On October 26, the 2013/14 ASFHG class held a Health Fair in conjunction with Generation One, Walgreens and The Houston Food Bank. The Generation One Academy services almost 50 “at risk” youth in grades Pre-k to 5. The health fair was open to the entire community, but focused on these youths and their families. We had a wonderful group of volunteers and many of the Fellow’s colleagues came to help as well as staff from all three organizations. In all we had almost 35 volunteers providing dental screenings, health screenings, resource management, nutrition and health education, anger management lessons, and flu shots. In addition to all that there were stations focused on healthy being fun with fitness activities and story time for the kids. Every client that came in also got to take with them a bag of produce and dry goods from Houston Food Bank. By the end of the day over 50 clients had received services and over 3000 lbs of food items had been distributed.

It was a wonderful learning and team building experience for everyone involved and we all had a ton of fun!

Many thanks to everyone that came out to support the effort.

Look for other Community Service Opportunities in the Save the Date section on Page 4, the ASFHG Facebook page and email announcements.

Volunteers from UT Dental that came to give Dental Screenings for both Children and Adults.
I was fortunate and proud to attend the 2013 Albert Schweitzer Leadership Conference. To be associated with these impressionable leaders and problem solvers from communities all over the country was rewarding. Furthermore, the speaker lineup at the Albert Schweitzer Leadership Conference was impressive. Dr. Robert Satcher, an astronaut and a surgeon, opened the conference by discussing the future necessity for space doctors as we explore the vast universe in decades and centuries to come. He noted that surgery has yet to be conducted outside of Earth (by humans), but “we’ll have to when we go to Mars”. This thought sent shivers down my spine, but ironically made me consider space dentistry. Following Dr. Satcher’s presentation, we were brought back to Earth by Dr. Lorraine Stanfield’s inspirational reflection on teaching medical students as she received chemotherapy to fight her cancer. We were fortunate to receive an in-depth, but straight forward breakdown of the ten sections that compose the Affordable Care Act by Dr. John McDonough, one of the writers of Massachusetts’s own health care reform. The presentation was informative and some of the controversies of the law were discussed. The highlight of the conference was meeting and conversing with former Surgeon General Dr. Regina Benjamin after her speech. As a Catholic, it was a joy discussing how Dr. Benjamin’s own Catholic beliefs shaped her life and to amplify their voices through their stories that were published for distribution within the hospital system. The goal was to raise awareness and compassion for the patients to help improve follow up rates at Harris County Clinics. Josh gave a breakout presentation on writing for social change at the Leadership Conference, where he gave tips for how to be a better writer for change, as well as explaining how writing is a good form of advocacy. Josh is now in his residency at Brigham and Women’s Hospital in Boston, MA in internal medicine. He also spends part of his time doing health services research and implementation around patient safety, quality improvement, value-based care, and healthcare delivery redesign. To contact Josh email Jennifer Cook, Jennifer.cook@bcm.edu for the connection.

Josh Liao, MD, Fellow For Life Houston-Galveston 2010—2011 spoke at the Leadership Conference about how writing can lead to social change. This topic falls in line with his ASF project and a personal passion for writing. Josh and project partner Revathi Jyothishndran, partnered with Ben Taub Emergency Center and Thomas Street Health Center, to help newly diagnosed HIV+ patients link to follow up care within the county hospital system and to amplify their voices through their stories that were published for distribution within the hospital system. The goal was to raise awareness and compassion for the patients to help improve follow up rates at Harris County Clinics. Josh gave a breakout presentation on writing for social change at the Leadership Conference, where he gave tips for how to be a better writer for change, as well as explaining how writing is a good form of advocacy. Josh is now in his residency at Brigham and Women’s Hospital in Boston, MA in internal medicine. He also spends part of his time doing health services research and implementation around patient safety, quality improvement, value-based care, and healthcare delivery redesign.

To contact Josh email Jennifer Cook, Jennifer.cook@bcm.edu for the connection.

Dr. Robert Satcher - Surgery, NASA and Beyond

A highlight of the 2013 ASF Conference was the keynote address of Dr. Robert L. Satcher. Dr. Satcher is a highly accomplished man in a variety of fields. He is a physician, a chemical engineer, and became the first orthopedic surgeon in space. I greatly enjoyed his speech on teamwork because he did not spend his time telling some flaccid attempt at an inspirational story. Instead he talked some about Texas, the greatest place on Earth, and then chatted about life as an astronaut in space! I learned many things about daily life in space. For example, when sleeping in space you have to strap yourself into a sleeping-bag like device that will Velcro you completely to a wall. This is to prevent you from haphazardly careening about the cabin all night.

Dr. Satcher’s experience with, and love of, teamwork has helped him across his many careers. Teamwork was used often, from working on a medical team as an orthopedic surgeon, to communicating with his fellow astronauts on the International Space Station during his spacewalks. It was a pleasure to hear him speak on the value of teamwork, and by the end I found myself eyeing NASA’s astronaut selection criteria to see if I could go into space too! - Mary Glasheen—UT Dental Branch, 2013/14 Fellow

Community Site—6000 Telephone Road

“Socio-economic factors are tomorrow’s predictors of health.”

