don’t know what your destiny will be, but one thing I know: the ones among you who will be really happy are those who have sought and found how to serve.}\)"

-Albert Schweitzer

Jessie Clarke
Fund-Drive Co-Chair

Jess Clarke is a North Carolina native who thanks her lucky stars that she has escaped from the South. As a sociology major, she has finally started to crawl out from the rock under which she lives and notice the world around her (world being not just Smith). In keeping with her newfound awareness, she is trying to make change in the community by being on the S.O.S Board and organizing a fund drive with her trusty co-chair. If she isn’t cheering for losing baseball teams or babbling to herself in French, the best bet is that she’s wandering around Acme surplus. Then again, her superwoman talents enable her to do all three at the same time.

Baaba Andam
Short-Term Projects Co-Chair

Hello! My name is Baaba, and I am the Short-Term Services co-chair. I am a sophomore engineering major from Ghana. I joined the S.O.S board because I have been involved in a lot of community service before Smith. I believe getting involved with the SOS executive board would allow me to continue my involvement in community service and explore volunteering opportunities in the Pioneer Valley. Outside of S.O.S, I am the HCA of Albright house, the secretary of Smith African and Caribbean Students’ Association, and a Gold Key tour guide. I also like to play tennis and watch old French movies.

Jordyn Rozensky
Chair of House Representatives

Jordyn Rozensky was originally chosen as the first "Scary Spice", though she left the realms of pop-princess-hood for the greener pastures of Smith College and S.O.S. Here at Smith she distributes her singing talents of Crapapella, the English and Jewish Studies departments, and her beloved Sessions House. Although she often feels the pull of the bright spotlight of British girl power fame, Smith offers her an opportunity to lead the House Representatives. As the Chair of House Reps, Jordyn passes on her love for ridiculously bad jokes, stale cheddar, and community service.

Becca Hufford
Short-Term Projects Co-Chair

I am from Gainesville, Florida, and I’m a psychology major. I have been an active member of SOS since the beginning of my first year. I was interested in being a part of the board because I wanted to be more directly involved in SOS. I wanted to provide students with an easy way to become involved in community service. Short-term projects give students a variety of opportunities to volunteer without a big commitment. I expect to carry away skills of how to organize and recruit for community service events. My favorite part of being on the board is meeting other students who share my interest in community service.
**Munch on Lunch and Learn!**
by Esi Cleland

The Community Education Luncheons are sponsored by SOS. The purpose of the luncheons is to educate the Smith College Community about community concerns and issues and showcase community service opportunities.

The first of the three Community Education luncheons for the fall semester was held at the Wright Hall Common room at lunch time on September 16, 2003. The director of Decisional Training Program, Janet Dahlberg, described the program and volunteer responsibilities. The program utilizes volunteers to teach inmates at local prisons decision-making and life planning skills. Many people expressed interest in getting involved. Laura Pinti, who volunteered last year also spoke about her experiences and said it was a great learning experience that was deeply satisfying. Sarah Gottesdiener, another student volunteer said, “Decisional Training is the most worthwhile volunteering I’ve ever done.” On October 21, SOS hosted a representative from Hampshire County Aids Care. He talked about the AIDS buddy program in which Smithies can volunteer to offer their friendship to people dealing with HIV aids. There will be one more luncheon later in the semester and three more next semester. If you have any suggestions or would like a particular agency to visit, please contact Esi at x4595 (SOS office) or at sosstu@smith.edu.

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**Harvesting Veggies to Fight Hunger**
by Becca Hufford

We kicked off the year with carrots, garlic, beets, and plenty of sunshine. On September 13th, a group of nine Smithies headed off to the Food Bank Farm (FBF) in Hadley to help decrease hunger throughout Western Massachusetts. Our group of volunteers spent the morning harvesting carrots and beets, pulling weeds, and smashing garlic. The morning’s weather was perfect to spend outside. By the time we left, we were dirty from working in the fields and a little tired, but we all had a good time and our efforts helped with a great cause. “The work isn’t difficult, but there's definitely a lot to do. The people who run the farm are incredibly nice, and they are always very grateful for any time you can give. I think it’s a great way to improve the quality of food given out at local food banks,” said Kimberley Lunde ’07.

