Everyone in the Smith circuit is familiar with the concept of big sibs and little sibs. Many houses have big-little sib traditions in which gifts are exchanged and lasting friendships are formed; the big sister/little sister culture is, in fact, very prominent on college campuses. The organization Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Hampshire County matches approximately 160 (up to 180 at times) community youth with community mentors each year, thereby establishing strong bonds between “Bigs” and “Littles.” The unique Kids-to-Campus Big Brothers/Big Sisters program, which was brought to Smith this year, allows for big sisters and little sisters to enjoy each other’s company right on Smith campus.

Ruth Harms, Case Management Supervisor of Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Hampshire County, believes that the Kids-to-Campus program is distinct from typical community big/little placements in that the Smith group of volunteers and their little sisters “feels like a unit” and fosters a real sense of community because everyone is constantly working together in their activities. Big sister Sabrina Antoine says, “What I like most about the program is the feeling of community. Although I am designated to one little sister, I feel as though I am a big sister to the other littles.” The little sisters of Smith students within this program feel very grown-up as a result of being able to spend time with so many big sisters, and they’re learning aspects of etiquette and adult society, says Ruth.

Exactly what do big sisters and their little sisters do at Smith? Take a look!

“My little sister is really shy so I love doing activities with her so that she can get excited about. The week before Halloween we carved a pumpkin together, and we recently baked cookies, nei-

(Continued on page 2)
Kids to Campus

Continued

(Continued from page 1)

ther of which she’d done before. It’s so much fun to be able to introduce these things to her-- and it’s really rewarding when it gets her talking!”
-Samantha Singleton ’11

“JJ and I take walks around campus and talk about life. We sometimes take trips to the library to do homework. We bake cookies together and sometimes we color and talk about values that are important. Two values that we have discussed include the importance of balance (physical and mental balance) and community.”
-Sabrina Antoine ’11

“We’ve had a great time exploring the campus together, watching my crew team do a workout, playing by the pond, hanging out in my room, and doing tye-dye together with the other bigs and littles.”
-Eliza Bryant ’09

“My ‘little sister’, Jenelly, is one year away from middle school, so this time is especially important to her; it is a transition stage from child to young adult. Jenelly expressed an interest in making art and playing games. We have done numerous activities including playing at the Ainsworth gym, painting, and working together on her school projects.”
-Samantha Singleton ’11

Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Hampshire County is always in need of community matches. Anyone can get involved; not only are Smith students desired, but staff and faculty as well. If interested, please contact Ruth Harms at RHarms@chd.org.

Alumnae Reflection

By Stacy Braverman, ’06

Two weeks after graduating from Smith in 2006, I started classes at the University of Michigan. Now that I’m in my final year of a dual degree program in law and urban planning, it’s easy to reflect back on the ways that SOS (now CSO or Community Service Office) influenced my life after Smith.

Most directly, and most im-
The Fall ’08 Blood drive was a success!
By Cora-lee Picone, CSO Blood Drive Chair

The CSO and the Red Cross would like to thank the Smith community for making the Fall 2008 blood drive a success! There was an excellent turnout of donors and volunteers. Thanks to all of the donors who helped contribute.

There were 210 presenting donors and 163 productive donors. The drive helped save the lives of 489 patients!

In case you are wondering who your donation helps, here is a brief breakdown. Each donation is separated into three parts: red blood cells, platelets, and plasma. Red blood cells are used in heart, liver, and kidney transplants as well as in Cancer treatment. Patients who are accident victims, premature babies, or have sickle cell disease also need red blood cells. Platelets are used in cancer treatment, open heart surgery, and bone marrow transplants. Plasma is used in liver transplants and open heart surgery.

We will be holding a spring semester blood drive on February 11th (1-7 pm in CC Carroll Room) and February 12th (11 am-5 pm in CC Carroll Room). To schedule a time to donate or ask questions, contact Cora Lee Picone: cpicon.e@email.smith.edu

We hope that the success of the Fall drive will inspire donors to donate again.

National Public Service:
The Spirit of Community Responsibility
By Caredwen Foley, CSO Chairwoman

Over the last few years, service has come into vogue in a big way. 27% of Americans engage in volunteer activities, up by 6 points over the last two decades. This election saw legions of young people across the country volunteering for a cause—in this case, a political one. The power of individual activism to accomplish goals was nowhere more evident than in the outcome of this election. In his victory speech on November 4, President-elect Obama discussed the need for “a new spirit of service, a new spirit of sacrifice.” But what are the best ways to encourage this spirit of service?

