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ProjectServe

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ProjectServe

Kenneth Andejaski – UMass Boston

Kenyora Johnson – Strong Women Strong Girls

Strong Women Strong Girls

The mission of Strong Women, Strong Girls is to utilize the lessons learned from strong women throughout history to encourage girls and young women to become strong women themselves. By building communities of women committed to supporting positive social change, Strong Women, Strong Girls works to create cycles of mutual empowerment for women and girls.

Strong Women, Strong Girls is built on a foundation of six core values:

- **Love & Support:** Building positive and consistent relationships that support each other, even when we make mistakes.
- **Integrity & Respect:** Recognizing and role modeling that everyone deserves to be treated with respect, including girls, community members, volunteers, staff and ourselves.
- **Discovery:** Seeking out and appreciating the unique talents and abilities of others and ourselves, as well as being open to new experiences, learning and growing.
- **Balance:** Knowing when to offer and accept help to maintain a healthy life-style.
- **A Diverse Female Community:** Honoring our commonalities and differences while recognizing the unique power of a diverse all-female community.
- **SPARKS!** Feeling the magic, inspiration and excitement of working toward a common goal in Strong Women, Strong Girls.



STRONG WOMEN
strong girls

Project Serve

Project Serve engages UMass Boston students and community organizations in a variety of civic engagement activities in order to create positive change in Massachusetts. There are many ways to get involved in this program ranging from being a leader, coordinator, or a participant in our projects.



Approaches and Methods

Strong Women, Strong Girls utilizes the lessons learned from strong women throughout history to encourage girls and young women to become strong women themselves. For the third-through-fifth-grade girls in SWSG programming, these lessons are full of variety.

- In the fall, mentors facilitate the “Countdown to Success Skills” curriculum.
- Every spring, girls follow the same structure to complete a service project .

Next Steps

The UMass Boston chapter hopes to expand its outreach to two more sites and increase the chapter size to at least 18 students, while increasing awareness of its efforts to the campus community.

Impact

In 2012-2013:

- **12** UMass Boston students mentored **40** girls at **4** sites throughout Dorchester
- **88%** of mentors reported that girls showed increased college & career aspirations
- **100%** of site liaisons saw mentors show increased leadership capabilities.
- **85%** of mentors reported an increased connection to a female community.
- **93%** of mentors reported increased desire to participate in community service.

According to Co-Chapter Director, Andreia Soares, “The most beautiful part of this experience so far has been the mutual empowerment that exists between the young women and the girls. The empowerment goes beyond the mentor/mentee relationship to impact other aspects of their lives.”

References and Resources

Strong Women Strong Girls Website:

<http://swsg.org/>

ProjectServe Website:

http://www.umb.edu/life_on_campus/student_involvement/oslce/students/project_serve

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Partner Sites

- Blue Hill Ave. Boys & Girls Club– Boston
- Pope John Paul II Catholic Academy– Boston
- Russell Elementary School – Boston
- Dorchester YMCA– Boston