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**House Representatives: the SOS Lynchpin**
by Jordyn Rozensky

The SOS House Representative program is off to an exciting start this year. At each bi-monthly meeting, board members and representatives from various community service projects inform and educate Reps of SOS functions and projects occurring in and around our community. House Reps then take an active role in advertising for and recruiting volunteers and participants for these events. Becky Silverstein, a Junior from Ziskind, was quick to point out

(Continued on page 9)
CAMPAIGNING THROUGH AIDS FUND DRIVE
by Christina Knowles and Jessica Clarke

As of the end of 2002, an estimated 42 million people worldwide were infected with HIV or AIDS. Of those, approximately a million reported cases were within the United States. Approximately 40,000 new cases of HIV are reported every year. Putting an end to this epidemic requires a lot of time, patience, and money. This year, SOS is helping to fight AIDS in the local community. To do so, we need your help! Agencies that deal with many social problems have all seen their budgets cut with the economic downturn of the past few years. SOS runs a fund drive during every spring semester that focuses on a particular issue of local importance. The idea of the fund drive is to both educate the Smith community about a problem in the local community and to raise money that will be granted out to local agencies who work to solve the problem identified. This year, S.O.S. is focusing the fund drive on living with AIDS, which is an important problem in both the local and global community. (Continued on page 9)

CLASSIFIED ADS

Springfield School Volunteers Agency needs YOU! Students from elementary, middle and high school students from various public schools in Springfield need tutors in subjects such as math, reading, and reading. Volunteer projects include listening to students in grades K-2 read from “little books” in order to develop fluency, assisting students with MCAS problem solving and number reasoning, and helping homeless students with homework. Hours are flexible. For more information or to register for training, contact agency at 787-7015, info@springfieldschoolvolunteers.org, or visit www.springfieldschoolsvolunteers.org

Volunteer right in downtown Northampton while learn more about the history of this charming town. Historic Northampton Museum & Education Center’s collection includes 50,000 objects and three historic buildings, which is a repository of local history from the Pre-Contact era to the present. For those art history majors or for those who simply appreciate learning about Pioneer Valley history, this is for you!

Vision Community Services. Share your precious time and make someone else’s life brighter! Help limited vision people live a better lifestyle by assisting them with activities such as shopping, doctor appointments, and reading or simply keep them company. Contact Sandy Burgess at 734-7343 for more information.

Students serve community with MANNA
by Jessie Rubin

In an effort to expand horizons beyond those of the “Smith bubble,” several students and staff members have found an outlet in volunteering for MANNA.

MANNA is a free meal program that outreaches to those in need within the Northampton area. Smith volunteers are asked to prepare a meal and to serve it at Edward’s Church, only a few blocks from the Smith campus. SOS recruited a team to prepare 6 meals annually. We are especially grateful to Angela Saquidal ’07 who will coordinate the MANNA project this year. Special thanks also to Susan Hollingsworth from the Treasurer’s Office who has prepared many wonderful desserts.

According to Yvonne Freccero, the director of MANNA, the importance of the program is evident within the community.

“Unfortunately there are many hungry people in our community,” Freccero said. “They may not have enough money to buy food, or they may not have anywhere where they can cook a hot meal.

“The MANNA meals also provide an opportunity for people to socialize. This is an opportunity to let people know they are cared for and that soci- (Continued on page 7)
SOS and Safe Passage, a Northampton-based organization that supports survivors of domestic violence, co-sponsored a fundraiser on October 4. “Stories & Snacks” was held in Davis Ballroom to raise money for Safe Passage’s children’s programming.

