

RHODES UNIVERSITY

STUDENT COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT HANDBOOK

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RHODES UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

FOREWORD FROM THE VICE CHANCELLOR

Our University's mission proclaims that we shall strive "through community service to contribute to the development of the Eastern Cape", and that we shall "foster the all-round development of our students".

Community engagement provides the opportunities to put our commitments into practice and to exemplify our values through deeds and action. It is an attempt to harness the social commitment, knowledge, expertise and skills of our staff and students and put them to work to forge mutually respectful, beneficial and reciprocal relationships with defined constituencies, institutions, organisations, groups and individuals.

The interactions that are sought are of mutual value, in that as much as we seek to help build the institutional capabilities of specific institutions and organisations, and the capacities of particular defined constituencies and individuals, we also seek to develop as individuals and citizens, and as an institution, through process of discovery, listening, understanding and contributing.

Necessary and invaluable as academic disciplines and formal study are, the reality is that there is a limit to how much you can learn, develop, and discover yourself through books, lectures and essays alone. There is simply no substitute for actual involvement in student, youth, and community organisations and projects and issue-based movements if one wishes to acquire more knowledge, further enhance one's understanding of the world, and extend one's skills and competencies.

Community engagement is a bridge to the acquisition on the part of our students, staff and the University as a whole of more knowledge and greater awareness and understanding of social realities, and the development on the part of staff and students of new and additional skills and competencies. At the same time, it represents a necessary and welcome engagement on the part of the different sections of the Rhodes community with the social ills, problems, and challenges of our town and exemplifies the commitment to address these.

Finally, it helps us as an institution to give further expression to the idea of universities promoting critical and democratic citizenship, contributing to widening educational and social opportunities and to local economic and social development, and advancing the public good.

Dr Saleem Badat

CONCEPTUALIZING COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT (CE) AND ISSUES FOR DEBATE

According to the Council for Higher Education (CHE) Community Engagement can be defined as initiatives and processes through which the expertise of the institution in the areas of teaching and research are applied to address issues relevant to its community.

To this definition we can add that community engagement is a two way process of learning because staff and students of the institution are continuously learning as they interact with the external community. Dissemination, generation and reconstruction of knowledge are practical outcomes of community engagement.

The definition of CE can be categorised into 2 sections, which are social and academic CE:

- Social CE refers to the work that students initiate in societies and residences as student volunteers and also the involvement of students as volunteers placed with community partner organisations
- Academic CE refers to the community projects which are distinctive to the scholarly work of universities. This involves the application of academic teaching and research to the benefit of communities in a mutual interchange for the good of all involved. An example of this would be service learning that Pharmacy students do as well as penultimate law students in the Legal Aid clinic.

A critical question that encompasses the debate on CE is: "who is the community?"

- There is the perception that white people live atomistic and layered lives in suburbs whilst black people live in uniform "communities" represented in urban areas by "leaders" and in rural areas by "chiefs, headmen or traditional leaders".
- One should also not assume that working with "the community" means working with formerly disadvantaged people only. Amongst the many communities that higher education institutions serve are industry and government.
- One of the issues being debated at Rhodes at the moment as it works towards a more rigorous conceptualisation of community engagement is the geographical nature of its community. Some would argue for a focus on the needs of the immediate locality – others would include the Eastern Cape Province, still others, the African continent. Is the international community one of Rhodes' communities of engagement?

SUMMARY OF THE GUIDELINES TO EXCELLENCE IN COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AT RHODES UNIVERSITY

- It is important for students to note that the people we work with are from different socio-economic backgrounds and they are individuals with thoughts, ideas, feelings, and experiences and that they are not just “subjects” or “objects” of a community engagement project. Different world views need to be taken into consideration. Therefore it is important to try to put our own beliefs to one side temporarily and put ourselves “in the place of the other”, i.e. try to imagine what it must be like to view the world from the perspective of the people we work with.
- When participating in community development one needs to be aware of the power dynamics that can take place. Power is established by who controls what form and direction the community engagement should take, why it is implemented, how it is implemented, and the outcome of the engagement. Every person involved in a community engagement project is the locus of different types of power.
- When initiating a community engagement project, we should remember the principle of working “with” community partners and not “for” them.
- The principles of participation, ownership, learning and sustainability which are the foundations of the community development process should be incorporated in the initiation stage of a CE activity/project.
- Community Engagement should not be seen as a one-way process. Rather it is a reciprocal two-way learning process. For example, staff and students bring to the process their academic knowledge (to be tested in reality) and resources, while the community members bring “access to and understanding of people, traditions, and culture of the community”. The Learning Action Reflection (LAR) framework for community engagement to be implemented in 2010 is intended to benefit students learning process and self development.
- We need to look for common goals and interests. This means listening carefully and actively to the ideas and voice of others.
- There should be no coercion from project initiators on community members or staff and students to participate. In general, if someone does not wish to participate in a project this must be respected.
- Co-ordination of CE activities/projects is essential if we want to make a real difference to the communities we engage with as an institution. Therefore, the co-ordination of all CE activities/projects by the Community Engagement Unit is necessary to avoid duplication of projects, address gaps, make a positive impact and be able to assess the impact of CE activities by Rhodes University staff and students.
- Annual reporting on all community engagement activities will be required by means of an internal and external monitoring and evaluation system to be implemented during 2010.

Rhodes University Community Engagement Unit

VISION

The Community Engagement Unit of Rhodes University is internationally recognised and respected as a leader in Community Engagement and for its commitment to social transformation, sustainable community development, student civic responsibility and a reciprocal process of knowledge dissemination.

MISSION

In pursuit of its vision and that of Rhodes University, the Community Engagement Unit will endeavour to promote, develop and channel the civic and social responsibility of all students, student bodies and staff of Rhodes University through various community engagement activities, thereby contributing to sustainable human and community development in Grahamstown and the Eastern Cape as a whole.

RHODES UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT (RUCE) UNIT

The Community Engagement Unit is a recent initiative and currently being established at Rhodes University. In the past, Rhodes University CE activities were managed by the Centre for Social Development. Following national policy on higher education community engagement, CE is located as a core function of Rhodes University and integral to teaching, learning and research.

The Community Engagement Unit aims to:

- contribute to the vision and mission of Rhodes University through focused and collaborative CE activities
- coordinate all university community engagement activities and give strategic directions where needed
- promote leadership development of students in order to foster and enhance civic and social responsibilities
- facilitate outreach programmes, volunteerism and service learning which are developmental in their approach
- promote service learning in collaboration with academic departments and community partners
- utilise expertise, skills and resources for capacitating and educating community and university partners on community engagement
- contribute to knowledge production and dissemination of knowledge through the functions of teaching and learning and research
- contribute to the sustainable development of Grahamstown communities
- contribute to the development of the Eastern Cape Province through partnership with provincial government departments, NGOs and other institutions of higher learning in the Province

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Grahamstown, home to Rhodes University, is situated in the Eastern Cape which is one of the poorest provinces in South Africa. Facing Rhodes across the valley live an estimate of 100 000 people, more than half of whom are unemployed. Rhodes University fulfils an active role in the community development of Grahamstown and the Eastern Cape through focused and targeted interventions within its area of expertise. The University is involved in a wide and diverse range of community initiatives in the Eastern Cape, through both staff and students. These take place on many different levels, from involvement at government policy level and ground-breaking research to practical, effective intervention at a community level.

