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The Annual Community Events Staff (ACES) started out the fall semester with Halloween on Vernon, one of our most popular events of the year. Thirty student organizations and clubs participated and ran activities such as beanbag toss, monster mash, doughnut on a string, musical chairs, and mask making. In addition, hundreds of Trinity students signed up to chaperone groups of children and families from the surrounding community through the Vernon Street route which included haunted houses, trick-or-treating, games, and other activities. This year upwards of 600 children and families attended the event. The one wrinkle in the day was that Trinity declared a campus-wide evacuation due to the approaching Hurricane Sandy. This unforeseen event caused a slight challenge for us as we were down quite a few chaperones. However, many who were there to volunteer stepped up to do even more and fill in the gaps, so overall the event was successful, and children left with smiles on their faces.

Our November event was our annual Thanksgiving Basket Drive for the families of M.D Fox Elementary School. ACES members solicited staff members, faculty members, campus organizations and clubs to collect food and money. ACES members were able to raise around $5,400 in order to supply 108 full Thanksgiving dinners to M.D Fox Elementary families. Special thanks to Psi Upsilon for providing 8 additional turkeys so that we could help 8 more families than usual; to Praxis for volunteering their time to bake the pies; to the IDPA for assisting with delivery to M.D. Fox on the Monday before Thanksgiving; to Chartwells for assisting us in getting the turkeys and for donating most of the ingredients for the pies; and to the Student Athletic Advisory Committee (SAAC) for raising $2,600 dollars and helping deliver all the food to M.D. Fox.

Our third event was the Sponsor-a-Snowman holiday gift drive for Interval House. Interval House is a local domestic violence program, which has a shelter close to Trinity’s campus. Each year, Interval House gives us the [first] names, the ages, and the preferred holiday gift of a group of clients and former clients, and we then table outside of Mather Dining Hall to recruit students, faculty, staff, Chartwells employees, and anyone else to “adopt” a child a buy his/her preferred gift. This year, Interval House gave us the names of 134 children, and we were able to get gifts for all of them with a few extra thrown in that we had not anticipated! This event really brings out the holiday spirit in people, and we look forward to continuing this partnership with Interval House that we have had since 1996. (continued on page 12)
Fall 2012 Selected Highlights

**September**
1-2
*Praxis Training:* Student that live in the community service dorm return to campus early to begin planning for the new academic year

3
*Activities Fair:* Representatives from more than 30 community service organizations on campus spend the afternoon recruiting new members

8
*14th Annual Do It Day:* A half-day event that engages students, faculty and staff members in service projects at different sites around Hartford

15
*FACES Training:* Student community service leaders gather together to discuss important issues they face on campus and how to communicate more effectively on campus.

29
*Praxis at Envisionfest:* A new one-day celebration of the cultural attractions available in downtown Hartford

**October**
1
*World Habitat Day– A capella on the cave patio.*

5
*Praxis volunteers at the Hartford Marathon.*

13
*Praxis and Best Buddies go apple picking Belltown Hill Orchards.*

20
*Habitat for Humanity Build*

27
*JELLO with A Hand Up Hartford*

28
*Halloween on Vernon Street:* A half-day event that gives hundreds of local children and their families a fun and safe Halloween experience

**November**
5-19
*Thanksgiving Food Basket Drive:* Turkeys and all the trimmings are donated to 100 families of children who attend the M.D. Fox Elementary School.

10
*Habitrot: 5k run sponsored by Habitat for Humanity to raise funds for their Alternative Spring Break trip*

13
*Advocacy in the Age of Technology by Amnesty International*

**December**
17
*The Great Pie Project:* Praxis bakes hundreds of pies and donates them to nonprofit organizations in Hartford

**January**
14-18
*JELLO service projects in Hartford, including work with NINA, the Church of the Good Shepherd, Hartford Area Habitat for Humanity, and the HartBeat Ensemble.

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Here’s what they had to say:

**Q: Since September 2012, each of you has worked with two great mentors. What do you think are the qualities of a good mentor?**

**Anthony:** “He or she has to be respectful and a hard-worker. They need to be able to achieve his or her goals. And being funny can help too.”

**Treyquan:** “A good mentor stays in contact with the mentee. They will check in with us even if we don’t have session that week.”

**Q: What advice would you share with a new mentor?**

**Anthony:** “Keep a cool head. Sometimes some of us [the mentees] can get off-task, especially after a tough day at school. A good mentor maintains a positive attitude at all times.”

**Treyquan:** “Don’t lose hope. It takes time to make it work…to build trust with each other. You have to be patient.”

If you ARE interested in becoming a JZ-AMP mentor on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons, please contact program’s coordinator Stacey Lopez at stacey.lopez@trincoll.edu or at (860) 297-2160. You can also feel free to stop by Ms. Lopez’s office, located in the Office of Community Service and Civic Engagement (Mather basement, next to the bookstore).
Trinity at Kennelly by Stephen Chase '14

It was another great semester at the Kennelly school. Over 40 Trinity students returned to assist the 6th grade teachers and students in the classroom for three full months. Having built the framework of the program last year, we continued to work with the students on reading, writing and math.

