Counselors for Social Justice

YEARLY RECAP OF EVENTS

From volunteering at the local Women’s and Children’s Alliance to advocating for a higher minimum wage in Idaho, Boise State CSJ Counselors for Social Justice have been working hard to make a positive difference in the lives of those around the Treasure Valley, Idaho.

MEET THE TEAM

Faculty Advisor
Aida Midgett is an associate professor and associate chair of the Counselor Education at Boise State University. She is passionate about providing students with opportunities to view the world through a broader perspective helping them recognize and attend to aspects of reality that previously fell outside their awareness. Dr. Midgett is committed to social justice through BSU CSJ.

President
Sarah Lyter is a second year student in the Masters in Counseling program. While she is currently on the Addictions track, she is very passionate about mental health and counseling in general. She loves working with all types of people and has a passion for counseling. She believes that CSJ devotes itself to a great cause, participates in some amazing projects and events, and collaborates with amazing community organizations.

Vice President
Polly Peterson is a member of the 2011 cohort in the Addictions track. This endeavor has been especially valuable to her because she believes that with each person that grows in self-awareness and self-acceptance, our world becomes a better place. There is no pursuit more valuable than working to help one another.

Treasurer
Paula Perry is a second-year student on the school track. She has had the opportunity to travel and visit many places, which left a soft-spot for helping out the refugee community here in Boise.

Secretary
Julie Hambleton is a second year in the Counselor Education program, with a school counseling emphasis. She is excited for the opportunity to participate with CSJ in building community partnerships and promoting the interests of underrepresented populations.
FESTIVAL OF TREES WITH THE VETERAN’S HOME

November 2013: Boise State CSJ members guided groups of residents through the Festival of Trees for an afternoon of fun and frivolity.

AGENCY FOR NEW AMERICANS FUNDRAISER

November 2013: CSJ volunteered at this event to celebrate the strength and courage of refugees in Boise. In addition to setup and service, Boise State CSJ members worked to promote this event that boasted global cuisine, live entertainment, and unique auction items. This was an evening to learn more about the refugee journey, and to raise funds to help move them toward social and economic self-sufficiency.

GINGERBREAD HOUSE CONTEST AT IDAHO VETERAN’S HOME

December 2013: Boise State CSJ members and volunteers worked to spread holiday cheer at the Idaho Veterans Home. Participants built gingerbread houses with a contest at the end of the evening to determine the winner.

NAMI WALK

September 2013: CSJ partnered with Chi Sigma Iota and the Idaho Counseling Association to participate in the National Alliance on Mental Illness annual walk. The NAMI Walk is a public and active display of support for people afflicted by mental illness. Boise State CSJ members participated in this walk to help advocate, promote, support, and educate the community of the current needs of people with mental illness.

WOMEN’S AND CHILDREN’S ALLIANCE TOUR IN A BOX

October 2013: For Domestic Violence Awareness Month, CSJ invited the Boise WCA to provide information about and domestic violence and the services that they provide to the community. Participants became more aware of the reality of domestic violence in the community and learned about the amazing work that is being done by community members and WCA.

“Seeking to end oppressive systems of power and privilege by actively advocating for peace, social justice, human rights...”
RAISE IDAHO

January 2014: Everyone in a community benefits from a livable base wage. Boise State CSJ hosted Anne Nesse and Dr. Rolf Nesse to discuss the importance of providing a sustainable living wage for Idaho workers. They explored the economic benefits, social benefits, as well as the remarkable health benefits that go along with a livable minimum wage. This time together helped to increase awareness and advocate for those living in poverty in our local community.

WOMEN’S AND CHILDREN’S ALLIANCE VALENTINE’S DAY

February 2014: Boise State CSJ held a drive on campus to collect donations requested by the WCA. This included handmade valentine’s for women and children living at the WCA Shelter. These items were donated to the WCA to help celebrate Valentine’s Day.

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE TRAINING

April 2014: Steve Rainey came and spoke to Boise State CSJ regarding his work with the English Learning Center in Boise. Steve discussed his work with refugee populations in Boise, focusing on aspects of culture, trauma, and language acquisition. He also simulated a 'mini-experience' from the perspective of refugees attempting to learn a new language by conducting the entire first part of the class in Korean.
INVISIBLE CHILDREN

April 2014: Invisible Children's aim is to help end the longest running war in many countries in Africa, and focuses on thousands of missing children as a result of this war, many of whom have been abducted and forced into a life of sex slavery or becoming child soldiers. Invisible Children aims to help find these children and return them to their homes. Boise State CSJ teamed up with Invisible Children to screen a documentary about these children followed by a short Q and A session.

CONGRATULATIONS!

We would like to welcome our new officers:

President: Jenni Moore
Vice President: Cristina Medrano
Treasurer/Secretary: Kristen Shearer

Also, we would like to announce that Polly Peterson was selected as the 2013-2014 Student Advocate of the Year. Polly went above and beyond in her efforts and gave much of her time to support Boise State CSJ as an organization. This allows for increasing awareness, knowledge, skills and advocacy in local our community.