



Dr. Tisa McGhee provides an interactive workshop on “Why Do We Need Community Collaboratives?” at the City Year Civic Leadership Conference



This year City Year Miami’s annual conference theme was “Barriers to Youth Development-Why Don’t Youth Realize Their Potential?” On 9/29/11 over 100 City Corps members were exposed to keynote speakers, panelists and several breakout sessions one of which was led by Dr. Tisa McGhee from Barry University’s School of Social Work. Dr. McGhee held an interactive workshop in which she talked about “*Why Do We Need Community Collaboratives?*” as a way of helping youth to realize their potential. We need community collaboratives because no one agency can do it alone and City Year is a partner not only to the school district but other agencies along with the community. In City Year’s role of partner and as a community Dr. McGhee pointed out that we should focus on three areas: *Prevention*, *Shared Responsibility* and providing *Individualized Responses* for youth and their families. Community collaboratives help youth by providing preventative services to support youth before they get involved with systems as well as a range of formal and informal services to youth and doing so through individualized responses based on their strengths and needs.

City Year members were excited that the workshop was interactive as they were asked to role play a family who was experiencing several challenges. By role playing they were able to visualize how difficult it was to get services from individual agencies but if there was a better effort to collaborate youth could receive help for their different needs from a group of collaborating agencies. Feedback included “I can see how youth and their families can get overwhelmed by having to attend to so many different needs.” Another participant pointed out that a web of services would be good so youth are protected. Overall, Dr. McGhee said that participants acknowledged why community partnerships and linkages are essential for the work that they do in the community.

City Year’s mission is in line with is in line with Barry University’s mission of inclusive communities and collaborative service and is also in line with the School of Social Work’s mission of core values, ethics, and commitments of the social work profession.

Resources:

http://www.cityyear.org/default_ektid22283.aspx

http://www.cityyear.org/miami_ektid14523.aspx

CITY YEAR MIAMI FACTS TO DATE

246 corps members have graduated from City Year Miami
1,225,000 children served
440,400,000 hours of service to Miami-Dade County
6000 volunteers led in service

Since 1988, “City Year” has been a leader in the growing national service movement. Founders felt strongly that young people in service could be a powerful resource for addressing America’s most pressing issues. Their mission is to build democracy through citizen service, civic leadership and social entrepreneurship. Typical City Corps members are between the ages of 17-24; high school graduates, college graduates and master graduates; and they have diverse work and life experiences. “City Year Miami, launched in the fall of 2008, was seen as a way to support the Miami-Dade Public School System in its efforts to help youth succeed in school and realize their potential.”