Rhodes University's community engagement initiatives are centrally co-ordinated through the Community Engagement Unit and networked with its community development partners, which include NGOs, CBOs, institutions, government and the private sector, ensuring effective intervention to the mutual benefit of students and the community. Some projects have been commended by local and provincial government and have enjoyed international acclaim, particularly the work of the Environmental Education and Sustainability Unit. An ethos of community service within the University staff and student body is expressed through sharing knowledge, resources and skills transfer.

Outstanding Community Engagement programmes include the Legal Aid Clinics in Grahamstown and Queenstown as well as the work that the Rhodes Mobile Biology Laboratory and the Rhodes University Mathematics Education Project are doing in raising marks in under-resourced Eastern Cape schools. Another high profile project providing invaluable service to the community is the Public Service Accountability Monitor (PSAM). PSAM is an independent monitoring and research institute based at Rhodes. It monitors issues around government transparency and accountability; and gathers and publishes information on the management of public resources and the handling of misconduct and corruption cases by government departments.

To find out more please go to www.ru.ac.za/community

Increasingly Rhodes University sees its most effective and significant involvement with its community as best achieved by means of strategic community partnerships. Vice Chancellor Dr. Saleem Badat has since his arrival in 2006, identified two major community partnerships, one with Makana Municipality and the other is the High Schools Partnership, which he sees as priority projects for University participation and support. As such the University is currently engaged in ongoing discussions with the Makana Municipality and other community partners regarding strategic interventions such as the proposed Makana Edutourism Partnership and a multifaceted strategic intervention geared at channelling intellectual resources to 7 historically disadvantaged High Schools in Grahamstown East.

Rhodes University Student Community Engagement Activities

In the current South African context, volunteerism is seen as becoming a “permanent feature of our society”. Rhodes University actively encourages volunteerism in communities through a variety of student community engagement activities.

STUDENT VOLUNTEER PROGRAMME (SVP)

The fast-expanding Student Volunteer Programme (SVP) is one of the programmes within the Community Engagement Unit. Over the past seven years, Rhodes University through the Centre for Social Development which facilitated the SVP, gave Rhodes University students an opportunity to go beyond their academic environment and take their particular skills to NGOs and schools in the Grahamstown community. There are also a variety of opportunities available through Halls of Residences, Sport-clubs and Societies to initiate CE activities and participate as a volunteer.



How can I get involved in volunteering and community activities at Rhodes?

Whether through existing departmental projects, a residence initiative, clubs and societies, the High Schools Tutoring Initiative, the CE/SRC Fundraising Initiative, or the CE's Student Volunteer Programme, there are a variety of avenues for students to get involved during their time at Rhodes University.



Community Engagement Special Events Team

Students who cannot commit to weekly volunteering are encouraged to register on the database of ad hoc volunteers who are contacted when we assist affiliate organisations such as Grahamstown Hospice, Gadra, Red Cross, Child Welfare, Settler's Hospital, and the Society for Disabled with special one-off functions such as community fun days, children's parties and street collections. Notices will also be placed in the SVP co-ordinator's office. Interested volunteers may then register to assist in the project.

How can First years get involved?

We have found in the past that due to their multiple course loads 1st years often find it difficult to find a placement within the Student Volunteer Programme that fits in with their timetable.

They also have residence, sports and society commitments and need time to adapt to university routine. As such application from students in their 2nd, 3rd and 4th years are given preference over those of 1st years when allocating the available placements.

For this reason, first years are only allowed to register for the Volunteer Programme in July for placement in the second semester. This does not mean that eager 1st years cannot get involved before then. All 1st years who are interested in volunteering are encouraged to visit the SVP Coordinator to discuss possible placements and CE activities.

Sports Clubs, Societies, Halls of Residence and Oppidans

Sports Clubs, Societies, Halls of Residence and Oppidans are encouraged to engage in community initiatives. In particular Rotaract, *Masincedane*, ROAR, GRASS and Sharc are community service orientated societies that welcome new members interested in participating in community projects. Students are encouraged to attend the Societies Evening during Orientation Week so they can meet with committee members to obtain more information.

Residence and Oppidan Activities

In the same way the individual residences as well as halls of residence are encouraged to pursue community outreach projects and **strategic** fundraising activities. There is a vast array of student driven community outreach projects and fundraising efforts conducted by Oppidans and students living in residence. These are closely monitored by the Community Engagement (CE) Staff and CE Unit to ensure students' efforts are being effectively channelled. Students are encouraged to come to the CE office to be advised on to how best to pursue fundraising and outreach activities.

STUDENT COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT HANDBOOK

Please note that it is essential for all students wishing to volunteer to read this entire handbook. General information on volunteering, a step by step guide of how to apply; project placement descriptions as well as FAQ (frequently asked question section) follows. This handbook has been written to answer any questions or queries that you may have. If your question cannot be answered by this book, please contact us at the following email address svp@ru.ac.za.

How does the Student Volunteer Programme work?

The Student Volunteer Programme has run very successfully for a number of years. You have the option of choosing which project you would like to participate in and can register (on the registration dates given below) for your placement of choice. Only when you have filled in and signed all three forms (i.e. your Application form, an Indemnity form as well as a Confidentiality and M.O.A. form) will you be able to register for a volunteer placement. The placement registration sheets and forms will be on the notice-board in the SVP Co-ordinator's office.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: YOU MAY NOT REGISTER IF WE HAVE NOT RECEIVED THE ABOVE-MENTIONED FORMS.

Please choose your project with care. Read the project descriptions carefully, and see where you fit best. Also be sure to consult your timetable to ensure you are available fifteen minutes before and after the stipulated time to allow for transport to and from campus. In July we can try to re-accommodate you if a timetable change renders you unable to participate in your volunteering commitments.

From when can I apply? Important dates below – please read:

Application forms can be submitted any time from the 11th of January but registration for placement takes place on 16 February for returning volunteers and 17 February for new volunteers. Returning student volunteers i.e. those who took part in the 2009 Programme have first option for registration. Organisations welcome back their old volunteers and we want to ensure that where possible students can continue with their placements if they so desire. The closing date for all applications to volunteer in the first term is 11 February. Register on a first-come, first-served basis for a placement in accordance with the schedule on the board at the office of SVP Co-ordinator. Ensure that you bring your timetable and all your completed forms when you come to the office to register.

Please note that you commit to a minimum of an hour a week at an organisation of your choice once you register. (You will in most instances need to allow two lecture periods i.e. plus/minus an hour and a half because you need fifteen minutes on either side to get to and from campus.) Some placements such as the Fort England Buddy Programme have a selection process. There are also other options such as the Child Community Project, Rhodes Sports Outreach, VAST Outreach Network and Khanya Maths and Science Club, although not fully administered by the CE office that you could consider. See details in the placement description section.

