

Building Capacity, Touching Lives



Through direct service projects, Chicago Schweitzer Fellows develop a lifelong blueprint for making service a part of their everyday lives—and enhance the capacities of existing nonprofit organizations to impact the health status of underserved communities. At the end of the 2009-10 program year:

- 100% of Fellows' site mentors said that the Fellows' Schweitzer projects had made a positive contribution to their agencies
- 70% were confident their Fellow had improved community members' health-related behaviors
- 67% said that their Fellow had increased community members' access to health care
- 97% would strongly recommend other community agencies consider partnering with the Schweitzer Program

In a December 2009 survey of Schweitzer alumni (Fellows for Life), 98% said the Fellowship was crucial to their commitment to leading a life of service, and 90% said that their current careers reflect that goal.

A majority (61%) of Fellows for Life are now working in settings where half or more of the clients they help are underserved.

OUR SPONSORS

The Chicago Area Schweitzer Fellows Program is made possible through the generous contributions of local foundations, universities, and individuals, including:

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The University of Illinois at Chicago

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Visit our website and blog for information about the Fellowship, the application process, the Fellows for Life alumni network, and giving securely online.

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**THE ALBERT
SCHWEITZER
FELLOWSHIP®**

*Addressing Health Disparities
by Developing Leaders in Service*

*The Chicago Area
Schweitzer Fellows Program®*



“I do not know your destiny, but I do know one thing: the only ones of you who will be truly happy are those who have sought and found how to serve.”

—DR. ALBERT SCHWEITZER

The Albert Schweitzer Fellowship (ASF)’s mission is to reduce disparities in health and health care by developing “Leaders in Service”—individuals who are dedicated and skilled in meeting the health needs of underserved communities, and whose example influences and inspires others.

Since its founding in 1996 as a program of ASF and the Health & Medicine Policy Research Group, the Chicago Area Schweitzer Fellows Program has mentored more than 400 such “Leaders in Service.”

They come from a wide range of graduate level health and human service professional schools—from medicine and nursing to law and psychology.

Each Schweitzer Fellow designs and directs an innovative direct service project to address health challenges from childhood obesity and diabetes to violence prevention and homelessness.

Being a Schweitzer Fellow Is...

- 1 A personal, individualized pursuit, *not* a “plug-in” volunteer opportunity
- 2 A meaningful, integrated part of health education, *not* a program undertaken when a student’s “regular life” is on hold
- 3 An interdisciplinary experience, *not* an isolated one
- 4 A gateway for lifelong service, not a one-time volunteer project with an endpoint

in their own words



“This experience has equipped me with skills that have given me the confidence to design and implement future outreach programs. It has reinforced my desire to work with underserved communities.”

FARAZ AHMAD

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

“My experience was so enriched by hearing the experiences of other Fellows and sensing the solidarity of embarking on these adventures together.”

MEGAN FOODY

DEPAUL UNIVERSITY NURSING DEPARTMENT

“Developing and implementing a service project proved to me that I could indeed put my ideals into action, and that I am capable of connecting with and learning from individuals and populations with diverse cultural backgrounds and needs.”

LAURA GRANROS

THE CHICAGO SCHOOL OF
PROFESSIONAL PSYCHOLOGY

Innovative Projects Meet Diverse Health Needs

Chicago Schweitzer Fellows have developed health and wellness projects throughout Chicago/Cook County and neighboring counties. They have contributed over 80,000 hours of service in a variety of innovative ways such as:

- Encouraging academic achievement in south side youth through a new tutoring/mentoring program
- Creating a social network among seniors to help reduce loneliness and isolation
- Teaching health education classes focusing on healthy foods and fitness for underserved groups
- Leading prenatal yoga classes to help expectant mothers combat stress and increase awareness and exploration of the mind-body connection
- Providing preventive dental services and oral health care education to underserved children
- Training hip-hop and spoken word artists to promote awareness of health care issues facing African Americans

Lasting Impact

The Schweitzer Program encourages Fellows to develop ways of sustaining the community benefit afforded by their projects. UIC medical student John Galvin launched a photography workshop promoting non-violence and self esteem for inner city youth in 2003; it continues to this day. In 2006, Loyola University Chicago medical student Kathleen Agard helped the Maywood community overcome its nutritional “food desert” by organizing farmers’ markets; she developed a toolkit that empowered community members to continue the farmers’ markets on their own.

And in 2007, University of Chicago medical student Mosmi Surati developed a diabetes curriculum to train lay community members as health promoters. DePaul nursing student Qiana Woodson continued the program, and it is still being taught throughout Chicago.