The idea of a national public service requirement has gained some traction over the last several months. It generally takes this shape: All high school graduates, prior to entering college or the workforce, would for one year engage in some type of public service, either military or civilian. Many American universities already have some type of service requirement; Tulane is a notable example. The national service requirement is a popular idea: one poll in 2002 showed that 64% of Americans favored instituting such a requirement. Volunteers’ efforts could be targeted to their communities. Perhaps they would help build green housing for those in need. Perhaps they would tutor students in struggling schools.

Two former Teach for America teachers, Chris Myers Asch and Shawn Raymond, have proposed a U.S. Public Service Academy. Modeled after America’s military academies, this institution would allow talented students devoted to public service to attend, free of tuition, with a five-year commitment to public service following graduation. It can be difficult, particularly given the record cost of tuition and the current economic climate, for high-school students who wish to engage in public service to afford to do so. A national academy would allow students of lower socioeconomic status the same opportunity those of us privileged enough to attend colleges like Smith enjoy.

Individual institutions are doing their best to encourage civic participation. We are fortunate at Smith to have an active and well-organized Community Service Office, with a board of dedicated students and a slate of passionate volunteers and skilled staff. But not every college, not every city puts such an emphasis on community service. Perhaps a national call to service is the

Fall ‘08 Blood Drive Stats:
Hubbard House: large House with most donors
Hopkins House: small House with highest percentage of donors

Congrats!

College Departments
Student Orgs
Chapel Groups
Teams
Houses

CSO is here to help organize projects for you! Do you want to get involved in the community? Get together with your organization, house, or group of friends and volunteer for a one-day community service project! Some possible projects are:

- Harvesting food for people in need
- Constructing affordable housing for families
- Conserving trails at a wildlife sanctuary
- Reading letters and wrapping books requested by/for prisoners

Please contact the Community Service Office at x2793 or email swingie@smith.edu if you have any questions or want more information about arranging a project.
House Community Service & Sustainability ‘08-09
By Elena Iannaccone

House community, how’s yours? That’s the question President Carol T. Christ poses each and every year while reviewing the House Sustainability and Community Service Project portfolios. Since the fall of 2005, the administration had made an effort to acknowledge house involvement and impact on the greater community through both service and sustainability efforts. At the end of the year, participating houses put together a compilation of any volunteer, service oriented or sustainability undertakings. This portfolio, ranging from a typed timeline to a photo journal, is then submitted to Hannah Durrant - the Assistant Director of Residential Life - and Tiertza-Leah Schwartz – the Director of Volunteer Services. After analyzing all of the entries, the selection committee divides the annual budget of $2500 amongst the notable houses. The recipients are then able to donate their earnings to a charity of choice. Previously acknowledged projects include Park House’s numerous activities, culminating in an award for Prison Book Project, which provided letters, gifts and money for local prisons and Morrow House’s green-theme project with donations to Nuestras Raices and the Food Bank of Western MA.

This year’s competition has already proven to be stiff. Several houses have engaged in both short term and long-term community involvement. Halloween tricker-or-treating, weekly trips to the Massachusetts Society of Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and Food Bank, Prison Book Project and Relay for Life involvement are just a few examples of Smithies Community involvement. Completed projects are due on April 9, and the Recognition Reception will be held on April 18.

So how can you help win some cash for your favorite non-profit? Get involved! You can talk to your CSO house representative to organize both short-term and long-term service projects, go to the CSO website for opportunities, or contact the director. Get a group of your housemates together and organize a household food drive for local pantries, or set up a time for farm work, helping in a local school, or holding a benefit. The options are endless, but the dead line is not; completed projects are due on April 9. Decisions will be made on the

Alumnae Reflection
Continued from page 2

of becoming a part of my new hometown. During my three years in Michigan, I’ve cooked and served meals at a soup kitchen, played with babies and toddlers at a day care center for homeless and recently-housed children, donated blood, organized a toiletry drive for a homeless shelter, and helped people complete and troubleshoot their food stamp applications. Breaking out of the law school bubble has helped me meet interesting people and really expanded my view of the city of Ann Arbor.

