

the common thread



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Education Management Corporation

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2008 Report To The Community

Working for a better world becomes our common thread

For more than 40 years, Education Management Corporation (EDMC) has served communities throughout North America with quality post-secondary schools. Our students find rigorous academic programs offered in supportive environments, with measured practical outcomes that enhance their lives. Our faculty and staff members are expected to make a difference and inspire others to do the same. The communities in which our schools are located gain hands-on volunteers who seek to contribute to the well-being of those in need of help.

The EDMC educational system includes The Art Institutes, Argosy University, South University, and Brown Mackie College schools. An enduring goal ingrained in each school, across every location, is a steadfast dedication to making positive contributions to the world around us. This is the common thread we share: a willingness to give back to the communities in which we live, work, and play.

These are our stories of how we're changing the world.



Community Education Project: One goal, many faces

Faculty and staff at South University, Columbia Campus share two great passions. One is education; the other is making the world a better place for others. Combining the two passions, they created a campus-wide community service endeavor called the Community Education Project. The Project invites all South University personnel to contribute in ways unique to their individual talents and strengths. As a result, volunteer efforts of many staff and faculty members have culminated in varied work that benefits others in mind, body, citizenship, sportsmanship and cultural heritage.

Rosvelt Martain, who teaches American Government, saw an opportunity to help when he learned that as many as 75% of the residents in some precincts did not know how to operate the voting machines. Martain now teaches voters how to use the computerized equipment during local, state and federal elections. "Participation in elections is one of the most important responsibilities of citizenship," Martain said. "Citizens must believe the process will accurately record their choices or they won't take part in elections."

Youth is the focus of two other South University staff members. Wayne Corbett, General Studies Program Director, serves as a judge at the annual South Carolina State Science Fair. Each year, more than 500 science projects from students in grade school through high school advance to the finals of the state competition. "My role as a judge allows me to play a special part in the education of some of the brightest students in our state," Corbett said. Helping outside of the classroom is Brad Kauffman, Dean of Students. He coaches a basketball team that won the 2007 recreation league championship. "I feel I helped the kids learn a vital lesson—giving your all, upholding good sportsmanship, working for the good of the team. These qualities always bring out the best in you. When you do this, no matter what the outcome—you're a winner," said Kauffman.



Associate Professor Dr. J. Fisher shares knowledge he has gained from his archeological research performed in the Farenya region of Guinea, West Africa. Working with officials from a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving South Carolina Sea Island history and culture, he educates the group on the similarities between the architecture in Guinea and early African-American communities on the South Carolina coast. Dr. Fisher explains, "This kind of education makes archeology and history come alive. It means that the roots of a South Carolina community can be better preserved and shared with more people."

Drawing on her medical knowledge, Christy Beach, CMA, Program Director of the Medical Assisting Program, conducted a series of community lectures on health-related topics at a local medical center. Each talk provided information about a specific health condition—such as diabetes, hypertension, and heart disease—and tips on eating healthier to reduce health risks.



Treating kids to Christmas around the world

Each year in October, students at South University, Montgomery Campus begin publicity for their annual Samaritan's Purse Christmas Child project. E-mail messages go out and posters go up calling for donations of empty shoeboxes and gift items for underprivileged children around the world. Each year, the collection boxes fill up with donations from students, faculty and staff.

Anna Pearson, Director of Admissions, coordinates the event with student volunteers. Donations vary and include a wide assortment of essentials and treats for poor children living in developing countries. "We collect things like candy, small toys, picture books, school supplies and hygiene items," Pearson said. This year's donations included baseball caps, hair clips, watches, solar calculators, stuffed animals, yo-yo's and sunglasses. Students pack each shoebox with gift items for a single child and wrap the boxes. Faculty and staff donate the cost of shipping the boxes.

"These may be the only toys these kids see. Plus, they're thrilled to get things we take for granted. New socks and underwear can be hard to come by for kids in developing countries," said Pearson. "And flashlights. We always try to send lots of flashlights with extra batteries."

