

# The Local Buzz

## Cambridge Student Partnerships

*November 2003*

Welcome to the November issue of *The Local Buzz*! Read on to learn of the exciting developments that have occurred with CSP since volunteers returned to school in September. October, as well, brought further developments, as seen in the new Speaker Series. The most exciting change of all, however, came in the form of plans for a new satellite office in Somerville, operated by the students of Tufts! Finally, volunteer and client profiles, along with a few client service statistics, round out this month's edition of an exciting *Buzz*...

### **September Highlights**

#### **New Horizons**

After bidding a fond farewell to former VISTA Tommy Saunders, new VISTA Megan Newman began her year-long term in the Cambridge Office. A former CSP summer director and long-time volunteer in the Richmond office, Meg brought with her a bundle of new energy and a heap of innovative and creative ideas. We are lucky to have her in our office and have no doubt she will help bring about many improvements and successes.

#### **CSP Expansion**

The tail-end of the summer brought about progress in the long-awaited Tufts expansion. While early courtship began last spring, thanks to the efforts of Patricia Foo, former VISTA Tommy Saunders, and the encouragement of LAB member Fred Berman, the relationship was solidified in August when two enthusiastic Tufts seniors, Neeraja Bhavaraju and Emily Rhodes, came on board. Neeraja and Emily are veteran volunteers with extensive experience as leaders through programs in the Tufts umbrella volunteer organization, the Leonard Carmichael society. They are dedicated individuals who are working hard to learn as much as they can this semester with the hopes of opening a satellite office in Somerville next spring.

#### **New Energy, New Volunteers**

We kicked off our semester with a small, but valuable, group of returning Harvard volunteers. After a large recruitment push at Harvard, and with the help of our two new Tufts Local Directors, Neeraja and Emily, our volunteer count is up to 30!

## **October Highlights**

### **Volunteer Training**

New and returning CSP volunteers took a weekend off in the beginning of October to get away from campus on a volunteer training and retreat at Meg's family home in Newton, Massachusetts. Volunteers spent the time getting to know each other, becoming familiar with CSP procedures, and learning the ins and outs of client service. The retreat closed with an interesting talk by Frank Duehay, former Cambridge Mayor, who offered some valuable insights into all that Cambridge has to offer.

### **LAB Expansion**

The local directors and VISTA have been hard at work on expanding the Local Advisory Board to include expertise extending beyond the public service sector. Local Directors Alison Connor and Patricia Foo met with State Senator Jarrett Barrios to hear his input on who in the political arena might be potential advisors. Alison also met with Harvard Professor Christopher Winship, Chair on the FAS Committee of Public Service, to get any names of University professors who might be willing to offer an academic perspective. Additionally, with Meg Brooks Swift on maternity leave, we welcome her replacement, Mike Bishop, to our LAB.

### **Speaker Series**

As a means of connecting volunteers to the issues at hand in a more effective way, CSP is trying to implement a speaker series. Frank Duehay was the first to speak to us about the city of Cambridge, followed by Cynthia Dean of Community Work Services, who spoke on barriers to employment.

## **November Visions**

### **LAB Meeting**

Our next LAB meeting will be November 19, 2:30 – 4:00 pm at the Cambridge Office of Workforce Development, 51 Inman St., in the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor Conference Room.

### **National Office**

The week of November 10<sup>th</sup> will welcome the return of National Student Partnerships co-founder and CEO, Kirsten Lodal. We look forward to her visit and are excited about sharing all of the projects we have planned.

## **Tufts Talk**

Greetings from the Tufts Crew!

Although we are all relative newcomers to NSP, we are thrilled to be a part of the organization and cannot wait to see it expand to Somerville. We first got involved when Tommy contacted our campus volunteer organization, eager to spread the NSP excitement to new schools and new areas. After a few meetings over ice cream, and a few over the phone, it became official: Tufonians would join the Harvard folks in Central Square for a semester and open the new Davis Square office in January 2004.

We had a very successful volunteer recruitment and training at the beginning of September, and now have 15 enthusiastic and committed Tufts students in the Central Square office. From Sunday night meetings to client outreach, the Harvard and Tufts volunteers have worked together beautifully. We are really enjoying our partnership with Harvard, and are looking forward to extending our network to the Somerville community.

### **Volunteer Profile: Josh Bolian, Harvard '07**

When Josh Bolian arrived at Harvard this fall as a new freshman, he was looking for a challenge—and he found it at CSP.