Just as Smith’s Community Service Office focuses on service-based learning, I’ve been able to link my academic life and my community involvement. Leading SOS meetings in college gave me the confidence to speak up in law school classes. Interacting with food stamp applicants and recipients inspired an article I’m writing for the Michigan Journal of Law

The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts
Park House Knits for Charity 2007/2008

Morrow House Goes Green 2007/2008

Reform about how adjusting the food stamp disbursement schedule could enable more grocery stores to operate in low-income urban areas. Participating in a clinical program at the law school, where students represented a community group in Southwest Detroit, helped me come up with a topic for my urban planning thesis—and the community group will be able to use the thesis as it works to strengthen its neighborhood. The benefits keep flowing, and they don’t just flow in one direction.

Participating in SOS while at Smith also accustomed me to rigorous, academic, analysis of my volunteer activities. I mean this in two
I’m spending the two years after graduation as a public service fellow in Washington, DC. I’ll be representing low-income clients in public benefits and rental housing matters, and I know that the skills and opportunities that working with SOS has afforded me was a great benefit, and will be throughout my career.

Alumnae Reflection

Continued

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ways: first, when I evaluate programs to decide where to donate money or where I will work, I have the skills to determine whether a program is functional and sustainable. And secondly, I learned to theorize service. What is my role in an organization or a community-- am I a servant, an advocate, an observer, or something else entirely, and why does it matter? How does my race, class, gender, sexual orientation, etc. affect how I see the people I work with, and how they see me? Is “service” really the right term for what I’m doing? Who is becoming advantaged or empowered by the work, and how? These are just a few of the things I’ve wondered about, and I certainly can’t say I’ve come up with many answers. But I’ve learned to value the questions themselves.

CSO Accepting Applications for 2009-2010 Executive Board

The Community Service Office is now accepting applications for our 2009-2010 Executive Board, which is comprised of 10 members. Consider applying if you would like to: demonstrate leadership by organizing events and volunteer opportunities; help Smith students connect with and effect change in our local community; strengthen your commitment to and knowledge of our local community; and work with other stellar Smithies on the Executive Board. Please contact us at sos@email.smith.edu or see our website (www.smith.edu/cso) for more information and an application. Applications are due on March 11th.

Community Service Board Positions and Descriptions: Get Involved!

CHAIRWOMAN (1) Help ensure that the CSO philosophy is carried out. Keep all the board members informed and linked together as a unit. Chair weekly board meetings. Set the tone for the organization. Convey enthusiasm and act as a spokesperson for the organization to college officials and the community at large. Meet regularly with the Director of Voluntary Services.

SHORT-TERM CO-CHAIRS (2)
Develop and continue new and ongoing short-term volunteer projects each month. Recruit students to volunteer for short-term projects in the community. Coordinate details and transportation. Maintain contact with agencies and volunteers throughout projects.

COMMUNITY EDUCATION CHAIR (1) Educate the Smith community about community concerns and issues and showcase CSO volunteers and service-learning opportunities through the Community Education Luncheons. Organize 3-4 gatherings/discussions per semester.

CHAIR OF HOUSE REPS (1)
Organize bi-monthly informational meetings for the CSO house reps. Act as a liaison between this group and the Board. Provide the reps with a forum to discuss ideas and concerns. Promote volunteerism and participate in short-term and ongoing community projects.

FUND DRIVE CO-CHAIRS (2)
Coordinate the student fund drive by targeting a community service issue. Develop educational material concerning the issue. Plan effective solicitation procedures and events to educate the community. Train CSO House Reps to solicit for the Drive. Publicize the event for the Smith community. Select the beneficiary of the Fund Drive. Meet regularly with the Director of Voluntary Services throughout the year to facilitate planning and carrying out the Drive. Meet specific deadlines in the fall in terms of planning the Drive and producing publicity materials.

BLOOD DRIVE CHAIR (1) Coordinate the 2 blood drives, in the fall and spring. Work with the American Red Cross staff on recruitment and publicity. Recruit volunteers and donors for the Red Cross. Plan Bone Marrow Registration drives each semester.

NEWSLETTER CHAIR (1) Assign and edit articles for the bi-semester CSO newsletter. Help write and/or edit the monthly What’s Up in Your Community bulletin.

