



## **COMMUNITY OUTREACH REPORT FY 2013**

In this community outreach report for the GMC Sustainability Office I track the total numbers of service learning and volunteer hours contributed by members of GMC and the greater Poultney communities during the academic year 2012-2013. The numbers presented in this document are conservative figures. The results are based on projects, events, and activities that I was responsible for organizing or helping to organize in my role as Outreach Coordinator for Sustainable Community Development at GMC. These activities range from the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Earth Fair to Poultney 2020 to volunteer recruitment for annual events such as Martin Luther King Day in Rutland, Poultney Maple Fest, or Spotlight on Business in Poultney.

### **Description of Activities**

In chronological order, the following section provides a brief description of the activities from which the data was gathered.

#### ***Voter Registration and Education 2012 (September-November)***

A total of 16 faculty, staff, and students from GMC community and local citizens from the Poultney community worked together to educate the public about the electoral process during the 2012 Presidential Election. They canvassed, registered voters, recruited other volunteers, and took part of various forms of educational outreach activities in many towns located in Rutland and Addison Counties, Vermont and in the state of New Hampshire. For her senior capstone project, GMC Senior Kelly Marie Kraemer '13 worked closely with the GMC Department of Student Life and the GMC Sustainability Office to register 273 students for absentee ballots. (This is over a third the total undergraduate student population at the College). Some of our partners included Middlebury College, University of Vermont, Organizing for America and Romney for President. In addition to the volunteer and service learning hours coordinated by me through the GMC Sustainability Office, four Fall courses focused their themes solely on politics and the electoral process.

#### ***Global Bazaar (October 12, 2012)***

The Intercultural Center (ICC), International Awareness Club, Black Culture Club (BCC) and the GMC Sustainability Office partnered to host the annual Global Bazaar at the GMC campus during the fall 2012. The purpose of this event is to promote diversity and bring intercultural awareness to members of our community. International students usually cook delicious, traditional, homemade meals from their home countries and dress up in their cultural attires. This year the unifying theme was centered on the topic of breast cancer awareness. Professor of Biology Dr. Natalie Coe spoke about the causal relationship between environmental factors and cancer and how we are all exposed to it. I also shared the story of my mother who was going through breast cancer treatment back in our country Honduras. It was truly inspiring to see over 150 people form various

groups within our community come together for this event. The event was free and open to the public.

### ***Martin Luther King Day (January 21, 2013)***

At Green Mountain College we honored the life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. by volunteering in a series of activities (i.e. painting, cleaning, and devoting time to children) organized by Vermont AmeriCorps members and the Rutland Interfaith Council. GMC Students, alumni, faculty, and staff and members of the Poultney community join efforts on this special day to support the Boy and Girls Club, The Women's Shelter, and the Vermont Achievement Center. Together they contributed a total of 35 volunteer and service learning hours.

Additionally, the college's Honors Program partnered with the Sustainability and Outreach Office to host renowned lecturer Dr. Timothy Patrick McCarthy from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. Over 200 students and community members attended his talk on *Human Rights, Human Wrongs: the Long History of Slavery and Abolition*.

### ***MindMixer (March 15, 2013)***

Twenty-three GMC students, faculty, and staff collaborated for over six months to launch MindMixer in the College and the Poultney communities during the Spring 2013. MindMixer serves as online platform for community conversations and discussions. Grants from the Student Campus Greening Fund (SCGF) and the Student Government Association funded this program.

MindMixer is still in the process of gaining traction among community members. It is our hope that early in the fall we can implement an aggressive educational outreach campaign on how to appropriately use this innovative and transformational online tool.

### ***Maple Fest (March 23, 2013)***

The annual Maple Fest is one of the largest events in Poultney and Poultney Chamber of Commerce organizes many interesting things for participants to do and see. The event highlights Vermont's first seasonal crop, delicious maple syrup. This year 3 GMC students and the GMC Sustainability Office supported the organizers of the events by volunteering 16 hours in community service.

### ***Spotlight On Business (April 13, 2013)***

The GMC Sustainability Office and six students supported our local restaurants by looking after their booths during the annual Spotlight on Business event, organized by the Poultney Area Chamber of Commerce. The restaurants included East Poultney General Store, Perry's Eatery, Poultney House of Pizza, Trolley Stop, Taps Tavern and Station Restaurant. This was a great opportunity for GMC students to interact with the restaurant owners and learn about our local economy. There were over forty other businesses and organizations represented at the event.

### ***Poultney 2020 Conference (April 24, 2013)***

Poultney 2020 was a six-month process leading to a daylong conference, planned and organized as a revitalization effort between GMC and the town of Poultney. This effort was done with the hopes to generate community involvement and discussions towards creating a vibrant future for all. The GMC Sustainability Office contributed to this effort through promotion, logistics, and the coordination of five focus groups, which included the categories of the Arts, Place,

Sustainability, Food, and Goods and Service. Over 110 people were involved throughout the process and 185 people attended the conference.

During the conference the members of the community who attended (faculty, staff, students, and local citizens) voted on four priorities that are to be implemented in the Town. These priorities include a main street park, community center, recreation network (parks and trails), and a locavore restaurant.

### ***Sixth Annual Poultney Earth Fair (April 25, 2013)***

The Poultney Earth Fair is a completely grassroots event organized by a committee of ten to thirteen people with the intention to educate children and their families about the environment. The theme of the event changes every year, and for the sixth annual Earth Fair the committee decided on the theme “A Balanced Life, A Balanced Earth.” This year the GMC Sustainability Office supported the Earth Fair committee through coordination, planning, and execution of the event. The Fair brought over 200 members of the GMC and Poultney communities together to collaborate on projects and over 400 participants (including children, parents, family, friends, and college community members) attended the event.

