

## The Connection Community Consultant Group 2008-2009 Projects

### Power Inside

**Description:** Power Inside is a community-based organization committed to building self-sufficiency, improving quality of life, and preventing incarceration among women and families in Baltimore. Power Inside provides services to women involved in prostitution, incarcerated women, and other high-risk populations.

**Project:** Power Inside needed a series of health-related handouts for its clients. The Connection team researched local resources and referrals, compiled information from relevant literature about health issues, and designed a template for all of the handouts. These materials were designed with attention to the literacy rate among Power Inside's clients. The handouts served a major need for Power Inside, since this organization often needs to connect its clients with resources in the community.

**Connection team:** 5 JHSPH students

### Jewel House

**Description:** Jewel House is a non-profit organization that offers programs and services to teen parents (male and female). Jewel House seeks to provide teen parents with the tools necessary to build a successful future.

**Project:** Jewel House is working towards an application to become a recognized outpatient mental health clinic with the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH). The Connection team completed the DHMH application and proposal. To do this, the Connection team gathered information, spoke with DHMH representatives, and learned about the process for becoming a medical assistance provider.

**Connection team:** 3 JHSPH students; 2 SOM students

## Community Hospices of Maryland

**Description:** Community Hospices of Maryland provides quality healthcare and end-of-life services with compassion and innovation. This organization seeks to foster dignity and independence among those it serves.

**Project:** Community Hospices of Maryland wanted to enhance its services and volunteer recruitment, particularly for inner city and pediatric patients. The Connection team researched possible grants and donors who could provide financial support for these initiatives. The team also developed a grant template that can be utilized for future grant applications.

**Connection team:** 5 JHSPH students

## Moveable Feast

**Description:** Moveable Feast serves individuals who are affected by HIV, AIDS, and breast cancer. This organization provides nutritious meals to those who are homebound and teaches culinary and life skills to its clients.

**Project:** Moveable Feast's operations require the assistance of many committed volunteers who prep, box, transport, and bake food. Moveable Feast's current Handbook for Volunteers needed some upgrades. The Connection team updated the Handbook by making it more user-friendly, developing a more attractive layout, and creating a digital version suitable for online use.

**Connection team:** 5 JHSPH students

### **Center for Graceful Living Wellness Center**

**Description:** The Center for Graceful Living is a Wellness Center, affiliated with the Amazing Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church. The Wellness Center offers many services, including a food pantry for its clients.

**Project:** The Wellness Center's food pantry was in need of education materials about nutrition that were culturally appropriate and designed for a population with a generally low literacy rate. The Connection team developed materials to assist with the operation of the food pantry and to meet a particular life need for East Baltimore residents.

**Connection team:** 5 JHSPH students

### **Project HEALTH**

**Description:** Project HEALTH uses a visit to the clinic as a way to address the psychosocial factors that impact health outcomes. The Project HEALTH model is simple but effective: in clinics where programs are located, providers can "prescribe" food or housing for their patients, and student volunteers then connect the patients with these and other resources. The result is a new approach to health care delivery that addresses the full universe of factors impacting health outcomes for vulnerable families.

**Project:** Clinic integration and provider involvement are at the core of successful Project HEALTH programs. For this project, the Connection team surveyed and analyzed client satisfaction with Project HEALTH at the Johns Hopkins Harriet Lane Pediatric Clinic. The Connection team assisted with finalizing survey questions, organized a focus group, summarized the results of these interviews, and made recommendations to Project HEALTH.

**Connection team:** 3 JHSPH students; 3 SOM students

## **Adelante Familia**

**Description:** Adelante Familia is a bilingual program of St. Vincent de Paul dedicated to the eradication of domestic violence in the Latino community, and the promotion of family safety through direct services to victims. This organization provides services for Spanish-speaking people in domestic violence situations and conducts a program for abuser intervention.

**Project:** The Connection team developed and implemented a survey for Adelante Familia's clients to determine the effectiveness of the organization's programs.

**Connection team:** 3 JHSPH students; 1 SOM student