Volunteering contributes to your own development

Part of being a volunteer is to love what you're doing. Find something that you're passionate about or something that inspires you and try and match that with a need in the community. Whatever the reason, volunteering can and should be a good experience for everyone involved. You might discover hidden talents when you volunteer. You will challenge yourself in new and exciting ways. Volunteering has always played a vital role within the non-profit sector and volunteers are invaluable in helping organisations to strengthen their services - they bring new and creative ideas, special skills and a genuine concern for the participants in the programs.

“You will learn new things, have interesting experiences and you can build your marketable skills. Most important you will learn about [yourself and] your community. Volunteering can also reduce your level of stress and make you feel good about yourself and your accomplishments. People volunteer for a wide variety of reasons. Some motives are altruistic in that they involve a desire to help others, or philanthropic, in that they are for the public good. There are even indications that involving oneself in the greater community is a natural human need, and that those who volunteer are actually healthier than those who don't” (S. Ellis in *The Volunteer Recruitment Book*).

The SVP is committed to giving you worthwhile and meaningful positions that match your particular skills and areas of interest.

Why volunteer?

Use a skill or talent	Discover your own potential
Make a difference through positive contribution	Build on your abilities
Gain professional experience	Build your resume
Feel better about yourself	Enjoy giving of yourself
Act upon your spiritual beliefs	Help others
Meet friendly action-minded people	Make a difference
Attain personal growth	Find a purpose
Have a more balanced life	Enjoy meaningful conversation
Give back to the community	Feel involved by contributing to a cause that you care about
Increase your awareness of issues	Use your skills in a productive way
Act on your altruistic values	Explore new areas of interest
Seek social justice	Expand your horizons
Make important networking contacts	Feel needed and valued
Learn or develop skills	Make a difference in someone's life
Gain work experience	A new activity to keep busy
Build self-esteem & self-confidence	Get to know your community
Improve health	Gain leadership and interpersonal skills
Meet people from other backgrounds	A change of pace
To share expertise	Enhance your current skills
Broaden your individual network	

Benefits of Volunteering

“Student Volunteers bring boundless energy, fresh perspective and vitality to the organization. Non-profit and voluntary organizations, individuals, and society as a whole benefit from the activities of volunteers. Volunteers themselves also benefit from their volunteer activities. Volunteering brings a new sense of confidence, self-gratification. It also enables you to develop social skills that will be useful in other facets of your life. An important priority for volunteering while recruiting passionate and competent volunteers is to ensure that the experience helps with each volunteer’s personal development. Volunteers say that their volunteer activities help them with their interpersonal skills, such as understanding people better, motivating others, and dealing with difficult situations. Volunteering can also help you to develop better communication skills and increase your knowledge of local and community issues. The best volunteering should involve a genuine desire to help others. This does not, however, mean that the experience can’t provide some very tangible benefits for you as well. It allows you to explore career options. If you aren’t completely sure that an occupation that would involve working with people is the one for you, volunteering gives you a chance to learn more about it before you make a commitment. Volunteering provides a chance to research the career alternatives open to you and is a great way to develop yourself. You can meet new people and establish some important networking contacts you might use to find a paying job or as references. Volunteer positions can often involve a large degree of responsibility, if that is what you are looking for. This will allow you to exercise leadership, develop problem-solving skills, be creative and provides the opportunity to pursue new interests. Whether you are learning new skills or developing skills you already have, volunteering provides the opportunity for you to gain confidence and self-esteem. Volunteering will give you the chance to learn more about the community, society and the environment in which you live, to get involved in and to make an impact on the lives of those in need.”

S. Ellis. *The Volunteer Recruitment Book*

How to apply for the Student Volunteer Programme

Please note there are 2 different procedures for registration: Check which applies to you!

Returning Volunteers

If you are a returning student volunteers i.e. you participated in the Rhodes Student Volunteer Programme in 2009 go to page 11.

New Volunteers

If you did not take part in the Student Volunteer Programme in 2009 go to page 12 to the new volunteer’s application procedure.

Returning Student Volunteer Application Procedure

1. Fill in the forms: Please download the relevant Application form, the Indemnity form and the Confidentiality/MOA form from the Student Volunteer Programme webpage: www.ru.ac.za/community Click on Student Volunteer Programme. Fill in the Student Volunteer Application Form and email it to the following address svp@ru.ac.za. We need to update your details. When emailing your application form please save it under your full name. For example, "Peter Jenkins.doc" Please do not send forms whose titles are simply "application form.doc" or "student volunteer.doc", etc. This is essential for administrative reasons. Print out, fill in and sign the other 2 forms. If you are experiencing any technical difficulties please contact svp@ru.ac.za or (046) 603 7229, or pop in at Community Engagement Office.
2. Hand in signed Indemnity, Confidentiality & MOA forms: Please submit these forms to the CE office prior to registration. Only hardcopy versions of forms that require signatures are acceptable. NB: Please note if you are under the age of 18, it is essential that one of your parents or your legal guardian signs an Indemnity form for you. The Indemnity form relevant to you is titled 'Indemnity Minor' on the webpage. Once your parents have signed the Indemnity form, they can fax it to (046) 603 8869. This is a legal requirement and you will not be allowed to take part in the Programme until your parents have submitted the signed Indemnity form. If you are 18 or over you can sign an Indemnity for yourself. Please fill in the 'Indemnity Major' form.
3. All three of these forms need to be handed in prior to registration for a placement
 - a. **Student Volunteer Application Form**
 - b. **Memorandum of Agreement and Confidentiality form**
 - c. **Indemnity form**
4. Register for a placement of your choice: You can register for your particular placement at the CE office on 16 February 2010. The CE office is open from 8:00 to 16:30 but is closed over lunch (12:45 to 14:00). We strongly encourage you to register on the allocated date and to ensure you have the option of returning to your old placement should you wish to as placement is on a first come first serve basis.
5. Confirmation of placement: You will be given a confirmation of placement once we have received all your forms and have checked that all is in order with your placement.
6. Programme begins: The programme will begin on Monday 1 March 2010 for returning volunteers. New volunteers begin on 8 March 2010. Once you have registered for your placement, received confirmation and participated in the volunteer training programme, you need to ensure that you arrive as per the transport schedule.
7. Orientation/Training Workshops: Training is compulsory for all student volunteers (returning and new volunteers). The workshops will be different in many respects from last year's with some new presentations as well as an outline of Community Engagement at Rhodes University. See timetable on page 13.