As in years past, we held our big semester-end celebration on November 30th with over 75 people in attendance. Kennelly teachers and about 70 6th grade students descended on Trinity's campus for an afternoon of fun. Our mentors joined the kids for lunch at the Vernon Social Center. After pizza and cookies, the students then ventured out to play on the fields or work on arts and crafts indoors. In addition to the fun, the party exposes Kennelly students to college life and the opportunities that exist by going to college. It was an exceptional end to a phenomenal semester and we look forward to working with Kennelly again next semester.

ConnectiKids by Samia Kemal ‘14

ConnectiKids Inc. is a non-profit youth development agency in Hartford that partners with different sites to provide after-school tutoring to elementary school students. Trinity College is one of these partner sites, and every Monday and Tuesday 2nd and 4th graders from M.D. Fox Elementary School come to Trinity for an hour and fifteen minutes. This year we had about 30 second graders for Monday and 20 fourth graders for Tuesday. Each Trinity tutor is assigned a student to help out for the semester, but our mission transcends mere homework attention. More than anything, we serve as role models to these children. We spend time hanging out with them and talking with them about their interests, our lives, college, etc. This semester, many friendships were made. We got to play 7-up and read books on the days where homework was light, and on the last day we had a pizza party! By the end, all of us tutors walked away with a sense of fulfillment that came from enriching a child’s life. We look forward to next semester!

If you would like to get involved in ConnectiKids, please contact Samia Kemal (samia.kemal@trincoll.edu) and Gavin Freeman (gavin.freeman@trincoll.edu).

Lions Club by Shuyang Zhu ‘13

The Trinity College Lions Club chapter is a part of an international network of 1.3 million men and women in 205 countries who are known for their various charitable activities, particularly for working to end preventable blindness. Lions participate in a variety of projects important to their communities that range from cleaning up local parks to providing supplies to victims of natural disasters. Beginning in 1917, the association of Lions clubs has provided millions of people with the opportunity to give something back to their communities.

In the 2012 fall semester, sixteen Trinity College Lions participated in selling chrysanthemums at the Berlin Fair, an annual agricultural fair in Berlin, Connecticut, raising $170 from the event. At the end of October, we took part in the 22nd annual ACES Halloween on Vernon, during which we played a “Name the Cartoon Character” game with the local children and awarded them with stationery gifts. Halloween candies and cookies were also provided.

Looking ahead to spring 2013, we plan on forming a Relay for Life team and organizing our 13th annual Wine and Cheese fundraiser. Members from other Lions Clubs around Hartford will be invited and we will also have our new Lions members.

With an increased membership and successful fundraisers, the Lions Club looks forward to a promising new year. If you are interested in becoming a part of Lions Club at Trinity, please email Shuyang Zhu at shuyang.zhu@trincoll.edu.
Peter’s Retreat by Nicole Sagullo ‘14

This semester at Peter’s Retreat saw a great deal more interaction between the Trinity student volunteers and the residents at Peter’s Retreat. This is not to say our presence was not felt before, but this year, we led a lot more group activities and worked on projects with the residents rather than just for them.

We volunteered every other week on Friday afternoons. We would run board game sessions, rake leaves, sort clothes, etc. However, what was really enriching and heartening were the relationships that developed and grew throughout the semester. One resident watched Spanish courtroom shows in the lounge for awhile before warming up to us. But he then started coming to our events, enjoyed himself, and laughed as he tried to teach me to say "spider" and "pumpkin" in Spanish.

Another example of the relationship-building taking place was in October, when we carved pumpkins and decorated for the Peter’s Retreat Halloween party. Unfortunately, due to Hurricane Sandy, the Halloween party was cancelled. However, the decorating and pumpkin carving was a party all on its own.

One resident introduced us to her grandchild who visited while carving pumpkins. Another resident who had never carved a pumpkin before, really took his time and when finished was so proud that he called everyone over to come see his pumpkin. Each resident did an incredible job and was so proud. It was nice to see them feeling excited and accomplished. We all had fun with that project and were able to display them on a window ledge in the dining room.

Stop the Raids by Shanelle Morris ‘16

Stop the Raids is dedicated to promoting immigrant rights and educating our peers on immigrant struggles on local, state, and national levels. As part of our educational efforts, we screened two movies Illegal and Under the Same Moon. Illegal is a documentary that follows the struggles of an undocumented student attending college. Under the Same Moon is a heartfelt movie about a mother’s decision to leave her son in Mexico while she works in Los Angeles as a housekeeper. This movie showed us the serious risk of coming into the country illegally and humanized “illegals” by showing the circumstances and motivations of people who leave their homeland to create a better life elsewhere.

Finally, on December 8th, Stop the Raids attended the Civil Liberties Conference at Central Connecticut State University. We listened to speakers about their personal experiences as immigrants in places like New York, California, and Connecticut. We learned about Secured Communities which refers to a new law that requires police departments to identify people that they have stopped as documented or undocumented. An attorney at the event described the new law which is already implemented in many other states as “worse than Arizona SB1070 laws.” Next, we heard the extra difficulties facing Muslim communities in this post-9/11 era. Chris Greenwald gave a great presentation about the many civil liberties that have been taken away from us and the dangers of indefinite detention, a new law which allows for the military and the government to arrest people without trial for giving material or emotional support to terrorism.

