

# THE SERVICE-LEARNING CHRONICLE

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## LEARN AND SERVE COLORADO



### NOBEL PEACE LAUREATE, SHIRIN EBADI, COMES TO DENVER!

This spring, students at Foster Elementary in Arvada, had the opportunity of a lifetime when 2003 Nobel Peace Laureate Shirin Ebadi made a special guest appearance at their school!

In town for PeaceJam's 10th annual youth conference, Shirin was presented the key to the city by Arvada Mayor Ken Fellman and then shared with the kindergarten-6<sup>th</sup> grade students her perspectives on life in Iran. Shirin also discussed her childhood, giving the students a chance to compare and contrast their own childhoods to her own. She also spoke extensively on her efforts to fight for children's' rights and women's rights in Iran and around the world. After hearing about Shirin's struggle, Aubri, a 3<sup>rd</sup> grade student asserted that "since Shirin Ebadi is fighting for the rights of women and children, she inspired me to never give up."

The students were especially excited to hear from Shirin after studying about 1992 Nobel Peace Laureate Rigoberta Menchu Tum and designing service-learning projects inspired by her efforts to secure rights for indigenous peoples in Guatemala. The students were thrilled to meet an actual Nobel Peace Laureate and couldn't believe that one was in their own school! During a classroom reflection after the assembly, Anthony, a 4<sup>th</sup> grader, mentioned that "when Shirin Ebadi walked through the gym doors I felt something that I will never feel again! My body felt tingly and my face got red like when I'm shy."

During PeaceJam's two-day youth conference, 500 students heard from Shirin Ebadi, shared their year-long peace projects with their peers, rocked out to the Flobots – a local hip-hop group – engaged in service-learning projects and re-



Shirin Ebadi, Nobel Peace Laureate

flected upon what inspires them. One-hundred of these PeaceJammers, facilitated by AmeriCorps\*VISTA members, Toni Kattelman and Ryan Hanschen, engaged in various service-learning projects at Foster Elementary. The PeaceJam mentors assisted the elementary students and painted backdrops for a school play, made birdfeeders for the playground, planted trees and weeded the community garden, and wrote

captions for a clay tile project depicting a Native American timeline. Selena, a 4<sup>th</sup> grade student remarked: "I loved working in the library with a high school kid because I liked sharing my tile knowledge with an older student."

For more information about the PeaceJam Juniors service-learning program, please contact PeaceJam at (303) 455-2099 or visit [peacejam.org](http://peacejam.org).

Article submitted by Ryan Hanschen, AmeriCorps\*VISTA member, The PeaceJam Foundation



PeaceJam mentors and elementary school students worked on the community garden at Foster Elementary School in Arvada.

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### WEST HIGH SCHOOL T.R.A.P. (Teens Recycle All Paper)

Students at West Middle School saw a need to recycle and limit the amount of paper being put in the trash. After several lessons on recycling with teacher Larilou Shaw, and learning the components of a successful recycling program from Americorps\* VISTA member Joe Mock, Larilou Shaw's 8<sup>th</sup> grade special education class started their project. They developed a logo, a "catchy" name and an acronym—West TRAP (Teens Recycle All Paper). Next, they teamed up in pairs and gave presentations to teams of teachers so the teachers would be informed and could decide if they wanted to recycle. Two of the students had a conference with the custodial staff to ensure that they worked in accordance with the needs of each other. Then the students assembled cardboard recycling boxes, labeled them with logos and distributed them to classrooms. Once a week three to four

students empty the boxes and Mrs. Shaw takes the paper to a community recycling bin.

For the learning part of their project Larilou Shaw did a unit on recycling that included reading information, answering questions and class discussions. They typed the information they learned to provide keyboarding practice. In order to be prepared, students had to write their presentations that they gave to teachers. The presentations were very successful. For some, it was their first experience giving a presentation and all of them received compliments for their talks. One student Laeson Key was so determined to leave a good impression that he wore a three piece suit to his presentation! The students have also been able to work on their math skills while assembling boxes. They measured certain lengths of tape,

the boxes and discussed geometric shapes. They are weighing the paper and collecting data and totaling the figures so they know how much paper they have recycled this year. This information will be used in determining changes for the program next year.

