

Title: grEAT/Campus Kitchens Project
School: Gettysburg College
Student(s) Information: Aimee George/Lia Nigro/Louisa Polos

Final Report- Summer 2007

Project Summary:

The grEAT initiative began small in the beginning months of the summer in Gettysburg, PA on the Gettysburg College Campus. It has now emerged into a sustainable Campus Kitchens Project that will kick off in November 2007. The Peace Club merged with the Center for Public Service to start this project through this grant. The planning began last spring when we were notified that we had received this grant. Over the summer months we partnered with Gettysburg College Dining Services to recover food to serve to the Homeless Shelter and the community initiative Circles of Support. This food would have otherwise been thrown away, yet was used as a tool to bridge the gap between the college students and the local community. We were able to become leaders in the community and create a sustainable program to address issues of waste, hunger, poverty and social justice through this grant with the ultimate goal of local peace in our community.

Project Results:

The project resulted into a successful summer and the building blocks of a sustainable program within the community. This program will create student leaders, build a stronger community and help achieve true social justice. This program is not just your standard soup kitchen or feeding the hungry. This program will eventually train the unemployed, homeless and those living in poverty with culinary skills while simultaneously saving food from being wasted and feeding those whom are hungry in the community. We would have liked to get the Campus Kitchen fully operational by the start of the academic year but it was a very slow, difficult process. With the grant we were able to get servsafe training, buy supplies for the kitchen and build up our supply of supplemental food in the kitchen. We were also able to attend the Campus Kitchens Boot Camp in Washington D.C. and go through a training process that qualifies the leadership team to run a Campus Kitchens. There are now 12 nationwide.

Implications:

This project has been so successful. The enthusiasm on the Gettysburg College campus from Dining Services, administrators, faculty and staff has been overwhelming. We have teamed up with the national Campus Kitchens office in Washington D.C., an organization founded by Robert Egger and sister organization of D.C. Central Kitchen. Gettysburg College is now one of twelve campus kitchens across the country as a result of this grant money. The mission of campus kitchens is to create peace using food as a tool to build community relations while breaking the cycle of hunger and homelessness. As the Kitchen grows we will reach the elderly in the community as well as those living in poverty such as single mother families and those living at the Homeless Shelter temporarily. We are also hoping to maintain our relationship with Circles of Support. Through this project we have learned the importance of addressing the root of the problem. We can buy food every day and make meals to serve at the soup kitchen but

what is that doing to create peace or change the system in place or break the cycle of poverty. This project has allowed us to break down stereotypes both of the “college kids” and the “townies.” The relationships that we have built with the Homeless Shelter, the women at Circles of Support and other agencies in the community have really opened student’s eyes to the social issues just down the road. We are looking forward to maintaining this project in the upcoming months and years.

Getting the Kitchen Set Up



Accepting Food Donations



Delivering Meals at Campus Kitchens Training



Providing a meal to Circles of Support in Gettysburg



Tasting dessert after a nutrition demonstration for the children of members of Circles of Support