Many of the speakers explained that such laws are an attack on the activist community and a tactic to make sure that no one gets in the way of the “War on Terror” which is estimated to last for at least another decade. Many people are already unjustly imprisoned for simply being Muslim or for denouncing the war.

Even though we only visit every other week, this small sign of caring means a lot to the residents. They were very excited for us to come to the Halloween party, and we all were sad when Hurricane Sandy had other plans. Even so, the residents greeted us after the hurricane with concern and care for how we held up in the storm. These friendships are incredibly meaningful, more so than any of the work we do or events we run. Even the smallest acts of kindness are greatly appreciated at Peter’s Retreat. The staff is very supportive and excited when we come in. The residents are all called down, and the events are fun for everyone.

If you are interested in getting involved, feel free to contact Nicole Sagullo at nicole.sagullo@trincoll.edu and David Pierce at http://david.pierce@trincoll.edu.
Best Buddies seeks to enhance the lives of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities by facilitating friendships between them and Trinity students.

We kicked off the year promoting Best Buddies at the Activities Fair on Labor Day. From that fair, we received an influx of new Trinity students who were eager to learn more about Best Buddies as well as become paired with buddies throughout the Hartford area. Our first group activity was held in Terrace Room B where buddy pairs and associate buddies got to know one another. We played a variety of games, engaged in arts & crafts activities and had pizza, which everyone enjoyed. The event was a great way to start an amazing semester.

For our October group event, we teamed up with the community service dorm, Praxis, to go apple picking at Belltown Orchards in South Glastonbury. The buddy pairs and the Praxis group had an amazing time. There were four certificate prizes presented to the buddy pairs that had the largest apple, the smallest apple, the reddest apple or the most oddly shaped apple. The buddy pairs also were able to have cider and candy apples thanks to a donation from Belltown Orchards and funds from the SGA Budget Committee. And on October 28th, we participated in the 22nd annual ACES Halloween on Vernon Street, which was a lot of fun. Although only a few buddies were able to make it, our table ran a pasta skeleton making section, mask-making and jack-o-lantern drawing.

In November, we organized a grand Thanksgiving Throw-Down. The e-board members prepared for the buddy pairs a mini-Thanksgiving feast, which included chicken, turkey breast, mashed potatoes, green beans, salad, dinner rolls, and gravy and ordered apple pie. We got a special surprise, a visit from Emilie Latainer, the amazing program director for Best Buddies Connecticut! There were also Thanksgiving themed crafts and games such as hand turkeys, Native-American headbands, and pin the WATTLE on the TURKEY. We ended the event by assembling in a large circle and everyone said what they were thankful for.

For December we had a Cookies, Cupcakes and Carols holiday event at the AASA house, with Emilie Latainer attending once again! As holiday music played in the background, buddy pairs decorated their own cupcakes and cookies. At the end of the event we had a holiday serenade from two of Trinity College’s Accidentals (Trinity’s male a cappella group), Marc Alexis ’13 and Malcolm Williams ’14. The buddy pairs LOVED it and sang right along with them. It was a delightful way to end the semester.

We, as Trinity College Best Buddies chapter, are proud of all our accomplishments this fall semester. There are many people to thank, including:

Lizzie Chai and David Kang, the dynamic duo also known as Dizze, for reaching out to all of the host sites and greeting them with welcoming arms

Co-activities director, Garry Ng for always being well prepared with great ideas, good music and great campus connections

Emily Kauls, our amazing treasurer, for organizing our finances and leading our fundraising committee

Heidi Pi, our lovely secretary, for always keeping us up to date and organized.

Giuliani Lopez, our advisor, for his support and guidance throughout the semester.

And last but not least a huge thanks to our new College Buddy Director (CBD), Ada Chai, who in her first semester as CBD has continuously strived to make Best Buddies at Trinity as great as it can be.

Thanks to everyone else for your dedication, creative ideas and effective leadership. We plan only to continue to expand Best Buddies’ popularity on campus and strive hard for new and creative activities.
Amnesty International by Emma Currier ‘16

Trinity’s chapter of Amnesty International has had a very eventful fall semester with new members, new events, and renewed energy!

We continued our core activities, such as letter writing and actions on specific human rights issues. An example of one of these actions was our first letter-writing event—“Immigrant Rights are Human Rights”—was focused on the DREAM Act (Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors). The DREAM Act would provide conditional permanent residency to young undocumented residents who came to the U.S. before the age of 16, graduated from high school, been in the country at least 5 years, have no criminal record, and then complete at least 2 years of college or military service. We held this event over two evenings—October 15th and 16th—with the first evening we went to the Trinfo Café (a Trinity-run neighborhood technology center) to solicit letters from Hartford residents and the second night at The Fred to get letters from Trinity students. We then followed up this event the next week on October 23rd, at The Fred, with a screening of The Lazarus Effect in conjunction with Trinity’s Darfur Coalition. The Lazarus Effect is an HBO documentary about relief of AIDS in developing nations, provided to us by the ONE Campaign (www.one.org), and those at the event also signed postcards provided to us by ONE urging the government to support continued funding to alleviate extreme poverty and preventable diseases.

