

Katie L. Dixon Women & Girls Leadership Endowed Fund

Dixon Girls Forums Accomplishments and Objectives

October 2010



Anna Smith Elementary in Wendover served their community by removing ice, snow, and debris from school grounds.



Hillcrest Junior High in Murray held a month-long Hope for Haiti effort, gathering over 300 pounds of personal hygiene projects for Globus Relief to deliver to Haiti.



Odyssey Charter School in American Fork created an afterschool mentoring program to assist younger girls with their school assignments.

- In 2009-2010, College of Social Work program staff again relied on the valuable assistance of University of Utah Bennion Center volunteers as they conducted forums at:
 - Odyssey Charter School
 - Hillcrest Junior High
 - Riverview Junior High
 - Murray High School
 - Anna Smith Elementary—Wendover, Utah
 - Kearns-St. Ann School
 - St. Francis-Xavier School
 - St. Vincent de Paul School
 - The McGillis School
 - Judge Memorial High School
- As in previous years, the number of forums held at each school varied from one to six. A total of 365 new and returning young women attended 42 forums during the academic year. Students engaged in service learning projects that benefited people locally and globally, such as:
 - A “Hope for Haiti” personal hygiene collection effort
 - Mentoring experiences for high school students
 - Community clean up projects
 - Letter writing campaigns to active-duty military personnel
- Our research and publications continue to demonstrate that the forums fill a need in our community. Exit surveys show:
 - Improved relationships with other girls
 - Increased leadership skills
 - Increased desire to further education
 - Increased understanding of what girls can do
- In 2010-2011, the Dixon Girls Forums will return to the above schools and begin forums at Wendover High School, Juan Diego High School, and the Boys and Girls Club. The College continues to receive new requests for forums from schools in our community—a strong indicator of the value of the program and the growing interest in leadership issues among girls.
- In the Spring of 2010, the College of Social Work hosted the first Katie L. Dixon Intergenerational Roundtable, *You Make A Difference*. Each forum participant was invited to bring a woman of significance in her life to this half-day event, which was sponsored by Wells Fargo, Overstock.com, and keynote speaker, Jenny Mackenzie. Dr. Mackenzie, a College of Social Work alumna and Director of the award-winning documentary “Kick Like a Girl,” spoke to the girls and their guests about teamwork and gender equity. The afternoon was filled with break-out sessions and ended with a tribute to Katie L. Dixon from the Assistance League. One participant commented: “*This roundtable has opened up a teaching dialogue with my daughter.*”