



Youth Educational Services

Humboldt State University

Annual Review 2012



Meet Us Online

We would like to remind you of the option to read the annual newsletter online instead of receiving a hard copy. To receive the link to the digital version, email us at yes@humboldt.edu.

Our Facebook page offers additional information about what is going on in the YES world, complete with pictures. We would love to have you post to our wall and let us know how you are doing. Please access our page by going to www.humboldt.edu/yes and clicking on the Facebook badge on the right side of our Welcome page.

Hand in Hand

Rebecca Ramos, Social Work
I'm part of the Y.E.S. House because of my passion for social change

Eric Roberts, Psychology



YES Directors and Program Consultants

Youth Mentoring Program

Matthew Lutwen
International Studies and French & Francophone Studies
The Y.E.S. House allows me to give back to the community



ART, Recreation, Theatre

Sakina Ghulam Nader Mohammad
Elementary Education

To change society to be a better place for all



Alternative Mentoring Program

Isamar Valdez, Psychology Major
The Y.E.S House has helped me grow stronger as a leader and as a person and my way of giving thanks is by being involved and working hard to solidify AMP as a full time YES program



North Coast Music Mentors

Summer McCall
Music Education
I am a director for the YES House program because I simply love giving back to this wonderful community with music through the youth.



Program Consultants

Whitney Strouse
International Studies

Victoria Orozco
Social Work

Monica Mercado
Sociology



YES has been my real world training for five years. The people I work with everyday inspire and challenge me to be more. ~ Whitney Strouse

ALTERNATIVE SPRING BREAK

Guillermo Gomez
Communications

Jacquelyn Gutierrez
Social Work

Victor Barajas
Anthropology & Environmental Science

I wanted to be a leader in change. I wanted to influence the community around me & make a difference. ~ Jacquelyn Gutierrez

Tutorial

Jake Hanten
Philosophy Major, Social Advocacy Minor
I joined Y.E.S. to make a positive impact in the community



Golden Years

Chloe Hawkins
Psychology / Studio Art double major
I was born to promote social change. It's my world!



Puentes

Stacey De Marcos
Journalism and Mass Communication

Luis Cruz
Cellular Molecular Biology
Chemistry

Crystal Araceli Ramirez
Business Administration – Marketing

I want to be part of the effort to help the community. Viva La Raza! ~ Luis Cruz

LEADERSHIP EDUCATION ADVENTURE PROGRAM

Liz Sequeira
Outdoor Adventure Recreation

Paul Gillingham
Environmental Science

Erin Cunningham
Recreation Administration

Lydia Zowada
Environmental Science: Ecological Restoration

LEAP allows me to create a positive change in at-risk youths in an outdoor environment ~ Liz Sequeira



New Games

Devany Garcia
Child Development

Sarah Navarro
Mathematics

I am a part of Y.E.S because it allows me to make a difference one child at a time ~ Sarah Navarro



Environmental Education

Meredith Petersen
International Studies

Charlotte Carver
International Studies

Hannah Haerr
Environmental Education & Interpretation

The YES House is an inspiring community of passionate volunteers and directors who support me and my goals to positively impact our society. ~ Charlotte Carver



Homelessness Network

Stephanie Kolaric
Business Management

Christina Urbanczyk
Environmental Resources Engineering

If you don't contribute to change, who will? ~ Christina Urbanczyk

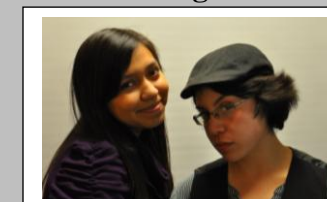


Juvenile Hall Recreation Program

Jessica Eusebio
Psychology

Alma Barba
Social Work

I am here to provide positive and encouraging energy to incarcerated youth. ~ Alma Barba



