

## **Selected 2022 Community Project Abstracts**

### **Restorative Conferencing Atlanta**

Elle Knott, Courtney Lindner, Alexis Myrie, Rosa Salmeron-Alvarez

Georgia State University

Restorative Conferencing Atlanta (RCA) is a program of Atlanta Victims Assistance that seeks to provide a space and structure for people to engage in a process of justice that is equitable, restorative, and collective. As a new organization, RCA partnered with Georgia State University (GSU) MSW students—Elle Knott, Courtney Lindner, Alexis Myrie, and Rosa Salmeron-Alvarez—to develop internal structures, increasing the organization's capacity to fulfill their mission. Students created marketing materials, including email scripts, elevator/call pitches, infographic flyers, and a press release template and sample. Moreover, students engaged in outreach efforts by contacting potential community partners. Students compiled a Community Resource Guide, which included resources in the following sectors: education, food, housing, healthcare, mental health, community service/volunteerism, legal, and extracurricular/creative expression outlets. Furthermore, students facilitated the filming of a professional informational video about RCA. Lastly, students conducted legislative research about restorative justice laws in all 50 states and compiled a legislative memo.

### **Special Education to Prison Pipeline Awareness Project**

MSW Students: Karen Armstrong, Kenyah Farley, Jennifer Gray-Wymbs, Gabrielle James, Vee McConnell

Our group worked with the Inclusive Digital Expression and Literacy (IDEAL) Program at Georgia State University to create a series of video podcasts to highlight the effect of the school to prison pipeline on students with intellectual and developmental disabilities. As the podcast industry has been growing tremendously through the years, our group decided this was the best avenue to engage with the community on such an important topic. We recorded four podcast episodes, interviewing experts to create awareness of the special education to prison pipeline (SETPP). After completing the recording and editing of each episode, the group created and distributed a feedback survey that provided information on participants' knowledge and attitudes toward this issue after watching a compilation of our videos. Each participant needed to be able to have tangible information to share with others; therefore, we created an infographic summarizing the SETPP. Our podcast series and infographic will be a future resource for IDEAL to use in their programming and training for future professionals that will work with individuals with intellectual disabilities. Additionally, our feedback form garnered 38 participants, and IDEAL will be able to use this information to benefit their continued use of our project materials. As there were many learning opportunities our group encountered, we want to highlight two of which were essential to the success of the project: the importance of flexibility and the importance of quality group communication.

### **United Way Anti-Human Trafficking Conference**

MSW students: Blake Boyer, Kim Forehand, Joslyn Ellis, and Valerie Priest

Our group partnered with the United Way of Greater Atlanta to help organize a conference in May 2022. The conference is a hybrid of in-person and virtual. The in-person dates for the event

are May 11 and May 12, 2022. Participants will include employees of agencies who work in human trafficking awareness and those who are survivors of human trafficking. The first day of the event will be held at The State Bar Association of Georgia with a focus on education. Participants are eligible to receive CEU units for every session that they attend. Topics include: Protecting youth from online predators, legal remedies, the attachment cycle and trauma, motivational interviewing, CSEC and LGBTQ youth, and protecting today's foster youth. The second day of the event is focused on innovation and will be held at The Georgia Tech Hotel and Conference Center. The sessions will be more of a panel style presentation with United Way's partnership agencies. The topics will include: trafficking and immigration, school based programs, trauma and criminal records, housing solutions, trafficking 101, and Spark Prize. Our group has been responsible for assisting with selecting venues, catering, speakers, and survivor made products for participant goodie bags. The main outcome of the conference is to provide education through training for agencies who work with survivors of human trafficking and to help increase collaboration between these agencies through networking. The biggest lesson learned by our group is the amount of work and detail that goes into corporate event planning and the importance of involving survivors, so that their voice is heard.

### **Future Builders Workshop**

The Future Builders Workshop was executed by Clare Sullivan, Kassie Roth, Molly Martin, and Sarah Norris through partnership with Construction Ready. The objective of this project was to create a workshop allowing middle and high school students the opportunity to participate in a hands-on building experience, introducing them to the skilled trades. Our goals included distributing surveys to four classrooms of students in 8th and 9th grades, implementing a one-hour pilot workshop in two schools and creating a research portfolio with a summary of data. Through this pilot workshop, 33 students were exposed to the skilled trades by building a step stool. We found that students enjoyed the workshop and would be interested in further skilled trades education. We learned valuable lessons throughout this process including implementing a project from start to finish, working within a team, and the ins and outs of the skilled trades community

### **MAAC: Public Will/Thinking and Acting Politically/Strategic Community Partnerships**

MSW students: Susan Bredlau, Andrea Devereux, Jennifer Denning, and Jacinth Thomas

Our group worked with the Multi-Agency Alliance for Children (MAAC), Georgia EmpowerMENT, and Georgia Peers Advocating for Change (GPAC) to create and implement a strategy for extending the tuition waivers for youth with foster care experiences. The tuition waiver was outlined in Georgia Senate Bill (SB) 107 to the University System of Georgia's colleges and universities. In collaboration with youth advocates with experience in foster care, we reached out to community partners to gather information and endorsements. We developed a two-pronged plan for approaching both Georgia State University and the Board of Regents to make a case for extending SB 170's tuition waivers. We also secured a meeting with administrators from Georgia State University, began securing a meeting with the Board of Regents, and offered feedback on a mock presentation. This project taught us that youth with experience in foster care face significant challenges in pursuing higher education, and advocating for tuition waivers is both necessary and ongoing work.

## **Welcome to the Circus**

MSW Students: Mackenzie Morris, Leslie Garcia, Kaitlyn LaBonte, Jane Lindstrom, Kitty Wright

Our group worked with MakeShift Circus Collective to launch their virtual circus event, SPECTRUM: A Gender Project, which focuses on gender in collaboration with community members occupying diverse gender identities. We assisted MakeShift Circus Collective in developing and executing the logistics behind the virtual event. Some tasks include website designing, video editing and translations, organizing a branding kit, creating social media content, seeking sponsors and donations, and facilitating the virtual circus event. We worked on increasing awareness for MakeShift Circus Collective by promoting their social media account and encouraging participants to attend the SPECTRUM: A Gender Project virtual circus event for April 24, 2022. MakeShift Circus Collective strived to obtain \$1,500 which would be donated directly to Community Estr(EI/La), a Trans Indigenous immigrant led organization that works to provide resources and support to the Trans Latinx community in the deep south. At the end of the event, we raised \$1,500 for Community Estr(EI/La), meeting our goal! Developing and executing the virtual circus event taught us to continue educating ourselves on various communities, specifically the LGBTQIA community, and acknowledging our own privilege while holding space for others.

## **Orange Duffle Bag Initiative Social Media Campaign**

Shanese Broadnax, Madison Burnham, JaChe Peaks, Dominique Raiford, and Anitres Walls

The group collaborated with the Orange Duffle Bag Initiative (ODBI) to develop content that expands the visibility and prominence of ODBI through social media platforms including Facebook, Instagram, Tik Tok, Twitter, and YouTube. We reviewed the literature on how nonprofits with effective social media strategies have been shown to improve and address common issues nonprofit organizations face, including visibility, advocacy, fundraising, and raising awareness about various social missions. We interviewed various ODBI stakeholders to ensure the content promoted awareness, highlights student successes, and raises funding. After managing the various social media accounts the group created a Social Media Manual that details a suggested posting schedule, how to create content, and how to post content to various social media platforms. All social media accounts stayed consistent with followers or increased slightly. This project has taught us the influence social media can have, and the importance of organizing, community communications, and fundraising.