



*passion • idealism • action • impact*

## The New Hampshire–Vermont Schweitzer Fellows Program

It's easy to see that health and health care are filled with disparities. During these tough economic times, when there are even greater needs to be met throughout New Hampshire and Vermont, The Albert Schweitzer Fellowship® is doing something about it.

Since 1996, ASF's New Hampshire-Vermont (NH-VT) Schweitzer Fellows Program—one of 13 Schweitzer sites across the U.S.—has supported graduate students who wish to follow in Dr. Albert Schweitzer's footsteps. Translating their passion and idealism into action, these Schweitzer Fellows partner with community-based organizations to develop and implement yearlong service projects that improve the health and well-being of underserved populations. In the process, they undergo a mentored, reflective, and multidisciplinary leadership development program that enhances their ability to successfully carry out health interventions.

### *our mission*

To develop Leaders in Service: individuals who are dedicated to and skilled in addressing the health needs of underserved communities and whose example influences and inspires others.

### Service That Makes a Dramatic Difference

Schweitzer service projects are not “band-aid” approaches to today's most pressing health issues; they're designed to have long-term impact on the health of underserved people and to create lasting relationships between professional schools, social service agencies, and communities in need. In carrying those projects from concept to completion on top of their usual graduate school responsibilities, Schweitzer Fellows—chosen on a competitive basis from applicants in a variety of disciplines—come away with a hard-earned blueprint for how to consistently integrate service into their lives.

There are now more than 2,000 Schweitzer program alumni (Fellows for Life) acting on that blueprint in their careers as professionals. 80 percent say that their Schweitzer experience reaffirmed their commitment to pursue a career related to a life of service; 13 percent said it was crucial in their decision to do so.

### Innovative Projects Meet Diverse Health Care Needs

Over the past 15 years, more than 300 NH-VT Schweitzer Fellows have provided more than 60,000 hours of community service addressing the social determinants of health. Their Schweitzer projects have included:

- Smile-Docs, which has brought UVM medical students into Burlington, VT-area schools to teach science and health for 15 years
- A mobile health clinic serving migrant workers on Vermont's dairy farms
- Bedside Brainiacs, a tutoring program designed to minimize the educational gap caused by childhood hospitalization
- Healthy living and nutrition programs for young mothers and their children through the Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield-sponsored 5-2-1-0 *Healthy Kids Countdown*
- Dental health education workshops at the Red Logan Clinic designed to promote good oral hygiene and general health for individuals who face socioeconomic barriers to accessing dental care
- Teen Court, an alternative to the criminal justice system for first-time juvenile offenders in Merrimack County, NH

The NH-VT Schweitzer Fellows Program not only provides services today to those in need, it invests in the students who will be caring for these same communities throughout their careers.



NH-VT Fellows expanded SWIM CHAMPS, a program that seeks to empower children diagnosed with asthma.

## *in their own words...*

*"I have come closer to understanding what is really meant when it is said that poverty is more a lack of opportunity than a lack of money."*

*-Schweitzer Fellow David Lukofsky, Thayer School of Engineering*

*"In the last year the Schweitzer Fellowship has become as important to my medical education as any class I've taken. Our project has served as the real-life application of everything I have learned in the classroom."*

*-Schweitzer Fellow Karl Dietrich, Dartmouth Medical School*

### **"Phenomenally meaningful."**

Schweitzer Fellow Heidi Schumacher, UVM College of Medicine

*"While I valued and embraced the direct service component of my project, the most beneficial aspect of the Schweitzer Fellows program was the development of leadership ability."*

*-Schweitzer Fellow Brian Jones, Vermont Law School*

*"Through this Fellowship I met incredible people whom I now have as role models as I enter my adult life and legal career. I was also able to hone valuable skills necessary to be a successful attorney and made aware of the complexities when invoking community change."*

*-Schweitzer Fellow Tess Casey, UNH School of Law*



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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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**Photo captions (from top to bottom):** NH-VT Fellows spread the 5-2-1-0 Healthy Kids Countdown message in Lebanon, NH; NH-VT Fellow for Life Wynona Ward was honored as a 2010 CNN Hero for developing the Have Justice-Will Travel legal assistance program; NH-VT Fellows initiated a recycling program at Mascoma High School (here students pose in front of the Big Green Bus); NH-VT Fellows helped to weatherize the homes of low-income and elderly Vermont residents.