New Student Volunteer Application Procedure

1. Fill in the forms: Please download the relevant Application form, the Indemnity form and the Confidentiality/MOA form from the Student Volunteer Programme webpage: www.ru.ac.za/community. Click on Student Volunteer Programme. Fill in the registration application form and email it to the following address. svp@ru.ac.za. When emailing your application form please save it under your full name. For example, "Peter Jenkins.doc" Please do not send forms whose titles are simply "application form.doc" or "student volunteer.doc", etc. This is essential for administrative reasons. Print out, fill in and sign the other 2 forms. If you are experiencing any technical difficulties please contact svp@ru.ac.za or (046) 603 7229, or pop in at Community Engagement Office.
2. Hand in signed Indemnity, Confidentiality & MOA forms: Please submit these forms to the CE office prior to registration. Only hardcopy versions of forms that require signatures are acceptable. NB: Please note if you are under the age of 18 it is essential that one of your parents or your legal guardian signs an Indemnity form for you. The Indemnity form relevant to you is titled 'Indemnity Minor' on the webpage. Once your parents have signed the Indemnity form, they can fax it to (046) 603 8869. This is a legal requirement and you will not be allowed to take part in the programme until your parents have submitted the signed Indemnity form. If you are 18 or over you can sign an Indemnity for yourself. Please fill in the major Indemnity form.
3. **All three of these forms need to be handed in prior to registration for placement**
 - a. **Student Volunteer Application form**
 - b. **Memorandum of Agreement and Confidentiality form**
 - c. **Indemnity form**
4. Registration for placement of your choice: You can register for your particular placement at the CE office on 17 February 2010. The CE office is open from 8:00 to 16:30 but is closed over lunch (12:45 to 14:00) The Student Volunteer Programme has a maximum capacity of 350 so we strongly encourage you to register on the allocated dates as places will fill quickly.
5. Confirmation of placement: You will receive confirmation of your placement from the SVP office once all your forms have been received.
6. Programme begins: New volunteers begin on 8 March 2010. Once you have registered for your placement, received confirmation and participated in the volunteer orientation/training programme, you need to ensure that you arrive as per the transport schedule.
7. Orientation/Training Workshops: The training workshops are compulsory for all student volunteers. **See timetable on page 13.**

The series of workshops are held to introduce you to volunteering in Grahamstown and to Community Engagement at Rhodes University. Attendance at these workshops is compulsory for participation in the SVP. **NB: THE WORKSHOPS ARE COMPULSORY FOR BOTH RETURNING AND NEW VOLUNTEERS.** Failure to attend these workshops without a valid reason will result in being removed from the Student Volunteer Programme. Volunteers will be divided into 3 groups during registration for the purpose of attending the workshops. See timetable below.

2010 Orientation/Training Workshops: Eden Grove

Friday Afternoon (16h30 – 18h30) 19 February 2010 Saturday Morning (9h30 – 15h30) 20 February 2010	GROUP ONE
Friday Afternoon (16h30 – 18h30) 26 February 2010 Saturday Morning (9h30 – 15h30) 27 February 2010	GROUP TWO
Friday Afternoon (16h30-18h30) 5 March 2010 Saturday Morning (9h30 – 15h30) 6 March 2010	GROUP THREE

Monitoring and Reflection Workshops (First Semester)

Dates for the Second Semester workshop will be provided at this session

Tuesday Afternoon (16h30 – 18h00) 11 May 2010	GROUP ONE
Wednesday Afternoon (16h30 – 18h00) 12 May 2010	GROUP TWO
Thursday Afternoon (16h30 – 18h00) 13 May 2010	GROUP THREE

Transport

It is compulsory that Student Volunteers make use of the transport provided by the C.E Unit. This is for your own safety. However, students who use their own transport should first inform the C.E Unit office. The pick up and drop off point will be outside the CE office. Please be waiting outside the CE Office 10 minutes before your allocated time. The vehicle is a Rhode Trip white Mercedes Benz Sprinter. The CE office is situated at 5 Prince Alfred Street (we are sharing the building with the Centre for Social Development). If this transport does not arrive, call the driver whose name is Siyabulela and his number is 083 873 7350. Please have this number with you so that you can call if he is late and/or you have been left behind at a project. ***However, please note that you may not call if you were late in coming to the CE office and the bus left without you. You can call only in the event the driver is late or you have been left at your placement.***

Please write if you have any complaints with respect to transport in the book that is with CE office at reception.

Important Notice: Volunteers placed at Raphael Centre, Child Welfare, Public Library, Amasango and placements that are of close proximity to Rhodes University do not make use of this transport.

Attendance Registers

There is a universal register on the RhodeTrip bus and to ensure you receive your certificate you must sign the register on the way to your placement each week. **THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT. IT IS UP TO YOU TO ASK SIYA FOR THIS BOOK - REPORT TO THE CE OFFICE IF THE BOOK IS MISSING.** You will also be required to sign a register at your placement organisation.

Student Volunteer Programme T-Shirts

Student Volunteer T-Shirts are on sale for R40 from the SVP co-ordinator's office. We strongly encourage volunteers to wear them when going to their placements.

Student Community Engagement Awards' Evening



An Awards Evening will be held at the end of the year. All those who have honoured their commitment to the programme will receive a certificate in recognition of their contribution. There is also a Student Volunteer of the Year Award. Those students who have gone above and beyond will be short-listed and considered for the Award. The short-listed students are automatically offered a position on the Student Community Engagement Committee. Awards are all given to the best contributions from Residences, Halls of Residence, Sports Clubs, Societies and Service organisations. The

Awards Evening is a wonderful opportunity to thank everyone for their hard work and commitment during the year. Following the Awards there is a short cocktail function. It's always a great evening and a highlight on the CE Calendar. The CE Awards function for this year will be held on 15 October 2010.

HOW TO BE A GREAT VOLUNTEER - Take the Initiative

Within the Volunteer Programme we encourage the students to be as creative as possible. We encourage you to make constructive suggestions and come up with innovative activities. You could make use of the library for creative and innovative ideas.

Share ideas and suggestions with the Community Engagement Programme Co-ordinators. However, make sure that you discuss and obtain permission from your organisation supervisor before implementing any new activity. To ensure that your volunteering experience is a memorable one, please read the following rules and suggestions very carefully. They have been compiled to aid your experience and will hopefully answer any questions that you may have. For those of you who have never volunteered before, it will give you an idea of what is expected of you and what your role as a volunteer will be.

The most important principles to bear in mind are the following:

- Be professional.
- Be humble.
- Honour your volunteer commitments.
- Always contact your organisation if for any reason you are unable to attend.

Here are some specific dos and don'ts that should be followed.

DO's

Go in with the right attitude
Be sensitive to cultural differences
Take the initiative and be enthusiastic
Be responsible and committed
Be creative and proactive in arranging activities
Notify the organisation if you cannot attend
Report any situation where you feel unsafe or that inappropriate behaviour is making your volunteering assignment difficult (sexual harassment, etc)
Dress appropriately (short skirts, tight pants and low cut tops not appropriate)
Report any difficulties you are having to the Student Volunteer Programme Co-ordinator
Keep the relationship professional at all times. (Romantic relationships with clients/patients/child you meet are not acceptable or appropriate)

DON'TS

Don't just not arrive when arranged, always let your supervisor know in advance
Don't go with a bad attitude
Don't give money/clothes/foods if approached by an individual client/patient/child
If you have something you would like to give/or donate do so through the organisation or the CE office
If you are asked make it clear you are NOT allowed to give or lend money to anyone
Don't invite a client/patient/child to your home and/or arrange to see them outside the organisation at which you are volunteering
Don't give out your address or phone number (except to the supervisor at the organisation if appropriate)
Don't give alcohol, drugs or cigarettes to a client/patient/child
Don't project your religious or political beliefs onto others

FAQ

What happens if I am having problems with my placement, either with the organisation or with my fellow volunteers?