*RECRUITMENT OUTREACH INTERN (1) Provide information to the Smith community on placements and community service opportunities. Schedule, attend, and document agency site visits for new or ongoing agencies. Recruit volunteers from the Smith community to work for one semester or longer in over 50 human service agencies. Organize the 2 recruitment fairs in the fall and spring. Maintain contact with agencies and volunteers throughout placement.

* This is a paid position, thru OCIP (On Campus Internship Program) - contact Director, Tierta-Leah Schwartz, x2758, for info.

WE’RE ON THE WEB!
HTTP://WWW.SMITH.EDU/CSO
National Public Service: The Spirit of Community Responsibility

(Continued from page 3)

best way to get people engaged, to encourage the sense that people have certain responsibilities toward one another. The community, the country, and the world need a hand. Americans are willing to lend one—they just need to be asked.

Sources:
Roper Center for Public Opinion Research

CSO Short-term Projects for ‘08-’09 included:

- Food Bank Farm (September)
- Jackson Street School refurbishing the playground (October)
- Hitchcock Center’s Enchanted Forest (October)
- AIDS Care mailing for fundraiser (October)
- AIDS Care Chocolate Buffet and Auction fundraiser (November)
- Hot Chocolate Run to Benefit Safe Passage (December)
- Winter Gifts (December)
- Holiday for the Homeless (December)
- MLK Day Volunteers (January)

Thanks to all of the Volunteers!

FYI: Join CSO on Sat., 2/14, 9 am - 1 pm for a short-term project at the Deerfield Chocolate Festival in Old Deerfield. Contact Dana Stuehling (dstuehli@smith.edu) or Hanna Meghji (hmeghji@smith.edu) for more info or to sign up.

Winter Gifts
Partnership with Hilltown Churches’ Pantry

This year, as in the past, the Community Service Office participated in the Winter Gifts program with the Hilltown Churches’ Pantry. Through the generosity of 22 houses and 23 student organizations, faculty, departments, staff members, and individuals, 68 children were sponsored and provided with presents this holiday season. Thanks to all who contributed to this great cause during these difficult economic times. Also, thanks to Elena Iannacone, Head of House Reps; Dana Stuebling & Hanna Meghji, Short Term Projects Co-Chairs and Bonnie Coleman from the Pantry for all the help, emails, and coordinating.

THANK YOU ESPECIALLY TO ALL SPONSORS

Last year, 135 people used the pantry. By December of this year, 164 were using the pantry. By December, there were 182 children needing sponsors for Winter Gifts. Most of those using the pantry are working poor and many have more than one job. Sizes of families can vary from one to ten and a recent trend is for families to move in with each other to save costs, including transportation to and from the pantry to pick up food. The Pantry is an all volunteer organization providing food to residents of the Western Franklin County Hilltowns and is located in rural Ashfield.

Spring Driver Certification Training dates are:

January 29, Thursday, CC 103/104 at 12:15 to 12:45 p.m.
February 3, Tuesday, CC 205 at 5:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.
February 11, Wednesday, CC 103/104 at 12:15 to 12:45 p.m.
February 20, Friday, CC 103/104 at 12:15 to 12:45 p.m.

The Defensive Driving dates are:

February 9, Monday, CC 205 at 2:00 to 3:00 p.m.
February 26, Thursday, Seelye 106 at 5:00 to 6:00 p.m.
**Decisional Training/Thresholds: Work with Inmates**

Interested in working with inmates to learn decision-making, problem-solving, and life-planning skills? Training for this program is February 21st and 22nd and last day for the semester is Wednesday 5/6. For more information, contact Sherrill Ashton at 582-3053 or Janet Dahlberg at 586-1640.

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**Tutoring Opportunities for Spring Semester**

Do you like children? Would you like to make a difference? Interested in volunteering? If so, please consider these opportunities:

**Tutors for Somali Refugee Elementary School Students Needed**

This small and specialized tutorial program for recent immigrants at the White Street School in Springfield assists Somali children who have many educational and transitional needs and who benefit from individual tutoring. Assist students in language art classes, vocabulary, and reading. Transportation is available for certified drivers and may be provided if drivers can be recruited. Currently, we are looking for a driver and tutors for Friday mornings and tutors for Mondays and/or Wednesday afternoons; a 3 hour block of time is needed. Other days and times may be available, especially for certified drivers. For more information, contact Tierza-Leah Schwartz at tschwart@email.smith.edu.

