

SUMMER OF SERVICE: CULTIVATING AN AMERICAN RITE OF PASSAGE



PRESENTERS

- **Jean Manney**, Innovations in Civic Participation
- **Emily Samose**, Corporation for National and Community Service
- **Jon Schmidt**, Chicago Public Schools
- **DD Gass**, Camp Fire USA
- **Alan Melchior**, Center for Youth and Communities, Brandeis Universities



INNOVATIONS IN CIVIC PARTICIPATION

- ICP serves as an innovation lab and resource center to promote national youth service and service-learning, incubate innovative ideas, and scale up youth civic engagement opportunities in the US and globally.
- ICP's Report: [“Summer of Service: A New American Rite of Passage?”](#)



WHY SUMMER OF SERVICE?

- Limited constructive opportunities during summer months for young people
- Benefits of service for both youth and their communities



A NEW AMERICAN RITE OF PASSAGE

- Ease transition from middle to high school
 - Reinforces connections to community
 - Enlivens education
 - Strengthens personal and civic values
- National, universally available SOS Program
- Supported by private & federal funds
- Builds on the existing infrastructure of service and youth programs



ELEMENTS OF SUCCESSFUL PROGRAMS

- Meet real needs
- Involve service-learning
- Provide opportunities for youth leadership
- Provide training and supervision
- Involve problem solving
- Offer continuity and intensity
- Encourage teamwork and skill building
- Celebrate success





Federal agency that houses:

- **AmeriCorps**
- **Learn and Serve America**
- **Senior Corps**

Mission:

- **To improve lives, strengthen communities, and foster civic engagement through service and volunteering**



2006-2010 Strategic Initiatives:

- Ensuring a Brighter Future for All of America's Youth
- Engaging Students in Communities
- Harnessing Experience to meet 21st Century Challenges
- Providing More Opportunities for Citizens to Serve and Volunteer
 - Recently added: Disaster Preparedness & Response



The 2008 Summer of Service Initiative

- **Part of the Strategic Plan goal of engaging 3 million children and youth from disadvantaged circumstances in service**
- **Established a small grant competition with the goal of involving more middle-school youth in service during the summer months**
- **Six organizations were funded in the range of \$100-\$200,000**
- **Focused on making service a part of an already successful summer youth program**



The 2008 Summer of Service Initiative

- **Grants went to:**
 - **Boys and Girls Clubs of America**
 - **Camp Fire USA National Office**
 - **Chicago Public Schools – District #299**
 - **The Nativity Miguel National Network of Schools (Washington, D.C.)**
 - **Volunteer Frederick (Frederick, Md.)**
 - **Youth Venture New York (Brooklyn)**



The 2008 Summer of Service Initiative

- **Accomplishments**

- **4,820 youth engaged in Summer of Service**
- **87 sites in 53 cities and 28 states**
- **Community needs addressed by youth:**
 - Violence prevention or community safety
 - Hunger/homelessness/poverty
 - Support for children in foster care
 - Home-bound elderly
 - Abandoned homes
 - Environment/litter/community gardening
 - Emergency preparedness/disaster clean-up
 - Domestic violence
- **75% of youth involved said that they would stay involved in service**

Summer of Service and Leadership

Chicago 2008





Why Summer of Service and Leadership?

- Empower students to serve
- Facilitate transition from middle school to high school
- Build a cadre of student leaders
- Connect student's new school to student's new community

Students are
empowered to
serve





Service Projects

- Community Garden
- Senior Citizen/Children's Festival
- Community Murals
- Violence Reduction
- Animal Shelter
- School Renovation
- Supplies for Sudan
- Asthma Awareness
- Alternatives to Military Campaign
- Day for Homeless Families
- Homeless Shelter Support
- Neighborhood Clean Up
- Public Transportation Project

Transition from middle school to high school



A decorative graphic on the left side of the slide features three balloons: a light green one at the top, a light blue one in the middle, and a light purple one at the bottom. Each balloon is attached to a streamer that curves downwards. Small yellow triangular shapes are scattered around the streamers, resembling confetti or streamer tassels.

Curriculum

- Project Citizen
- Seed Folks
- Teambuilding
- Leadership Development
- Community Mapping

Build a cadre of student leaders





Leadership Strategy

- Teambuilding activities
- Engage in service
- Identify our issue
- Develop a project
- Understand policy implications
- Act and evaluate

TA THA COMMUNITY SERVICES, INC.