Samaritan's Purse is an international Christian relief organization dedicated to easing the suffering of others throughout the world. Operation Christmas Child is a Samaritan's Purse program that provides volunteers the opportunity to contribute to the welfare of children in developing countries during the holidays.

"When you have a common cause, people rally around," said Pearson. "We have been fortunate to have good student leaders who motivate others to help. The faculty and staff are great in that respect, too."





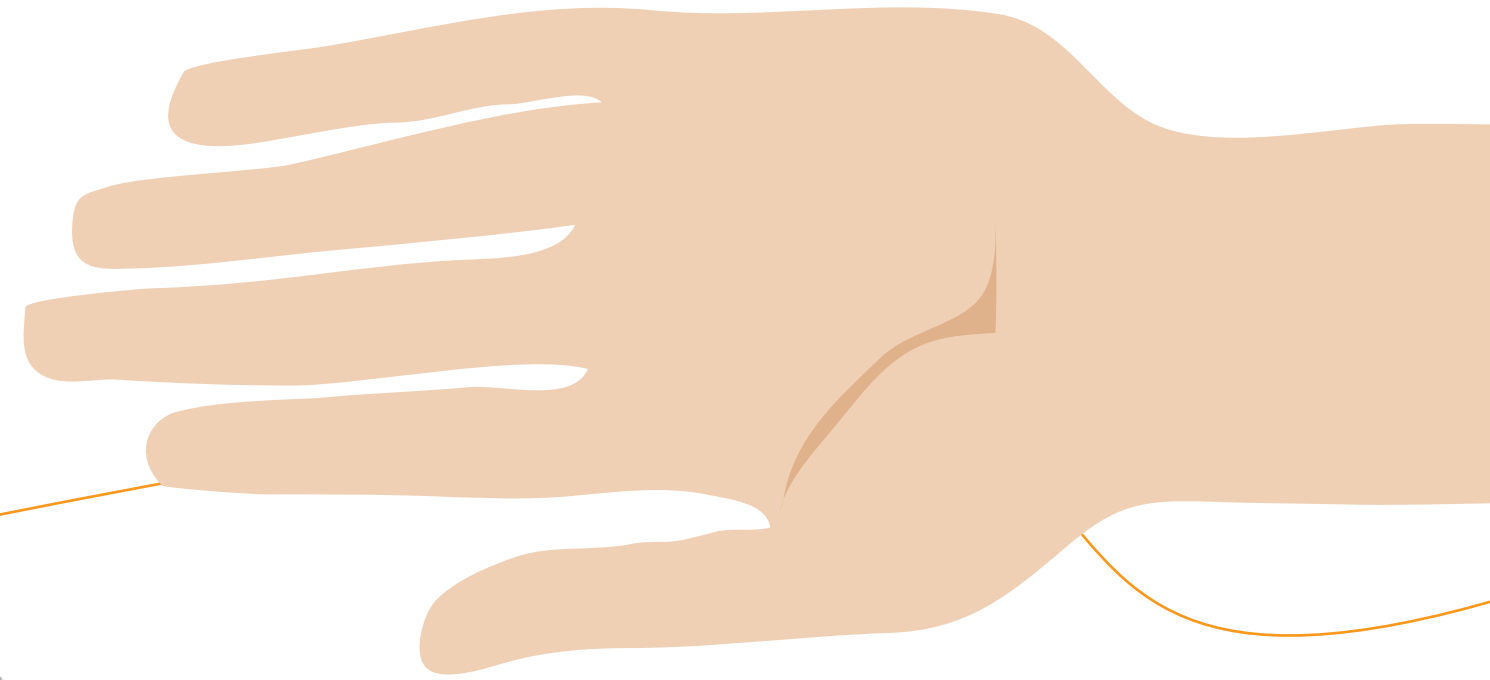
Have a heart? Give blood!

Each person who donates just one pint of blood can help save the lives of up to three people. How? Blood is comprised of three separate components. Each component fulfills different needs in area hospitals every day. Many needs are urgent; some are critical. Well over half of the nation's population is eligible to donate blood, yet only 3% take the time to give. That's why South University, Savannah Campus holds a blood drive two to four times a year.