Our final major action was our Gender-Based Violence (GBV) campaign in late November/early December. In solidarity with Amnesty International USA’s “16 Days Against Gender-Based Violence” campaign, we hung up posters around campus during November with facts, statistics, and quotes that about GBV in the US and abroad. In late November, we copped off the campaign with a letter-writing night, which included a screening of Half the Sky (a film about women facing marginalization around the world), an activity where we wrote facts about GBV on cut out “Venus symbols” (i.e., the symbol for women — ♂), and a petition encouraging President Obama to support a plan to empower Afghan women. After the event, we hung the Venus symbols on a clothesline in Mather lobby for the whole campus to see and learn. Co-sponsors were: Darfur Coalition, the Women and Gender Studies program, EROS, TCBWO, WGRAC, PHAB, SASA, and the Human Rights program.

In addition to the above letter-writing and actions, we also organized two major programs that exposed human rights issues to a wider audience at Trinity. The first of these events took place on October 2nd, when Amnesty along with The Mill organized and hosted a dinner and discussion with the Tibetan nuns from KeydongThuk-cheChoeling Nunnery in Kathmandu, Nepal. The nuns were in residence at Trinity for the fall 2012 semester to build a mandala—a sand painting used for prayer, contemplation, and healing. This event was less about the mandala and more about human rights issues surrounding their lives as Tibetan refugees in Nepal and, in general, why they chose to become nuns and the nature of their day-to-day lives as nuns. It was a successful and enjoyable event for all with the 40 participants enjoying Indian food and each other’s company. We also very grateful to the event’s co-sponsors without whom this event would not have happened, including The Mill, Cleo of AX, International House, Asian American Students Association, the Human Rights program, and International Studies. For more about the Keydong Nuns go to www.trincoll.edu/Arts/Mandala/Pages/Keydong.aspx.

Our second big event was a panel discussion—“Doing Advocacy in the Age of Technology”—held on November 13th during Common Hour. The panel included the following participants:

Don Branson, Technology Manager for Betty Gallo and Company lobbying group
Cynthia Gabriel Walsh, New England Field Organizer for Amnesty International
Michelle Noerhen, Events and Special Project Manager at the CT Permanent Commission on the Status of Women and author of the CT Working Moms blog.

The panelists opened with a presentation on what they do and how technology has factored into advancing their own work, as well as what issues they have faced and how their work is different (for better or worse) from changes in technology, particularly social media. The panelists were also encouraged to take a bigger picture view and discuss more generally how technology for advocacy has changed over the past two decades, and how have activists and activism adjusted? The panel was a great success with a standing room only audience in Rittenberg Lounge. The presentation was well received and there were a number of great questions. We are especially appreciative of all our co-sponsors, which included the following programs and departments: Human Rights, Psychology, Political Science, Sociology, Anthropology, Educational Studies, and Women, Gender, and Sexuality.

Finally, four of our chapter members attended Amnesty’s Northeast Regional Conference at Boston University in mid-November. It was great to meet students from other Amnesty International chapters from around the northeast and exchange ideas. We look forward to taking advantage of other opportunities to connect with other college human rights activists to further inform, enhance, and expand our work here at Trinity.

All-in-all a busy and productive semester and we look forward to more of the same in the spring 2013 semester. If you are interest in getting more involved with Trinity’s chapter of Amnesty International, please contact Sarah Kacevich at sarah.kacevich@trincoll.edu.
It has been a busy semester for JELLO (January Experience Of Living & Learning & Outreach), and we seemed to have reached the point where it has become very clear that JELLO is about more than January. We started off the school year by resuming our relationship with A Hand Up Inc., an organization that helps people transitioning from lives of homelessness to independent living by collecting and distributing furniture and basic home necessities. We participated in two work dates with A Hand Up—September 29th and October 27th. We also continued our relationship with the Northside Institutions Neighborhood Alliance (NINA), a 10 year old not-for-profit corporation that buys vacant, historic properties in Hartford’s Asylum Hill Neighborhood and rehabilitates them for resale as owner-occupied homes. We were only able to get one work date this semester in November but it was again a great experience and we look forward to more work together in the spring.

Our biggest new initiative has been taking ownership of The Chapel’s “Place of Grace” project—a partnership between the Chapel and Grace Episcopal Church Food Pantry in Hartford’s Parkville section. Each Wednesday (except for the 1st Wednesday of the month), we go to the food pantry for about an hour to help set up for their weekly distribution, which serves about 300 local families. We are very grateful for this opportunity to assist Grace as well as to keep ourselves active and involved on a much more regular basis.

