

# COMMUNITY SERVICE AT WHEATON COLLEGE

SEPTEMBER, 2009

## SEPTEMBER 2009: "SERVICE, NEAR AND FAR"

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

THEME/WELCOME	1
COMMUNITY EVENT: 9/11	1
SERVICE IN SEPTEMBER	1
HOW TO BE INCLUDED IN FUTURE EDITIONS	2
VOLUNTEER FORMS	2
SSSR GENERAL INFO	2
SERVICE SPOTLIGHT: WSSC	2

Friends of SSSR,

Welcome back to those of us returning, and welcome to Wheaton for all First Year students. My name is Aaron Bos-Lun, and I am the Editor of the SSSR Community Service Newsletter.

These newsletters are released at the end of each month, and focus on different community service events, clubs, and activities. Each month's newsletter features a different theme, and this month's is "Service, Near and Far". You will read an article by Elana Weiner regarding the local manifestation of a national day of service, and you will read of WSSC, through which Seth Robinson and other students are

seeking to be of service to both the local and global community. The point of this month's theme is to underline how service can be an immediate act or a long-term commitment, can involve your neighbors or can involve the other side of the world; service can take place near or far or in the case of Elana and Seth's articles, it can be both.

There is contact information on the second page if you'd like to learn more about SSSR and what we offer. Enjoy!

Aaron Bos-Lun '12  
SSSR Community Service Intern



## COMMUNITY EVENT

### 9/11: SERVICE AND REMEMBRANCE

BY ELANA WEINER '11

In honor of President Obama's declaration that September 11<sup>th</sup> be a day of Service and Remembrance, the Wheaton community came together to participate in service projects, a food chain, and an examination of what service and cultural acceptance means to us both here in Norton and abroad. A brief service in the Chapel introduced by President Crutcher and lead by the Interfaith Alliance (IFA) presented in poetry and in prose the need for community involvement, an open mind, and the prospect of finding opportunity from even the worst tragedies. Organized by the Office of SSSR (Service, Spirituality, and Social Responsibility), the event focused on the theme of fostering community in an easily divided world.

After the service, three groups of first-year students dispersed to assigned service projects, including clean-ups of the local Head Start pre-school and the YMCA, and Scrabble wars and lunch with the seniors from the Senior Citizen Center. The intention in choosing local projects was to offer first-year students the opportunity to know their new community.

In addition to the freshmen projects, Faculty and Staff participated in a food drive. After the service, faculty, staff, and students worked together to pass over twenty-five bags of food donated down the Chapel isle to a van waiting outside. Patti Rezendes, the SSSR administrative assistant, then drove the food to Cupboard of Kindness, the local pantry down the street from Wheaton along with several first-year students. The pantry, which serves 30-40 families from the community, has been very low lately and has only been able to provide one bag of food per family twice-a-month. Gloria Barker, who works in the Wheaton library, and her husband Tim Barker, a Professor in the Astronomy department, volunteer at the pantry.

*Interfaith Alliance meets Mondays at 7:30 in the Chapel Basement.*

Contact: [aidasani\\_rekha@wheatoncollege.edu](mailto:aidasani_rekha@wheatoncollege.edu)

### SERVICE IN SEPTEMBER

*lastname\_firstname@  
wheatonma.edu*

Big Brothers/Big Sisters  
(gilman\_hannah)

Norton Animal Shelter  
(sykes\_heather)

Ronald McDonald House  
(littlehale\_anna)

EPOCH Nursing Home  
(donahue\_joseph)

<http://frontier.wheatoncollege.edu/sssr/service/>

OFFICE OF SERVICE,  
SPIRITUALITY, AND SOCIAL  
RESPONSIBILITY

To be featured in the community service newsletter please contact Community Service Intern Aaron Bos-Lun at

[bos-lun\\_aaron@wheatonma.edu](mailto:bos-lun_aaron@wheatonma.edu)

### Volunteered recently?

Please remember to submit a volunteer form. SSSR benefits from knowing how much volunteering is happening, as we can use it in our institutional figures and it gives us a better sense of what students are doing. It takes just a minute to fill one out, and helps us a lot! Please drop off in Chapel Basement. The link is found below.

<http://www.wheatoncollege.edu/SSSR/pdfs/NewVolunteerTrackingForm.pdf>

### Are you interested in community service? Or political activism? Or spiritual exploration and interfaith dialogue?

SSSR is the umbrella under which these three distinct areas of programming flourish on the Wheaton campus.

Drop by our office on the ground floor of Cole Memorial Chapel or dig into our web site to learn more about what our students have done and to explore what we might accomplish together.

## S E R V I C E S P O T L I G H T

### WORKER-STUDENT SOLIDARITY: A NEW CAMPUS COMMUNITY INITIATIVE

BY SETH ROBINSON '11

Several Wheaton students this fall have founded a new campus organization, the Worker-Student Solidarity Coalition (WSSC; pronounced "wisk"). Though not affiliated with the Office of Service, Spirituality, and Social Responsibility, WSSC is inspired by the SSSR's contributions to "Wheaton's mission of transforming students into problem solvers committed to social and global change."

Coordinated by Seth Robinson '11 and Katie Sudbey '11, WSSC is developing an outreach model that takes the best of the SSSR tradition of service—the appreciation for those "served" as subjects of their own lives and makers of their own communities—and raises a call for student organizing and advocacy around labor justice. But while WSSC openly voices its commitment to economic fairness, the coalition is far more concerned with the *people*, not the abstractions, that make workers' rights such a salient issue for a community like Wheaton.

Thus, WSSC's organizing begins right here on campus. Members have begun early steps in a concerted effort to build relationships with campus workers, particularly non-salaried [i.e. hourly wage] staff—and to do so for the sake of those relationships *in themselves*. Our community is sustained by the hard work of many good people whose contributions to our collective life too often go unnoticed and underappreciated. If we really mean what we say when we call Wheaton a "community," we will value work fairly and treat our workers justly and with dignity. *All* are entitled to "have life and have it abundantly," no matter their job descriptions.

WSSC hopes to stand in solidarity not only with campus workers, but with international workers as well. Coalition members are eager to learn more about how Wheaton exercises its economic power in the global economy, especially in markets for athletic and bookstore apparel. Where has merchandise bearing the WHEATON logo been produced, and under what conditions?

Whether promoting campus community solidarity or advocating for a sweat-free campus, WSSC values the worth, dignity, and agency of the workers with whom it partners, taking as its motto the spare, courageous words of Aboriginal organizer Lilla Watson:



*"If you've come to help me, you are wasting your time. But if you've come because your liberation is bound up with mine, then let us work together."*

If you are interested in learning more about WSSC, email [robinson\\_seth@wheatonma.edu](mailto:robinson_seth@wheatonma.edu). Meetings are held on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month at 7:30 p.m. in the New Yellow Parlor (next meeting: October 14). New members always welcome!