

RAYS OF SUNSHINE

Volume 3, Issue 1

November 2007

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**2007-2008
Executive
Committee**

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Agency Liaison

Carolyn Arendacs

Outreach

Amy Tam

Laura Arendacs

Social

Stephanie Mulhern

Kamaria O'Reagan

**A special welcome to
our new freshman**

ambassador

Anna Heleniak

Welcome From the Executive Director

By Eric Melchior

Hello and welcome to another year with Rays of Sunshine. I am the new Executive Director for this year and I am excited to announce that we are growing and branching out into several new directions. There have been some changes to our committee, and with the addition of the new Agency Liaison position (Carolyn Arendacs) we are working hand in hand with several agencies to provide better programming for our volunteers. Morrison high school and Project Home are two sites that are benefiting from this addition and we hope to add more new locations for next semester.

Another new trip we are planning is a trip to St.

Christopher's hospital as a new site for the Project Sunshine trip. Project Sunshine is a national organization that helps college students find hospitals to volunteer at. We will be visiting children in the pediatric unit once a month and making arts/crafts projects with them. If you are interested in volunteering for Project Sunshine, we will be requiring an application, which will be available soon in the Rays of Sunshine office (Dougherty 215).

Rays Night was once again a grand success this year as several agencies visited campus and attended a Villanova football game (for more information on Rays Night see the article by Events Director Ali Bausch).

Sunshine Day also promises to be bigger and better than ever this year, so be on the look out for applications for the Sunshine Day committee in the spring.

Thank you all for volunteering with Rays of Sunshine. I know that with your help we will be able to make Rays of Sunshine grow tremendously and we will bring much needed service to the greater Philadelphia Area.



Fundraising: New Ideas, Old Favorites

By Allison Sing and Liz Toledo

With the excitement of each new school year is the excitement of new fundraisers. We have some great ideas for this school year, including t-shirts with funny pick-up lines, fortune cookies with Valentine's Day themed messages for our Valentine's Day fundraiser, and even a dance competition.

Rays of Sunshine is preparing for our fundraising event for the semester. Our

first fundraising event will take place right before Thanksgiving. We will be selling creative and fun t-shirts with funny pick-up lines. Also, since there are so many shows on television with dance competitions, what better than a dance competition of our own at Villanova? Rays of Sunshine will be hosting a dance competition, and students from all organizations are invited

to participate. Additionally, because our fortune cookie fundraiser was such a success last year, we are continuing with it this year.

We are so excited about our upcoming events, but in order for them to be successful, we really need your help. So support Rays of Sunshine by spreading the word about our events and contributing to our fundraisers.

Amazing Rays Day

By Ali Bausch

A potential poncho crisis was evaded when the sun decided to shine for Rays Day 2007, held on Saturday, October 27th, 2007. Thankfully, the weather was perfectly autumnal, despite the foreboding rainy forecast. Our third annual Rays Day proved to be an afternoon of fun. Students whom we tutor during the school year (ages 12-18) were invited to the Villanova campus. Approximately 45 teens plus their chaperones arrived from Mt. Zion in Norristown, Northern Home, and Universal Charter School in Philadelphia.

Upon arrival, our guests were given a private campus tour, led by Assistant Fundraising Director, Liz Toledo. The tour spanned from South campus to the church, Connelly, and Bartley, and finally the new athletic facilities. Wonderfully designed T-shirts were then distributed to our guests and Villanova volunteers. After some impromptu wiffle ball on the grassy knoll, we enjoyed an early dinner (or a late lunch) at the Spit. Goody bags were

distributed to each of our guests to thank them for coming to Villanova.

After dinner, we departed for the football game and arrived at the stadium at around 3:30 in the afternoon. We landed great seats in the student section and enjoyed an exciting game of football! During the course of the game, the kids snapped a few pictures with the Wildcat. In the end, our football team was victorious against Hofstra and we were grateful to meet with 15 or 16 of the football players after the game for autographs. The kids got their T-shirts and programs signed by the beaming athletes.

Overall, Rays Day was a magnificent success, mostly thanks to the organization and coordination efforts of co-Events Director, Caitlin Devlin. The Villanova volunteers, the football players, the Executive Board members, Lori Blake, and the athletic liaisons made the day a wonderful experience for our 45 guests. Next October, we hope to match our success of Rays Day.

In addition to the components of the 2007 Rays Day experience, we hope to provide snacks or gift certificates for stadium food during the next football game (as suggested by Assistant Social Director, Kamaria Sadiqa O'Reagan). Additionally, we hope to coordinate a rain plan in the Butler Annex.

We look forward to next year's expanding annual event and we can't wait to start planning for Sunshine Day in the spring!!

