



# University Service Learning

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## USL Volunteer Helps Refugee Earn Citizenship

The Lost Boys Center for Leadership Development (LBCLD) is looking to the future, bringing education and tolerance to the children of South Sudan by bridging the gap between the Lost Boys living in America and their communities in Africa. For over a decade, the Arizona Lost Boys Center in Phoenix has been a home for refugees who fled Sudan to escape their country's civil war. Approximately 3,800 Lost Boys have immigrated to the United



*Achan Dumo holding her naturalization certificate*

States, with the largest population of refugees currently living and raising families in the Phoenix area, making the Lost Boys Center of Leadership Development the largest Lost Boys center in the United States.

Bree Shinkle, one of LBCLD's USL volunteers, primarily works with elderly refugees from South Sudan and helps them build their English speaking and reading skills by planning out concise and easy to understand lessons that break down the more complex grammar rules of English. She also works with them to improve their civic knowledge of United States' history and assimilation to



*USL Volunteer, Bree Shinkle*

American culture, and assists clients like Achan Dumo with her American citizenship test. Refugees who improve their English and expand the knowledge of the country they are living in can adapt to American society and be offered better opportunities for work. Many refugees are extremely intelligent and have a relentless need to push themselves to learn as much as they can, but had no formal education training prior to coming to America and could not read or write any language, speaking only their native tribal tongue. Based on this need, Bree adapts to clients' individual linguistic needs and writes new lessons. Bree also helps the program plan out its future goals to educate the youth of South Sudan by applying for non-profit funding grants, helping to organize funding events, and assisting with various technological and organizational tasks in the organization. Well done, Bree!

## New to the USL Office: ASU Leaps and Bounds



Now housed in University Service Learning, ASU Leaps & Bounds is a kindergarten readiness program that offers workshops that teach early learning activities to parents and their preschoolers, as well as professional development opportunities for early childhood professionals. Details may be found at the University Service Learning website: [servicelearning.asu.edu/leapsandbounds](http://servicelearning.asu.edu/leapsandbounds)

*A mom, participating in the Leaps & Bounds parent workshop series, prompts her son with open-ended questions during an interactive reading session.*

Find us on the web! [servicelearning.asu.edu](http://servicelearning.asu.edu)

## 3rd Annual Arizona Summit for Volunteerism & Service-Learning

2012 marked the 3rd annual Arizona Summit for Volunteerism & Service-Learning, bringing more than 500 participants. The mission of the AZ Summit on Volunteerism and Service Learning is to provide an opportunity for volunteer and service learning leaders of all ages, backgrounds and abilities to inspire, energize, and mobilize volunteer and service learning practitioners to further develop and foster their skills and to better serve Arizona's real community needs through collaborative effort.



2012 Arizona Summit for Volunteerism & Service-Learning

With diverse workshops, speakers, and networking opportunities, the Summit provides a venue to share best practices and cultivate partners to actively address community issues and provoke action towards positive social change.

Deborah Ball, the Director of External Projects in ASU's University Service Learning department, has served as a member of the Arizona Summit Steering Committee for the last three years. About her role in making the AZ Summit a success, she explained: "I truly believe in service learning as a teaching methodology; it helps students to better understand academic material, how to positively effect social change in our society, participate in the democratic process, and become civically engaged in our community." Ball continued, "The more service learning is implemented, the more students are reaping the benefits enhancing their educational experiences and influencing and increasing their level of civic engagement."

This year, the Summit featured 56 workshops that ranged from volunteer management to grant writing to service learning basics to critical reflection, and many related topics in between. It hosted inspiring keynote speakers including John Huppenthal, AZ Superintendent of Public Instruction; Jared Doles, an ASU student who is involved in several local and national service organizations and campaigns; and Josh Schacter, an inspiring photographer who has completed photography service learning projects in communities all over the globe.



Terah Crews, University Innovation Fellow at ASU, presents on mentoring underprivileged youth

## America Reads Gives Thanks by Giving Back

*"Volunteering is incredibly rewarding. By volunteering I aim to inspire those that were able to see the fruits of our labor to take on their own community project. Any way you can make a positive difference in the life of one or more persons, is truly motivating."*

- America Reads Volunteer Chris Rojas



America Reads Tutors and Staff Give Thanks by Giving Back cleaning up local City of Phoenix Parks

America Reads tutors are more than happy to answer the call to volunteer around the community, even if it means volunteering outside of their required work hours. Their most recent volunteer endeavor, "Give Thanks by Giving Back," took place Saturday, November 17. Give Thanks by Giving Back is a day to contribute to the community's welfare by cleaning up the City of Phoenix Cactus Park, sanitizing park equipment, sweeping and cleaning up trash, as well as painting park benches. A total of 29 volunteers participated, 9 of which were America Reads tutors.

## The Salvation Army Ray and Joan Kroc Center of South Phoenix

The Salvation Army recently opened the Ray and Joan Kroc Corps Community Center in South Mountain, a beautiful 147,000 square foot building that includes numerous amenities, including a theater, pool, gym, sport courts and fields, among others. The new center has given the community of South Phoenix a hub for support not limited to social services, arts, education, recreation, spiritual guidance and wellness, keeping the benefactors' vision of the center. The Kroc Center is a wonderful place for nurturing and developing the mind, body, and soul.



