

Council of Student Social Workers Newsletter

The Council of Student Social Workers (CSSW) is an organization devoted to the unique interests of MU social work students. Membership provides opportunities for support, collaboration, leadership, and service.

The University of Missouri Council of Student Social Workers (CSSW) is a group of students that have banded together to help the community in any way they can. Throughout the 2016-2017 school year, the CSSW has worked with the School of Social Work to provide services to many different organizations within the community. CSSW has rolled up their sleeves to fundraise to assist people within their environment as well as partner with existing agencies/organizations in Columbia, Missouri.

Previous Events:

October 2016

Coffee, Cocoa, and Cookie Drive:

CSSW hosted a coffee, cocoa, and cookie (CCC) drive. Members of the organization baked or brought packaged cookies, and the organization as a group purchased and brewed coffee and cocoa.



CSSW members sold items in Speaker's Circle. The funds that we incurred from the CCC drive were utilized to assist and securing family items for the Voluntary Action Center Holiday Drive.

November-December 2016

VAC Holiday Drive:

Each year, the Voluntary Action Center (VAC) hosts a holiday drive where families and organizations are given the opportunity to adopt a family for Christmas. VAC supplies the adopting agency or persons with the chosen family Wish List of wanted or needed items

of supplies the family has designated as priorities. VAC matched CSSW with a family of a single parent



mother and her two sons ages five and six. The Wish List needed items ranging from winter coats, remote control cars, to coloring books. As an organization, we were able to supply the family with predominantly all of the items listed as needs and wants with a few exceptions.

Coyote Hill Crayon and Coloring Book Drive:

“A Safe Place to be a Child” is the motto of Coyote Hill, a foster home for children of all ages. They provide children with a family home, mom, dad, siblings, school, and traditional family style meals around the table. Coyote Hill’s mission is to ensure children have a safe home environment and systematic family lifestyle. In most cases, this has not been a lifestyle that the children have been accustomed to previously. So therefore this style of living is a transformation for the children. In 2016, CSSW was able to partner with Coyote Hill for a

Holiday Drive to benefit the children. As a recommended needed item for the children, the staff highly advised that crayons and coloring books was a desirable item for the children as an in-home activity during the winter months. The crayon and coloring book drive was implemented in November of 2016. A member of CSSW who is an employee of an affiliated organization along with an alumni solicited donations from fellow employees to assist with the crayon and coloring book drive. The fellow organization was able to supply coloring books, crayons, puzzles, and games for the children of Coyote Hill. This donation along with other contributions allowed CSSW to deliver a sizeable crayon and coloring book drive for the children of Coyote Hill. The students, after returning for winter break, were given the opportunity to drop off the contributions. As part of the tour of Coyote Hill, we were able to meet a host family who provided us with their insight of life and a typical day at Coyote Hill. CSSW looks forward to partnering with Coyote Hill in the future.

Woodhaven Social Mixer:

Woodhaven in an organization that focuses on caring for the needs of individuals with disabilities. In December, CSSW rallied together to collect donations that were given to Woodhaven for their Holiday party as door prizes for the staff and residents.

February 2017

Candy Grams:

In moving forward in 2017, CSSW organized a February Valentine's Day Candy Gram Fundraiser. Members sold Candy Grams with unique "Love" and "I Like You" poems on them for the National Sweetheart Day. The funds from the fundraiser totaled over \$150. The funding will be utilized for activities during Social Work Month in March.

CSSW Apparel:

The CSSW paired with University T's and created School of Social Work Apparel for students, faculty, staff, and alumni. The order ranged from quarter zip sweatshirts, t-shirts, athletic shorts and pants with the School of Social Work Logo on them. The apparel was available for order during the month of February and disbursement scheduled for March.

Peace Corps Informational Meeting

Peace Corps, School of Social Work, and CSSW held an informational session revolving around Peace Corps opportunities. A faculty panel was available for students to learn about social service agencies abroad and their unique experience within Peace Corps. Peace Corps offers a nucleus of involvement that assists students internationally, nationally, and within their graduate program. The panel also highlighted financial opportunities given even after the abroad experience has been completed. There are financial stipends that are available through Peace Corps to assist with your graduate education. The faculty panel was able to highlight how their Peace Corps practice experience uniquely shaped them as a Social Worker.

March 2017

Social Work Month

Progressive Luncheon:

On March 1, as a kickoff for National Social Work Month, CSSW and the School of Social Work partnered together to host a Progressive Luncheon for students, faculty and staff. The Progressive Luncheon included participants travelling the halls of the school sampling dishes from family recipes to regular CoMo lunch food items.



The lunch provided students with opportunities to mingle with faculty who have different experiences that peak student interests to strengthen future goals.

Suzanne Cary's Presentation on Medical Social Work:

In honor of National Social Work Month, CSSW hosted an informational Medical Social Work Presentation in Clark Hall. Suzanne Cary, MSW, LCSW, Field Director, provided an overview of the opportunities of a typical day as a medical social

worker within a hospital setting. She provided her unique experiences as well as job expectations in a hospital. Suzanne also provided participants with keen professional social work obligations that are distinctive and independent as a professional social worker. As a medical social worker, she highlighted advocacy as being one of the major priorities of the profession.

CSSW Trivia Night:

As a finale for Social Work Month, CSSW hosted a trivia night.

The trivia night provided students, faculty, and staff an opportunity to get together for a night of fun and games. The trivia was created



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by our very own Volunteer Coordinator, Kayla, which ranged from Mythology, Sports, Social Work, and Mizzou Facts.

Dr. Watt's Discussion About Child Welfare:

In April, Dr. Watt was able to share his personal involvement with child welfare. As an emeritus faculty with over 22 years of experience and training working with people who have had encounters with abuse or neglect, Dr. Watt provided the group with strategies and interventions to deescalate behaviors. He also provided information regarding counselling individuals who have experienced or identify as sex offenders. The session allowed participants opportunities to openly ask questions.

Dr. Peters Presentation About Foster Care:

Dr. Peters was available for students to learn about foster children aging out of the system. He also provided information about a new effort to increase financial capabilities of those adolescents.

If you are interested in getting involved with the Council of Student Social Workers, please join us at our next meeting on....

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