



Walking Alongside Parakaleo

November 2009

"If you want to go fast, walk alone. If you want to go far, walk together."

African Proverb

Eight Plus One

By Susan Gladin, Executive Director



Greetings and welcome to the first Johnson Intern E-Newsletter! This means of communication has been a dream for quite some time, but lack of time, expertise, and resources have prevented it from becoming a reality. Now, through a service grant from the Shared Visions Foundation, we have all of these things and more in the form of a wonderful addition to our staff, Ebeth Scott-Sinclair.

Ebeth first became a part of the Johnson Intern Program when she took Servant Leadership in the fall of 2006. She stayed in touch with the program, and joined our recruitment team in a big way this past winter. Just as our Program Associate, Solita Denard, left to obtain her Masters in Social Work, Shared Visions realized just how much Ebeth's talents could help the Johnson Intern Program, and this summer presented us with a one year service grant. We couldn't imagine a better fit.

Ebeth has been an integral part of our program this year, co-leading our opening retreat, core trainings, and now Servant Leadership. An accomplished professional artist, Ebeth has brought her talent and communication skills to bear on our program in numerous ways, the latest being this newsletter you are reading right now. She is a natural leader, an empathetic listener, and embodies the values of our program. The interns and I adore her.

Through this newsletter we hope to keep you in touch with our program and all of the activities of our eight interns and our visiting fellow. This year we're working with the Episcopal Campus Ministry program at NC State to host Madison Ward, an intern from their inaugural intentional community. Madison is serving at the Women's Center of Orange County and learning the ways of our program to share with her community in Raleigh. Madison is a 2008 graduate of Peace College.

Our eight interns this year (plus Madison) are pictured and named here in the newsletter. Our 2009-2010 partner organizations include Orange County Rape Crisis (Rachel), the Seymour Center (Stephen), Club Nova (Will), the Redwoods Group (Alexi), Table Ministries (Jimmy), Family Violence Prevention Center (Ellie), Freedom House (Annemarie), Central Park School (Loftin) and the Women's Center (Madison).

We began teaching Servant Leadership in the spring of 2006 under the leadership of John Vernon, a student at the Greensboro school. This fall we called our fifth class together, with seventeen students. In addition to the nine interns, we welcome Marsha Pate and Marty Rogers (Chapel of the Cross staff), Ryan Rowe, Shauna Farmer, Nancy Spencer (Freedom House), Tony Hawkins (a JIP mentor), Chrystal Chaverie (the Redwoods Group), and Laura Helms Reece (Rho, Inc.). We are delighted with the number of business people exploring Servant Leadership as a means of management. We are reminded that the concept grew out of a business milieu and the leadership skills of Robert K. Greenleaf.

The ten week class will end on November 20th, and in early December the interns and staff will travel to Washington, DC, to participate in the ministries of the Church of the Savior, where Servant Leadership took root within the church. Today the precepts are lived out in this unusual church-without-a-sanctuary that provides sanctuary and healing to the destitute poor in the Adams Morgan neighborhood.

As 2009 winds down we are gearing up for the recruitment season and for securing the resources needed to support our new class of interns – the class of 2010-2011. This fall two major three-year grants are ending, the Trinity Wall Street grant, which enabled us to design and implement our curriculum and the Rizzo grant. We welcome the addition of support from the Redwoods Foundation beginning in 2010. This three-year grant will support the further development of our teaching and assist with Board training and development.

But, as always, the ongoing support of the interns in this program lie with people like you, the person reading this newsletter. With over 50 alumni now, we are seeing the ways that this program transforms lives, and we're seeing the far-reaching ripples of the program as our alumni moves into work and touches others. We've become a powerful network that reaches out into the world, spreading the healing power of God's love.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

DEADLINE FOR JEWELRY DONATIONS

NOVEMBER 15th

THE SECOND ANNUAL JEWELRY SALE IS NOVEMBER 21 & 22, 2009

OUR GOAL IS \$6000!

WE NEED YOUR HELP

There can be no great jewelry sale without great jewelry!

Bring seldom or never worn jewelry by November 15th to The Chapel of the Cross or mail to: Johnson Intern Program, 304 E. Franklin St., Chapel Hill, NC 27514

This sales helps us feed and house our interns, plus provide health insurance and education programs.

09-10 INTERNS



(Left to Right; Top to Bottom)

Rachel Kinney, Jimmy Squibb, Will Owen; Annemarie Wess, Loftin Wilson, Stephen Nobles; Ellie Stonecash, Madison Ward, Alexi Paraschos

WE'RE ON FACEBOOK BECOME A FAN!

JIP, Take Two



By Will Owen

I chose to take a second year as a Johnson Intern for the same reasons that I pursued a first year: I couldn't not do so. Taken from the range of possibilities, both choices seemed unlikely. In the first case, I was coming from an elite college in New England. What could North Carolina offer me? In the second case, I'd already spent a year living intentionally. Wouldn't I stagnate if I stayed in the same place?

E.L. Doctorow once said that "writing a novel is like driving a car at night. You can see only as far as your headlights, but you can make the whole trip that way." The same could be said for life. In March of 2008 my headlights pointed towards the JIP and North Carolina; in March of 2009 they still did. Since the JIP doesn't currently offer a third-year position, I trust that in March of 2010 those lights will point somewhere else!