Introducing the new Salvation Army Ray and Joan Kroc Center of South Phoenix. Photo courtesy of Mark Boisclair Photography, Inc.

The Salvation Army Ray and Joan Kroc Center of South Phoenix has a longstanding partnership with ASU's University Service Learning and has hosted the America Reads Afterschool Tutoring Program for nearly 20 years. The opening of the new building has provided our partnership with opportunities to expand, and we are happy to announce that The Kroc Center is now a placement option for USL ASU students to complete their community service in areas such as their sports programs or education. The Kroc Center's new program, Kroc Star Homework and Health Club, designed to provide a safe place for at-risk children to meet grade-level expectations by completing their homework on a daily basis with accuracy and accountability, is one such program to which USL volunteers are now providing their services.

## Laura Tan Opens Door to AmeriCorps for ASU Nursing School



Laura Tan, USL  
Coordinator of  
Community Partnerships

Laura Tan is the Coordinator of Community Partnerships in ASU's University Service Learning department, specializing in building community partnerships and AmeriCorps programming. Laura spends much of her time recruiting students for AmeriCorps as well as community partners for USL, designing and hosting orientations for students and community partners, in addition to a slew of behind the scenes operations.

Inspired by her mother and her college mentor role models, Laura's passion for service is evident through her efforts, and plays a substantial role in her success. Her most recent accomplishment of building a brand-new partnership to offer AmeriCorps Education Awards to student nurses in the College of Nursing and Health Innovation is among her proudest. "Through this new partnership, we have established a new way to reward student nurses for their hard work in underserved communities. Our work helps students pay for college and other educational expenses."

Tan continues, "In addition to the Education Awards, the AmeriCorps program pushes our nurses to reflect on their experiences and, we hope, encourages them to work in the communities most in need after they graduate."

## University Service Learning Quick Facts

**USL 216:** <http://servicelearning.asu.edu/courses>

Teachers College students are now required to take USL 216. Students learn about issues affecting ethnic minorities and marginalized populations specifically as they relate to the academic achievement of at-risk youth and education, using service experiences to inform discussion and written assignments. This new requirement provides early field experience placements for education students to work with high-needs children.

**America Reads/Counts:** <http://servicelearning.asu.edu/america-reads>

America Reads is now hiring tutors for Spring 2013. Offered to students receiving Federal Work-Study aid. Students tutor and mentor children attending under-resourced schools in reading, writing, math, and other academic subjects.

**During Academic Year 2011-12, 793 students contributed 67,828 hours of community service while participating in University Service Learning programs.**

## Outstanding USL Volunteers in Fall 2012

Each new semester brings a wave of outstanding volunteers that go above and beyond the call of service. Here's a look at some of our commendable volunteers, along with a few words on their experiences as USL volunteers:



From Lutheran Social Services, Sophomore **Heidi Guntermann**, a global health and pre-nursing student, does one-on-one public transportation orientations with clients and was excited to see the day-to-day life of working in a non-profit setting. "You don't really know what it takes to run a non-profit until you're part of one," she said. "I'm amazed by how many services they offer here, and it's great to be a part of that."



Sophomore **Alyssa Garrison**, an elementary education major, teaches basic computer classes to Refugee Focus clients for Lutheran Social services, and enjoys the challenge of communicating basic computer concepts to people from other cultures. "It's been really fun to work with clients, and teaching experience in any realm is teaching experience," she said. "It's been fun to see how they've progressed."

This semester at the Kroc Center of South Phoenix, ASU USL volunteer **Kimberly Villalvazo** arrived to the center with a willingness to listen to students read, a patience to explain math concepts, and most of all, a love for children. Teachers have readily expressed the positive impact the program has made on the participants, and the USL volunteers are a huge part of the program's success. Kimberly has truly made a difference in the lives of 25 students this semester and forever in the community. Thank you, Kimberly!



USL intern **Jamie Harvey** was in charge of recruiting volunteers for this year's 25th annual Phoenix Walk for the National Multiple Sclerosis (MS) Society. He reached out to past volunteers, and even called on some of his family and friends to fill the almost 300 volunteer positions needed to make this 4,000 participant event run smoothly. Jamie's passion for his work was apparent when he exceeded his goal by recruiting so many volunteers, they were almost in excess! Great work, Jamie!



**Emina Eminovic**, a junior communications major and Lutheran Social Services volunteer, leverages her previous professional experience with credit unions by teaching classes in basic banking and financial literacy. A refugee from Bosnia herself, Emina finds the work very inspirational, and her service learning activities have become the highlight of her week. "I've learned it makes such a difference when you really care about something," she said. "It doesn't feel like you're working when you enjoy what you do. That's what I want to do for the rest of my life."



2013 marks the  
20 Year Anniversary of  
Service Learning programs  
at ASU!  
More to come...

Thank you to our major donors:

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Thank you to all our amazing  
Community Partners for hosting  
our ASU students!