

LPBC – Class of 2011 Project Summary & Overview

Class Project: Basic Dental Needs for New Mothers

Community Partner: Adopt –A–Mom

Issue: A number of first-time expectant mothers do not have the means to afford proper dental care which would improve their health and that of their developing children. A number of local dentists wish to apply their talents to help those who cannot afford proper dental services. The Class of 2011 sought to bring these entities together.

Project Goals: Develop strategies to encourage dentists to volunteer their time and expertise, including using referrals to secure dentists; developing ways to share essential information and secure contract with dentists; develop an informative brochure explaining the program, defining the Adopt-A-Mom program, and describing the benefits participants can receive. Apply brochures to engage dental volunteers and first-time expectant mothers in need of dental services.

How can you help? Contact the Dental Division of the Palm Beach County Health Department at 561-837-5557.

Class Project: Demystifying the Affordable Care Act of 2010

Community Partner: Palm Beach County Medical Society

Issue: Though the Federal Affordable Care Act of 2010 will impact the healthcare choices of all Palm Beach County residents, there is tremendous confusion and inaccurate information surrounding this legislation, making it difficult for the public to understand what real changes will take place and how the changes will impact them.

Goals: Develop a marketing & outreach strategy to educate various target audiences in PBC about the health care reform legislation.

Activities: After researching the provisions in depth, the class created a “Summary of Key Provisions in the Affordable Care Act of 2010” to detail factual information about the Act in straightforward terms. This summary will be included in the Medical Society’s outreach efforts. The Team also created a detailed Marketing and Outreach Plan, providing specific recommendations on how to disseminate the information to the public using a variety of methods. The project team met with the Medical Society’s Board of Directors and its Communications Committee to provide guidance on the implementation of this plan. The end goal is for PBC residents to be better-informed about this legislation, and for this plan to serve as a model for communicating this information elsewhere in the country.

How can you help? For more information or to work with the PBC Medical Society on this issue, contact Tenna Wiles at 433.3940 or by email: tennaw@pbcms.org.

Class Project: Unemployment & Youth Aging out of Foster Care

Community Partner: Vita Nova

Issue: Each year, nearly 1,000 of the 23,000 Florida children living in foster care “age-out” of the system. In 2009, a mere 3% reported having regular full time employment. In our county, 75 young people will age out of care this year and need to secure regular employment. To address this issue, the committee aimed to create a formalized employment induction, training, and sustainability model.

Goals: identify local business willing to provide job training for these youth through internships; identify job mentors within local businesses to provide on the job guidance and internship support; collaborate to develop curriculum for job mentor/mentee training; assist in job placement and post-employment supportive assistance.

Outcomes: Identified over 100 local businesses willing to provide on the job training and/or employment; identified 30 job mentors and collaboratively developed curriculum; helped train the youth after they were placed in jobs. The class will provide post-employment support & assistance on a volunteer basis after the project end date.

How can you help? Contact Donna Andrews at Child and Family Connections at 352.2500 or dandrews@cfcpcb.org

Class Project: The Business of Hope

Community Partner: Gratitude House, Inc.

Goal 1: Develop a business & retail training curriculum to be used by the clients in the on-site thrift store to increase career competencies.

Activities: Submitted training modules in response to identified needs to help teach Customer Service Skills, Cash Register Skills, and Merchandising/Stocking, Inventory Control & Merchandise Display

Goal 2: Create marketing campaign to promote Gratitude House thrift store; increase store mailing list through sharing data banks, and have a well-attended open house.

Activities: 1) Hosted a “Holiday Open House” that resulted in the biggest revenue day since the store opened in May 2010! 2) Hosted a “Spring Cleaning Sale” with proceeds nearly 5 times the monthly average. 3) Surveyed attendees on demographics and intent to return (an overwhelming majority said they would!), and gleaned email addresses from surveys, increasing the thrift store’s mailing list. 4) Currently working with LPBC alumni & city officials to obtain better signage for the Gratitude House thrift store.

Call to action: Please visit the Gratitude House Thrift Store at 1700 North Dixie Hwy in WPB or contact Angela Wing-Allen at 833.6826 or angelaw@gratitudehouse.org. Note: they accept donations!!