YES Coordinator
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Operations Manager
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Service Learning Coordinator
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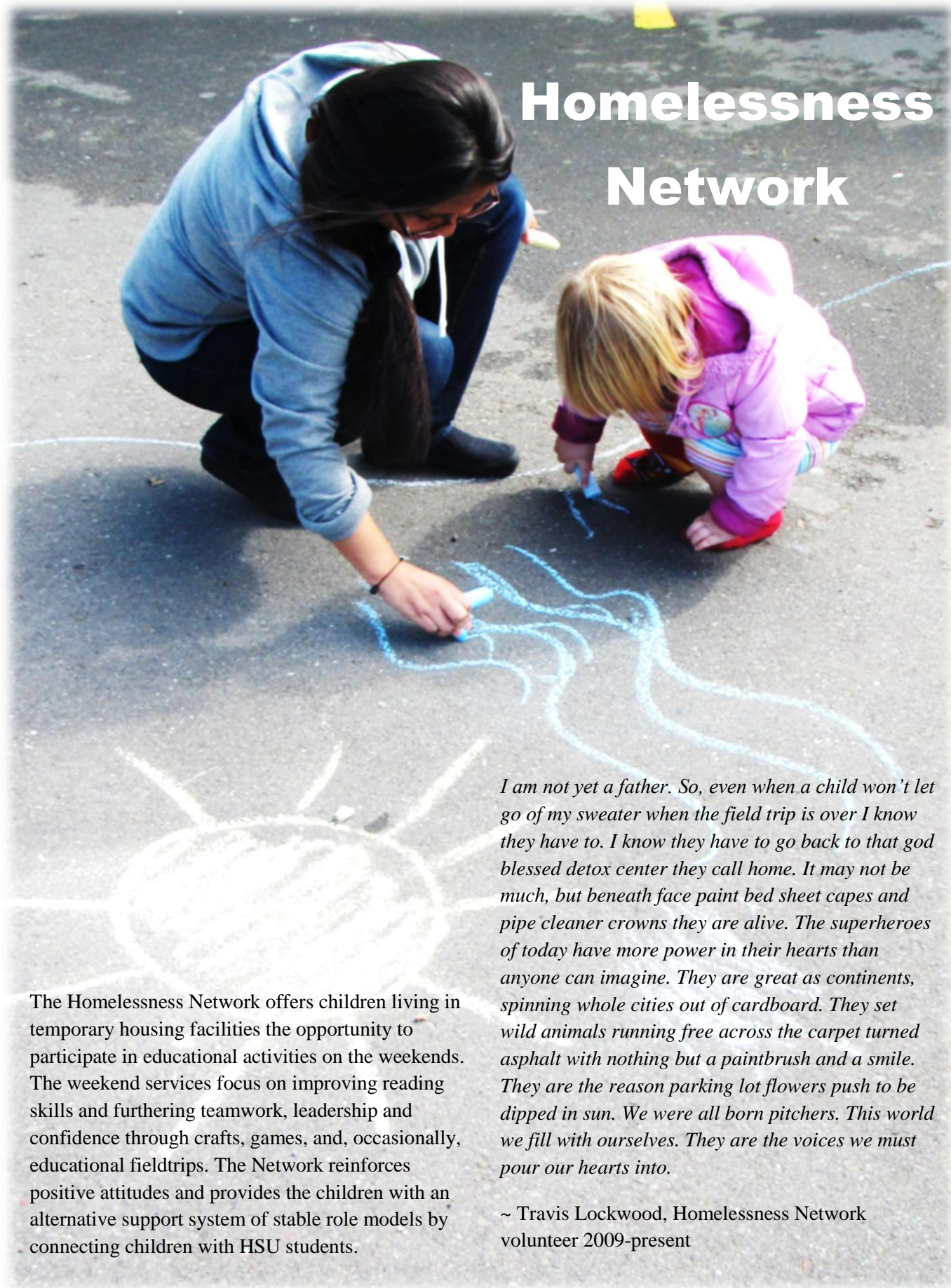


BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
OF THE REDWOODS

GIVE. ADVOCATE. VOLUNTEER.
LIVE UNITED.