Children’s authors Norton Juster (The Phantom Tollbooth) and Heidi Stemple (co-author with her mother, Jane Yolen ’60 of the “History’s Mysteries” series), Northampton Mayor Clare Higgins, Safe Passage Executive Director Kristen Golden, and Northampton Police DARE Officer Albert St. Onge read their favorite picture books to an appreciative audience, who also enjoyed snacks and a raffle. Many of the readers were assisted by their children and grandchildren, who helped read or turned the pages.

The funds from the event were helpful to Safe Passage, which has suffered from recent cuts in state aid. The money will help with outings and toys for the children at Safe Passage’s shelter, who live there for weeks or months while they and their mothers rebuild their lives after escaping domestic abuse. Just as importantly, the publicity that “Stories & Snacks” raised knowledge about Safe Passage’s counseling and advocacy work in the Pioneer Valley. Since October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month, the event was particularly timely.

Coordinating this event and a children’s book drive (which collected over 300 books last spring) for Safe Passage have been incredible experiences. I have learned about fundraising and...
The fact that there is much need within the Northampton community did not escape the surprise of student participants. “I was surprised by the age range of those partaking in the meal,” junior Rachael Beseda said. “It allowed me to realize that many people, including children, in my new town need some type of assistance.”

Students have said that they found the experience worthwhile because it provided an outlet from the stresses of college life.

“MANNA is definitely something I would like to do again,” sophomore Emily Schlemowitz said. “It introduced me to people that are also interested in volunteering and I got to do something outside of my regular routine.”

According to Freccero, a limited budget creates a tight situation for MANNA, and thus the program could not survive on Wednesday nights without volunteers.

“Without volunteers for our Wednesday evening meals there would be no meals,” she said. “We rely on volunteers to bring meals and serve them.”

Freccero also said that not only was volunteers’ help appreciated, but that their connection with MANNA is part of a bigger effort to make close ties between Northampton and Smith College.

“It is particularly important to the people who come to eat to know that the students of Smith care about them,” she said. “It also is important to the city as a whole as it demonstrates that we are all part of one community and not separate entities of city and college.”

make sos your experience, too (continued from page 1)
lives are abundant in all corners of the world. However, finding a volunteer placement in an unfamiliar setting can be difficult unless a college can act as an intermediary encouraging students to volunteer.

“SOS provided a variety of different opportunities to volunteer in the setting that appeals most to me,” commented Lindsay Sears ’07 who is currently an SOS House Rep and volunteer-tutor at Pride Zone, an agency that provides tutoring and supportive services to teens. "They help you find the right org, contact the orgs, and set up schedules and transportation. They completely orchestrate the whole process to make the focus be on the actual volunteerism of the student."

Lindsay began to build her connection to the community through SOS as a First-Link pre-orientation program participant. "My group helped to set up a library at the Solomon Schecter Jewish Day School. I also spent a day at the AIDS care garden with the Newman Association." While her participation in First-Link gave her the first step to volunteerism, the Community Service Fair cannot be left unsaid. For Lindsay, the Fair that SOS holds in September was an effective way to match her up with an agency in which she wanted to work. "I have always loved helping people academically. My whole life I have worked as a tutor for my peers, and to do that in such a volunteering setting was exactly what I wanted."

Sarbani Hazra ’05 met with the Director of Volunteer Services, Tiertza-Leah Schwartz. The two went over the agencies listed in the directory and discussed the type of work she was interested in doing. She found out about REACH, a center for developmentally challenged children, and volunteered there during her sophomore year. “Ever since high-school, I have been doing some kind of volunteer work. Then when I came to Smith, I took a year hiatus in volunteering. I realized after that hiatus, how much I missed doing volunteer work and went to SOS to find out about local community agencies.” Her commitment to volunteering is still solid as she currently devotes her free time and energy at Safe Passage, a local women’s shelter that provides counseling and assistance to women whose lives and families have been endangered by their partner. Her job includes serving as hotline advocate and completing and filing forms related to the Counseling/Advocacy Program. She complimented the staff in the office, “[They] are extremely helpful. In fact one of the staff members helped me out, no questions asked.”

