

SOCIAL AND COMMUNITY NEWS

Students to Give Local Homes a Facelift

In the midst of tough and uncertain economic times, more than 23,000 students have made a decision to pay money out of their own pockets in order to help improve living conditions for people across the United States and Canada.

"This will be a life changing week for all involved," said John Bailey, Team Leader for World Changers. "The students who participate in World Changers will see that they can make a difference. And the residents whose homes are worked on see that the young people offer hope for our future."

On average, participating students pay \$260 to take part in the week.

This summer, 98 World Changers projects will take place in more than 85 cities from Alaska to Florida, New York to California, and many places in between.

"World Changers" is in its 19th summer of operation and is an initiative of the North American Mission Board (Southern Baptist

Convention).

Some 415 middle school and high school students from across the U.S. will be in Savannah to work in low-income neighborhoods painting houses, replacing roofs, and in the process providing hope to residents in need.

The major work began on Monday June 22, and will continue through the 26. The students will be staying at Savannah State University for the week.

If you would like more information about this topic, please call 770-410-6484 or email Jonathan at jowilson@namb.net

World Changers is an approach to youth mission projects among Southern Baptists and other evangelical churches.

For years, youth leaders had expressed an interest in finding types of activities that would help their youth to better understand missions through personal involvement.

At the same time, individual churches were finding that the time and effort nec-

essary to put together a "hands-on" work experience was extensive.

As other organizations began to test and prove the validity of large-group missions and service projects, the then Memphis-based Brotherhood Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention began its own plans for such an endeavor.

World Changers national work projects began in the summer of 1990. Briceville, Tenn. hosted 137 youth and adults one week in the World Changers pilot project. In 1992, World Changers expanded abroad with a project in Ciudad Victoria, Mexico.

World Changers continues to grow.

In 2008, World Changers coordinated over 22,000 participants in mission ministries across North America at 95 locations on 1,700 work sites and 47 ministry sites and reported over 830 professions of faith.

Over \$180,000 was received in donations for the missions offering.

President Obama Unveils 'United We Serve,' Calls on All Americans to Commit to Volunteer Service

In a video message, President Obama unveiled United We Serve, an extended call to service challenging all Americans to help lay a new foundation for growth in this country by engaging in sustained, meaningful community service.

The initiative will be led by the Corporation for National and Community Service, the federal agency dedicated to fostering service in communities across the country.

Since his Inauguration, the President has called on all Americans to serve their communities and be a part of building a better future for our country.

The United We Serve summer initiative begins on June 22nd and runs through the National Day of Service and Remembrance on September 11th.

The National Day of Service and Remembrance was created by the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act, which President Obama signed in April to help encourage and facilitate community service across the country.

During this summer, the President is renewing his call to all Americans to iden-



President Barack Obama

tify needs in their communities, engage in meaningful service to create change – and stay engaged with those projects long after September.

The President's call focuses on four key areas where everyone can have a continuing impact in their community: education, health, energy and the environment and community renewal.

To create new service projects, to find service projects in their communities and to share stories about projects that are making a difference, Americans can visit the Corporation's website, www.serve.gov.

President Obama's video was distributed via email by the Corporation for National and Community

Service. View President Obama's full video message at www.serve.gov.

"The challenges we face are unprecedented in their size and scope, and we cannot rely on quick fixes or easy answers to put us on the road to recovery," President Obama says in the video message. "In this new century, we need to build a new foundation for economic growth in America. My Administration has already begun this work with dramatic new investments in education, health care and clean energy – investments that will create new jobs and lay the foundation for lasting prosperity. But we cannot do this alone here in Washington..." "Economic recovery is as much about what you're doing in your communities as what we're doing in Washington – and it's going to take all of us, working together."

The goal of United We Serve is to help make volunteerism and community service part of the daily lives of all Americans in order to help build a new foundation, one community at a time. Further details about the June 22nd kickoff are forthcoming.

SSU Collecting Final Data for Obesity Outreach Study

Savannah State University Community Outreach Obesity Program (COOP) officials are calling on all project participants to take the second health screening at the St. Joseph's/Candler African-American Health Information & Resource

Center (AAHIRC), located at 1910 Abercorn St. Screening hours are 11:30-6:30, Monday-Friday.

Those who complete the screening process will be eligible for prizes and rewards, including a \$50 drawing to be held on July 3.

"All participants who

joined since August 2008 are eligible for the final screening, and we need their participation," said Hetty Jones, Ph.D., a professor in the department of natural sciences and mathematics at Savannah State. "The check up is important because early detection can prevent or delay the onset of certain diseases."

While personal information will remain confidential, the statistics will be recorded and shared with the granting agency, the University of Kentucky Center for Poverty Research through funding from the National Institutes of Health.

The results may help Savannah State qualify to receive additional funds for health interventions.

Coastal Heritage Society Welcomes Foreign Diplomats to Savannah to Help Launch New Websites

Parlez-Vous Francais? Sprechen Sie Deutsch? If not, you should know that many visitors to our fair city do!

Now the Coastal Heritage Society has teamed up with the State of Georgia, the Savannah Convention and Visitors Bureau, the Inn at Ellis Square, the Coastal Museums Association, and the family of the late Honorary French Consul to Savannah, Dominique Audran, to make sure those who speak French and German have more welcoming and fulfilling experiences in our city.

We've created a new website, www.sejoursavannah.com, which is written entirely in French.

It features a history of the contributions of French-speaking people in Savannah (historians estimate that at one point in the 19th century, one in three Savannahians was a native French speaker!), as well as an interactive map showing sites of interest to French visitors.

We are currently developing a companion German website as well, which we plan to launch in the near future.

The French website is

dedicated to the late Dominique Audran, who, as General Manager of the Inn at Ellis Square and Honorary French Consul, greatly deepened the ties between France and Savannah. Mr. Audran passed away following an illness last year.

A press conference at 1:30pm, Wednesday, June 24th, in the conference room at the Savannah Economic Development Authority (SEDA) building on Hutchinson Island (131 Hutchinson Island Road, Savannah).

The Consul of France in Atlanta, Monsiuer Philippe Ardanaz, and the Consul of Germany in Atlanta, Dr. Lutz H. Gorgens, will take part in the press conference.

We will project the French website live onto a large screen during the event.

Founded as a maritime history organization in 1975, the Coastal Heritage Society is today a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization employing more than 120 people and managing more than \$30 million in public resources in Savannah, Georgia.

Coastal Heritage Society serves more than 150,000 people annually at our three historic sites: Old Fort Jackson National Historic Landmark, the Savannah History Museum, and the Roundhouse Railroad Museum. Both the History Museum and Roundhouse are located within the Central of Georgia National Historic Landmark District.

More than 700 people around the nation who care about history have joined our ranks as donors and members.

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