Wrapping Up 2017

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has."

— Margaret Mead

Cornell Cares Day!
Saturday, January 6th

Cornell Cares Day is a worldwide student-alumni service event that connects Cornellians to serve in their local community through direct, hands-on service projects as they swap stories and network. Each year the PSC partners with Alumni Affairs Regional Programs and the Cornell Clubs and Associations to implement the program. Students and alumni from local Cornell Clubs and Associations work together on service projects in their hometown while Cornell University is on winter break. For more information see our website.
PSC Award Recipients for 2017

Four recipients of the 2017 Robinson Appel Humanitarian Award were announced on April 28th. Each project received $1,500 to further students’ efforts. They were: Faith-Based Mentoring Program, Christina Regan ’17; Creating a Science Education Program for Prisoners, doctoral student Mia Howard; and T-S-T BOCES, Sarah Aiken ’18 and Michelle Garceau ’18. To see more about each recipient’s work, check out the story in the Cornell Chronicle. The 2017 recipient of the John F. Kennedy Memorial Award was Jordan Berger, ’17. Berger received the award for her work with the disability community.

A Successful Turkey Drive!

What would Thanksgiving be without a turkey? There are 13,920 Tompkins County residents that are food insecure. Cornell Students for Hunger Relief worked to alleviate food insecurity in Ithaca and Tompkins County by encouraging students and community members to make donations that would be channelled into the community of need. At the end of the drive $4600 was raised to purchase turkeys for two foodbanks—one in Groton, NY and the other sponsored by Tompkins Community Action.
POST 2017

For the 22nd year, incoming Cornell undergraduates participated in the POST program working at several Ithaca sites including the Sciencenter, where they created science kits for second-grade visitors, and the Ithaca Children’s Garden. But the students did not just stay in Ithaca. The group that traveled the farthest visited Waterloo, New York, with the Physics Bus and helped the traveling educational program engage children with science experiments. Serving in nearby towns, students helped the Kiwanis Club of Dryden paint facilities at their youth baseball field and did grounds work at Meadowgate Equine Rescue in Newfield.

“I wanted to be involved in the Ithaca community and I thought that this would be my best chance to get familiar with it, not just in terms of community service, but also in terms of talking to people in Ithaca and learning more about it,” said Ronnie Dumesh ’21, a biological sciences student from Staten Island, New York.

Beyond their interest in community service, students also had the opportunity to meet their peers before orientation week. Approximately 60 students participated in POST this year, hailing from across the nation and internationally. Through POST, students can meet peers who may live in their dorm, take the same classes or share a common interest.

“POST was a program where not only did I meet freshmen who became some of my closest friends, but also learned about a lot of organizations that I stayed involved with, such as Big Brothers Big Sisters of America, which I’m really passionate about,” said Emma Moore ’20, a human development major from San Diego and a POST leader.
Congratulations Alternative Breaks!
The student-led Cornell Alternative Breaks program of the Public Service Center surpassed their crowdfunding event by raising $21,285 dollars during the month of November.

Alternative Breaks facilitates social justice-oriented service-learning trips across the country for hundreds of Cornell students. Students participate in a rigorous 12-week team building and training program to prepare for their trips and learn about issues confronting the communities they would work with. Students explore reflection, diversity and inclusion, risk management, reciprocity and direct service.

These students engage with various communities and our long-term agency partners through direct public service regarding social justice issues such as poverty, food insecurity, nutrition, affordable housing, domestic violence, homelessness, LGBTQIA+ homeless youth, commercial sexual exploitation of youth, therapeutic horsemanship, urban farming and more. Trip sites include Cape Cod, Florida, Lake Placid, New York City and more. Money raised will be used to help fund transportation and housing costs for students.
Cornell Students Assist in "One Book Welcome" Project

Thanks to multilingual Cornell students, 500 Ithaca-area children learning English as a second language each have a new book personalized just for them, with the English text translated into their native language. The project, called One Book Welcome, is the brainchild of the Children’s Reading Connection, a new national nonprofit based in Ithaca that creates a culture in which all families read to their children as part of everyday life. The Children’s Reading Connection reached out to the International Students and Scholars Office, Cornell’s Translator Interpreter Program, and a program teaching adults English as a second language at Tompkins-Seneca-Tioga Board of Cooperative Educational Services to assist in translation of the book “The Bus for Us” into 17 languages. As a pilot project planned to launch nationwide, it gave books as gifts to kids enrolled in the Ithaca City School District’s prekindergarten program and in Tompkins Community Action’s Head Start program, said Brigid Hubberman, CEO of the Children’s Reading Connection.

Several Cornell students from Alpha Phi Omega, a co-ed community service fraternity, also served up pizza and ice cream and interacted with kids Dec. 2 at a celebration for “The Bus for Us” at Boynton Middle School in Ithaca. The event featured real vehicles from the book parked outside, art and translation activities, and a construction paper “road” on which kids dressed as vehicles and book characters could walk or run. “Welcome” signs in all 17 languages greeted the children and families as they entered.
Largest Annual Day of Service: Into The Streets!
Saturday, October 28th was the 26th annual Into the Streets! Cornell’s Largest Day of Public Service, which took place on national "Make A Difference Day" this year, had 550 students volunteering at over 35 local agencies and working on projects ranging from painting and redecorating, to fixing up trails. The kick-off event featured performances by Callbaxx a capella, Breakfree Hip Hop, and Yamatai, and was wrapped up with a speech from Vice President Ryan Lombardi. The Into the Streets Board would like to thank agencies in the community who participated, the volunteers, those involved in the kick-off event and our advisor and Assistant Director of Student Programs, Joyce Muchan! You can check out their story in The Sun.

All of the full articles can be accessed through our website at psc.cornell.edu.