

Soné Keith Serves as Assistant Editor in Efforts to Teach Peace-Making Skills

Student Contributing to

**Community
Impact**

by Stephanie Wong



As a first-year Barry student majoring in photography and minoring in education, Soné Keith had big dreams and an even bigger desire to make a positive impact in her new community. Attracted to the university's Federal Work-Study Community Service Program, Keith was not sure of where exactly she wanted to create that impact, but she knew she was in the right place to figure it out.

Originally from the Bronx in New York state, Keith had always thought fondly of her experience as a participant in the work of local non-profits. Some of her favorite memories are of DreamYard, an organization whose mission is to build pathways to equity and opportunity through the arts.

While with DreamYard, Keith was a member of the Bronx Arts Collective. Each month, she and her peers used a different social justice theme to collaborate on visual art projects involving collage, painting, and other art forms.

She also distinctly recalls the opportunities she received through DreamYard to travel nationally and internationally, and to learn about art around the world. It was from that experience Keith felt inspired to give back.

Two years later, Keith is still making contributions outside the for-profit world. Now, as a member of the Barry Service Corps, she is serving as an assistant editor with the Peace Education Foundation, whose home is on Barry's main campus.

Keith has been responsible for revising various lessons for a volume titled "Peace Making

Skills for Little Kids.” She found particular enjoyment as she worked on it, because she realizes the importance of the six peace-making skillsets targeted to children: Community Building, We Listen to Each Other, Hands are for Helping, I-Care Language, Expressing Feelings, and Taking Responsibility.

Reflecting on the impact that editing the book has had on her, she shares: ‘My mind has changed through the realization that children need to learn more than just reading, writing, and math. Children also need to understand how to communicate effectively and how to deal with their anger. As a student earning a minor in education, I know that these are skills I plan to teach my future students so that they have a grasp on skillsets beyond the basic subjects schools teach.’



The Peace Education Foundation’s multilingual curricula are currently used in more than 20,000 schools and community centers around the world. There is little doubt that the same book Keith has worked on will be made available internationally as well, making her dream to create a positive impact a global reality.

“I know that there are organizations who have been exposed to the work of the Peace Education Foundation. It feels wonderful to know that I had a hand in creating the impact that this will have on generations to come,” Keith remarks.

Because of contributors like Soné Keith, the Peace Education Foundation’s programs and resources continue to play an effective and important role in our community. According to its website, the Foundation has noted a “decrease in disruptive disorders and behaviors and an increase in social competence and connectedness.” For that, we are grateful.

Source:

Community Engagement News

*Newsletter of the
Center for Community
Service Initiatives*

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