

MLK Day of Service 2012

POINTS OF INTEREST

Community Partner Spotlight 2

BSU in the Community 3

Service Superstar 3

Did you know 4

Calendar 4

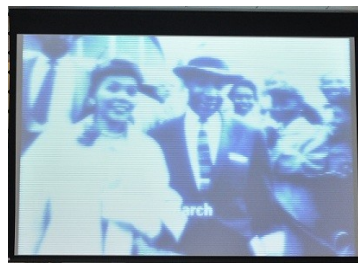
Editor:
Ashlee Downing

Contributing
Writers:
Cliff Martin
Lila Handy
Melissa Oquendo

On January 16th 2012, cities across the nation spent the day honoring the life of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Dr. King was not only a pivotal figure in the Civil Rights movement; he was a man of courage, honor, dignity and intelligence. This year, BSU hosted its 25th annual MLK Day breakfast and sponsored a variety of ways to serve the community. The first two ways were service opportunities off campus; groups volunteered at both the Bridgewater Nursing Home and the Brockton VA Hospital. In the large ballroom in RCC, volunteers assembled brown bag lunches for people experiencing homelessness, made jewelry for women affected by domestic violence and created care packages for our troops. Also, volun-

teers with the Afro-Am Society engaged the youth from the Boys and Girls Club in activities about Martin Luther King, Jr. and led a series of activities that educated and enlightened them. Stephenie Hou, a sophomore and social work major here at BSU, volunteered at the Bridgewater Nursing Home. Stephenie describes being able to serve on MLK Day as being a part of something big. Stephenie remembers Dr. King as a man who wasn't afraid to address the issues and fight for what he believed in; he was a true leader. As someone who is very involved on campus and in the future wishes to work with a non-profit, Stephenie's motto is "Make a Difference." Three simple words, yet we sometimes forget that we can indeed

make a difference in someone's life through even the smallest deed. Dr. King made a huge difference simply by standing up for what he believed in and fighting for it until the very end. Sydne Martins, the Staff Assistant to the Dean of the College of Education and Allied Studies, served as the Mistress of Ceremony for BSU's 25th annual MLK Day breakfast. Mrs. Martins was surprised yet honored when President Dana Mohler-Faria asked her to be the MC. Like all of us, Mrs. Martins greatly respects President Mohler-Faria and sees how much our university continues to do to promote diversity and social justice. Although we dedicate the month of February to black history, Sydne celebrates black history year round simply because she is constantly aware of it.



Community Partner Spotlight— My Brother's Keeper

The holiday season is a time to put faith and a little joy into the world and the lives of others. Many do this by giving gifts or enjoying a substantial meal with those they love. Unfortunately, not all of us have the opportunity to enjoy these great fortunes; there are those who face great hardships and adversity during a time which is supposed to be entertaining and light-hearted.

Luckily there are organizations that look to add a little cheer to those families in need; one organization that accomplishes this is My Brother's Keeper. My Brother's Keeper is a charitable organization in Easton, MA which delivers furniture and food to local residents who request assistance, no questions asked. This past December they delivered personally selected gifts to 2,417 families (a total of 9,637 children and adults) in communities reaching from the North Shore to Fall River and as far as Cape Cod. My Brother's Keeper additionally presented each family with a ham or a turkey and a \$40 gift card to Shaw's Super-

market so each family could enjoy a holiday meal. Although it is wonderful to hear that people get this support during the holidays, it is even more thrilling to know that My Brother's Keeper delivers to those in need year round, without fail, with the help of students.

My Brother's Keeper is one of our monthly events in the Community Service Center. Zach Cruz, a sophomore here at BSU, recently took some time to sit down and talk about his experience with My Brother's Keeper. Zach mentions how his time with My Brother's Keeper was especially rewarding due to the hands-on work that he did in such a "loving atmosphere" He continues to praise the program by stating how they "...truly care about the quality of life of every human being" Examples like these show us what can be achieved with a little determination and teamwork. Everything is delivered directly to the people of the community

which makes service more personal and fulfilling to know that YOU can take the burden off a family's shoulders. YOUR effort can make a difference.