Finally, we again organized and ran our “Rent-a-Raker” fundraiser, which involves faculty and staff “renting” two JELLO student for a two hour period to do general yard and house work. The proceeds from this go to support our January 2013 service trip in Hartford. Our “trip” will take place January 14-18, 2013, and will include various service projects in Hartford, including work with NINA (www.ninahartford.org), the Church of the Good Shepherd (www.cgshartford.org), Hartford Area Habitat for Humanity (www.hartfordhabitat.org), and the HartBeat Ensemble (www.hartbeatensemble.org) trip.

If you are interested in getting involved with JELLO for the Spring 2013 semester or beyond, please contact Edgar Soto at edgar.soto@trincoll.edu.
Habitat for Humanity by Katie Masi ‘13

It was a busy semester for Trinity’s chapter of Habitat for Humanity. We continued our monthly local builds at a, 16-unit Habitat development on Hartford’s South Marshall Street (www.habitat.org/SouthMarshall.html). In addition, to working on this development Trinity’s chapter is a co-sponsor, raising and donating $15,000 to support the project. Although we are not close to being the biggest sponsor of the development, we are the only campus chapter, and we hope to make another significant contribution to support this development in the near future. If you want to learn more about the South Marshall Street project and more generally about Hartford Habitat, this June 2012 Hartford Courant article provides a decent overview: http://articles.courant.com/2012-06-30/business/hc-habitat-hartford-20120630_1_habitat-officials-hope-hartford-area-habitat-aetna.

To celebrate World Habitat Day (http://www.habitat.org/getinv/events/whd/2012) on October 1st, our advocacy chair, Amy Imbergamo ’13, organized an a cappella show on the Cave Patio with the Accidentals and Dischords. In addition, computers were set up for those in attendance to sign a pledge to end poverty housing. Everyone enjoyed the entertainment and then we had about 50 students sign this pledge that called on key decision-makers to recognize the role of housing in communities, make affordable, adequate housing a priority, and change the systems and policies that lead to poverty housing.

The biggest fundraiser of the semester was our 10th Annual Habitrot 5K Run/Walk, held on November 10th, with over 60 runners and walkers participating. Shaun Stuer ’13 with a time of 19:18 won this year’s race, and with a time of 24:07, Amy Imbergamo ’13 was the top female finisher. They each received a gift card from the Trinity College Bookstore. We are especially grateful to Professors Timothy Curran and Olivier Nicaise in the Chemistry Department who continued their offer to drop the lowest quiz grade of each of their students who run or walk the race. Professors Curran and Nicaise have offered this incentive to their students for a number of years now and we cannot thank them enough for their very essential participation.

This year’s Habitrot was planned and run by a very dedicated committee of students, which included Nick Bellas ’16, Richelle Benjamin ‘15, Katie Masi ’13, Niru Pokharel ’15, Elizabeth Jurick ’16, Isabel Monteleone ’16, Todd Chengsupanimit ’14, Weston Klimas ’13, Sara Khalil ’15, Yesmien Nyhan ’14, Dulce Angel ’14, Nour Chamseddine ’16. Additionally, we would like to recognize Chartwells for providing refreshments for all the participants, the President’s Office for sponsoring the event’s t-shirts, the bookstore for donating the gift cards for the winners, and Athletics and Campus Safety for their assistance with logistics and scheduling. This event would not be successful without the contributions of all these individuals and departments.

Finally, we signed up for our annual Alternative Spring Break trip in March, and we will be headed to Wilmington, North Carolina for the first time! Berkley Singer ’15 is in the process of putting together the itinerary and planning the trip for 25 students.

If you are interested in Trinity Habitat’s spring break trip or in any of its other work, feel free to attend our meetings on Sunday nights at 7:30 p.m. in the Office of Community Service and Civic Engagement (Mather basement, next to the bookstore). You may also contact us at trinityhabitat@gmail.com for more information. We look forward to having you...
ACES (continued from page 1)

Ready-to-Read was our final event of the semester, as well as our newest addition. ACES is taking on this project for the first time with the intent of making it a permanent part of our annual project cycle. It was started in fall 2011 by Emily Howe ’13 and Krystal Laing ’14 as a CLI project in their Child Development class. Ready-to-Read is an early literacy program that aims to get books into the homes of local families with young children. ACES partners with the Kennelly School to provide a book each pre-k and kindergarten student at the school. Kennelly provided a list of age-appropriate books and we recruited students (including quite a significant number at Midnight Breakfast on December 12th!) to buy specific books over winter break and bring them back to us by the end of January. All books will be presented to Kennelly School in early February 2013.

So it was a busy and successful fall semester. We now look ahead to the spring 2013 semester with our Annual Auction, Princess and the Prom prom dress drive, Souper Bowl food drive, Fun Fair at SambaFest, and perhaps the addition of a school supplies drive. If any of this sounds of interest to you, you should consider joining ACES. For more information, feel free to contact Gracie Phillips ’13 or Emily Howe ’13 at trinaces@gmail.com. We look forward to having you join us.

