Berkeley Day of Service

Friday, September 9, 2011

Local Day of Services Projects
E.C. Smith, Honorary Chairman, founding faculty member and honorary alumnus and AEC Member Pamela Adkins, '75 are co-chairing this first-ever Berkeley Alumni volunteer day, called the "Day of Service" to help kick off the 50th Anniversary weekend celebrations. The Day of Service Committee helped identify needs and opportunities in the Tampa Bay community, they kept in mind the need for flexibility so that everyone can find a day or time to participate -- even if it’s not exactly on September 9th. There are opportunities to drop off articles from the “Needs Lists” at Berkeley in advance, work over a lunch hour, spend the morning on a beach, prepare a casserole or serve dinner “on location” with other alums.

They have chosen projects that honor our veterans and feed very sick children and their families. Another recognizes Berkeley's early ties to St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church. Two amazing on-campus projects will have you getting your hands wet -- if not downright dirty -- helping with projects designed to create a cleaner, healthier, diversified and more beautiful eco-environment on campus and in our surrounding neighborhood.

Regional and Personal Local Commitments
We have volunteer projects in Atlanta and Los Angeles on Friday, September 9th. We have a volunteer project in New York City on Saturday, September 17th. If you have an ongoing commitment to a community organization and will be spending your Day of Service with them, we think that’s great! Please tell us about it so we can include it in the roster of projects people are planning all over the globe! Any way you choose to participate, you’ll be part of an international effort to bring to life our vision statement, "Berkeley Puts People in the World Who Make a Positive Difference."

Please look at the opportunities and needs below and match one (or more!) to your passions and your schedule and then register.
Bay Pines Veterans Community Living Center  
1000 Bay Pines Blvd.  
St. Petersburg, FL 33744  

Since 1933, Bay Pines has been housing and caring for the health of men and women who have proudly served our nation, many at great personal sacrifice.  

Come spend a few hours (9-1) on the shoreline of the Bay at the Veteran’s Center, cleaning up whatever the tide’s washed in and making parts of the grounds cheerier and more beautiful for those who have served our country and now reside at Bay Pines. Wear comfortable clothes and shoes, you’ll receive your special Berkeley Day of Service shirt on location, and we’ll be gloved, equipped, transported and supervised by Bay Pines experts. Alumni from the Great Class of ’66 already have identified this as one of their reunion weekend activities, and we’ll need legions of help. There’s lots to do and we’ll have a big impact on the environment and surroundings for these special residents. Bag lunches and icy cold beverages will be provided by Berkeley! Berkeley Contact and Bay Pines Project Captain Shea Gill Grundy ’84 SheaG@tampabay.rr.com or 813-380-8153.

James A. Haley Veterans’ Hospital  
13000 Bruce B. Downs Blvd.  
Tampa, FL 33612  

James A. Haley Veterans’ Hospital has been a presence in the Tampa Bay community since 1972, providing healthcare and other services to treat and help improve the quality of life for men and women who have served our country. Patients in residence here have a great need for personal amenities, those seemingly "little" things that they can’t always access or afford themselves. Upper Division Students will join us in collecting and bringing to Berkeley these items. The list below includes the most desirable, hard-to-get items and we have been assured that these will help make our veterans’ lives more comfortable and dignified at the VA Centers. Berkeley Contact and James A. Haley Project Captain Kimberly Hannah ’98 khannah7@gmail.com or 850-264-6591  

Veterans’ Greatest Needs  
Please think about our veterans when you do your own shopping, and perhaps add a few extra full-size items into your cart for them. You may either hold these until closer to September 9th, and be a part of the ‘Berkeley Delivery Posse’, and Kimberly or Shea will let you know when and where they will be getting things together for the deliveries (depending on whether you’re closer to Tampa or St. Pete) or drop off your goodies at Berkeley during business hours throughout the summer with Betsy Astolfi, director of Alumni Relations astolbet@berkeleyprep.org.

- unisex disposable razors  
- foot powder  
- unisex laundry detergent (nothing too flowery, we’re told!)  
- unisex shampoo  
- men’s deodorant
- unisex shaving cream/gel
- individual packaged toothbrushes
- full-sized toothpaste

Ronald McDonald House of Tampa Bay
Ronald McDonald House
@Tampa General Hospital
35 Columbia Drive
Tampa, FL 33606

The Ronald McDonald House in Tampa is a "home away from home" for the families of children receiving treatment at Tampa General Hospital. The Tampa House has 14 bedrooms and serves more than 300 families each year. Berkeley is committed to providing dinner on September 9th for 25 individuals who will be in residence. We need eight people to work in the kitchen setting up the dinner, and other volunteers to prepare and drop off the main dishes, salads, beverages and other things needed. The dinner menu is currently being planned, so please contact Carson Chambers '96, and share your ideas.

As with the Veterans' homes, the Ronald McDonald Houses have also asked for donations, listed by location, below. So cook, come, create, or just shop-and-drop some needed items off at campus by contacting: Tampa Ronald McDonald House Project Captain Carson Chambers, '96 chamberscarson@gmail.com or 813-294-8127.

