DNY Students Using Academic Service-Learning Serve with Tuesday’s Children

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Discover New York Students Serve with Tuesday’s Children as Part of Academic-Service Learning

On the weekend of September 11, 2011, 26 St. John’s freshmen completed their Academic Service-Learning projects with Tuesday’s Children, a local non-profit organization. This program was part of Discover New York (DNY) course, which provides each first-year student with a dynamic experience that combines in-class instruction with the cultural wealth of New York City. Professors Elizabeth Albert, Paul Gawkowski, and Michael Hostetler, Ph.D., collaborated with Tuesday’s Children, a non-profit organization founded by the families and friends of the 9/11 victims committed to assisting the victims of the 9/11 tragedy as well as the first responders, their children through mentoring programs and family services.

The DNY students assisted Tuesday’s Children with two major projects from Friday, September 9 through Sunday, September 11. The first project, included a Subway Marketing Campaign, where students were placed at high traffic subway stops and train stations throughout Manhattan. They assisted with outreach efforts by passing out information cards, pens, and pins as well as engaged in dialogue with New Yorkers about 9/11 and the work of the organization.

The second group of students served with the Flags of Honor Project at Battery Park. They
assisted in fundraising efforts by selling Flags of Honor. The students had the opportunity to interact with hundreds of residents and participated in 9/11 discourse. With the help of the St. John’s students, Tuesday’s Children raised nearly $12,000 to benefit their programs.

By serving with Tuesday’s Children, students were able to gain insight as to what life in New York was like right after the 9/11 tragedy. This experience ties to the learning objectives of Discover New York where students gain an in depth understanding of the history and experiences of those living in New York while focusing on themes such as immigration, wealth and poverty, race and ethnicity, religion, and the natural environment. The Tuesday’s Children program is one of the many examples of Academic Service-Learning at St. John’s University. Academic Service-Learning is a classroom based program which provides students with the opportunity to better understand course concepts and learning objectives by participating in community service. Through Academic Service-Learning, students actively embrace St. John’s Vincentian mission while enhancing the learning experience of their course.

For more information on Academic Service-Learning or on Tuesday’s Children, please contact Valerie Kutcher at (718) 990-8289 or via e-mail, kutcherv@stjohns.edu.