Praxis by Shawna Berk ’13

Joe Barber once told me that “building community is tough, but worth the effort.” I completely agree. I am honored to be serving as Praxis Coordinator this year with the assistance of Giuliani Lopez (graduate assistant in the Office of Community Service and Civic Engagement). Together we have tried to foster a community within our residence hall and we began this process almost immediately upon our arrival back to campus. On the weekend before classes started, Praxis cooked and shared a big breakfast together, had an orientation to the dorm and engaged in a dorm beautification project. As a result of this first weekend, we now have an organized kitchen, a new library on the second floor, and a redecorated common room.

Another way that we are endeavor to build community is through working together in service projects off campus. In September we volunteered at EnvisionFest (www.envisionfesthartford.com) -- a new one-day celebration of the cultural attractions available in downtown Hartford that also unveiled for the first time a glimpse of the proposed transformation of Downtown Hartford--the iQuilt plan (www.theiquiltplan.org). Praxis members worked at various EnvisionFest locations, including a children’s craft table, “passport” stops throughout the Downtown, and some of the entertainment venues. It was a great event that demonstrated to many of us how much there is to do in Hartford.

We continued our work in October first by volunteering at the 19th annual Hartford Marathon (www.hartfordmarathon.org) on October 13th, packing goodie bags for the competitors and serving as course monitors. And on October 28th, we participated in Halloween on Vernon Street and turned part of our building into a frightening haunted house. In addition to these two events, we also organized an apple-picking outing on October 21st with Best Buddies and enjoyed the fruits of our labor at our weekly dormitory meeting that same night in our our common room.

Praxis loves apples and pies. So we combined our passion for food and baked 200 apple pies (with help from the Mather bakers) for M.D. Fox Elementary School and Hands on Hartford. The M.D. Fox pies were a part of the ACES annual Thanksgiving Drive through which 100 turkeys and all the other fixings for a Thanksgiving dinner are donated to 100 families at M.D. Fox. The Hands on Hartford pies were donated to their MANNA food pantry as part of their Thanksgiving drive.

The first of December brought a little snow. Luckily, Praxis was inside a Hartford Habitat for Humanity house on South Marshall Street, painting the first coat on the inside of the second story. Our clothes may have sustained some paint damage, but we all had a great time.

Praxis is looking forward to next semester where we will continue to volunteer in the community as a dormitory and individually.

If you are interested in learning more about Praxis, please contact Shawna Berk at shawna.berk@trincoll.edu.
We signed up as a team for the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk at Bushnell Park on October 21st, with the goal to raise $1,000. We hosted a Breast Cancer Awareness Drive selling wristbands and pins in Mather Hall, as well as pink plush footballs at Trinity football games. The walk itself was a wonderful experience and a great way to express our support for all women and men suffering from the disease.

As November rolled around, TCBWO joined forces with the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity and participated in a community service project through A Hand Up, a non-profit that collects and distributes donated goods (e.g., furniture, housewares, etc.) to help people transition from homelessness to independent living. We assisted with packing, loading, delivering, and unloading various household items to various individuals and families in the Hartford area.

During the final days of the semester we sold Holiday Grams for the winter holiday season and also provided Trinity students with an opportunity to complete Macy’s Santa Letters. The Macy’s Santa Letters is an initiative supported in which Macy’s donates $1 for every letter received to the Make-a-Wish-Foundation, TCBWO managed to get 275 letters sent out from the Trinity community.

Throughout the semester TCBWO has also co-sponsored events with organizations, including Voices Raised in Power (an event to raise awareness about sexual violence) and Amnesty International’s letter-writing events. TCBWO has big community service plans for next semester, which includes forming a relationship with a local Girl Scouts troop in the Hartford area. We plan to conduct activities with the girls on campus, help them sell cookies and serve as role models they can look up to. The ladies of Trinity College Black Women’s Organization are dedicated not only to the Trinity campus but also to the Hartford community.

If you are interested in learning more about TCBWO, please contact Shanice Hinckson at shanice.hinckson@trincoll.edu.
The Coop by Stephanie Garcia ‘15

The Coop is Trinity’s thrift store, located under Jackson Hall, facing the Life Sciences Quad, across from the Life Sciences Center. It was started by Giuliani Lopez in the Fall 2010 as a Green Campus project in collaboration with the Office of Community Service and Civic Engagement and has continued running since. The purpose of The Coop is four-fold:

1. Salvage useable items that would otherwise be discarded by students, faculty, and staff, particularly from the College’s residence halls.
2. Provide an opportunity for Trinity College students, faculty, and staff to purchase needed used items inexpensively.
3. Provide students an opportunity to gain some experience running a (very) small business.
4. Raise money for community organizations with which we already have ongoing partnerships.

Most of the items available for purchase at The Coop are left behind by students at the end of the academic year and collected through a program called Dump and Run—a project of the Office of Community Service and Civic Engagement and Green Campus. Dump and Run involves student volunteers collecting and salvaging useable items, which are then sorted, organized, and then either donated to local community organizations (e.g., Immaculate Conception Shelter, Interval House, Tabor House, Hartford Catholic Worker, Hartford Dog Pound, and the Salvation Army) or integrated into The Coop’s inventory.

