



**There is no "I" in Team
BUT...**

IGNITE *a desire to serve.*

INSPIRE *others to help.*

ILLUMINATE *your life and the life of others.*

IMPROVE *Central New York.*

Welcome to Community Service Day by Sara Conway

Opening community service day virtually the team was ready to get our class day going with positive vibes- touching on the donation of 15,700 masks that went out to community organizations: OCC for all residence hall students; the Samaritan Center; and Hope Print! Shout out to Kelly Burton at St. Joseph's for her efforts to make this happen.

IGNITE

What a way to start the day with our powerful speaker John Tumino and wife Leigh-Ann, founders of In My Father's Kitchen. He certainly **IGNITED** our desire to lead and serve our community. If you haven't had their sauce, please run out and grab some from your local store and thanks John for providing a jar of sauce to all our class members! The mission of In My Father's Kitchen is to feed people, spirit, soul, and body; using food distribution and supplying material necessities to break down barriers, build relationships, and bring hope to those who feel invisible. John works every day to make the invisible in our communities visible, and what an amazing job he does to make this happen! His powerful presentation I know for me personally, opened my eyes and my heart and in a way made me view this topic differently. John and his wife gave us all a new view of homelessness. They are regular people: fathers, mothers, veterans, families. They are people who fell on hard times, people who may have suffered trauma. Every homeless person has a story of how they got to where they are, but we often don't take the time to listen. Regardless of the reason, they are people and they are not invisible.

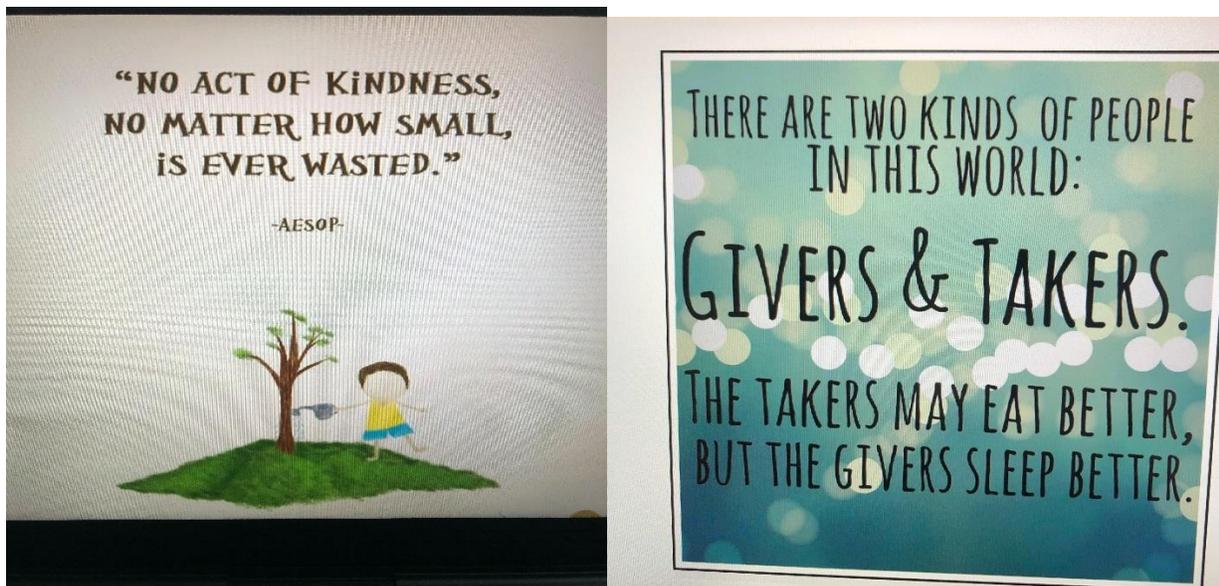


INSPIRE

Next up we heard from Nancy Kern Eaton, President of United Way of CNY and a LGS '00 graduate! We always love to hear from alumni! Nancy (Nan) informed of us so many things about our community and how we can **INSPIRE** action. Her video alone that she shared hit home:

https://www.facebook.com/uwcny/videos/1241556159348242/?so=channel_tab&rv=all_videos_card

The United Way alone funds over 23 programs in our community. With all that is going on in our community with COVID and the struggles we are facing we often lose sight of how much more others are struggling. Nan reeled us in and reminded of us of the many and often easy ways we can help. She discussed their volunteer registration form: just log-in and fill out the form and from there you can start changing Syracuse one day at a time. It's incredible how doing something so small can make a change in our community. To search for a volunteer opportunity, visit volunteerchny.org



ILLUMINATE

Our third speaker Reggie Kelly, Founder of Rise Above Poverty, gave us a great and very detailed understanding of the mission of his organization: "to provide Syracuse youth the basic necessities so they can focus on their education." Aiming to "help students meet their basic needs to develop the world's next leaders." Wow! How powerful is that? This organization certainly **ILLUMINATES** the life of others in more ways than one. Rise Above Poverty is big on giving back, making sure all needs are met, winter jacket drives, hygiene products, etc. In 2020 the organization will also be launching a reading program...stay tuned for more details on that!