Before coming to Harvard, Josh's prior service experience involved mainly indirect or one-time service events. He demonstrated his leadership skills in high school, where he helped organize PULSE (People United Leading and Serving Everywhere) day, a citywide teenage service day in his hometown of Nashville, Tennessee. Despite his accomplishment, he recognizes the faults and limitations of the event. He characterizes it as "one of those 'episodic' volunteer programs that were fashionable in the 90s" that, despite their popularity, had limited impact on volunteers and communities alike, as they did not fully utilize the potential of the connection between the two. "I think one of the most important things about helping people is fostering relationships with them," he says.

Since discovering his service philosophy in CSP, Josh has dedicated himself to his new organization with an incredible motivation. He has proven himself to be a natural Client Service Representative. "I like getting to know different kinds of people," he says—and it shows in his service. Although confessing to some nerves before his first client meeting, from the start he has been natural and relaxed with clients, easily striking up conversations around topics such as car inspections and family. He easily applies his research know-how to various issues, whether researching scholarships or searching for jobs. Josh has also stepped up to the position as CSP's first webmaster, bringing in his outside talent as a Harvard User Assistant to create a functional and useful website.

In addition to his computing activity, Josh enjoys running, talking about music and working with children as a day camp counselor during the summer. Following in the footsteps of the CSP founders, Josh is an aspiring Social Studies concentrator, with future thoughts toward postgraduate study and a career in public service.

**Client Profile:**

Horace Dudley is our CSP superstar of the month.

Many CSP volunteers will recognize this stellar client due to his dedication to making every meeting he schedules and his friendly personality. Horace is always willing and eager to meet new volunteers and invite them to join his job search meetings, which has been extremely useful this past month while new volunteers learned the ropes of client service. Horace is currently in the Salvation Army’s transitional program, where he sped through the first phase with great success and has recently transitioned to the job search phase. While completing phase one, Horace was only allowed one free hour away from the program daily and often chose to spend his limited free time with CSP, actively searching for employment. This dedication speaks to Horace’s commitment to reaching his goals.

Mr. Dudley has a vast amount of experience in the welding, finishing, polishing and general warehouse field. He has taken classes in welding at Wentworth Institute of Technology and has a very solid work history at a number of sheet metal companies. He knows a great deal about sheet metal, and if you are patient, he will explain how metal sinks are created. It is immediately evident that Horace has a superior work ethic, and cares very much about his daughters and grandchildren. He also has an infectious positive attitude and sense of humor. Ask him about the “miracle of computers,” and he will inspire you.

Just stay away from “computer lingo”—he’s still working on that.

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*The CSP leadership team never ceases to be amazed by our volunteers’ enthusiasm and dedication. We are excited that the volunteer corps has become more than a group of individuals seeking to do some good in the community. It has become a family whose presence constantly reminds us that life about more than money or grades. It is about the people we are, the lives we touch, and those who constantly shape ours in return.*

Meg Newman	Patricia Foo	Alison Connor	Joanna Huey
VISTA	Local Director	Local Director	Local Director

A special thanks to our Public Relations Coordinator, Vasilios Alexiou, for designing the layout of this newsletter.

Cambridge Student Partnerships  
19 Brookline St.  
Cambridge, Ma. 02139  
(617) 349-6333

**CSP Monthly Statistics**

**September**

	<b>Volunteers</b>
First Time Clients (unduplicated): 17	New volunteers added: 3
Total Number of Clients (unduplicated): 32	Total volunteers: 7
Number of Client Meetings (duplicated): 61	Total number of volunteer hours: 160.5
Number of Referrals (unduplicated): 15	Non-Intake Clients (unduplicated): 5

Housing: 5 Successful Placements: 2 ( <i>in shelter</i> )	Employment: 28 Successful Placements: 3 Resumes: 26	Education/Job Training: 5 Successful Placements: 0
Child Care: 0	Food: 1	Transportation: 10
Health Care: 0	Legal Services: 5	Clothing: 0
Budgeting: 0	Immigration: 1	Other (please list): 0

**October**

	<b>Volunteers</b>
First Time Clients (unduplicated): 25	New volunteers added: 18
Total Number of Clients (unduplicated): 34	Total volunteers: 30
Number of Client Meetings (duplicated): 63	Total number of volunteer hours: 688.5

Housing: 5 Successful Placements: 0	Employment: 51 Successful Placements: 1 Resumes: 12	Education/Job Training: 9 Successful Placements: 0
Child Care: 2	Food: 2	Transportation: 3
Health Care: 1	Legal Services: 1	Clothing: 0
Budgeting: 0	Immigration: 0	Other (please list): 1 ( <i>general listening/support</i> )