This semester, nine student volunteers ran the Coop for a total of 19 hours per week. Some perks of volunteering include having first access to new items, having a new means by which to meet people, and having access to the collection of vintage Nintendo and Atari games, which can be played in the store.

In addition, as stated in above, the money raised from The Coop is donated to community organizations, and we were able to begin the academic year by making donations of $1,250 each to the Hartford Catholic Worker, Interval House, Immaculate Conception Shelter and Housing Corporation, and Tabor House. We hope that going forward, we will be able to make annual contributions to our community partners.

Finally, it is important to state that The Coop’s success is due in large part to a number of campus offices, including the Office of Campus Life, Office of Community Service and Civic Engagement, Computing Center, and E&R Cleaners. We are very grateful for all of their support.

If you are interested in volunteering at the Coop for the spring ‘13 semester, send an email to Giuliani Lopez at Giuliani.Lopez@trincoll.edu or to Stephanie Garcia ‘15 at Stephanie.Garcia@trincoll.edu.

Relay for Life by Geoff Kwok ‘14

It has been an eventful fall for our chapter of Relay for Life. This semester we’ve had several major events including our annual Ice Cream Social, our cookie delivery service, our Parent’s Weekend bake sale, and our annual Dodgeball tournament. The Dodgeball tournament on December 2nd, in particular, was a great success with over a dozen teams competing.

The committee has many brand new faces this year along with several returning members. The committee has been working diligently to make sure that our spring event will be a resounding success. The focus this fall has been on recruitment and advertisement. We had a fall goal of signing up 30 teams, and at the close of the semester we’re just over half way there. With our shortcomings evident, we know that we need to recommit and be more clear with ourselves about what is needed to achieve our goals.

In addition to the redoubling of our recruitment efforts, we will also be focusing more on the specific logistics of Relay event.

We also hope to extend an invitation out to the greater Hartford community to join us in our Relay.

Several groups including local schools took part in Relay last year and we want to make sure that they and others are included in our event in April.

Want to get involved? The more the merrier. If interested, please contact Geoff Kwok at geoffrey.kwok@trincoll.edu and Aarthi Ram at aarthi.ram@trincoll.edu.
Green Campus by Mike Oleskewicz ‘13

Green Campus’s first event of the semester was its annual plant sale on September 24th and 25th. This year’s plant sale, done in conjunction with the Biology Club, and raised approximately $250. Again, this year Professor Joan Morrison contributed plants from the College’s greenhouse. Without Professor Morrison’s assistance, we would not be able to have this event, so much thanks to her for another successful event.

Our next event on September 29th was an apple-picking trip to Belltown Hill Orchards in Glastonbury. After picking the apples, we reconvened at the TREEHouse to bake various apple-themed snacks in the kitchen.

Green Campus members then focused our efforts on helping the facilities department with its Sustainability Day activities on October 24th, including building a sculpture of a Bantam out of recycled materials. And in November, Green Campus also hosted several movie screenings at the TREEHouse with delicious organic snacks from Alchemy Juice Bar and Café.

This semester, Green Campus also made more effort to get Trinity students into the great outdoors. One of the most successful events of the semester was the fall hike to Mt. Lafayette in New Hampshire on November 17th. Sixteen Trinity students left campus at 4:30 a.m. travelled to New Hampshire, and completed the 8 mile hike along the Franconia Ridge. We then followed up that hike with two local Connecticut hikes in December—Talcott Mountain and Sleeping Giant State Park.

There was also a subgroup of Green Campus that worked with Professor Joan Morrison to complete and submit a proposal for the EPA Rainworks Challenge, a program in which colleges compete to win a federal grant for constructing a rain garden on campus. We were able to get our proposal in just in time and we await to hear the results of the competition.

Finally, three members of Green Campus worked with Kira Sargent, Trinity’s Sustainability Coordinator, to form a small campus “green team,” that conducts weekly inspections and reports on the status of recycling in Trinity Commons, Ferris Athletic Center, and the Life Sciences Center. We hope to continue and expand this effort during the spring semester.

In the upcoming semester Green Campus plans to kick off its new gardening system, with both indoor and outdoor gardens at the TREEHouse. The TREEHouse groups, including Green Campus, Outdoors Club, and Rock Climbing Club, and the Bantam Brew Club, are also working on developing a new trailhead style sign for the house, which we hope to install in 2013. Finally, there will also be a series of monthly spring hikes run by Green Campus, as well as 7 days of sustainability themed events during Earth Week.

If you are interested in getting involved with Green Campus, contact Mike Oleskewicz at michael.oleskewicz@trincoll.edu or Gwen Schoch at gwendolyn.schoch@trincoll.edu.
Do-It Day

Despite the threat of inclement weather and the tornado warnings that day, Trinity’s 14th annual Do It Day on September 8th, sponsored by the Office of Community Service & Civic Engagement, proved to be quite a success. Over 50 non-profit organizations in the Greater Hartford area hosted over 700 Trinity volunteers. Started in 1999, Do It Day is a half-day event in which hundreds of Trinity students, faculty, staff, and alumni spend an afternoon volunteering at nonprofit organizations throughout the Hartford area.

