Students Engaged in Service

Name: Meghan Dunne  
Agency: Heartland Hospice  
Year in School: Senior  
Hometown: Hawthorne, NY.  

“I have learned through volunteering here that service can be found in many forms. Beyond full week trips and large scale fund raisers, something as natural as a conversation can provide a personal connection that allows for deeper ties to our community.”

Name: Jerry Dorsey  
Agency: Big Brothers/Big Sisters  
Year in School: Senior  
Hometown: Winchester, VA

The Big Brothers/Big Sisters program has given me the opportunity to shape the lives of youth. Having the privilege to mentor two “ littles” has allowed me to see first-hand the academic and social improvement that is truly possible for every child. It is such a wonderful feeling to serve as a child’s role model and to observe the lasting positive effects of your emotional investment.

Name: Samantha Fien-Helfman  
Agency: Juvenile Detention Center  
Year in School: Senior  
Hometown: Washington DC

“Volunteering at the Juvenile Detention Center has turned into a passion and a weekly highlight. Mentoring there has enabled me to see the impact that one person can have on students who are arguably in greatest need of role models. Working with at-risk teenagers can be draining but also invigorates and my experience has fueled my commitment to working with disadvantaged youths and learning more about restorative justice programs.”

Names: Brandie Burris / Mallory Johnson  
Agency: Phoenix Project  
Year in School: Senior /Junior  
Hometown: Leesburg, VA / Burke, VA

Brandie: “Because of my Public Policy major, I have learned a lot about social problems; and much of my instruction has surrounded around simply identifying and defining problems. As a result, I often found myself frustrated because I wasn't doing anything to address these problems. This is why the Phoenix Project's mission is so great. By facilitating a partnership between higher education and distressed communities, the Phoenix Project has created an outlet for my frustration.”

Mallory: “This agency is important because its purpose extends beyond direct service-it strives to ameliorate poverty through the development of nonprofit management skills in college students. It then facilitates capacity-building partnerships between the students and the community, allowing hands-on experience that is designed to have a lasting effect in eliminating some of the state's greatest economic distress.”