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Explorers Sans Frontières (ESF)



ESF's mission is to, "build cultural connections one person and one community at a time."

Greetings-

At ESF, We dream, We believe, and we DO!

In January a group of ESF volunteers met to begin the process of developing our first strategic plan. This effort is critical for ESF to recruit qualified board members and secure funding to support our growth. We are also taking this opportunity to survey our members regarding their impressions of ESF and evaluate our current strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats. The core group of volunteers spending hours working on our plan include, Shonta D. Collins, Ahaji Schreffler, Crystal Taylor, Lara Lechtenberg, Jen Leary, Leah



Cunningham, and Mark Maguire.

We are in the process of analyzing the results of the survey and will include a summary of the findings in our next newsletter.

The preliminary results show broad satisfaction with ESF as an organization, its services, and programs. You can also view the final report from ESF's 1st Intern from Columbia University, Petra Aldrich at <http://explorerssf.org/2011/03/08/petra-aldrich-on-haiti/>.

A special note of appreciation from ESF to Bethel UHCA Staten Island Physician Practice, Amy Baldi's community of local school children, neighbors and friends, along with PCOM students for their generosity and support of our global programs in Haiti.

Sincerely,
ESF Team Locally and Abroad



Domestic Programs

World Water Day, March 20, 2011

Join us in support of the Walk for Water for Haiti on Sunday, March 20 at 9 am in acknowledgment of World Water Day. The University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing is sponsoring a 5K walk to raise funds to provide filtration systems and access to clean water for a national nursing school and its affiliated clinics in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. You can register online at <http://www.nursing.upenn.edu/gha/Pages/walkforhaitifundraiser.aspx>

This will be a great event and an opportunity to get fit too!

Philadelphia Youth Network (PYN), March 29, 2011

ESF along with other local organizations, including the United Nation Association-Greater Philadelphia (UNA-GP), will be hosting an information table for the Philadelphia youth to get involved and learn about internship opportunities for the summer of 2011. The event will take place at the Fairmount Water Works on March 29, 2011 at 8am. Please pass this along to the youth in your community because ESF is looking for interns throughout the year.



Contact Us

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Spring into Health Community Day, April 16, 2011

ESF, in partnership with SCI-West, The Partnership CDC, Primerica, Penn Medicine, and Michelle Obama's Obesity Initiative, U.S. Soccer Foundation presents, "Physical and Financial Health." This 3rd annual Spring Into Health Community Day is coordinated by Lara Lechtenberg. The event on April 16, 2011 from 12-4 pm will offer free health and wellness screenings including dental, blood pressure, cholesterol, and much more. We will also be hosting financial workshops for attendees and a soccer clinic for the kids. Furthermore, there will be free food, fruit, drinks, entertainment, and prizes!

Visit ESF online to view the latest flyer and learn about opportunities to sponsor this terrific event!

Honors, Awards and Recognition of ESF Volunteers

Global Health Council Conference

Lara Lechtenberg, ESF Director of Student Outreach, Crystal Taylor, ESF Director of Mental Health and Wellness and Shonta D. Collins will be in attendance at the Global Health Council Conference in Washington, DC from June 13-17, 2011. The opportunity was made possible through our partnership with the African Studies Center at the University of Pennsylvania. We would like to send a special thanks to Anastasia Shown, MSW, for her commitment and dedication to the community.

Outreach

Black History Month Celebrations

On Sunday, February 27th, 2011 ESF Leaders Ben Guillaume, RN, David Pierre, Jr. PCOM 2nd Year Medical Student, and April Elder, PCOM 2nd Year Medical Student joined Bethel United Holy Church of America in Trenton, NJ to take part in their annual Black History Month Celebration. This year's celebration focused on "Helping Haiti." ESF was blessed with the opportunity to sit on a panel to discuss our past, present, and future projects geared towards aiding Haiti. Thank you Bethel UHCA for your generous donation in support of ESF Team Haiti!

Ben also presented at the Pan African Summit at Enon Baptist Church on February 26, 2011. Thank you to Numa St. Louis for his assistance and coordination.

Lara met with students from the University of the Sciences in Philadelphia (USP) and presented information regarding ESF's Haiti outreach. This meeting resulted in a new pool of volunteers for our Haiti programs. ESF is dedicated to maintaining communication with these students and encouraging them to apply for upcoming trips.

Coming Up

Ben and Shonta are scheduled to address students at St. Joseph's and Temple University in March. In accepting this invitation, we hope to continue inspiring others to volunteer, make a humble difference and become local and global heroes. The success of our future generation is vital to not only the growth and sustainability of ESF, but also to the work of helping.

Medical and Disaster Relief Programs

ESF Team Haiti Group F, March 11-19

ESF Team Haiti Group F will be deployed to Haiti from March 11-19 under the senior leadership of Dr. Kelly Eberhardt and junior leaders, David Pierre, Jr. and April Elder, PCOM 2nd year medical students. The accompanying team from the US will include returnee Amy Jo Baldi, RN and Matt Stensland, PCOM 2nd year medical student and Shonta D. Collins, RN.

In Haiti, the team will be supported by a host of nursing and medical professionals, translators and public health advocates. The team's goal is to diagnose, treat, and educate the communities that we serve in partnership with the Haitian American Caucus, (HAC), Yele Haiti, Special Olympics and other community partners. We send all the blessings and prayers to Group F, the 6th ESF team into Haiti.

ESF Opens an Office in Haiti

ESF Team Haiti will also have the pleasure to witness the evolution of the ESF Global Health and Wellness Center. The centers redesign was lead by ESF staff Ysmaille Jean Baptiste, Rousevelt Occean and Anderson Pierre. Thanks everyone and we look forward to many great memories with you in Haiti.

International Programs

Braille Books for Senegal

Lara Lechtenberg has been in contact with a blind teacher in Stamford, CT who has an attic full of Braille books for students of all ages. He wants to donate his books to one of the schools where ESF volunteers in Thiès, l'Institut National pour l'Education et Formation des Jeunes Aveugles (INEFJA).

On March 19th, Lara will travel to NYC and take a train to Stamford, CT, where a U-Haul is reserved for the project. After loading up the UHAUL with the books, she will transport the books back to Philadelphia . Over the course of a few weeks, she will mail off the boxes of books to Senegal using the free international postage agreement for sending materials for the blind around the world.

Haiti

Be sure to view this amazing video made by Chris Rathmann, ESF Volunteer,
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JM_N24-R0pc.

Thanks for being part of our journey and be sure to visit us online for more details about these upcoming or past events. Also, you can give year-round through the Giving Seed www.TheGivingSeed.com or buy Trade Free Coffee through Dean's Bean Coffee at www.ExplorersSF.org.

Sincerely yours,
Explorers Sans Frontières (ESF)