Kari Pahno, Associate Dean of Student Services, coordinates this ongoing project with the Savannah Blood Alliance, a non-profit organization that serves as the sole provider of transfusable blood products to local hospitals. "We get a good turnout each time we hold a blood drive," Pahno said. "The staff and students seem to appreciate it when we offer them a chance to help others."

The Savannah Blood Alliance operates ten community donor centers and nine mobile units designed for site-specific blood drives. When the campus schedules a blood drive, all of the necessary equipment and supplies arrive under one air-conditioned roof. Everything is designed to facilitate blood donations, which provide essential support to patients in the community.

For any skeptics out there who are able to donate blood, but have yet to roll up their sleeves, a little knowledge can go a long way. The Savannah Blood Alliance reports that the average adult body holds from 10 to 12 pints of blood. After one pint is donated, the body replaces the fluid portion within 24 hours, the platelets within two days, and the red blood cells within 56 days. Plus, each donor receives an ample supply of juice and cookies when the procedure is over.





Compassion + knowledge = safe patients and experienced students

As workers completed Phase I construction of Tampa General Hospital's new Bayshore Pavilion, plans were underway to relocate patients to the finished area of the new facility. Undergraduate nursing students at South University, Tampa Campus volunteered to help patients move and settle into the new space.

Dr. Dan Coble, president of the Tampa Campus, organized the student effort and coordinated the project with hospital staff. Students prepared for the move on campus in the Nursing Skills Lab. Faculty members supervised as the students practiced maneuvering beds and wheelchairs. Faculty provided guidance on the proper mechanical skills required, and addressed the safety needs of the patients.

During Phase I of the three-phase move, five students helped move approximately 40 patients to the new Emergency & Trauma Center,

and 18 patients to the Neuroscience Intensive Care Unit. The students' main role was to stay with the patient throughout the move, making sure that the patient, family, and their belongings arrived at the correct destination. As Phase II and III construction is completed, more than 20 South University students will have volunteered 100+ hours to contribute to the welfare of others.

According to the director of nursing resources at Tampa General Hospital, Leah Godfrey, RN MS, "The nursing students provided safety and comfort for the patients during all of the relocations. This was a valuable adjunct to the staff and great assurance to the patients."

"Our students gained an awareness of the need for patient and family emotional and physical support during the transition," said Dr. Coble. "They also gained an understanding of the complex planning required for implementation of the moves."



A labor of love for Pro Bono Paralegal Club and friends

Faculty and students at South University, West Palm Beach Campus poured their hearts into a bittersweet undertaking initiated by the school's Pro Bono Paralegal Club. The cause, Palm Beach County Habitat for Humanity. The motivation, a lasting tribute to Legal Studies Advisory Board Member Jose Sosa who died the year before in a tragic car accident.

Mr. Sosa had served as the Development Director of Westgate, the neighborhood surrounding the campus. On April 28, 2007, a group of South University Legal Studies students, faculty members, and friends gathered to help build a house in the Habitat for Humanity Westgate Village project, a new 14-home subdivision located within Mr. Sosa's area of service.

One special friend among the volunteers was Mr. Sosa's daughter, Loriana, who worked alongside the University team. Donning work

gloves and slinging hammers, the team toiled in the sun together. It was a labor of love in remembrance of a beloved father and a good friend. South University participants included Doris Rachles, Chair Legal Studies, Lisa Dunham, full-time Legal Studies faculty, Tim Kozyra, adjunct faculty, Legal Studies and Criminal Justice, Sandra Omosaiye, Heather Martin, Debbie Carrasquillo, Mickale Linton, and Nestor Gonzalez.

Framing homes and building trusses is grueling work, yet the South University team agreed that it was one of the most fun and gratifying ventures they had ever experienced. A fitting tribute for a cherished friend, working to make a difference in the neighborhood in which Mr. Sosa had dedicated much of his time and efforts.



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