If you are experiencing any problems with your placement please email svp@ru.ac.za to arrange a time to come and speak to one of the CE programme co-ordinators. **Please bring any problems or queries that you may have to us.** In most instances the problems can be easily solved. Do not simply drop out of the Programme without discussing it with a CE programme co-ordinator. If the problem is severe, please call on us immediately. If required, we will try to arrange a new placement.

What if I cannot make it to my placement?

Generally, it is unacceptable to miss your volunteering placement. Once you have committed to it you should treat it as you would a tutorial or a job. Your placement should take priority. Meetings and appointments should be planned around your placement. If you cannot make it to your placement please phone the co-ordinator of the organisation or project at which you volunteer in good time. The only acceptable reasons for absence are academic tests scheduled or debilitating illness or personal crisis such as death in the family. If your timetable has changed in such a way that you will no longer be able to attend your registered placement, please let the SVP office know as soon as possible and we will attempt to allocate a new placement to you, preferably within the same organisation.

What if other members of your placement group are not arriving for their placement or taking it seriously, or in any way behaving inappropriately?

Please let us know if there is any fellow volunteer who you feel is being unreliable and not attending when they should. Also if any volunteer is behaving unprofessionally and or inappropriately please inform the SVP co-ordinator or any other CE co-ordinator. We will follow up and investigate confidentially.

Dismissal of a Volunteer

Volunteers who do not adhere to the rules and procedures of the Student Volunteer Programme or who fail to perform their volunteer task satisfactorily may be dismissed from the Student Volunteer Programme. No volunteer will be dismissed until s/he has had the opportunity to discuss the reasons with the Student Volunteer Programme Co-ordinator. A letter confirming their dismissal will be sent to the volunteer by the Student Volunteer Programme Co-ordinator.

Resignation of a Volunteer

Although commitment is heavily stressed in the Student Volunteer Programme, should a volunteer need to leave for any reason, please give the Student Volunteer Programme Co-ordinator as much notice as possible, preferably a month in advance so alternative arrangements could be made. Please inform the SVP co-ordinator in writing of your intention to leave the Student Volunteer Programme.

Volunteer Placements

Find the right opportunity for you

The opportunities to volunteer are vast and various. Whatever unique skills you have to offer, you can use to help organisations who help others. Whether it's to use your practical skills to design posters or to give some love and attention to patients or just to lend a hand in administration, there is a place for everyone to get involved. In the past students have been involved in a wide range of activities, from maintenance to sports coaching, developing herb and/or food gardens, to running drama and dance classes for youth. Whatever contribution you feel you have to offer, the Student Volunteer Programme has places for students who are willing to give time and know-how to make a difference in the lives of those that need it most. The placements are divided into two focus areas namely Social Development and Education-based Interventions. A description of some of the projects is provided in this handbook.

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT INTERVENTIONS

Fort England Hospital

The Buddy Programme at Fort England Hospital was first started several years ago by the Rhodes University Psychology Department. It was incorporated into the Student Volunteer Programme five years ago and now provides 10 volunteers with a challenging opportunity to do group work activities with patients at Fort England Hospital. Each student is paired with a patient as their "buddy" and is partnered with them when participating in the assigned weekly group activity. Volunteers need to be compassionate and understanding and it is essential that they are responsible and committed to the project. The project supervisor at the Hospital oversees the weekly sessions, which are held every Friday afternoon from 13.45pm to 15.00pm. You must be at the CE office at 13.30. (Note: Psychology students are favoured for this project and preference will be

This project is by selection, so you are asked to write a page motivation as to why you would like to be selected for the programme (Places are limited and there is a waitlist.)

given to 3rd year and Honours students).

Raphael Centre

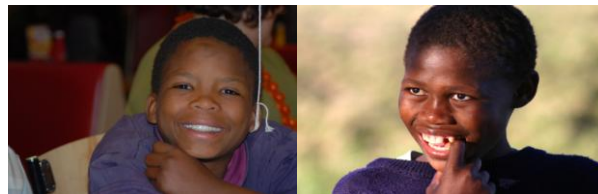
The Raphael Centre has been recognised for its excellence and dedication in combating the spread of HIV and AIDS and to improving access to support services required by those who are HIV-positive or living with AIDS. The centre does voluntary HIV testing as well as training and education for People Living with HIV and AIDS.

Other programmes include: a prevention of mother to child transmission programme, access to treatment, food support, and an orphans and vulnerable children programme. The Raphael Centre has since its inception, been blessed by the valuable input of countless enthusiastic volunteers. Volunteers help with everything that needs to be



done. On any given day, you might find them sorting through heaps of second-hand clothing for distribution, discovering hitherto hidden cooking skills or valiantly creating order out of the some of the administrative tasks! Times for Raphael are negotiable and need to be discussed with the head of the organisation.

Eluxolweni and Trotter Street Shelters for Street Children



The Eluxolweni Shelter is one of five shelters for street children in the Eastern Cape. Eluxolweni means 'Place of Forgiveness and Peace' and provides residential care, rehabilitation programmes, counselling, meals three times a day, medical and dental care, access to schooling and church activities as well as clothing to local street /homeless children. Eluxolweni's mission is to initiate, sustain and encourage schooling and life skills development for these poor, needy and often neglected children. The primary focus is on local street children in and around the Makana Municipality. Children often enter the Eluxolweni Shelter with a history of sexual or physical abuse and delinquent behaviour. Some children battle with the substance abuse of their parents and the physical abuse that may accompany it. Others leave home because they are neglected. Most of the children at Eluxolweni have been let down by their family, their parents and the adults in their lives, and they desperately crave love and attention. Volunteers play a hugely important role in their rehabilitative routine and students with big hearts, who are compassionate, patient and tolerant are needed to assist with afternoon activities for the children. Eluxolweni Shelter comprises three different shelters catering for the different sexes/age groups and there are 2 alternate placement options within the Student Volunteer Programme. Eluxolweni Main Shelter houses up to 35 boys between the ages of 6 and 12. Current activities include sports orientated afternoons such as soccer coaching, volleyball etc. Trotter Street Shelter is the girls shelter which houses up to 12 girls between the ages of 6 and 16. This is the house where the girls stay and activities include arts and crafts, sewing, singing, dancing, reading and basic computer classes.

The GADRA Advice Drumming and Music Project for the Civilian Blind

There are very few activities or programmes running for blind people in Grahamstown and the previous director of Grahamstown Distress Relief Association (GADRA) Advice Office which is located at the Grahamstown Day Hospital is worked in association with the Council for the Blind in creating an Activities Programme for the blind and severely short sighted. Once a week a group of CE student volunteers facilitated by members of Drum Soc share an afternoon of musical activities and drumming with the civilian blind support group.

