



ISSUE 1

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The Difference

THE CENTER FOR SERVICE & LEARNING NEWSLETTER

HAM Jam!

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On Sunday, September 20th, behind Shove Chapel, the air was filled with delicious smells and great music as Colorado College students and staff, alongside residents of Colorado Springs, came together to hold the first ever HAM Jam. With September being Hunger Action Month (HAM), CC and the community wanted to find a way to better educate students and residents about hunger in the Springs, and the weekly CC Community Kitchen at Shove presented a great opportunity to do so.

Every Sunday, a small number of Colorado College and community volunteers work diligently in Shove Chapel's kitchen in order to help feed Colorado Springs residents who are in need. Within the homeless community, the CC Community Kitchen is well known. Mary Eddings, a local resident attending HAM Jam, commented from personal experience, "If you are homeless or remotely homeless, you know about it."

Eddings, who attended HAM Jam in order to give back to the place that had helped her years ago, had



CC band, Sexy and FUNKtionals, performing at HAM Jam

nothing but positive things to say about the workers and the food at the kitchen. The only thing Eddings discussed that was not positive was the limited knowledge people who are not homeless have about places like the CC Community Kitchen and hunger in general.

HAM Jam's goal, was to address concerns like Eddings. The event was about broadening knowledge about hunger and organizations that work to combat it. With the help of ten student organizations, from the Glass House to the Carnivore Club, thirty plus kitchen volunteers, and donations and sup-

port from Colorado Springs residents and organizations such as Safeway and Whole Foods the weekly CC Community Kitchen was turned into the perfect forum to accomplish that goal.

Everyone and anyone from the CC campus and the surrounding community were invited to come and take part in the events offerings, which included a good old-fashioned barbeque and a live concert.

Students from all over campus, even those who were not directly involved, came to enjoy the food, the music, and the opportunity to

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Quick Facts About Hunger:

36.2 million Americans or roughly 1 in every 8 people face going without food

32% of households needing food assistance are working

88% of those in need of food assistance have homes

1 out of every 4 people in a soup line is a child

Information provided by Preston Brasch and Care and Share



CC students and staff serving HAM Jam attendees

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interact with a variety of people. In order to provide enough food for the increased attendance, the event's planners asked both the CC campus and the community for help. Both responded spectacularly, packing the Shove kitchen with all the essentials for a great barbeque.

While hunger awareness was the focus of the event, music was an integral part of HAM Jam. The event booked both CC bands and local musicians to play while people ate, and also featured an Open Mic, where anyone who wished to perform could take to the stage. For many, the music was just

as important as the food. Jam was on its way to becoming a reality.

Dick Carwile has been volunteering in the Shove soup kitchen for years, and when he found out that music would be a major part of the HAM Jam, he was ecstatic. For Dick, while food may satisfy a physical need, music satisfies, another, just as important need.

For Carwile, "There is no life without music."

The stage also provided, a way for attendees to learn more about hunger. In between sets, MC and head organizer of the event, Preston Brasch, a 2009 Colorado College graduate and Public Interest Fellow at local food bank Care and Share, related information about both local and national hunger.

With the number of people who worked together to make HAM Jam a possibility and how smoothly it ran, the event seemed like it must have taken months to plan. In truth, the idea for the event had come out of a brainstorming session only three weeks before. Brasch and Gay Victoria, the Director for the Center for Service and Learning and Advisor for the CC Community Kitchen, met for coffee at the beginning of the school year, and by the time they were finished, HAM

Both Brasch and Victoria knew CC students would be up to the challenge of putting together a barbeque and live concert in three weeks. Just a handful of students began planning and organizing the event. Senior Lauren Jenkins and a small group of students would meet once a week, divide tasks and then go from there.

Colin McCarey, co-manager of the Community Kitchen and band coordinator, usually writes a little list of things he has to get done on the back of his hand. For the three weeks, before HAM Jam, both hands, back and front were covered in ink. Jennie Crittenden, who was in charge of promoting the event, described how everyone worked "non-stop" in order for the event to be a success. And success it was. One look out over the crowd full of CC students sitting with residents of the community, eating the same food, listening to the same music revealed that HAM Jam accomplished what it set out to do.