Another positive aspect of the project was that students who did not always work well together have put differences aside to cooperate on this project. Mrs. Shaw commented that, "My expectations are that students show correct behavior at all times when they are working as TRAP members. This has helped increase appropriate behavior even beyond collection times." It has become a real team effort; students who are not currently working with West TRAP are asking how they can join in and help. As student Cory Allen said, "It's fun to talk to teachers and see what other teachers are doing. (When he picks up the recycling he gets to see other classes.) This is our last year at West and we want 8<sup>th</sup> graders to continue this project next year." Mrs. Shaw is already committed to next year and with the great work of the students this year West's recycling program should be successful for years to come.



West High School T.R.A.P. members

Article submitted by Joseph Mock, AmeriCorps\*VISTA, Colorado College Partnership for Civic Engagement

## THE NOVELA PROJECT, ANTONITO COLORADO

As part of the Novela Project, a community oral history project, GANAS' (Greater Association of Native Americans Society) members with sponsorship of Adams State College Community Partnerships hosted their first community dinner and story circles on Sunday, May 21, 2006 at Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish Hall, in Conejos, Colorado.

Community members were treated to bowls of homemade chili beans and menudo, made by Dos Hermanas. Punch, crackers, and cake topped off the Sunday's fare.

After dinner, Mike Trujillo invited folks to stay and join in a story circle. The theme for the story circles was Antonio's past.

GANAS' youth, trained in facilitating story circles by Sandra Santa Cruz, were given a mini-tape-recorder to facilitate their first story circle. Other GANAS' members rotated among the groups and took pictures of the event.

The story circles brought many

different age groups together with very different perspectives on Antonito's history. In one of the story circles, when asked, "What were the best days of Antonito," some said the 1950's, while others thought the 1960's or the 1970's. One young lady, age 10, had not been around long enough to have formed an opinion!

Part of the purpose of the Novela Project was to get the youth involved in their community, and to develop new skills in the process, but the fact that the youth honored their elders by engaging them in story telling was a gift to the older generation, too. Both youth and adults benefited greatly. A consensus was reached, that the community does not come together like it used to, and to bring back strong community connections was very important to all.

The afternoon ended by Mike Trujillo handing out Valley Community Fund certificates of participation to GANAS members. Mike gave each member a certificate sharing the unique gift the member

contributed to GANAS.

Special plaques were given to Orlando Gallardo, for his support in helping GANAS procure the upper part of the SPMDTU building to create a GANAS meeting place and community learning center. Michelle Romero also received a plaque for her continuing dedication to GANAS and her work with the GANAS' newsletter. Two very special seniors and dedicated GANAS' member, Chris Aira and Desiree Barela, also received plaques.

For additional information on the Novela Project, please contact either Nancy Molina or Beverly Miller at Valley Community Fund (719) 589-5688

Article submitted by Beverly Miller, AmeriCorps\*VISTA member, Valley Community Fund



GANAS youth members involved with the Novela Project in Antonito, Colorado

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Visit us on the Internet at [www.cde.state.co.us/servicelearning](http://www.cde.state.co.us/servicelearning)

**THE COLORADO SERVICE-LEARNING RESOURCE CENTER**

The Colorado Service-Learning Resource Center is now online and is designed to provide you with access to tools and other resources created by service-learning practitioners and advocates all over Colorado. To access the site go to [www.icgregis.org](http://www.icgregis.org) and click on *Educations Programs* and then *Resources* on the left. You will find items created by Coloradoans that you can adapt to your needs or simply reproduce and use as is. There are descriptions of successful practices and programs to give you ideas for your own programs. You will also find assessment tools and guides to help you ensure the quality of your programs, along with useful links to online resources, and many other resources.

This site will grow and change as more items

are added. We want to make the site useful to you so please share your suggestions, and please consider submitting resources, events and opportunities that may be of interest to your service-learning colleagues in Colorado.

To submit a document to be included in the resource center, use the online form link or contact Jeff Miller, the Resource Center Director, at [Jeff@LeadingNow.org](mailto:Jeff@LeadingNow.org). Also, please feel free to contact Jeff with any questions or comments you may have about the website.

Thanks for your support of service-learning in Colorado!

Article submitted by Joshua Gambrel, AmeriCorps\*VISTA member, Regis University