IMPROVE CENTRAL NEW YORK

Our team found it important to give the class a short snippet of three additional organizations that do so much good for our local community. This also became our **CALL TO ACTION** as each of these groups offered up suggestions on items our class could donate to them during this time of need and did we ever donate! The response from our classmates was amazing.

First up we had Sarah Hewitt, Engagement Team Manager of Hopeprint. Sarah gave us so much insight into the organization and you could tell how much heart she had for the work that they do. Hopeprint offers a series of family empowerment programs noting that new Americans are a huge asset to our community and economy. Sarah refereed our class to the book, "The Ungrateful Refugee."

"We envision that resettled refugees, and the neighborhoods in which they live, would be a people of hope, empowered to thrive, collectively forming a unified community rich in culture and connectedness that prosper in place."

DONATION ITEMS COLLECTED FOR HOPEPRINT: Kids scissors, washable markers and drawing paper

Our second presenter was Tori Shires, Chief Development Officer with the Rescue Mission. Tori had a super upbeat personality that kept us all wanting more! Tori touched on the history of the Rescue Mission and how it started. The story is impressive, and everyone should do the research to understand how this non-profit began.

<https://rescuemissionalliance.org/history/>

"Today, the Rescue Mission provides programs to end hunger and homelessness in Syracuse, Auburn, Binghamton and Ithaca." Tori touched on several ways our class can help the Mission: donating clothing assists the Thrifty Shopper stores; attend special events; and serving food at their shelters.

DONATION ITEMS COLLECTED FOR THE RESCUE MISSION: Shaving cream, razors deodorant, bars of soap and shampoo

Lastly, we were able to hear from Michele Jordan, Executive Director of the Interreligious Food Consortium to learn a little bit about their needs. The organization was formed 30 years ago "for the purpose of developing a united network of the diverse, emergency food pantries in Onondaga County." There are more than 70 food pantries in Onondaga County that rely on our help in order to serve the people in Onondaga County. Michele made it very clear that food donations are what they rely on and would be the very best way to help them continue with their mission. We as class were able to help and hope to continue to do so in the future.

DONATION ITEMS COLLECTED FOR THE INTERRELIGIOUS FOOD CONSORTIUM: Ramen noodles, rice, lentils, spaghetti sauce, pasta, oatmeal, breakfast cereal



THERE IS NO "I" IN TEAM

With COVID, we had to get crafty and come up with ideas on how to follow the guidelines in order to see our classmates! Isn't everyone wanting social interaction these days? So, we came up with the idea to help clean up in different areas of Syracuse. We do have County Executive, J. Ryan McMahon II to thank for this idea during our last class day. THANK YOU!

We met as small groups and were assigned streets through the Adopt-A-Block program put on by Onondaga County. The goal of the program: make city beautification a year-long, city-wide effort. Here are some photos of our efforts to clean up this gorgeous city of ours!



BEYOND THE ONE HIT WONDER

While some of us were out cleaning we also offered a virtual portion for the day. Our main speaker was the one and only LGS Executive Director Pam Brunet! The group spent the later of the afternoon discussing the topic “Beyond the One Hit Wonder.” She talked about the number of ways someone can get involved in the community: one hit wonder, government commission, a nonprofit committee, a nonprofit board of directors. She also mentioned that there are 3,834 registered tax-exempt organizations in Onondaga County!

Most importantly, she talked about the commitment of being on a board and the right questions to ask prior to joining a board of directors. Who knew the personal financial liability could land on a board member if an organization doesn’t carry directors and officers insurance? Something no one ever hears: Pam advised the class to ask that while interviewing to go on a board, to ask where they are in their life cycle. She said, “Serving on a board is a serious commitment and you need to know if it is right for you before saying yes.” As always, Pam was a wealth of knowledge.

Community Service Day was full of information that will help us move forward in our civic engagement journey!

