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Service Spotlight: Generation Citizen

If you had the chance to speak with public officials about some of the most pressing issues facing our society today, what would you tell them?

Students who take classes through Generation Citizen have a chance to do exactly this. With locations in NYC and five other cities around the United States, Generation Citizen is an organization that strives to provide students, those who will be shaping our future, with the kind of education that will allow them to become politically-conscious adults able to be active participants in our nation's political process. This is done through the use of a curriculum that enables students to choose an

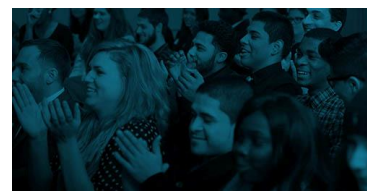
issue about which they are passionate; formulate a solution to that issue; and present their ideas at a culminating event.

Perhaps most importantly, Generation Citizen recognizes the importance of considering a wide range of political opinions and perspectives in order to bring about change in our society. This is certainly something that Honors students can appreciate: they must carefully consider and respond to their classmates' diverse opinions every time they come to class and sit around the seminar table in Alpha House.

Stephan Popa, a first-year in the Honors Program, has been involved with Generation Citi-

zen. For him, "working towards getting those typically blocked or disadvantaged from participation in politics engaged with the process...has been truly rewarding."

Our Jesuit education challenges us to never finish learning and making discoveries for ourselves. Generation Citizen is just one of the many ways in which you can help other students do the same!



Cheering on Generation Citizen!

Feeding the Hungry: City Harvest

The trucks will be there: that you can count on.

This truck just mentioned is of course one that carries the food which will be distributed by City Harvest employees and volunteers to some of New

York City's most-in-need.

City Harvest, an organization that has been operating throughout NYC since 1982, strives to make more nutritional foods available to city residents who would otherwise not be

able to afford it. City Harvest makes sure that no high quality food is wasted: dedicated workers bring surplus food from local farmers and restaurants to locations where families are able to take their pick of

Faculty Spotlight: Professor Jeannine Hill Fletcher



Professor Jeannine Hill Fletcher teaches in Fordham’s Theology Department, focusing on feminist theology and religious diversity. Having previously taught the Honors Religion in the Modern World course, Professor Fletcher was willing to discuss how her experiences with service learning have shaped her own research as well as her perception of Fordham’s Jesuit Mission.

When I asked Professor Fletcher what she considers to be the most important advantage of becoming involved in service work, she explained that doing so helps students to understand that continuous hard work is required in order to bring about lasting social change. She told me, “When you’re working with an organization, you see what it takes to

make that vision a reality. And it takes hours of drudgery and it takes showing up week after week and it takes hundreds of people doing little things.” Yet this work can contribute to the greater good in meaningful and perhaps unforeseen ways.

Professor Fletcher also hopes that students will recognize that taking part in service and outreach projects can provide insight into the realities that our neighbors face in ways that simply taking a class never could. She has this question for students: What can you learn from being part of a project of social justice within the community that you could not learn if you were not there?

Professor Fletcher has for many years worked with the Northwest Bronx Community and Clergy Coalition, an organization that, together with other grassroots community organizations, strives to promote justice at all levels of society. Professor Fletcher recalled that while teaching in the Honors Program, plans to build a mall in the Kingsbridge Armory

were overturned, and she and her students were able to see firsthand that conversations surrounding the social implications of such projects “conversations sometimes spearheaded by organizations such as those with which she works” are often ongoing ones. Professor Fletcher found this moment to be a particularly important one which helped to show students the need for persistence: “[social transformation] happens after sixteen years of work regarding the development of the Armory and we just happened to be part of this project for the fifteen weeks of our semester.”

For Professor Fletcher, we must each answer what is perhaps the most important question for ourselves: What sorts of resources have been given to you that has allowed each of you to arrive at the place where you are as Honors students at Fordham University? And what sorts of responsibilities do you have to those who have not had those resources dedicated?

“What are the ways that each of our disciplines might have insight into those small steps of justice?”

Feeding the Hungry: City Harvest (cont.)

the fruits and vegetables that are available that day.

In October of last year, a group of Honors students traveled to a City Harvest’s Mobile Market near Yankee Stadium and helped bag and then pass out seasonal apples, sweet potatoes, and other produce to local residents. See-

ing such a long line of individuals waiting for their chance to take from the harvest certainly made the group more aware of the extent to which hunger affects our neighbors in the Bronx. Yet getting to witness firsthand the work of this organization which brings together people from all walks of

life who come from different places all around the greater New York community is certainly a reason to hope.

The Service and Social Justice hopes to organize other events with City Harvest in the future. Join us!



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"The end of all knowledge should be service to others." - Cesar Chavez

The Service and Social Justice Subcommittee of the Honors Student Advisory Council would love to hear from you. If you have been involved with any volunteer or service organization that you would like us to know about, please contact one of the committee chairs:

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We welcome any ideas or suggestions you might have and hope that you will share your experiences with us.

Service Organizations on Our Doorstep

Good Shepherd Services

LIFT the Bronx

Behind the Book

World Cares Center

Teresa's Haven

Masa NY

Hunger Free-NYC

NYC Parks GreenThumb

CitySquash

Jumpstart

The Bronx is Blooming

POTS (Part of the Solution)

KEEN (Kids Enjoy Exercise Now)

City Meals on Wheels

Good+ Foundation

The websites of these organizations are also good resources that can connect you with many different kinds of service opportunities:

Bronx Volunteer Coalition

New York Cares