Dora Guzman ’05 connected with the community right at the beginning of her first-year when she tutored elementary school children on literacy at an after-school program. “I loved working with the children, they wanted to have fun, but also learn how to read. Many of the children would take books home so that they could practice as they (continued on page 8)
slowly learned how to read. I also hope that I served as a positive role model as a college student of the opportunities out there if one continued on with their education.” Her own experiences at after-school helped her decide to volunteer her time at one. “I wanted to give back. I have been a participant in after-school programs as a child and know the importance that these programs have.” Although she is no longer a volunteer-tutor on a long-term basis, as vice-president of Baldwin House, she plans on exploring different kinds of community service projects to engage in house in through SOS.

Volunteering also benefits both parties on the spectrum—the volunteer and those who receive the services from the volunteer. In community service, one not only does a job that’s needed to be done, but one learns about being a more responsible and aware citizen. For Lindsay, she gains satisfaction from seeing children mature. “The agency needs tutors badly. I hope to make a real connection with kids and watch them improve academically with my help.” As for Sarbani, “I hope to contribute my energy and my ongoing support. From this experience, I hope that I will be able to think better on my feet as I help these women.”

Community service is also a great segue into career opportunities for college students. Volunteer positions and internships come in a variety of forms in many agencies, ranging from teaching to medical research at community health clinics. Ideas about one’s future career path become crystalized as students reflect upon their experiences and discover their strongest interests. Although Lindsay isn’t sure what her career goals are, she “love[s] working with kids and know that that will continue to be an important part of [her] life, even if only in a volunteer setting.” Sarbani, who is psychology major, the lessons that she’s gained from volunteering at those particular agencies have given her greater insight into the field of counseling.

SOS and its programs emphasize learning and reflection, helping students to understand the real-life issues. While students gain these lessons, the town benefits from their efforts. SOS is a crucial link between the college and the town of Northampton to improve town-college relations. For the President, “One of my main goals as President is public responsibility. Smith’s commitment to public responsibility has a long and praiseworthy history, from its founding vision of a college connected to the practical life of the town to President Neilson’s erection of the Grecourt Gates as a symbol of the obligation of Smith graduates to serve the world. SOS benefits the college in helping transform this ideal into action.”

“...as a symbol of Smith graduates to serve the world. SOS benefits the college in helping transform this ideal into action.”

- President Christ

Snacks and Stories...

(Continued from page 6)

public relations, considered handicap access and tax deduction, and met a wonderful variety of people, all of whom have contributed to Safe Passage in their own ways. Smith’s Office of the President, Helen Hills Hills Chapel, News Office, Physical Plant, and Office of Disability Services all helped with the planning and fundraising for the event. Local businesses and community members including Northampton Party World, Popcorn Palace, Bela Restaurant, Eric Carle, and Catie Curtis donated snacks, decorations, and raffle prizes. And some truly amazing Smithies gave up a Saturday morning to help the children at Safe Passage.

Safe Passage has been a supportive and rewarding place for long-term service. Many Smithies have undergone the 35-hour training and work in the shelter, legal aide, administrative, and counseling areas of the organization. Safe Passage is always looking for new volunteers, and runs trainings every semester. They ask for at least 4-6 hours of work a week for a year, and are understanding of student schedules. For more information and to be added to the mailing list for Safe Passage’s next training, call the Safe Passage office at 586-1125.

Community Service Internship into its 6th year

SOS is proud to have the following interns for this year’s Community Service Internship Program. After the applications were reviewed, those who were selected were placed with an appropriate agency fit to meet their interests. CONGRATULATIONS!