Homelessness Network



I am not yet a father. So, even when a child won't let go of my sweater when the field trip is over I know they have to. I know they have to go back to that god blessed detox center they call home. It may not be much, but beneath face paint bed sheet capes and pipe cleaner crowns they are alive. The superheroes of today have more power in their hearts than anyone can imagine. They are great as continents, spinning whole cities out of cardboard. They set wild animals running free across the carpet turned asphalt with nothing but a paintbrush and a smile. They are the reason parking lot flowers push to be dipped in sun. We were all born pitchers. This world we fill with ourselves. They are the voices we must pour our hearts into.

~ Travis Lockwood, Homelessness Network volunteer 2009-present

The Homelessness Network offers children living in temporary housing facilities the opportunity to participate in educational activities on the weekends. The weekend services focus on improving reading skills and furthering teamwork, leadership and confidence through crafts, games, and, occasionally, educational fieldtrips. The Network reinforces positive attitudes and provides the children with an alternative support system of stable role models by connecting children with HSU students.

New Games

Being a volunteer you have the chance to show the kids that having fun does not have to be at the expense of others, and that one can still have fun without violence and competition. New Games incorporates fun, non-violent, and non-competitive games to encourage teamwork and physical activity. We love being a part of New Games because it allows us to make a difference in the lives of the next generation.



Alternative Mentoring Program



A.M.P's goal is to bring mentorship to youth who have felt the effects of the justice system. The program provides youth with mentors who help bring companionship and support in their time of need.

A.M.P began as F.E.A.T (Fun, Entertainment, Adventures, and Teamwork) but has now become the Alternative Mentoring Program. When it first began the program was seeking to work with children of incarcerated parents but it proved difficult to find a set population to work with when trying to get a hold of youth from such private and sensitive backgrounds. The program redesigned its mission and expanded its population to include youth who have directly or indirectly been affected by the justice system. A.M.P history is being made this year by achieving their highest number of paired mentorships.

Tutorial

Tutorial prepares youth for success by providing free tutoring and a positive mentor to local K-12 students. After a semester of volunteering, I realized the importance and satisfaction of being actively involved in the community, which I have grown to love. Volunteers find the work very rewarding and feel good about the difference they made. "I knew it was time to do something good for the community and Tutorial was a great place to do it."

North Coast Music Mentors

Last semester we had a student from Arcata Elementary who came every week because he loved playing music with N.C.M.M. The principle dropped in one week and told us afterwards that he had never seen that student behave so well in a classroom setting before. Apparently this student had A.D.H.D., but because of the musical activities none of the volunteers would have guessed that he was a problem student. This greatly inspired our volunteers to make more differences in the life of young people through music. I hope that NCMM continues to affect kids in similar and positive ways. Every child deserves the chance to discover the wonders and joys of music.





According to Luis Cruz, Puentes Co-Director, the program is here to help the low-income Latino community. The directors enjoy doing this because of the sense of fulfillment that they get when they serve the community. Directors are responsible for training volunteers in weekly meetings and setting up service. "It feels good knowing that we are helping these children progress in school" said Stacey De Marcos Puentes Co-Director.

Hand in Hand

The program has worked with a core group of kids for a long time. When we started working with many of these children almost a decade ago, most of them were young and had behavioral challenges. We've seen them grow up into highly responsible and respectful teenagers. Our program has built up a stronger and stronger momentum that we hope to maintain throughout the upcoming year. In addition, we are thinking about offering one-on-one mentoring and doing even more services. Most important, though, is to get the word out to new foster families.

ART, Recreation, Theatre

One cannot deny the fact that through any of its programs, volunteers automatically become part of a bigger society and family of the YES House. YES offers volunteers a platform to discuss and share their ideas openly with their directors, whether it was through participating in workshops or by providing ideas for services. I would say that programs of the YES House were created because of the dreams that a group of students had for change in society, and to continue this dream every semester the YES House opens its door to hundreds of students to make a better place for all they serve.

Environmental Education



This year we have expanded and improved Environmental Education in various, exciting ways. We have started weekend services with McKinleyville Middle School. Our volunteers and directors provide gardening, maintenance, and services to their wonderful garden program all which benefits the Green Design Class for students. Also, with the help of Melissa Meiris, an environmental educator, we have started thematic teaching with our regular services. Now the participants have a whole month to absorb what we are teaching. For example, during the month of February our theme is ecosystems and each week we cover a different ecosystem, such as wetlands. Even though we have only just begun with thematic teaching, we have seen impressive results.