Julie Williams Van Dijk, R.N. Ph.D

Feature FFL: Joshua Liao, MD

Josh is now in his residency at Brigham and Women’s Hospital in Boston, MA in internal medicine. He also spends part of his time doing health services research and implementation around patient safety, quality improvement, value-based care, and healthcare delivery redesign.

To contact Josh email Jennifer Cook, Jennifer.cook@bcm.edu for the connection.
Feature Fellows: Sarah and Armstrong

Over the past year, our project has become quite an integral part of our learning at medical school. While medical school provides us with a knowledge base of countless body processes and diseases, working with our clients week after week continues to teach us about the needs of our community, how to most effectively reach clients we may not necessarily be able to identify with, and how to research and tap into a wealth of resources available to our clients. We enjoy building relationships with our clients and fellow volunteers and feel as if we are all part of a small community at the drop-in center. The project, however, does have its challenges. Since we only see our clients once a week, it is hard to know or understand what goes on during their week. Additionally, we are still learning how to best help our clients—we don’t know about all the resources available, and we are still learning about the needs of our clients. We try to work through these obstacles with the help of our fellow volunteers and mentors, faculty of BCM. Since they are more experienced than us with the population that we work with, they are often the best resource if we are having trouble with our project. Although progress is often quite slow, we have had the privilege of seeing several clients get jobs, housing, and take small steps towards their life goals.—Sarah Michael and Armstrong Ibe—BCM

Community Site: St. Steven’s Episcopal Church and Teen Health Clinic

Healthcare for the Homeless Houston

I recently had the opportunity to take a tour and learn more about one of our local organizations, Healthcare for the Homeless—Houston (HHH). HHH was founded in 1999, where it started as a two exam room clinic with an adjacent dental chair. Since then it has expanded to three integrated care clinics throughout mid and downtown Houston, including a dental clinic, street outreach program, jail and hospital inreach initiatives and a transportation program called Project Access. In 2012 they provided services for over 10,000 homeless men, women and children with essential and stabilizing care.

On the tour we met doctors, dentists, case workers, social workers, volunteers, and students that were so evidently passionate about what they were doing and the population they were serving. I was really moved by what they were doing and impressed by how HHH has grown to be an efficient and holistic provider that seeks to bridge the gaps in the current healthcare system. - Jennifer Cook, ASFHG Staff

To learn more about HHH’s programs please find them at http://homeless-healthcare.org/

Focus Groups

Focus groups can be a great tool for evaluation, which is imperative to any Schweitzer project, but they can also do so much more. They can be used to help people understand the goals of the project and to feel they are truly participating and being heard. Claire Kohrman, PhD, is a consultant for Research and Training at Westside Health Authority in Chicago, IL, and is considered a leading expert in focus groups and how they can be used in healthcare. In a recent talk she gave to ASF Staff she emphasized how beneficial this model is for Fellows when one of the goals is to engage the community. She gave a few rules to follow including, but not limited to; Everyone participates, round table set-up, embrace diversity or people and opinions, emphasize confidentiality, be prepared for things to be awkward, do not accuse people of falsifying facts or exaggerating in front of the group, etc.

Dr. Kohrman is also on the BOD of ASF—Chicago and is both knowledgeable about and active in the Schweitzer Fellowship. For more information on focus groups or Dr. Kohrman please contact me.—Jennifer Cook, ASFHG Staff

“Search and see if there is not someplace where you may invest your humanity”
Albert Schweitzer
The mission of ASF is improving the health of vulnerable people now and for the future by developing a corps of Leaders in Service—professionals skilled in creating positive change with and in our communities, our health and human service systems, and our world.

ASFHG has four overall goals:

- Develop Leaders in Service who are educated, experienced, and committed to addressing unmet health needs;
- Improve community health by providing direct service to individuals and strengthening the capacity of community-based organizations;
- Expand educational opportunities in partnering schools while raising awareness of the needs of underserved communities; and
- Maintain a growing and vibrant community of Schweitzer Fellowship alumni (Fellows for Life) committed to lives of service.

Applications are now being accepted for the Houston-Galveston Program. Information on eligibility requirements and details of the Fellowship can be found on our website http://www.schweitzerfellowship.org/chapters/houston/application/

You can contact Jennifer Cook, Program Director for more information at Jennifer.cook@schweitzerfellowship.org

To give to ASFHG please follow this link: https://donatenow.networkforgood.org/1443402

Make sure you choose the Houston-Galveston tab or mail a check to the address below.

Albert Schweitzer Fellowship—Houston Galveston
3701 Kirby Dr.
Suite 600
Houston, TX 77098

Save the Dates:

- ASF Houston-Galveston Holiday Potluck—December 8, 2014 5:30—8 pm 2105 Woodhead
- FFL—Happy Hour 2014 Kickoff! January 9, 2014 6-8 pm Pistoleros Restaurant
- Celebration of Service Luncheon—April 17, 2014 11:30 am Veranda at 17

Look for other events and volunteer opportunities on Facebook and email announcements.