**Volunteer at Homework House**

Homework House, a non-profit, free tutoring and mentoring program in Holyoke, seeks caring and dedicated volunteers to provide academic assistance and guidance to at-risk children in grades 1-8, to serve as positive role models, and to be able to relate and communicate with children. Teams from Smith will leave in a CSO van each afternoon Mon. – Thurs. at 3:00 pm and return at 5:45 pm. Anticipated needs at Homework House for the spring semester are 2 tutors for Mondays, 3 on Wednesdays, and 4 for Tuesdays and Thursdays. For info, contact Homework House: hpedroholyoke@aol.com, Maureen Broughan ssj, and to arrange transportation, email Sherry: swingfie@smith.edu.

**Smith College/Gerena After-School Enrichment and Tutoring Program**

With the support of the Smith College Office of Educational Outreach and the Education Department, Smith students help Gerena Elementary school teachers in the North End of Springfield provide after-school enrichment programming for 3rd-5th grade students. Smith tutors work one-on-one and with small groups of children on Mondays and/or Wednesdays, 3:30-5 p.m. Enrichment programs include dance, music, media arts, murals, science, and school newspaper, and digital story telling. Transportation provided. Work study available through America Reads. For more information, contact Doug Winsor at dwinson@smith.edu, x3186.

**Connections Program for Middle-schoolers seeks volunteers**

Students are needed to facilitate enrichment clubs or assist with club activities - Mural Projects, Nature Clubs, Tae Kwon Do Clubs and Dance for an 8-week session, beginning 1/26 or 3/31. Programs runs Monday through Thursday only and enrichment activities are usually once per week from 4:20 – 5:50 pm. Tutoring also available. For more info, contact Karen at Connections: 413-335-5523 or kguillette@hps.holyoke.ma.us.

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**Help Save a Life**

**CSO Blood Drive & Bone Marrow Registration**

**Wednesday, February 11th 11 am – 5 pm**
**Thursday, February 14th 1 pm – 7 pm**

Carroll Room, Campus Center

For an appointment, please email sos@smith.edu

Appointments are recommended and will be taken first, but walk-ins are always welcome.

For more specific donor information, check out [www.givelife.org](http://www.givelife.org) or call 1-800-GIVELIFE

**POSITIVE ID REQUIRED**
Fair Food: This Year’s Fund Drive Takes on Hunger and Sustainability

By Molly Sauvain

Each year, CSO’s fund drive attempts to highlight a particular local need. Fund Drive Co-chairs Elizabeth Moncure and Molly Sauvain wanted to find a theme that could make a dent in local hunger, appeal to Smithies’ green movement fervor, and support local farms and sustainable agriculture. To combine all three, the money raised will go to local food pantries, where they will use the funds to provide local produce to their clients. The failing economy places more families below the poverty line each day. This generation’s youth may have the unfortunate distinction of a future with less than that of their parents. House Reps will be collecting donations from February to March, in the hopes that enough money can be raised to make even the smallest dent in this monumental need.

We may all be struggling under our crumbling economy, but take a moment to think what it would be like to not have enough money to feed your children, let alone clothe them or buy them Christmas presents. This is a reality for a surprising number of families.

This year’s drive seeks to ask fundamental questions and spark a conversation across campus. Who is hungry? Why are people hungry? What structures are in place that prevent those in poverty access to nutritional, healthy food? What place does farming have in our nation’s economy? What is our relationship with what we eat? In April, a local foods dinner will be held in order to place these questions into conversation. Speakers from local pantries and farms will present their close-up view.

**EVENTS:**

**Fund Drive:**
February 12-March 12
Donate to provide the hungry in our community with healthy local produce

**Community Ed Luncheon:**
February 26th, 12pm
Dewey Common Room
Come to learn about volunteering opportunities and enjoy a free lunch!

**Coming to the Table:**
March or April TBD
A local foods dinner complete with speakers, a raffle, and an informal conversation on poverty, food insecurity and agriculture.

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Community Service Fair

STUDENTS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

February 3, 2009
Tuesday, 4:30 - 6:00 pm
Campus Center Carroll Rm.
Meet Staff from Local Agencies
Free Pizza while it Lasts

Questions?
Call 2793 or email SOS@email.smith.edu

The Community Service Office is moving back to the Chapel into renovated offices. Stop by to check us out in the lower level after the second week of February.