The Library for the Blind Current Affairs Discussion Group

A second project that forms part of GADRA's interventions with the Civilian Blind is the weekly Current Affairs discussion group facilitated by student volunteers and members of the Rhodes

Debating Society. Journalism students and Debaters are encouraged to register for this highly rewarding programme.

Settler's ARV Clinic

Settler's Clinic started an ARV clinic for children in 2007. They are looking for a few enthusiastic and energetic student volunteers to help entertain the children with games and creative activities while they wait to see a doctor. This is new and very exciting project, the volunteers who attended previously found it highly rewarding.

Child & Family Welfare

Grahamstown Child and Family Welfare Society is a social-work agency specialising in the field of child and family welfare services. It is affiliated to the national organisation Child Welfare South Africa and is guided by them with respect to policy and guidelines. Their main objectives are the protection of the interests of children and the promotion of their safety and well being. Their programmes and activities include: Child protection service and crisis intervention e.g. management of cases or reports of neglect, abandonment, child abuse (physical, sexual and psychological), foster care supervision, family re-unification, life-skills programmes, as well as administering a pre-school, an income-generating project and a HIV/Aids Care Givers programme. Students who volunteer with Child Welfare assist in numerous areas including fundraising and office administration duties.

St Mary's Day Care Centre

St Mary's Day Care Centre provides care to children in need between the ages of 6 and 8 years old. Parents apply for their children to take part in the programme. The children are selected from some of the most poverty stricken parts of Grahamstown. Once the children have joined the programme, they remain with it for the duration of their school life. The children go to St Mary's in the morning and get changed into their school uniform. After school, they go back to St Mary's and take part in a number of extra mural activities. Whether you enjoy sports, arts and crafts or are a computer boffin there is a place for everyone at St Mary's. As a volunteer at St Mary's you will be helping in the after school programme. The project co-ordinator will work with you to identify your particular strengths and interests and work out the best place for you to contribute.

CSD Eyethu Resources and Donations Management Project

The Eyethu warehouse at the CSD is full to bursting with some very exciting recyclable materials donated by the Grahamstown community. What some consider rubbish others consider to be pre-school treasure! Many preschools around Grahamstown are dependent on the recyclable materials that are stored at Eyethu. CSD staff need assistance both with sorting

donated materials and making them ready for distribution to preschools as well as with transporting the materials from the CSD to the Eyethu warehouse. A new aspect to this project is the coordination and distribution of student donated clothes and food-stuffs. Particularly for those of you who care about the environment, this unglamorous task makes a hugely valuable contribution to schools and distress relief associations in the Grahamstown area.



THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS ARE NOT FULLY ADMINISTERED BY THE CE OFFICE. STUDENTS INTERESTED IN THESE PROJECTS SHOULD COMPLETE THE APPLICATION FORMS AND SEND THEM TO US AS WELL AS DIRECT TO THE PROGRAMME SUPERVISOR. THEY WILL THEN ADVISE US IF YOUR PARTICIPATION SHOULD BE ACKNOWLEDGED AND YOU WILL RECEIVE A SVP CERTIFICATE AT THE YEAR- END FUNCTION.

Child Community Project

This is a run by the RU Psychology Clinic in which suitable psychology students are trained to work with children who have been diagnosed as having developmental delays and involves support and limited therapeutic work with the children. Volunteers will receive training and regular supervision in providing support to these children and their families. You need to register directly with the department for this project. If accepted you must complete all 3 of the forms and email them to svp@ru.ac.za so we can ensure your volunteering is recorded on your student record and that you receive your certificate at the year end.

Rhodes Sports Outreach

Rhodes Sports Administration believes in sharing their resources, both human and capital, with the community. Clubs regularly hold community development programmes around Grahamstown, particularly with the previously disadvantaged communities. Students participate and register via the respective sports clubs. Queries should go to the co-ordinator at Rhodes Sports Outreach who oversees these programmes who will then confirm with us at year-end which students have been regular volunteers for Rhodes Sports Outreach and Development. We ensure your contribution is acknowledged on your student record and that you receive a certificate at our year end function.

EDUCATION FOCUSED VOLUNTEERING

Grahamstown Public Library

The Grahamstown Public Library offers volunteers the wonderful opportunity of adding greater value to learners' education. The library's resources cover a wide variety of topics. Volunteers may find themselves assisting with a project about the Nile River one week and the next be assisting with the daily running of the library, helping check books in and out. There is also the option of reading to the children. This is a wonderful

opportunity for those who love storytelling. For those passionate about education and the importance thereof, the Library offers a meaningful volunteering opportunity.

Community Library

At the community library, the volunteers focus more on assisting children with research for school projects, showing them where books are kept and how the Dewey system works. Because the library is under resourced, volunteers may also assist with organising and arranging books and displays.

Kuyasa Special School

The Kuyasa Special School has been running for over 10 years and caters for children with special needs. The School is looking for creative and compassionate students to spend one-on-one time with the children and help them with their learning in a quiet and colourful environment.

PRE SCHOOL INTERVENTIONS

The CE Unit has a special partnership with the Centre for Social Development (CSD) for the placement of 100 student volunteers in its Early Childhood Development (ECD) Centres. CSD has a number of preschools and multi-purpose community centres eager for assistance from warm, passionate and committed students. The preschool children are vivacious and volunteers are soon caught up in their enthusiasm. The schools have a number of basic resources such as paint, crayons, beads, etc but volunteers can also source other resources from CSD's Eyethu Project, which can be used in assisting children in making beautiful handicrafts and other creative activities. Students also assist in the classroom with educational games. There is huge value in having students visit the schools not least of which is the crucial importance of giving them the opportunity to hear spoken English. Placements will include the 5 preschools mentioned below, each with their own unique character and needs.



- Luzuko Preschool
- St Philips Preschool
- Siyazama Multipurpose Community Centre
- Nompumelelo Preschool
- The Raglan Road Multi-Purpose Community Centre

The volunteers placed with CSD will have to attend a workshop on early childhood development (ECD) as preparation before commencement of their placements.

Luzuko Preschool

Positioned on a central road in Fingo Village, Luzuko preschool has happily existed for almost 10 years on some land owned by the Methodist Church across the road. In 2006 the decision was taken to begin building the preschool into a Multipurpose Community Centre (MPCC) where the whole community can go to engage in upliftment projects. The preschool currently caters for 30 children and the ECD practitioners there are committed people. Luzuko is in the process of raising the funds necessary for them to move into the second stage of the building plan which will create the facilities necessary for them to be a fully functional MPCC. All volunteers are very warmly welcomed.

Siyazama Multi-Purpose Community Centre

In 1994 the local community of Kings Flats extension 7 established a community committee to try and alleviate specific social problems namely abuse, poor nutrition and lack of security in the area in which they lived. They very quickly identified that an urgent need existed, for the establishment of a preschool in the area. They operated out of various temporary premises until in 1995 when Rotary in conjunction with the CSD committed itself to the project and began raising funds for building the school. The pre-school has been converted to a multi purpose community centre serving the entire community and serves a population of approximately 6000 people and is the only preschool in the area. Siyazama is a very special place and volunteers find themselves very quickly part of the family.