Youth Mentoring Program

Mentors, they're the ones that let you know that everything will be fine even though time is moving too fast and the responsibilities weigh heavy on your back. They're the ones that have been there, been through, and came to give back what they've learned. They are the wrestling coaches, the math tutors, the big brothers and sisters, and the people that truly want to make a positive difference in your life. We call people like them mentors, and they are what make the Youth Mentoring Program possible.



L.E.A.P.

For the future LEAP is striving to create lasting relationships with community contacts where we are used as an educational resource for teachers, youth programs and other groups in the community for years to come. Recently, LEAP has been fulfilling our goal of leading more challenge courses that work with larger school groups, highlighting the importance of teamwork and group collaboration while inspiring opportunities for youth to utilize their leadership skills and boost their self esteem.

Juvenile Hall Recreation Program

This program is unique and necessary to the community because teens need positive interactions while in the facility. Knowing that we have an impact in the lives of so many youth is what keeps us motivated to serve in the community. This year JHRP expanded from two days of service to three, allowing us to have more volunteers in the program- up to 24 total volunteers- as well as to serve more youth. Having more volunteers on more days of service has really made a tremendous impact.



ALTERNATIVE SPRING BREAK

ASB set off this year trying to learn about the subject of homelessness by doing service, learning about the causes and the discrimination the homeless face every day. ASB has done services locally with the Arcata House, a transitional living facility, as well as Food For People, the only food bank in Humboldt County. Finding service locally was a challenge with places like North Coast Resource Center closing down and other sites weren't big enough to take in 16 volunteers, we looked forward to San Francisco.

ASB stayed at the City Center Hostel in the Tenderloin and worked with a variety of organizations like San Francisco Care's Community Banquet, Free Farm and Night Ministry. They also worked with Glide and learned about the artistic services at the Hospitality House. Throughout the week volunteers served over 1,000 meals and definitely witnessed the hardships that the homeless population goes through every day. Volunteer Danielle Rodriguez says, "ASB has helped me gain new experiences this semester as well as last semester. I have learned a lot and will inform others on how they can help out in the community. ASB is an awesome group."

Golden Years

"I loved helping Ruth find her sunglasses. It was so fun! After, we talked about family, culture, environment and globalization. It was very interesting." ~ Nanak Hikmatullah

One community participant in Arcata "let us read poetry she wrote. She talked about a magazine she created regarding women rights and how she lived in a commune in Oregon for 2 years until they got forced off the land!" ~ Matalyn Shanahan

MISSING



RESPECT

OLD AGE IS NOT A DISEASE. IT'S STRENGTHS AND SURVIVORSHIP TRIUMPH OVER ALL KINDS OF VICISSITUDES AND DISSAPPOINTMENTS, TRAILS, AND ILLNESSES.

Maggie Kuhn

SUBVERT THE DOMINANT PARADIGM

Serving the Humboldt County Community

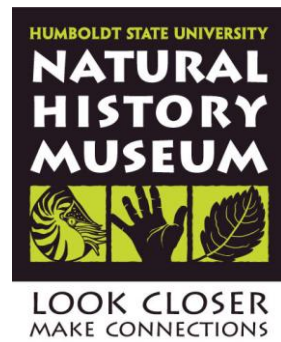


THE YOUTH SERVICE BUREAU
RAVEN PROJECT

Thank all of YES HOUSE for your
commitment to the program.

