



**Synergy of Solidarity
College of Education
St. Cloud State University
Spring 2008 Report**



Purpose

Synergy of Solidarity (SoS) is an organization committed to making a world of difference through (a) collaborating cross-culturally on campus and in the local and global community, (b) expanding our knowledge base, and (c) creating/promoting/generating awareness while working for human rights and social justice worldwide.

Activities

Throughout the Spring semester, SoS completed many different types of education, awareness, and engaged activities.

Meetings

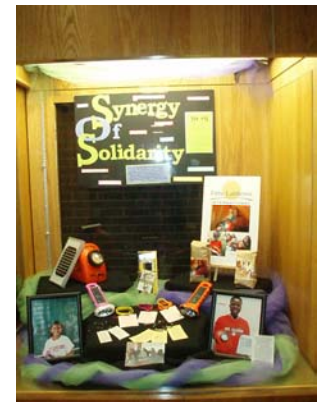
SoS Officers held regular meetings throughout the semester as well as work sessions to prepare for special events.



Awareness Raising

Kiosks & Presentations

SoS held three sets of kiosks to spread awareness of social justice issues and human rights and to fundraise for our partners. One kiosk date was held in February and two were held in March. Along with this, SoS created a display for a window box in the College of Education to spread awareness about working in solidarity with our partners.



Co-Sponsoring with Social Responsibility Documentary Series

SoS co-sponsored the showing of the full length documentary *Angels in the Dust* as part of the Spring 2008 Social Responsibility Documentary and Speaker Series. SoS prepared a presentation before and after the showing to help give contextualization and information regarding the virgin rape cure and HIV/AIDS in South Africa. President Stacy Brown and Faculty Advisor Kelly C. Weiley collaborated to provide this presentation.

School Visits: Change for Change Campaign

As a facet of SoS's Change for Change Campaign, members scheduled and initiated 2 elementary school visits to continue educating about social justice issues. Members collaborated with Linda Cullen from 50 Lanterns International to present to 2 third grade classes at Becker Intermediate School in Becker, MN and to the entire K-8 school at St. Mary's of the Lake in White Bear, MN. Students who attended the presentations committed to spread awareness and fundraise for 50 Lanterns International. The two third grade classes from Becker Intermediate raised approximately \$400 in solidarity and St. Mary's of the Lake raised approximately \$1,750 in solidarity for 50 Lanterns International.

Not-so-Silent Auction members of SoS helped to plan and implement the Second Annual earning to Serve ->Serving to Learn Silent Auction benefiting SoS's partners in service Boikarabelo Orphanage in South Africa and 50 Lanterns International based in St. Paul, Minnesota. Approximately 150 items were solicited, catalogued, and put for auction. Members of the local community were asked for donations and advertisements were hung on campus, in the local community, and announced in the St. Cloud Times (see attached). In continuation with the collaborative spirit of SoS, SoS welcomed new volunteers from Central Lakes College to assist with the auction. Approximately \$1,900 was raised at the 2nd Annual Not-so-silent Auction.



Synergy of Solidarity Accomplishments

Over the 2007-2008 academic year, SoS worked toward our goal of raising awareness to the St. Cloud and campus community employing creative ways to spread information. SoS expanded our knowledge base by viewing documentaries and learning about the contexts in which each of our partner organizations work. At kiosks, posters were presented with facts and to reach those in a hurry, SoS members handed out candy with facts on the issues and along with reference websites. SoS shared our awareness to schools in the St. Cloud and Cities metro areas. Over the academic year, through kiosk sales and the Not-so-Silent Auction, SoS raised nearly \$5,000.00 for our partner organizations: 50 Lanterns International and Boikarabelo Orphanage.

SoS 2007-2008 Officers

Stacy Brown, President

Rachel Foty, Vice President

Amy Harris, Treasurer

Faculty Advisor: Tonya Huber-Warring, Fall 2007

Kelly C. Weiley, Spring 2008