The Johnson Intern Program has helped me find the self I had lost among the anxieties and pressures of eight years of elite academic life. As cliché as this may seem, coming to North Carolina felt like coming home, internally as well as externally. Servant Leadership, intentional living, Club Nova, and North Carolina have all provided a space for me to explore and discover who am I in all my messy aliveness. I feel freer than ever before to play, laugh, cry, write, and pray.

My first year with the program, those changes were rapid and broad. With every new concept I encountered an entire world opened to me. My second year with the program is allowing me to grow deeper in those discoveries, to pursue many of them beyond the surface level, to explore more of the subtleties of my own inner life. Both of these experiences are helping me find wholeness, a wholeness I trust I can, because of JIP, help others find.

Maybe All We Really Need is Love



By Katie Thompson

(The following is extracted from the 2008-2009 Year-End Booklet)

2007-2008 JIP Interns

One recent Wednesday morning I received an email from Susan with the subject line: write? She requested that I contribute to this year-end booklet expressing "...the idea is to write about what you have taken from your year here into your life outside the program."

I systematically considered aspects from the Johnson Intern Program in which I am still involved. Just one week prior, on the third Wednesday of the month, I had gathered as a member of the JIP Board to consider the sustainability and organic growth of the program. Just minutes later, I would start my car and drive to the Habitat for Humanity of Orange County office, where I serve as the Development Coordinator, a position offered to me after my internship at Habitat last year. Just one day later, I would reunite with Abigail Lee ('07-08 JIP) after not seeing her in almost two weeks (a week is a long while in JIP time!)

It struck me – I don't have a life outside the program! My recent life has evolved so wholly out of my experiences as an intern living in intentional community that I struggle to find a piece of myself or my life left untouched. The word that comes to mind when I reflect back on my time in the JIP that has carried me forward is simple and pure: love.

I should clarify that love in our intentional community was defined by a plainly easy, happy tenure. We understood suffering both individually and as a community, allowing challenges at our Partner Organizations and in the house to incite pain and expose weaknesses. My community challenged my safe, measured rhythm of life, inspired my faith journey, and reminded me that we are one body in Christ. We engaged in heated discussions on faith, relationships, communal food, household responsibilities, and ... noise from community members returning home after 25 cent drafts on Franklin Street! But, when tensions cooled, only one thing remained: love rooted in God.

I am in awe of the seven devoted folks with whom I lived last year. Abigail, Daniel, Jesse, Karen, Kelly, Matt, and Matthew shared love through their life passions and daily activities. I witnessed yoga lessons, paintings on paper bags, music floating from guitars and a bass, meals consisting of 99% peanut butter, long walks and conversations, smiles, and ... maybe most important of all, the willingness to sit and "be" with each other.

So what have I taken from my year in the JIP to my "life" outside the program? Abundant love. The compassion and grace have allowed me to open my heart to more fully recognize, receive, and share God's love. This love motivates my hope when relationships are tough, my continued commitment to the JIP, and my service to low-income families through Habitat. I thank you all for nurturing me when I was an intern and while I have continued to grow in love.

Katie Thompson is a 2007-2008 Alumna and Member of the Johnson Intern Program Board.

LEADERSHIP & STAFF

- Watson A. Bowes, Jr.
- Jim Crow
- Jill Edens
- Ernest Kraybill
- Lawrence (Larry) Logan
- Katie Thompson
- Leona Paschal Whichard
- Marian S. "Chick" White
- Andrew Dobelstein
- Mary Chase

Susan Gladin, Exec. Director
Ebeth Scott-Sinclair, Assoc. Director

Club Nova



Club Nova Members and Staff

Club Nova is a collaborative day program for adults in Orange County living with severe mental illness. Founded in 1987, we are a Clubhouse Model program, structured on the successful program pioneered by Fountain House in New York. We work to promote rehabilitation and reintegration into the community by focusing on members' strengths and gifts rather than on their illnesses. Club Nova is more than a program; our clubhouse is a holistic caring environment founded on strong relationships between individuals: member to member, member to staff, and staff to staff.

The Clubhouse is broken down into four work units. The Program and Administration Unit structures and supports internal activities like billing, house maintenance, and planning for social events; the Community Relations Unit connects the Clubhouse to the world through volunteer coordination, resource development, and community education; the Culinary Unit provides 13 affordable meals each week and approximately 15,000 each year; and the Thrift Shop Unit operates a small retail operation. Each of these units provides our members with space to build relationships with one another and with staff, to enhance skills and abilities, and to take ownership of the Clubhouse.

At Club Nova, we have no member or staff only space or meetings. All members have an equal say in the governance and direction of the organization. Furthermore, membership has no time limits or requirements. Our members are full and equal participants in our community.

Contributed by Will Owen, 2nd Year Intern at Club Nova

The Johnson Intern Program blends social ministry, intellectual inquiry, and intentional community into a year that enables young adults to explore their spiritual life within the context of servant-leadership.

Your Support is Appreciated!

Donate Today

919-929-2193

www.johnsoninternship.org

"Before I can tell my life what I want to do with it, I must listen to my life telling me who I am."

Parker J. Palmer