~ Larry Lange,
Multiple Assistance Center

Hand in Hand offers an environment where these kids can spend time and get to know other kids who have similar experiences. Whereas, at school, they're different because of their pasts, in Hand and Hand they know they have something in common with the other children.
~ Foster Parent



Statistics: Fall 2011

Participants served : 1151

Volunteers semester long : 224

Volunteers one-time/ VOP: 240

Volunteers hours: 12,345

Students actually watch the Puentes volunteers leave with tears in their eyes. The students at Lafayette truly L-O-V-E the Puentes volunteers and thank them for helping us in becoming the best students that we can be! The volunteers at Lafayette come up with activities they can do with the students; most of the activities have educational purposes but there are also a few that are just for fun.
~ Lynn Intersimone, Teacher at Lafayette Elementary



With the help of our HSU student volunteers, the Potawot Community Food Garden provides food for a healthy body, mind and spirit of our Indian Community. We could not do it without you so thank you to the Volunteer Opportunity and Service Learning programs!
~ T. Griffin, Potawot Garden Coordinator

Environmental Education adds greatly to the science we offer in the After School Program as well as the regular day...When I observe the children, they are completely engaged with what is being taught. They have connected well with the HSU students and really look forward to the Environmental Education's weekly activities.
~ Paulette Corbin, the after-school supervisor at Alice Birney Elementary

Sites Served this year

Aguilar Manor
Alice Birney Elementary
Arcata Elementary
Boys & Girls Club
Broadway Motel
CASA of Humboldt
Coastal Grove Charter School
Eureka High School
Friends of the Dunes
Fuente Nueva Charter School
Golden Sunset Senior Care Home
Grant Elementary
Humboldt County Food Bank
Humboldt County Juvenile Hall
Jacoby Creek Charter School Live
Lafayette Elementary School
March for Parks
Marshall Family Resource Center
McKinleyville High School
McKinleyville Middle School
Multiple Assistance Center
Natural History Museum
Orick School
Pacific Union School
Raven Project
Senior homes
Serenity Inn
Silvercrest Residence
Sunnybrae Middle School
Toddy Thomas Elementary School



The diverse efforts of the students to "Halt Hunger in Humboldt" through food drives, the collection of "J" points to address weekend hunger among low income children, promotion of the Plant a Row for the Hungry initiative and the students' community education and engagement activities at various conferences set an excellent example for the rest of the community.
~ Anne Holcomb,
Food for People Director

VOP: HSU Day of Caring event sites: 33

Sites used for other VOP events:

United Indian Health Services: Potawot
NW Intertribal Gathering & Elder's Dinner
Humboldt Fish Action Council
Relay for Life



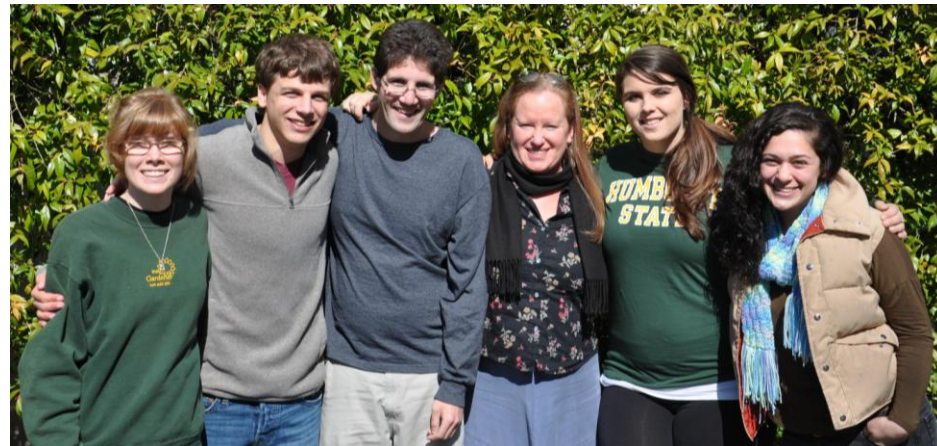
JHRP has been a very valuable program for the minors detained in the Humboldt County Juvenile Hall. The minors get to interact with college age adults pursuing their dreams of getting a good education and being productive members of the community. The JHRP volunteers give hope to minors that believe there is none. I enjoy working with the coordinators each year to keep this community service program thriving.