St Philips Preschool

St Philips is a preschool situated just off Raglan Road. The school has over 50 children between the ages of 4 and 6. Volunteers are encouraged to arrange a variety of afternoon activities for the children and are allowed to be as creative as they wish. The children are vivacious and volunteers are soon caught up in their enthusiasm. St Philips has a colourful playground, which the volunteers often find as enjoyable as the children themselves do. The children love to see the volunteers arrive and are delighted with the love and attention they receive.

Nompumelelo Preschool

Nompumelelo was started as a feeding scheme in the early 1990s and later fell under the banner of Child and Family Welfare Society as a preschool. Through various partnerships, funding was found to upgrade the available facilities. In 2001 the school was officially opened and can now accommodate up to 60 children. The preschool is a lively and energetic place where passion and enthusiasm exist in abundance. Nompumelelo has recently embarked on

the transformation process towards conversion to a multi-purpose centre and the site is the proposed location for the Ikhaya Losizo Safe House.

The Raglan Road Multi-Purpose Centre



The Raglan Road MPCC was established as a preschool by the Centre for Social Development in 1990. With the growing involvement of parents, new initiatives arose and the preschool was transformed into a MPCC. In addition to the preschool the MPCC houses a service centre for the elderly, a computer centre, a conference centre, and a library is being built in the first half of 2008. A number of programmes run throughout the year i.e. Computer and adult literacy classes, a sewing programme, capacity building programmes for parents (in partnership with CSD and community facilitators) as well as a herb-gardening programme and training on medicinal uses of herbs. They also run productive vegetable gardens to supplement the diet of preschoolers, the elderly and vulnerable families from the community. Volunteers who visit Raglan Road in the morning mostly assist in the preschool where they are welcomed with open arms by the exuberant learners. Afternoon volunteers are needed to assist with the most recent addition to the MPCC, the first ever BING BEE KIOSK. The Bing Bee is a kiosk which allows computer access to be available in what are considered "insecure locations". The computers are housed in a kiosk structure and a keypad is stuck on the outside of the kiosk window. The Bing Bee Kiosk therefore allows children access to computers without the usual security concerns because everything of value is secured behind the window of the small kiosk building. Volunteers are needed to assist the children of the community with what for many of them is their first exposure to computers and technology.

PRIMARY SCHOOL INTERVENTIONS

Lebone Love Reading Club

The Lebone Love Reading Club is an exciting literacy building and reading initiative aimed at improving the literacy rate of children from historically disadvantaged primary schools in the vicinity near Kingswood College. The children have been identified by the Kingswood College Integrated Community Development Program Trust in partnership with the principals of these neighbouring schools. Rhodes student volunteers spend an hour a week with the children

working on their reading skills. The individual attention paid to them by the volunteers plays an important role in improving their confidence and self-esteem. It is helpful if the volunteers that sign up for this project are able to speak Afrikaans as this is the mother tongue of the majority of children involved in the project. (This project has been run as a pilot project with the view to running similar clubs at primary schools and community libraries.)

Lebone ACE After-school Programme

The Lebone Centre acts as an aftercare facility for fifteen children each weekday during term time. These children are considered 'vulnerable children' for whom Lebone is a safe-haven in the afternoons. It is hoped that by giving these children the extra attention that they need, they will be able to succeed, both in school and in life. The volunteers work with the Lebone House staff and participate in activities with the children as well as assist with reading and homework, Although the mother tongue of the children is Afrikaans, English is the language predominantly spoken. This is a conscious choice made by the staff as it provides the children with the opportunity to improve their English. Second language Afrikaans will, however, be useful.

Amasango Career School

Amasango Career School offers accelerated bridging education to street children. Children are assessed on arrival using a very basic tool, which the school has developed, which allows them to place a child in the correct class for his/her current academic level, irrespective of previous schooling. The initial curriculum is limited to English, Xhosa, maths, art, and educational games. i.e. basic literacy and numeracy, underpinned with pre-school activities to give the foundation these children have never had. When they have reached grade 6 level in literacy and numeracy, Amasango staff "crash course" the children into a full school curriculum. This can be a very difficult time for the slower learners and they often revert to aggressive behaviour. After grade 7, Amasango pupils progress into normal township high schools, facilitating re-integration into society. This works very well for many pupils but for those who are very old (e.g. aged 20 in grade 8) or those who struggle academically, a more skills-based curriculum which prepares them for the world of work is more appropriate. Any voluntary teaching assistance and support is welcomed (and desperately needed). The Rhodes students who volunteer, act as teacher's assistants and individual tutors to learners. This programme is not for the faint-hearted but is deeply rewarding opportunity to make a real difference. Students who volunteer at Amasango do not use RhodeTrip. They negotiate a time to tutor with the principal at the school and then get then independently each week.

HIGH SCHOOL INTERVENTIONS

High Schools Outreach Programmes

In June of 2007, Rhodes Community Engagement started a pilot programme helping learners in Grahamstown East's previously disadvantaged high schools. The High Schools Initiative has 3 facets:

- **LOVE READING CLUBS (LRC):** The roll-out of Love Reading Clubs to grade 8 classrooms across Grahamstown. The aim of our Love Reading Clubs is to provide exposure to English conversation and literacy. Many of Grahamstown's High Schools learners battle with the transition from 1st language medium Primary Schools to English medium Secondary Schools, and we are hoping that by providing a way to improve English skills, learners will be better able to access their other subject curricula. We currently have clubs at three schools in Grahamstown East, with one of the clubs being run by Golden Key. Societies are also welcome to enquire about "adopting" a club.

Nombulelo L RC

It is a sad reality that many Grade 8 learners in the Eastern Cape are functionally illiterate and this impairs their ability to perform academically. The Nombulelo Love Reading Club was started in January 2006 and has grown into a very successful and constructive literacy club. Student volunteers work with a small group of Grade 8 learners and help them further develop their English literacy skills with the view to improved literacy skills that will facilitate better overall performance in the classroom. The curriculum has been designed in such a way so as to make the learning stimulating and engaging and the focus is on literacy and fun and how the two do not necessarily need to be strangers! Any students eager to assist are encouraged to sign up.

Samuel Ntsika LRC

The Love Reading Club was started in the beginning of 2008 at Samuel Ntsika High School in Joza's Extension 9. We are looking for dedicated and enthusiastic volunteers who will take this task and run with it, bringing a really awesome opportunity to the grade 8 learners at Samuel Ntsika to access English through conversation and reading, giving them greater access to their high school subject curricula.

