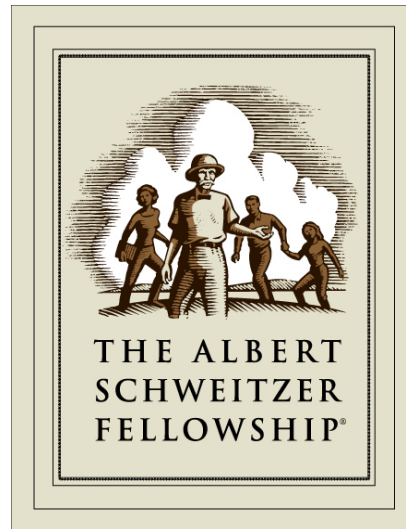


MEDIA ADVISORY—For immediate release

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AN IMPACTFUL PARTNERSHIP

Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust, Albert Schweitzer Fellowship (ASF) Launch Innovative Initiatives to Improve the Health of North Carolina's Underserved

With the Trust's support, ASF expands recruitment to Historically Black Colleges and Universities, offers sustainability grants to sites committed to continuing Fellows' service projects

Several years ago, Alex Stovall had a successful career as a production supervisor for Pepsi Bottling Ventures. But he was unfulfilled—so he made a mid-life U-turn. Now, Stovall is a physical therapy student at Winston-Salem State University (WSSU)—and as the school's first Albert Schweitzer Fellow, he's establishing a physical therapy clinic within the Community Care Center on New Walkertown Road, which depends on volunteers to provide quality health care for the medically underserved and uninsured in Forsyth, Stokes, and Davie Counties.

“Without insurance, it is almost a luxury for our patients to get free medical care, but few have access to any secondary services such as physical therapy,” Stovall says. “We see patients who have had surgery, but no access to any follow-up physical therapy. Sometimes that not only creates issues of pain, but has such negative effects on their quality of life, as well as possibly creating other on-going health issues and problems. For our patients, they have had no alternative but to live with their situations.”

But now that's changing, thanks to Stovall. And it's The Albert Schweitzer Fellowship's new partnership with the Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust that is making Alex's story—and others like it across the state—possible.

The Albert Schweitzer Fellowship (ASF) is a national nonprofit organization that annually supports 250 graduates from the nation's top health and human service schools as they develop and implement service projects with a direct — and lasting — impact on the health of low-income, underserved communities. The North Carolina Schweitzer Fellows Program was launched in 1994, but this year's crop of Fellows, which includes Stovall, is the first to contain students from the state's Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU).

“We strongly believe that the broader scope of Schweitzer applicant recruitment to include North Carolina’s many outstanding Historically Black Colleges and Universities enhances the potential that individual Schweitzer Fellows will become influencers in the never-ending pursuit of better health for lower income North Carolinians,” says Allen J. Smart, MPH, Senior Program Officer in the Trust’s Health Care Division. The Trust funded the HCBU recruitment expansion and is supporting nine of this year’s 26 North Carolina Schweitzer Fellows.

The HCBU recruitment expansion is just one of the ways the Trust is magnifying the impact of the Schweitzer Fellowship’s work. Before being selected as Schweitzer Fellows, students must propose a service project that addresses the unmet health needs of low-income communities in a direct and sustainable manner (and that is carried out in partnership with a community-based organization). Thanks to the Trust, community-based organizations committed to sustaining a Fellow’s service project into the future can now apply to receive a grant. Additionally, current Trust grantees—such as UNC Horizons and the Children’s Law Center of Central North Carolina—are now actively partnering with Schweitzer Fellows.

“We believe that the work of the Schweitzer Fellows, particularly with the new emphasis on collaboration with Trust grantees and issues, enhances the work already being pursued in these communities,” Smart says, adding, “We believe that the intentional partnering between a national leadership program and a statewide funder in merging the interests of the two organizations is quite innovative.”