"That's what I love about CC," commented Victoria, "If you get somebody with an idea and a drive to do it, you can do anything here."

Priddy Experience '09

One of the most memorable parts of every incoming first year and transfer student's first week at Colorado College actually occurs off campus. For the past seven years, the Priddy Experience has been a central aspect of new student orientation. The Priddy Experience sends students, in small groups, across Colorado, New Mexico and Texas. Each group's experience is unique, from backpacking in the San Juan Mountains to working with dogs in Texas. Although each trip is different, they all have one thing in common: service.

This year, for the first time, every trip, even the backcountry ones, participated in some type of community service. For two of the five days of the trip, students worked to help better the communities in which they were staying. Over the course of those two days, the seven hundred CC students (both new students or "tripees" as the trip leaders affectionately call them and trip leaders themselves) devoted over eleven thousand hours to service.

The type of service students provided was as varied as the locations they visited. The group led by seniors Sarah Fletcher and Haley Barton worked with non-profit organizations. Fletcher and Barton led a trip to Mora, a community in northeastern New Mexico. There, they helped the vocational training facility, Tapetes de Lana. For the fifth year, new CC students have worked at the facility, which makes commercial yarn from the wool of sheep and alpacas. The nonprofit organization teaches women



Students working at the Santa Fe Habitat for Humanity

with few job opportunities the necessary skills to work in the cottage weaving industry. While there, the group did many jobs the facility normally would pay people for, such as cleaning and picking apart raw wool, cleaning machinery, and spinning yarn.

Fletcher was amazed by her group saying, "We had a really fantastic group of kids, they were all such hard workers, funny and energetic." And with the tough economic times, Fletcher felt their work really helped the facility, commenting how "it was great we could contribute in such a useful way."

The group led by Junior Joel Minor and senior Alex Stiller-Shulman, helped at the Santa Fe Mountain Center. This is the second year CC has helped at the Center, which offers therapeutic adventure programs, such as ropes courses, designed for at-risk youths in the area (it also is the central location of the New Mexico Gay Straight Alliance Network).

To help the center, the group, tripee Ariana Glantz explained, did

"whatever they needed us to do in order for the Center to keep working and functioning smoothly." Minor expanded on that, describing how they helped prune trees, pull weeds, rebuild paths, and plant new flowers. He also related how they sorted through and got rid of old records the Center no longer need, some dating back as far as the early 1990's. The group got so much done the first day, there was time the second day for the group to go through a few of the ropes course exercises.

Minor could not have been more proud of his tripees, commenting "They were all super enthusiastic about the work, even when [it] was getting long, hot, tiring, and dusty."

Also working in Santa Fe, was the trip led by senior Hannah Heckman and junior AJ Salimbeni. Their group worked with the local Habitat for Humanity. This was the seventh year that CC sent a Priddy trip to help with the organization. Like the other two groups,

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Tripees landscaping Habitat for Humanity home



Student working loom at Tapetes de Lana

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they did everything and anything from landscaping, to painting, to putting down wire mesh on walkways. Despite the labor intense work, as Heckman put it, landscaping was “essentially moving dirt around for five hours,” in the intense New Mexican sun, neither leader heard any complaints. Just as with the other two groups, the new students really enjoyed spending time helping others. Tripee Ryan Ogi described working for Habitat for Humanity simply as, “amazing!” and the experience left him “wanting to go back and help again!”

“Everyone who comes to CC starts their career through ser-

vice,” commented Heckman when discussing the importance of the Priddy Experience. She felt that more than anything; the experience was a great way to introduce students to Colorado College’s community awareness and the value it places on helping others. Austin Alison, who was a part of the Habitat for Humanity trip, and Rachel Gips, who helped at the Santa Fe Mountain Center, both discussed how their trip was indicative of the “CC mindset.” For Alison, the Priddy Experience showed how, for Colorado College, “the community is extremely important” and that “all members are encouraged to participate.”

For Gips, the experience



Tripees painting at Tapetes de Lana

was a great way to show how you can help others and have “a blast while doing it.”

Meet the New Student Staff!!!



HANK VOGEL
SPECIAL PROJECTS
COORDINATOR



LAUREN JENKINS
INTERNATIONAL SERVICE
STUDENT LEADER



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