Ronald McDonald Houses of St. Petersburg
Ronald McDonald House East
401 7th Avenue South
St. Petersburg, FL 33701

Ronald McDonald House West
702 8th Avenue South
St. Petersburg, FL 33701

Ronald McDonald House Central
601 5th Street South
St. Petersburg, FL 33701

There are three Ronald McDonald Houses at All Children’s Hospital in St. Petersburg. They serve more than 2,000 children and their families each year. We have committed to providing them with frozen casseroles for the "Casserole Club" during the week leading up to September 9th. Please contact Berkeley Parent and St. Petersburg Ronald McDonald House Project Captain Jan Watrous at jan.watrous@gmail.com or 727-418-5570 for information on when and where and other details on food
types and delivery options. This gives you the opportunity to come by and drop off your culinary creation whenever it fits your schedule!

Both the Tampa and St Petersburg Ronald McDonald House locations have shared needs lists with us for items they would be most grateful to receive. Alumni have the opportunity to donate items from these lists, and the Lower, Middle and Upper Division students also will be collecting items for donation on September 9th. Here is a list of the most needed items at each facility, which you have the option of dropping off at Berkeley during summer business hours. Just let Betsy Astolfi know you’re coming!

*Ronald McDonald House Needs Lists*

**Tampa:**
- bathroom tissue
- snacks-for-one in individual packages
- Lysol aerosol spray
- dryer sheets
- juice boxes
- hand sanitizer

**St. Petersburg:**
- travel sized shampoo/conditioner
- hand sanitizer
- snacks-for-one in individual packages
- peanut butter
- jellies/jam
- Lysol aerosol spray
- Mr. Clean Magic Erasers
- Dreft liquid laundry detergent
- cooking oil

*St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church*

509 N Marion St  
Tampa, FL 33602

Our first Berkeley classes remember well the generosity of St. Andrew’s, which opened its facilities, free of charge, to serve as Berkeley’s first classrooms. In addition to its many community outreach services, St. Andrew’s has a lunchtime food program, providing a hot meal to those in need. For those whose busy schedules only allow a quick lunch hour away from your desk, this is the perfect volunteer project. St. Andrew’s Project Captain is Nancy Turner, ’66 nancynf1@verizon.net or 813.251.5280.

*Sweetwater Creek Park Beautification*
Calling all Green Thumbs! This small, deeply shaded neighborhood park is just outside Berkeley’s rear Harrod Gate and frequented by neighbors and families in our Town ‘n Country neighborhood. We’ll meet at the park on Bray Road at 9 a.m. and we will finish by 11 a.m. Wear comfortable clothes, bring your gardening skills (and gloves if you have them!) as we join others to beautify this lovely space. Alumni Project Captain Pamela Adkins, ’75 padkins11@Aol.com or 813-340-3278.

**Berkeley Campus Ponds Environmental Impact Initiative**

If you’ve had a chance to visit Berkeley via its "back door," after passing through the Harrod Gate you’ve seen the beautiful ponds and flocks of roseate spoonbills, egrets, herons, turtles and other naturally-occurring residents of this kind of ecosystem. Healthy ponds are a huge challenge to maintain and when imbalances occur, they can be overtaken by cattails and other invasive plants and animals. Ponds also can become breeding grounds for mosquitos that are not only unpleasant, but spread diseases.

"We have an opportunity to create a healthy ecosystem in our ponds, and to show our neighbors that we are good stewards of our shared environment," said EC Smith, the visionary behind this project. "We want everyone to know that we care about making our neighborhood-at-large healthier for everyone who lives, works and plays here, that it’s not just about Berkeley, it’s about the community."

Expert scientists at Berkeley, led by Dr. Nikki Ackerson, chairman of the Science Department, have done research with students on the ponds’ current water quality, nutrient overload and potentially harmful chemicals flowing into the ponds from storm water runoff. Dr. Ackerson and her teams also have audited the animal life that has been quietly making the Berkeley Ponds "home." She has engaged colleagues from the Florida Aquarium for their recommendations regarding water aeration and filter systems, plant life and fish needed in and around our ponds.

Got Boots?

On September 9th volunteers will be pulling on their wellies and waders and will get their hands wet helping plant native pickerel weed, alligator flag which attracts Dragon flies that feast on mosquito larvae, soft-stem bulrush to keep out the cattails, golden canna, blue flag, duck potato and water lilies in and around the ponds. We also will be releasing eastern mosquito fish and sailfin molly in small fry form, as both of these are native to the area, eat mosquitos, and are actually also a great food source for spoonbills.

Please join the wonderful mix of alumni, faculty, guest experts from the Florida Aquarium and many other workers who will be on hand to do some digging and learn more about indigenous plant life and who eats whom in the animal and insect world. You will enjoy being a part of creating a balanced, healthy and beautiful ecosystem for our neighbors, our community and Berkeley Preparatory School students, staff, faculty, families and alumni to enjoy for at least the next 50 years. Plan to gather at Berkeley at 9:30 a.m. Berkeley will provide cold drinks! Alumni Project Captain Pamela Adkins, ’75 padkins11@Aol.com or 813-340-3278.
Regional and Personal Local Commitments
Please complete this form to let us know about your own Berkeley Day of Service plans and send it to Betsy Astolfi at astolbet@berkeleyprep.org. We will be certain to send you a Berkeley Day of Service T-shirt to wear!