Tabitha House, Stella's Place, Bread of Life & Highway & Hedge Ministry

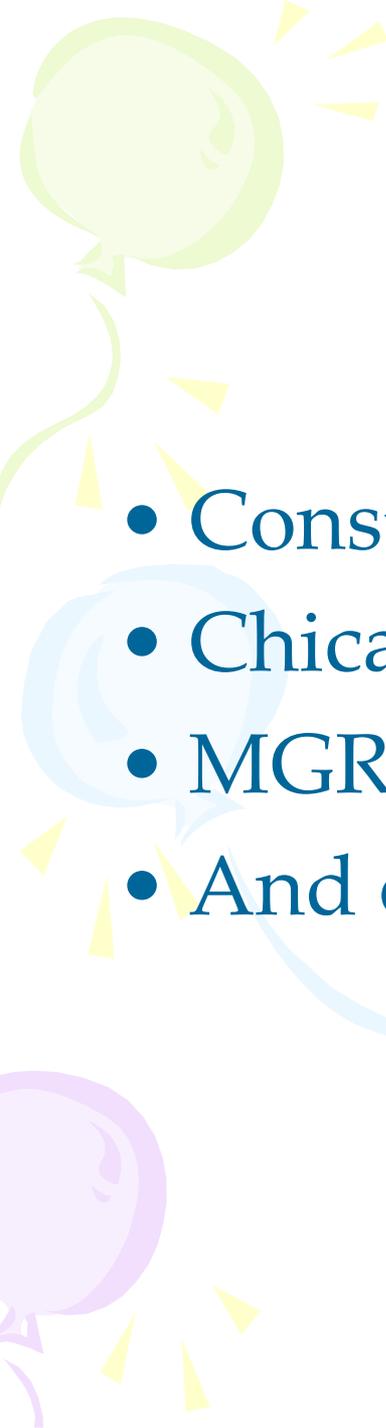
Serving the Community Since 1975

Pastor Willie & Mother Lula Walker
President & CEO

This sign was donated by: [signpalace](http://signpalace.com) | 847.643.1335

Connect student's new school to student's new community

550

A decorative graphic on the left side of the slide features three balloons: a light green one at the top, a light blue one in the middle, and a light purple one at the bottom. Each balloon is attached to a streamer and has several small yellow triangular flags trailing behind it.

Community Partners

- Constitutional Rights Foundation Chicago
- Chicago Cares
- MGR Foundation
- And on and on and on

Camp Fire USA Summer of Service



- Bogalusa, Louisiana
- Everett, Washington
- Findlay, Ohio
- Lakeland, Florida
- Minneapolis/St. Paul, Minnesota
- Omaha, Nebraska
- Seattle, Washington
- Silver Springs, Maryland
- Waco, Texas

Camp Fire USA Summer of Service

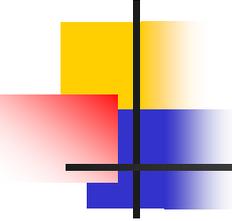


- A service-learning experience targeted to increase the number of middle school youth from disadvantaged situations who are engaged in intensive service-learning experiences during the summer of 2008 and throughout the 2008-09 school year.

Camp Fire USA Summer of Service



- This grant provided funds for nine councils to engage 2151 youth in service-learning experiences with a goal of each youth being engaged for 50 hours or more in the service-learning experience.



Camp Fire USA Summer of Service



Types of Summer Programs

- Overnight Camp
- Day Camp
- Drop in Program
- Short Term Program
- Road Trip

Camp Fire USA

Summer of Service



Service-Learning Projects

- Environment: recycling, going green, litter, global warming, composting
- Animals: habitat, rescue league, zoo
- Safety: community preparedness, neighborhood
- Betterment: basketball hoops

Camp Fire USA Summer of Service



Minneapolis Youth created a mural honoring famous African Americans at their community center.



Camp Fire USA Summer of Service



Florida youth participating in CF66 Service-learning Road Trips did service projects in state parks, homeless shelters, food banks, animal rescue leagues and youth centers.



Camp Fire USA Summer of Service



Maryland teens taught younger youth environmental skills.



Camp Fire USA Summer of Service



Other youth participated in trail work.



Camp Fire USA Summer of Service



Teens in Waco, Texas raised funds to provide a community carnival.



SUMMER OF SERVICE LEGISLATION

- SOS included in the GIVE Act
 - \$10 million for SOS grants and \$10 million for SOS education awards
 - open to both middle and high school students with priority for programs for students in grades 6 through 9
- The Serve America Act does not include SOS but will probably be added before or during mark up
- USDE guidance for \$10 billion in stimulus funds for Title I
 - encourages implementing innovative strategies
 - suggests use of funds for fiscally sustainable extended learning opportunities including activities provided during the summer



ICP's SOS ONLINE RESOURCE CENTER

Forum for information exchange on SOS program design, implementation, and evaluation

Features:

- Tools for program management and curriculum design
- Information on funding opportunities and resources
- Published reports and resources
- Featured exemplary SOS programs
- SOS Discussion Forum
- Searchable database of youth service programs



Stay Tuned! An improved
SOS Resource Center
is coming soon



NEW SOS RESOURCES COMING SOON

- **Program Insights**

narrative and reflective multimedia presentations on successful SOS programs

- **Program Design Toolkit**

to assist practitioners in the field with designing and implementing SOS programs

- **Toolkit Training**

- **Evaluation Toolkit**

to provide local programs with a basic understanding of evaluation methods and reliable tools for generating assessment data and better evidence of program effectiveness



SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What types of materials and resources would be useful for practitioners, policymakers, funders and other stakeholders in designing, scaling up, implementing and/or evaluating SOS programs?
2. What kinds of outcomes do you expect/want to expect from SOS programs (and how are the outcomes of SOS programs different from school-year programs?)
3. What makes a high quality program and how can we develop quality program guidelines?

