



COLORADO COLLEGE

# THE DIFFERENCE

APR. 2013  
ISSUE 6

The Collaborative for Community Engagement Newsletter

## Inside this Issue:

ASB	1-3
Events Recap	4
Relay for Life	5
K's for Kenya	6
Summer Opportunities	6
Upcoming Events and Announcements	7

## Alternative Spring Break



2013 Alternative Spring Break participants— photos courtesy of Esther Chan '16

by Laurel Hecker '13

## Service Quote of the Block:

I don't know what your destiny will be, but the one thing I know; the only ones among you who will be really happy are those who will have sought and found how to serve.

—Albert Schweitzer

During Spring Break, while many people are lounging on the beach or hiking in the backcountry, some students dedicate their time to the service of others. Colorado College's Alternative Spring Break (ASB) program offers students the opportunity to spend their time off helping a community in need.

ASB is a part of BreakOut, the Outdoor Education department's service trip program. BreakOut was formed in recent years as a block-plan-friendly version of BreakAway, another college service trip organization. BreakOut runs many shorter trips throughout the year on Saturdays and during block breaks, but ASB is the most intensive trip of all. One of this year's ASB leaders Skyler Trieu '16 explains, "ASB takes CC students across the Southwest, Midwest, and

*continued on page 2*

South to participate in an extensive service and learning experience at one of many volunteer organizations.”

In the past, ASB trips have travelled to a range of locations and worked with diverse organizations. DAWGS Animal Shelter in Texas, the Lakota reservation in South Dakota, and Habitat for Humanity in Utah have all hosted ASB trips in the past few years. The distance and types of work involved necessitate an extensive pre-trip planning process. Trips are entirely student-planned and student-led. Qualified students can submit proposals for a trip, which are then reviewed, revised, and solidified before participants begin applying during 6th block. Leaders must be trained by the Outdoor Education office and have previous experience leading overnight trips at CC. Students who wish to go on the trip must apply, rather than merely signing up, to ensure that they will



Working on a window frame

be good team members. Once at the site, CC students work alongside other volunteers on whatever projects the organization needs help with.

This year, fourteen ASB participants travelled to New Orleans and worked lowernine.org, “an organization dedicated to rebuilding the Lower Ninth Ward, a neighborhood that was

almost wholly unaided during the reconstruction of the city after Hurricane Katrina,” according to Trieu. Founded in 2007, lowernine.org trains volunteers in basic carpentry and finishing, and puts them to work rebuilding houses in one of the most devastated areas of New Orleans. After Katrina, 100% of homes in the neighborhood were uninhabitable, and even now less than half the original population has returned.

The CC volunteers helped with a variety of tasks to aid in the reconstruction of the Lower Ninth Ward. They painted houses and installed new windows, along with other projects instrumental to the rebuilding process. As a small non-profit organization, lowernine.org relies largely on groups like the ASB trip that come in to help. They also, however, focus on sustainable, locally-based work and train many residents in the skills necessary to rebuild their own homes and



Cutting building materials with a circular saw

those of their neighbors. They started an urban farm and also work with residents on construction projects, social outreach, and community development.

Between time spent working on volunteer projects and free-time cultural activities, ASB participants gain experiences and memories to last a lifetime. “What I treasure most from ASB is the opportunity to make spring break count as a meaningful service experience to help others in need rather than a self-serving one,” says Trieu, “I’m still going to remember what we did in New Orleans when I am old and gray—it’s that important to me.”

It might seem strange to some that college students would elect to spend their spring break rebuilding a destroyed neighborhood rather than relaxing on a beach, but Trieu explains, “They can make a positive impact in the lives of others with their spring break; they can learn more about the world around them; they can make new friends.” What could be more fun and rewarding than that?



The Lower Ninth Ward



# Events Recap

## Chili Cook-Off

On Tuesday, April 2nd the Kappa Sigma fraternity hosted a chili cook-off competition to benefit the CC Community Kitchen. Guests at the event purchased tickets to sample the various chilies; the cost of attendance was donated directly to the Kitchen. Fourteen different chilies entered the contest, and were judged by a panel that included CC President Jill Tiefenthaler and professors Barry Sarchett and Peggy Daughtery. After all the chili candidates had been sampled, Georgia Macon '16's buffalo chocolate chili was selected as the winner. The event raised over \$300 for the Community Kitchen, and one of its organizers, Alex Harleen, says, "We're hoping it becomes an event that Kappa Sigma puts on every year."



## Jamnesty

by Meaghan Berns

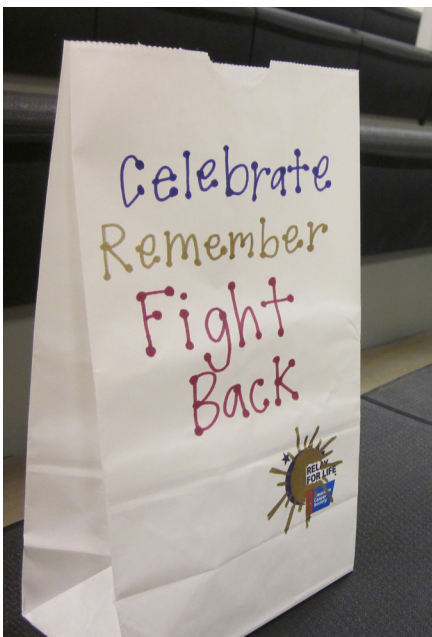
Jamnesty is the annual human rights petition/music extravaganza of CC's Amnesty International chapter. Amnesty International has been around for 60 years, and in that time, through primarily letter writing and petition campaigns, we've managed to free over 50,000 prisoners of conscience! Through Jamnesty, students are able to participate in a number of these vital petition campaigns requiring urgent attention while listening to student bands and learning/talking about a wide variety of human rights issues happening right now, domestically and overseas.

