

NLASW Student Newsletter

Electronic Bulletin # 3

March/April, 2007

NEWS & UPDATES

NLASW Provincial Social Work Conference
June 7th and 8th, 2007 Holiday Inn, St. Johns NL

Colouring Outside the Lines: Working Creatively With Families

On June 7th and 8th, the NLASW will be hosting its' fifth bi-annual social work conference. The conference registration fee for undergraduate students is \$90.00. If you would like to receive a conference registration form, please contact the NLASW at info@nlasw.ca.

Timely Topics

Did you know that the MUN School of Social Work offers continuing education sessions on a variety of topics relating to practice and that students are welcome to attend these sessions? So join your classmates and future colleagues and attend a Timely Topic. The schedule for 2007 can be found at <http://www.mun.ca/socwrk/continuing/winterschedule2007.php>

Connecting Voices

The winter edition of the NLASW Connecting Voices newsletter is available on-line at www.nlasw.ca. In this edition, you will find a diversity of articles relating to social work practice.

MUN Relay for Life

The NLASW congratulates students from the School of Social Work who were involved in MUN's 2007 Relay for Life. This was a fundraising/awareness event for cancer prevention, a celebration of survival, and a tribute to those who have been touched by cancer. Over \$12,000 was raised during this event.



Left to right: Vanessa Smith, Kelly Morrissey-Clement, Kristin Hynes, Laura Neil, Patty Symes, Karen Paddle, & Sheena Swain.

Community Development in Action Habitat for Humanity

By Samantha L. Penney
4th year social work student

During Jan. 3-13, 2007, I traveled to Louisiana with Habitat for Humanity International to take part in a student build along with many other teams from all over the US and Canada. This had been my second trip with Habitat for Humanity since I traveled to Winnipeg in May 2006 to take part in the first ever National Student Build. This had been my first time ever leaving the province! During my time in New Orleans, I toured the city for about 4 days, exploring the areas that were destroyed by Hurricane Katrina. Our group was guided by a geologist who explained the levee breach, evacuations, and damages. We also enjoyed shopping in the French quarter as well as the extraordinary cuisine; where I tried alligator!!! During the second half of the trip, our group of 25 people worked in the Slidell area to help rebuild neighborhoods that were destroyed by the storm. Throughout this time, we worked on house foundations, plumbing, painting, raising walls, and much more. It was such an eye-opener to see the city so destroyed, even now, but yet very exciting to see it begin to rebuild. It was worth the hard work to drive along and see business signs saying "now open". So much is yet to be done to help New Orleans and Slidell rebuild. I encourage everybody to help in any way possible, it is an experience you will never forget.



"The NLASW would like to congratulate Samantha on her involvement with Habitat for Humanity - Great Job"

Social Work Students Make A Difference in Children's Lives

By Kristen Joy and Bramwell Pollett (5th year social work students)

Standing in front of a classroom full of elementary age students generated flashbacks to a time when we were those same students; excited for a break from school-day activities and wound-up in anticipation for the activities that would follow. Faced with dozens of smiling faces in a sea of orange (theme color of the day), we read the story of "Trevor and the Bully" in celebration of Social Work Week 2007 (*Social Workers Making a Difference in Children's Lives*). This story depicts the experience of a young boy who is bullied by a classmate, and how he develops a plan to address this problem and discourage bullying in his school. Following our presentation, we talked with the students about their experiences with bullying, and what they could do if they were harassed at school. It was incredible to witness how quickly the students absorbed the message conveyed in the book! They were able to describe what bullying looked like, and also what they could do, or do for a friend, if someone acted in such a way that made them feel sad, angry, or uncomfortable. During the presentation, the students developed their own plan to address bullying, as we were provided the opportunity to affirm that bullying is not acceptable, and that it is OK to tell someone you trust if someone has bullied YOU. It was also an opportunity to remind teachers that they have a responsibility to their students to prevent bullying behavior, and provide support to students who are vulnerable or oppressed.



"The NLASW would like to congratulate Kristen, Bramwell and their field instructor Niki Legge of the NL Lung Association for exemplifying social work in action."