Stephen Chase ’14 and Megan O’Brien ’14 worked all summer to make this event happen and were extremely pleased with the results. After registering and meeting with their groups in the Washington Room, Trinity students and staff headed to their worksites wearing their free bright yellow T-shirt with its own Trinity version of the Connecticut quarter.

Service projects included a Frog Hollow neighborhood cleanup with Billings Forge Community Works, painting and cleaning animal cages with the Ebony Horsewomen, organizing and cleaning the children’s program area at Interval House, and assisting with the set-up of Shiloh Baptist Church’s annual Homecoming Day. While maintaining our relationships with past participants, we also worked with new ones, including the Cedar Hill Cemetery Foundation, the CRRA Trash Museum, Connecticut Sexual Assault Crisis Services, First Presbyterian Church, Mutual Housing Association of Greater Hartford, Trinfo Café, and the Trinity College Community Child Care Center. We look forward to their involvement in future Do It Days.

Students signed up individually for Do It Day or as part of an athletic team, Greek organization, club, multicultural group, faith-based group, and/or first-year seminar. Athletic team participants included the men’s tennis, men’s and women’s lacrosse, men’s and women’s rowing, baseball team, women’s ice hockey, women’s basketball, softball, men’s and women’s swimming, wrestling, women’s rugby. Other organizations who participated include Kappa Kappa Gamma, Zeta Omega Eta, Psi Upsilon, Ivy Society, Cleo, Chapel Council, Hillel, The Mill, Praxis, the Asian American Student Association (AASA), Trinity College Black Women’s Organization (TCBWQ), Caribbean Students Association, the IDP Association, FIST (Faith Inspired Students at Trinity), a handful of first-year seminar courses, and probably a few more that we have forgotten (our apologies).

After a long day of hard work, volunteers reconvened in the Washington Room for a complimentary dinner. Beverages for the event were provided by local grocery stores, and food was donated by over 50 local restaurants. Trinity students and staff were able to sample a variety of foods in this “taste of Hartford” and were hopefully encouraged to frequent these local restaurants in the future.

The 14th annual Do It Day was a great success and we look forward to the 15th annual Do It Day which will be help on September 7, 2013!
Thanks to all of the community groups and organizations for working with us!

Charities of Hope, Chrysalis Center, Cinestudio, Community Partners in Action, Connecticut Coalition of Mutual Assistance, CRRA Trash Museum, CT Sexual Assault Crisis Services, Ebony Horse Women, First Presbyterian Church, Foodshare, Friends of Elizabeth Park, Friends of Goodwin Park, Friends of Pope Park, Grace Episcopal Church, Harriet Beecher Stowe Center, Hartford Areas Rally Together (HART), Hartford Artisans Weaving Center, Hartford Hospital, Hartford Rescue Mission, Horace Bushnell Children's Food Pantry, Immaculate Conception/SHC, Interval House, Juniper House, Knox Parks, La Paloma Sabanera, Latino Community Services, Inc., Leadership Greater Hartford, Mandell Jewish Community Center, Memorial Baptist Church, Mutual Housing Association of Greater Hartford, Inc., My Sisters' Place, Inc., NINA, Noah Webster MicroSociety Magnet School, Oak Hill, Park River Watershed, Peter's Retreat, Salvation Army- Marshall House, Salvation Army- New Hope Recovery Corps, Shiloh Baptist Church, St. Agnes Family Center, Trinfo Café, Trinity College Community Child Care Center, Trinity Episcopal Church, Trinity Hill Care Center, Wadsworth Atheneum, WRTC Hartford, Youth Challenge Mission for Women
Spring 2013 Upcoming Events

**January**

23  
Community Service Fair: Representatives from more than 30 campus community service groups will set up booths in the basement of Mather and to recruit new members.

**February**

2  
Souper Bowl Food Drive: Food drive held at a local supermarket the day before the Super Bowl to benefit the Hartford Catholic Worker.

12  
4th Annual Bantam Bazaar: Proceeds going to Hurricane Sandy Relief

26  
Red Cross Blood Drive and National Bone Marrow Registration Drive (sponsored by Psi Upsilon)

**March**

7  
ACES Annual Auction for Charity: A variety of items will be auctioned off during Mather dinner with proceeds going to local charities.

4  
Habitat for Humanity Build

12  
What’s Homelessness Got To Do With Human Rights? panel sponsored Amnesty International

16-23  
Alternative Spring Break with Habitat for Humanity: 30 Trinity students will spend their spring break building houses with Habitat for Humanity affiliates in Miami, Florida.

**April**

6  
Habitat for Humanity Build

11  
Lions Club Wine & Cheese: An annual fundraising event for Lions in the Greater Hartford.

26  
Relay For Life: An overnight campus-wide walk to raise awareness about cancer while simultaneously fundraising for the American Cancer Society.

**May**

4  
Sambafest/Fun Fair: Student groups set up booths and host carnival for local children on the Main Quad, collaborating once again with Samba Fest

6  
Volunteer Appreciation Dinner: Over 100 student volunteers were honored at a formal dinner in the Washington Room

22  
Hartford Citywide Science Fair