That innovative partnership is facilitating service projects throughout the state, including the following:

- Creating and implementing an adapted physical education program for children with autism (**Carrie Sacco, Fayetteville State School of Social Work**)
- Working with Kate B. Reynolds grantee the Children’s Law Center of Central North Carolina to provide direct advocacy for children in high-conflict custody and domestic violence cases (**Thomas (Rich) McPherson, Wake School of Law**)
- Providing face-to-face direct language and literacy enhancement to underserved preschool children, and providing outreach services to those children’s parents (**Kelly York and Rachel Dent, NCCU School of Education – Speech Pathology**)
- Working with Kate B. Reynolds grantee UNC Horizons to offer general health education workshops and screenings for hypertension, diabetes, breast cancer, and mental health—improving health literacy in populations addressed (**Nirmala (Nimi) Janardhanam and Teesha Geyer, UNC School of Medicine**)
- Working with Kate B. Reynolds grantee El Futuro to start a running group for migrant Hispanic men that will serve as an informal focus group for health concerns in the community (**Bart Steen and Matt Wetschler, UNC CH School of Medicine**)

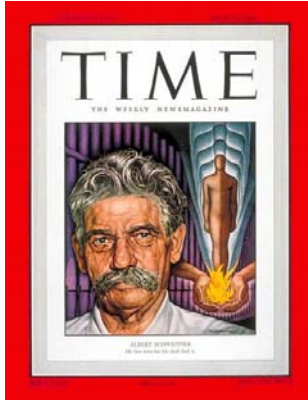
Descriptions of all of the 2009-2010 North Carolina Fellows’ newly announced projects are available on www.schweitzerfellowship.org. For headshots of the Fellows, or to arrange interviews, please contact Patrice Taddonio at ptaddonio@bidmc.harvard.edu or 617.667.5628.

ABOUT THE ALBERT SCHWEITZER FELLOWSHIP: TRANSLATING IDEALISM INTO ACTION

Since its inception in 1991, the Schweitzer Fellowship has provided more than 400,000 hours of service to the communities it serves. Carrying on Schweitzer’s legacy of translating idealism into action—and of restoring the moral compass of the health-related fields—Schweitzer Fellows are chosen through a competitive selection process from the nation’s top health and human service schools. They serve for one year, working with local community agencies in Baltimore, Bay Area, Boston, Chicago, Greater Philadelphia, Houston/Galveston, Los Angeles, New Hampshire/Vermont, New Orleans, North Carolina, and Pittsburgh to implement sustainable projects that make a lasting, on-the-ground difference in the health of local communities.

Once Fellows have completed their initial year of service, they join a network of over 2,000 Schweitzer “Fellows for Life” across the United States and abroad. Virtually all continue their commitment to lives of service in cities and towns around the country and around the world. Because the work of the Fellows is donated without charge to the communities served, each city’s program is supported entirely through charitable gifts. For more information or to receive a copy of our informational DVD featuring Dr. Timothy Johnson and Yo-Yo Ma, visit www.schweitzerfellowship.org or contact Patrice Taddonio at ptaddonio@bidmc.harvard.edu or 617.667.5628.

ABOUT ALBERT SCHWEITZER



Albert Schweitzer was born on January 14, 1875 in a small village in Germany. As a young man, Schweitzer was a renowned philosopher, theologian, Bach scholar, organist, author, and pastor. At the age of 30, however, he decided to become a medical doctor, translating his idealism into action by dedicating his life to the direct service of people in Africa.

In 1913, Schweitzer and his wife founded the Schweitzer Hospital at Lambaréné, Gabon, then a province of French Equatorial Africa. It was there that he developed his credo of Reverence for Life, the idea that all life is as worthy of reverence as our own. In 1953, at the age of 78, Schweitzer was honored for his humanitarian work with the Nobel Peace Prize.

In September 1965, having powerfully advocated against nuclear proliferation, Schweitzer died at the age of 90 in Lambaréné. His legacy lives on through The Albert Schweitzer Fellowship.