- Brielle Harbin—Jessie’s House
- Susan Chun—Springfield Schools, Gerena School
- Carina Hatch — Decisional Training
- Inkoo Kang — Springfield Schools, Gerena School
- Elizabeth Goldberg — Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Buddy’s Club
- Jenny Guth — Springfield Schools, Gerena
- Xoria Rordame — Jessie’s House
House Reps: the SOS Lincupin

Continued from page 4

that "when SOS Reps fail to bring home the information, the entire house uninformed. A good House Rep does wonders for house community and gives the house volunteer information that they wouldn’t otherwise have." Reps have advertised for the Community Ed Luncheons, as well as for a slew of long and short-term volunteer projects including "Stories and Snacks," the benefit for Safe Passage and "The Enchanted Forest," a Halloween event for local children, and our annual Fall Blood Drive.

SOS’s House Reps are each liaisons elected from their house. First-year House Rep from Sessions House, Barbara Calvret, wanted to be a House Rep in order to get involved in SOS to find new outlets for her love of community service. "Being a House Rep has giving me a chance to work with organizations I haven’t been involved with before, and even more importantly, it has allowed me to bring my passion for helping people to the rest of my house." From maintaining bright and informative bulletin boards to going door-to-door within their house soliciting donations and volunteers, a House Rep’s work is never done.

Nicole Rodier, of Sessions House, spoke highly of her House Rep, "I feel that there is a real connection to the community. Plus, it helps to have someone who knows about how to get involved, and can help me actually involve myself in programs." SOS offers great opportunities for students to get off-campus and make a difference in the community. It’s the House Reps who bring these volunteer opportunities directly to us, and into our home." As one amusing student, Joan Kubicek, put it "If the house reps can manage to make volunteer work enticing to a gelatinous blob like me, they must be something special!"

Campaigning through AIDS’ Fund Drive

Continued from page 5

ties and one that encompasses many different issues. Under the umbrella of the idea of living with AIDS is the problem of access to health care and drugs, the societal and moral stigma placed upon people who have HIV and AIDS, and the challenges to the family and friends of infected individuals.

There are many agencies in the local area who are working to help people infected with and affected by AIDS, all of which are affected by the major budget cuts that have come with the current economic climate. Some such agencies include Hampshire County/AIDS Care, Tapestry, Arise, and River Valley Counseling Services. All of these agencies provide important services to people who are living with AIDS, and some of them provide important volunteer opportunities for members of the Smith community who are interested in getting involved. For example, Hampshire County/AIDS Care runs a buddy program where a volunteer is matched with an individual who has HIV or AIDS and the two spend a few hours a week together. River Valley Counseling Services runs a drop-in center in Springfield for people infected or affected by AIDS, and they can always use volunteers to serve meals and provide companionship for the clientele.

These two programs provide some great opportunities to get involved in the broader community beyond the Smith bubble and to really make a difference for some people who are currently living with AIDS. Through the fund drive, we are hoping to help you find ways to involve yourself in the greater community, do some volunteer work with people living with AIDS, and help sustain the on-going work of the agencies through your contributions. SOS is teaming up with other organizations on campus, including the Student Global AIDS Campaign, to educate the Smith community about the many issues related to living with AIDS, both in the local and global community. If each member of the Smith community donates just a couple of dollars, we can raise a total of many thousands of dollars that will make a significant difference for people currently living with AIDS right here in our local community.

RECENT NOTICES

• MANNA has a critical need for donations. Please contact Yvonne Freccero—yFreccero@aol.com
• Big Brothers/BIG SISTERS will be holding a Children’s Book Fair at the Northampton High School on Saturday, November 15, from 10 AM to 4 PM. As many as 16 children’s authors will be present. The Fair will benefit the BB/BS program and is in great need for volunteers. Volunteers will work with authors, programming, children’s activities, and general staffing. Volunteers are needed from 8 AM—6 PM and an work in 3 hour shifts. Please contact Ashley Dennis at (413) 253-2591.