~ Ray Watson, Eureka Juvenile Hall Facility Manager



Volunteer Opportunity Program

The Volunteer Opportunity Program empowers student leadership by laying the foundation for students to engage with their local community through volunteer service. Service Learning Interns identify, advertise and direct these one-time offerings for YES volunteers. HSU Day of Caring is an annual September event that the VOP helps coordinate with our local United Way to bring over 400 HSU students and community volunteers together to serve at community partner sites around Humboldt County. It is often the first opportunity for students to connect with community organizations and form long term volunteer partnerships. Many of our community partners rely on the service which volunteers provide to be able to carry out their programs.



From Left to Right:
 Katherine Arnett, Program Director
 Jimmy Barnett, Intern
 Denny Burke, Program Director
 Stacy Becker, Partner Liaison
 Jennifer Howell, Intern
 Arada Aghyarian, Intern



Service Learning Center

The Service Learning Center, in collaboration with the YES House, has been actively addressing issues of sustainability and food security with support from our CARE grant, supported through Learn & Serve America and California Campus Compact. Service Learning Interns and staff have been putting heart and soul into the following green/sustainability and hunger-halting activities:

- Garden goodies such as seeds and tools, and garden-based education curriculum were gathered and shared with local K-12 schools.
- “Plant a Row for the Hungry” program materials, row markers, and information were distributed to local schools that will dedicate a row of produce in donation to the Food Bank.
- Interns created “Healthy Choice” materials advocating for cancer-combating, sustainable and organic nutritional choices at the HSU Youth Relay for Life in April.
- Due to the generosity of the campus community at our Holiday Food Drive, 1,431 pounds of food were collected for Food for People, the Humboldt County Food Bank, which has seen a 45% increase of households served, and a 75% increase in food distributed through the “Backpack for Kids” program in the last fiscal year alone.
- Look for Service Learning interns at the end of the spring 2012 semester tabling around campus to promote students contributing their unused “J” meal points to our “Halting Hunger” efforts! Last year we swapped out \$1600 of meal points for 40 cases of Peanut Butter and 14 cases of Tuna-healthy protein choices needed for the Food Bank’s “Backpack for Kids” program!



Collage by: Whitney Strouse

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

The mission of Youth Educational Services is to support Humboldt State University students in creating and implementing volunteer programs. Our student-run programs provide services to a broad age spectrum ranging from youth to elderly. Volunteers spend time in the community building friendships and working together to meet community needs. Through our services we attempt to act as allies and resources in an effort to end the cycle of oppression in the community at large. We enact our mission through the vehicle of service learning, which includes educational and experiential component, students provide direct service, allowing them to address the issues and apply the skills they have learned. Our goal is to help students work toward positive social change and empower the people we serve.

Alumni Share Their Stories

My mother was almost 16 when I was born. She worked hard to finish high school and nursing school by the time I was in kindergarten. She worked even harder to send me to college. As an NRPI student at HSU, I did not know what my future held. I envisioned a life as a park ranger or possibly a science teacher. My roommate's involvement in the YES House inspired me to learn more, and when I discovered a program to help teen moms, I was in! As a volunteer, and then director of that program, I gained a sense of social responsibility and a desire to give back to my community for the first time, a desire to return to others just a bit of the hope, high expectations, and belief in myself that had been given to me. The staff at the YES House developed that sense of stewardship and nurtured the leadership skills I have carried forward into my career today. I changed my major as a result of the work I did at the YES House and graduated with a degree in Child Development. I went on to earn my Masters of Social Welfare at UC Berkeley and I am now the director of a County Child Welfare Agency. I know that YES changed the path of my life and as a result, has impacted many more families and children than I could have imagined, and I am very, very grateful.

~ Rachel Pena, MSW

My experiences at YES were life changing. My studies at HSU provided me with the fundamental background that helped me along in my career path. However, it was through YES that I had experiences that forever altered who I was as a person. The friendships and interpersonal relations with my fellow volunteers and unequalled mentoring from the likes of Joy Hardin and Carlisle Douglas gave me many and varied real life experiences that I have reflected on and drawn from many times since I directed LEAP in the early 90's. Humboldt State has something living and powerful in the YES organization.

~ Scott Rion, Recreation Planner, Bureau of Land Management