- **LEAP:** is a grade 10 Mathematics and English support Programme. DSG/ST Andrews started a programme for grade 10's, teaching Maths and English and Rhodes students met with these students once a week to help them with homework, as well as to act as a student mentor to them. In 2009 DSG and St Andrews expanded the programme to include grade 11 learners. We will be looking for individuals with an interest in tutoring maths and English and to act as out-of-the classroom support for this group of learners.
- **MATRIC EXAM REVISION PROGRAMME (MERP):** The Matric Revision Programme has been created in response to the desire of our VC to see more Grahamstown East learners enter University. Matrics will be brought to Rhodes on a Saturday morning for a revision session with a volunteer teacher in Maths and English and one afternoon per week for a mentoring session with you where you can help them with homework and assist where possible. We are also looking for a team leader for this project. The team leader will need to maintain communication with the schools and flow of the programme. This might take an hour or two per week.
- **NYS/RHODES TUTORING PROGRAMME:** The programme started in August 2008 and the focus was on grade 10 and 11 learners in the seven Township High Schools. In 2009, after discussions with the District Department of Education and RU/Schools Partnership, it was agreed to also include grade 12 learners. The programme is held every Saturdays during University/School terms from 9h00 to 12h00. Third year and post graduate students are encouraged to join.

NB: For all students who want to be involved in any TUTORING PROGRAMME, there are three compulsory workshops with regards to the National Curriculum Statement (NCS) Orientation Workshop and Learning Areas to be attended which are facilitated by Rhodes Department of Education and the Community Engagement Unit. The dates are the evenings of 3, 4 and 5 March 2010.

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Golden Key CM Vellum Love Reading Club

Golden Key adopted a Love Reading Club at CM Vellum Health Promoting School in July of 2007. If you are a member of Golden Key, don't forget to ask your Community Engagement representative about how you can get involved with this exciting grade 8 Reading Club.

Khanya Maths and Science Club

The Khanya (isiXhosa for “light”) Maths and Science Club consists of learners from Grade 7 and upwards who meet every Saturday morning. The Club aims to teach children about Maths and Science – and to show them that the subjects can be enjoyable. The children are also taken on interesting outings. Chemistry Department staff and students, from 1st year through to doctoral level, give lectures on both curriculum and non-curriculum based Maths and Science. Please note non-chemistry students who can tutor school level Maths and Science are welcome to sign up to participate. Contact Joyce Sewry in the Chemistry Department directly on J.sewry@ru.ac.za.

VAST Outreach

The VAST Outreach programme is assisting high school learners from various disadvantaged high schools in the Grahamstown East area. Working with the Mobile Biology Laboratory students are tutoring Matric Biology. The learners are divided into small groups each lead by a student volunteer who goes through past papers with learners and focus on explaining sections and consolidating class work. In order to be a VAST Outreach volunteer, at least a matric/A-level in biology is needed, with university biological science subjects being beneficial. Students from second year to postgrad are welcome, and are expected to dedicate one afternoon on a weekly basis. Please email carynmcnamara@gmail.com

Give 5 Campaign

The Give 5 campaign was established in 2004 to coincide with Rhodes University’s centenary celebrations and is the country’s most successful student-giving campaign, aiming to foster a sense of philanthropy amongst our students. For small donation of R5, it gives students a chance to help out those less fortunate than themselves

Student Volunteer Programme Affiliate Organisations

The below listed affiliate organisations are partners of the Volunteer programme with whom students in the Special Events Team assist with on an ad hoc basis. There aren’t weekly volunteering placements at these organisations but SVP responds to their requests for assistance regularly throughout the year.

Grahamstown Hospice

Grahamstown Hospice offers palliative care and brings comfort and support to the families and patients of those affected by terminal illness. They strive to provide quality home based services and free palliative care for all who need it. Hospice also offers bereavement counselling for the patients’ family members. Students in the past have helped out in numerous areas, assisting with special events and fundraising projects. Although there are no formalised weekly placements at Hospice the CE

Special Events Team may be called in to assist. Their involvement can include anything from organising fundraisers, assisting with street collections to writing letters, selling tickets for events, sorting donated jumble, magazines and goods or even just helping with administration such as photocopying, distribution of newsletters, etc.

Grahamstown Red Cross

The work of the Red Cross in South Africa has changed to reflect the environment in which it is working. This means that much of today's work is related to health and disaster management issues, particularly the devastating impact that HIV & AIDS is having in South Africa. The priorities of the national society focuses on the four core areas of health and care, disaster management (DM), organisational development (OD) and humanitarian values. The Special Events team and or student residences and societies sometimes fundraise for Red Cross, do street collections or collect donations of clothing and food to be distributed as part of their distressed families/ disaster management programme.

Settlers Hospital

Student organisations and societies can play an important role at Settlers Hospital children's ward. They can arrange events and activities for the children and in so doing work alongside hospital staff and contribute to the care and wellbeing of patients. Clubs and societies can arrange visits to children in the ward, play games and participate in activities with the children. Arranged visits such as these provide the children in the ward with much needed love and attention with the aim of improving their quality of life during their stay at Settlers. Student organisations can also make visits to the long staying patients in the Hospital's Barret Wing. These patients' lives are very monotonous and visits from student societies can make a tangible difference.

Society for the Physical Disabled

The Society for the Physical Disabled provides social work services (counselling, advice, assistance with school placements, pension issues etc) to adults and children with disabilities (excluding the blind who are served by Civilian Blind) They also offer a child development clinic for children who are developmentally delayed and run a care group for children with severe physical and mental disabilities who won't benefit from mainstream schooling - this is based at Kuyasa School. Student volunteers from the Special Events Team assist the society with a variety of fundraising efforts and regularly provide willing hands for their street collections and events.

SUMMARY OF DATES FOR STUDENT COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND SVP: 2010

ORIENTATION WEEK: 1 to 5 Feb

TERM 1: Monday 8 February - Friday 26 March

CLOSING DATE FOR VOLUNTEER APPLICATION-FIRST TERM: 11 February

REGISTRATION OF VOLUNTEERS : 16 February (returning volunteers)
17 February (new volunteers)

VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION/TRAINING WORKSHOPS : Group 1: 19 & 20 February
Group 2: 26 & 27 February
Group 3: 5 & 6 March

MONITORING AND REFLECTION WORKSHOPS : Group 1: 11 May
Group 2: 12 May
Group 3: 13 May

FIRST TERM VOLUNTEERING STARTS FOR RETURNING VOLUNTEERS : 1 March
NEW VOLUNTEERS: 8 March

FIRST TERM VOLUNTEERING ENDS: 25 March

TERM 2: Monday 12 April – Friday 14 May 2010

SECOND TERM VOLUNTEERING STARTS: 12 April

SECOND TERM VOLUNTEERING ENDS: 13 May

TERM 3: Monday 19 July - Friday 27 August

THIRD TERMS VOLUNTEERING STARTS: 19 July

THIRD TERMS VOLUNTEERING ENDS: 26 August

TERM 4: Monday 6 September – Thursday 21 October

FOURTH TERM VOLUNTEERING STARTS: 6 September

FOURTH TERM VOLUNTEERING ENDS: 22 October

CE AWARDS FUNCTION: 15 October

PLEASE NOTE THERE IS NO VOLUNTEERING ON PUBLIC HOLIDAY

Volunteering Checklist

What is my placement?

Where do I go?

What day and what time?

What should I take with?

What are my skills?

What am I able to give?

Important phone numbers I might need to call:

Note: Record in Journal after each session