This year, Jamnesty took place on April 4th. Free food was provided, as well as the musical stylings of Freight Train Freight Train (CC's Bluegrass Ensemble), The Raisins, and The Logjammers. We thought Jamnesty was a huge success. Everyone had a good time and a number of prospective students came to our table to ask what Amnesty does at CC and tell us about their experience with Amnesty in their high schools. We had five petitions present, bringing attention to topics such as freedom of religion in China and the protection of women from sexual assault in Kosovo. All in all, we garnered over 100 signatures! Amnesty presents a petition on a new human rights violation every week in Worner. Every Thursday, one of our members is there to explain the situation to those interested. We invite the entire student body to learn about human rights issues around the world through our petitions or by coming to our meetings, which are every Wednesday in Upstairs Worner at 7pm.

# *Relay for Life*



Relay for Life is an annual event at CC and, as one of many Relays around the country, raises money for the American Cancer Society to aid in their efforts to find a cure. During the event, participants walk all night to reflect the fact that cancer never sleeps. This year's Relay was held March 29–30 in the Reid gymnasium. More than 20 teams and 150 participants raised over \$8,000 for cancer research. The night featured hundreds of laps walked, the luminaria memorial ceremony, and fun activities such as zumba and musical performances.



## *K's for Kenya*

by Laurel Hecker '13

On Sunday April 14, GlobeMed at Colorado College hosted a 5K race/walk, which was open to members of the CC and Colorado Springs communities. The event benefited the Western Organization for People Living with AIDS/HIV (WOPLAH), GlobeMed's partner organization in Kenya. The organization seeks to better the lives of children, orphans, and people living with HIV/AIDS through projects such

as community gardens and the purchase of goats to improve nutrition and the economy in the area.

GlobeMed is a national organization with chapters at many colleges and universities around the country. Each chapter and the collective as a whole seek to "strengthen the movement for global health equity by empowering students and communities to work together to improve the health of people living in poverty around the world." Each chapter partners

with a community or local organization in an impoverished area, which communicates its own specific needs to GlobeMed students. GlobeMed at CC has been working with WOPLAH since the Fall of 2012.



## *Summer Opportunities*

### *Camp AmeriKids*

A summer camp for children living with the challenges of HIV/AIDS and sickle cell disease, is looking for caring, responsible, energetic and fun counselors for our 2013 season. Counselors spend each day of the one week camp session with their cabin group as they rotate through a schedule of activities and participate in new and exciting workshops. Counselors are expected to be role models, sources of energy and ideas, and are a key part of the Camp AmeriKids community. Applications are available on our website [www.campamerikids.org](http://www.campamerikids.org).

### *Kalu Yala*

Kalu Yala is a sustainable community that will be built in the mountains about 45 minutes outside Panama City, Panama. Kalu Yala is founded on the core tenants of culture, new urbanism architecture, organic food, wellness, recreation, education, preservation, and conservation of the natural environment. The internship program allows students and young professionals to come to Panama and gain cultural exposure, work experience, and knowledge in order to create a project that will ultimately help shape this sustainable community. We plan to break ground in May of this year which will bring many opportunities for students to work with experts in various fields. More information is available at [kaluyala.com](http://kaluyala.com)

*Check the CCE website for information on these and other summer internship opportunities!*

# Upcoming Events and Announcements

<b>The Cove</b>	
April 25	Peace Jam will sponsor a screening of the film <i>The Cove</i> on Thursday, April 25.
<b>CEL Capstone Unveiling</b>	
April 26	Senior members of the CEL Certificate cohort will present their capstone projects to the public at lunchtime in Gaylord Hall on April 26.

## CCE Student Employment Opportunity!

From the Editor: As I am graduating in May, the Collaborative is seeking to hire a student to serve as the office's Publications Assistant. The Publications Assistant will be responsible for the newsletter, as well as other printed materials such as brochures and posters. If you or someone you know is interested in this position, information is available on the CCE website, and the student employment page. Email Fransiska Dannemann for an application; applications are due April 25 at 5pm.

# COLORADO COLLEGE

## THE COLLABORATIVE FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

WORNER CAMPUS CENTER 205

**PHONE:** (719) 389-6846 **FAX:** (719) 389-6137

**NEWSLETTER EDITOR:** LAUREL HECKER

**WEBSITE:** <http://www.coloradocollege.edu/offices/cce/>

### **Our Mission Statement:**

*The Collaborative for Community Engagement challenges students and faculty to integrate rigorous liberal arts scholarship with collaborative community-based work in ways that strengthen and transform both in the process. In the tradition of liberal education and its emphasis on active citizenship, we provide a continuum of opportunities for the Colorado College community to deepen and contextualize classroom learning by engaging in reciprocal and sustainable collaborations with local, regional, national, and global partners. By fostering skills for planning, implementing and examining civic action, the Collaborative facilitates leadership development and promotes a social responsibility that is reflective, imaginative, and self-aware.*