BSU in the Community December

World AIDS Day



First Fridays of Service

Jeremy Floman is a junior, double majoring in Special Education and Theater. Jeremy commutes from Mansfield, MA but that does not stop him from actively participating in community service any chance he gets. Since a young boy, Jeremy has volunteered at food pantries and at his church. Currently, he loves being a part of Jumpstart because it not only gives him experience in the education field, it also

provides him with multiple community service events. Service for Jeremy is not just something he does once in a while; it has become a part of who he is. Jeremy knows how to manage his time between academics and service and does so intuitively with focus and a positive outlook. As for his future plans, Jeremy wants to be a special education teacher. He sees himself one day getting a master's degree and running

a successful, community-building classroom for years to come. Jeremy believes that the idea of giving back to the community will always be his first priority. His advice for others is to choose service projects that you can be passionate about; that way, "You can put your heart and soul into whatever project you are doing to result in an experience that will be worthwhile."



Student:
Jeremy Floman

"I feel that doing something nice for someone else who is needy, in return, helps you become a better person. That is what I strive to become."



Staff: Cathy Chuchran

This month's Faculty Service Superstar features Cathy Chuchran. Cathy is the Facilities/Management/Planning Grounds Foreman here at BSU. When discussing what sparked her interest in community service Cathy explained that she "started volunteering twenty seven years ago at the Middleboro Senior Citizens Center" and enjoyed helping others. She continued her volunteer career here at Bridgewater State University by volunteering at a

variety of sites including Meals on Wheels and My Brother's Keeper. From these experiences came a passion. Cathy explains that she has "a lot of favorite charities that I enjoy helping out during the year".

While working with Meals on Wheels she became especially fond of the program. Cathy really enjoys Meals on Wheels because she became very attached to the elderly that she was serving "Some people have no family and need a little of your time."

Recently, Cathy has focused her efforts on My Brother's Keeper, a charity that provides furniture

and other basic essentials to those in need in the community. She tries to help them whenever possible both through the Community Service Center and on her own personal time. She has even gotten her family to get involved because she believes the work they are doing is important.

While volunteering is usually not related to her work, Cathy has recently looked into "environmental service, such as parks and watersheds, and there is a long list that needs help!" Cathy finds her service experience "very rewarding, especially when I can involve my family".

BSU in the Community December and January

Baskets of Love



Gift of Giving

MLK Day





Did you know

So many opportunities!

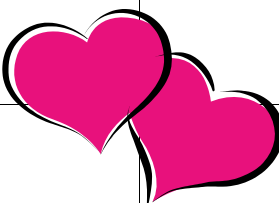
You can now register to volunteer and get involved on the Community Service Center Website
<https://www.bridgew.edu/CommunityService/events/>

Like us on Facebook for up to date information at:
<http://www.facebook.com/bsu.community.service.center>



- February is Black History Month and every year features a new theme. 2012's theme is African American Women.
- Ida B. Wells was a civil rights activist who wrote for numerous newspapers in her career and was a founder of the NAACP in 1909.
- Harriet Tubman, an escaped slave, led hundreds to freedom on the underground railroad and served in the U.S. Army as a nurse, scout, and a spy during the Civil War.
- Toni Morrison was the first African American woman to win the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1993.
- Shirley Chisholm was the first African American woman elected to the U.S. Congress. She served seven terms from January 1969 until January 1983.
- The first African American woman to travel into space was Mae C. Jemison when she was part of the Endeavour crew on mission STS47.

February

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 Father Bill's & MainSpring	3 First Fridays of Service (Black History Month)	4
5	6	7 My Brother's Keeper	8	9 The Table	10	11
12	13	14 Valentines for Victims	15 My Brother's Keeper	16	17	18
19	20 <i>President's Day</i>	21	22	23	24	25 S.O.S. (Community Autism Resources)
26	27	28	29	