"The kids got their T-shirts and programs signed by the beaming athletes."



Helpful Tips for Tutors

Source: <http://www.csufresno.edu/scs/reads/tutortips.html>

- *Take time to get to acquainted.
- * Keep you student on task. For example, if your student brings up another subject, suggest you can discuss it after the lesson.
- * Get students to relate what they are learning to their own life experience.
- * Give positive praise.
- * Try asking students how they think they did or evaluate their

own response.
REMEMBER: The most important single characteristic you need as a Mentor is a real caring for young people. This feeling must be genuine. Here are a few tips to help you develop that special rapport with your students.
* Learn to look at each student individually, and value

the student for what he/she is.
* As a mentor, your first aim is to help the student see himself/herself as one who CAN learn and WANTS to learn.
* Set your sights high for the student and he/she will respond. Have confidence that the student can learn.

- * Explore ways to set up the kind of rapport that is needed to spark learning. The personal interest that you show in the student may be the catalyst that makes him/her recognize his/her own worth and his/her ability to achieve.
- * One way to show interest is to listen to what the student has to say - ask for his/her opinion.
* When you talk, talk naturally. Think of working WITH the student rather than talking at the student.

Once and Done Opportunities

By Amy Tam and Laura Arendacs

Don't have time to make a weekly commitment to Rays of Sunshine, but still want to get involved with the organization? Well, Rays of Sunshine offers one-time volunteer opportunities called Once-and-Dones. Once-and-Dones are usually scheduled on Saturday mornings or afternoons with a variety of agencies that need our help! You can sign up on the bulletin board outside of Dougherty 215. These opportunities are work-study eligible too!

This semester, we have

participated in Books through Bars, where our volunteers read letters from prisoners and selected books that best matched their requests. We also took part in National Public Lands Day where volunteers restored and painted water fountains throughout Valley Forge National Park. Our volunteers also lent a helping hand with a pet drive at the Free Library of Philadelphia in Overbrook, and participated in Boo at the Zoo at the Philadelphia Zoo! Other agencies we worked with this semester include Pathway and

Eagleville Hospital.

We are currently planning the Once-and Done schedule for the spring semester. Some organizations that we are in touch with include the Philadelphia Food Bank, Vista-Care, and Inglis House. If you had suggestions or activities you would like us schedule, please feel free to contact us at amy.tam@villanova.edu or laura.arendacs@villanova.edu. In the meantime, check out the Rays of Sunshine bulletin board for new sign up sheets!



“Once and Dones are usually scheduled on Saturdays with a variety of agencies that need our help!”

Looking Forward to Sunshine Day

By Caitlin Devlin

Now that Rays Day has come and gone, it's time to dust off the old binders and start thinking about Sunshine Day. We are in the process of setting a date but are hoping for a (sunny) day in late April. Last years event was perfect, and we hope to duplicate that success this upcoming year. In years past, planning usually began just after Winter break, but this year we are hoping to have the basics solidified before Christmas.

We are currently considering scaling down the committee and adding agency chairs, specifically responsible for recruiting, closer to the date. We are also hoping to gain larger donations earlier on so we have a more relaxed budget.

Last year, we added a new component to the day. Partially thanks to the warmer, sunnier weather, the field day portion of the festivities, which were held on the front West

Campus quad, was both enjoyable to the kids as well as the volunteers. They were organized, planned, and run by our Sunshine Day committee game chairs, including this years co-Events Director, Ali Bausch. She did a phenomenal job of developing games that were feasible with the space available and exciting to the kids, while incorporating the theme “Around the World”.

This year, we strive for

the same success. In addition to continuing to expand the activities for the kids, we hope to add a sort of “gift basket” for the agencies that take the time to attend. With the help of donations, we hope to put together baskets of supplies, or financial support to help build the programs at the schools we tutor. We look forward to adding this component successfully to better the agencies supplies for education.

We look forward to our larger annual event, and hope to hype the event to all of our volunteers. Start thinking of themes! We can't wait!

The Social Side

By Stephanie Mulhern and Kamaria O'Reagan

This year the social committee hopes to continue some of our favorite events from past years as well as plan some fun new social events. Rays of Sunshine will again be hosting a s'mores and hot chocolate gift wrapping night in December, so get ready for some holiday spirit and an ex-

cess of chocolate! We also plan to put together a movie night featuring nostalgic childhood favorites, such as Disney and Nickelodeon classics. We will be planning dinner get-togethers and a possible executive board trip to New York City. One major new event that we hope to take on this spring

is a formal or banquet for students to celebrate a year of service. In order to expand the occasion we are looking into inviting students participating in all community service organizations on campus. We'll be keeping you posted, and we hope to see you at some of this year's fun events!