### ***Poultney Art Mural (May 1, 2013)***

The Poultney Art Mural was a collaborative project between GMC students Marijo Bineault '13, Katie Rogers '15, Brianna King '16, Erica Gould '17, LiHigh School student Logan Patnaude, The GMC Sustainability Office, the Poultney Area Artist Guild, and Stone Valley Community Market. The mission of the project was to create an art mural in town that would enhance the revitalization effort set forth by Poultney 2020. The mural was painted on the right side of the Stone Valley Community Market and brought over 30 community members together for the painting dates. The project has helped create a sense of pride and ownership among citizens in our community.

### ***Poultney Historical Society (Ongoing)***

GMC and the Poultney Historical Society have developed a strong partnership with the purpose of promoting and highlighting our local history among members of our community. This year, GMC students Sarah Gastler '13 and Oluwadamilola Onakomaiya '16 collaborated with the Society on a research project that highlights the history of several women who fled over Herrick Mountain (Taconic Range) to announce the Battle of Hubbardton. Additionally, student Alison Putman '13 devoted several hours to support the Society with events, research, and data entry.

The GMC Sustainability Office also supports the Historical Society with several ongoing projects including the planning of East Poultney Day, accessioning, scanning historical photos, communications and docenting at the museums, among others.

### ***First-Year Impressions! (FYI!)***

First Year Impressions! (FYI!) is a pilot program partnering with the FYE (First Year Experience) and the Sustainability Office at GMC. FYI! intends to introduce new students to the human and physical landscape beyond the college gates. The vision is that students will get an early start on building connections with the greater Poultney community, and feel empowered to take action to make it an even more sustainable place to live. This program was inspired by Williams College's *Where Am I!?* pre-orientation program and was crafted by thirteen current GMC students, a faculty, a staff, and a local citizen.

## Data

### Description of Categories

- **Activity:** Lists the projects, events, or activities that were organized or supported by the Sustainability Office through the Outreach Coordinator.
- **Participants:** Includes all people who helped in the planning and organization of each of the activities listed, not just people who attended. Participants include faculty, staff, students, and community members without any distinction.
- **Attendees:** Includes all the people who attended any of the projects, events, or activities listed.
- **Volunteer Hours (VH):** Refers to the number of hours that were contributed by the participants in volunteer work (hours that are not counted as service learning).
- **Service Learning Hours (SLH):** Refers to the number of hours that were contributed by participants to a service-based project as part of a class, independent study, or internship.

**Table 1. Compiled Data**

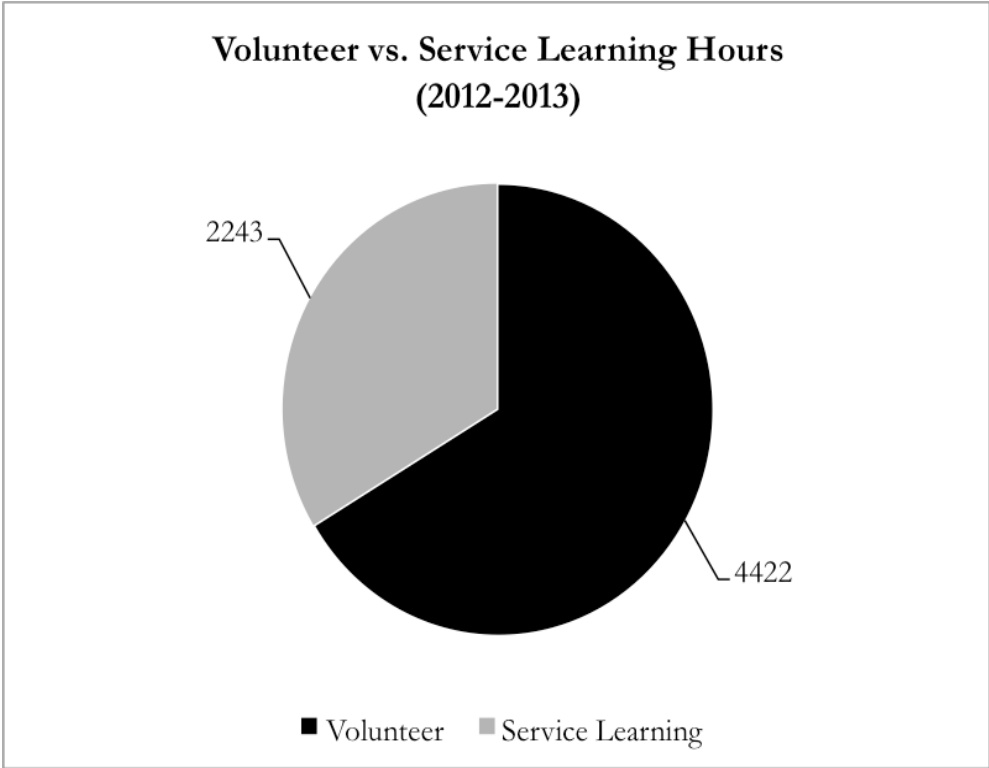
Activity	Participants	Attendees	VH	SLH
Voter Registration and Education	16	273	269	96
Global Bazaar	9	155	53	0
MLK Day	7	80	30	5
Spotlight on Business	7	250	37	0
Maple Fest	4	350	18	0
Poultney Art Mural	39	50	161	189
Poultney Historical Society	6	0	82	8
Mindmixer	23	75	171	275
Poultney 2020	117	185	1,440	750
Poultney Earth Fair	205	400	1,741	920
First Year Impressions!	16	0	420	0
	449	1818	4422	2243

$$\text{Volunteer} + \text{Service Learning} = \text{Total Hours}$$

$$4,422 + 2,243 = \mathbf{6,665 \text{ Hours}}$$

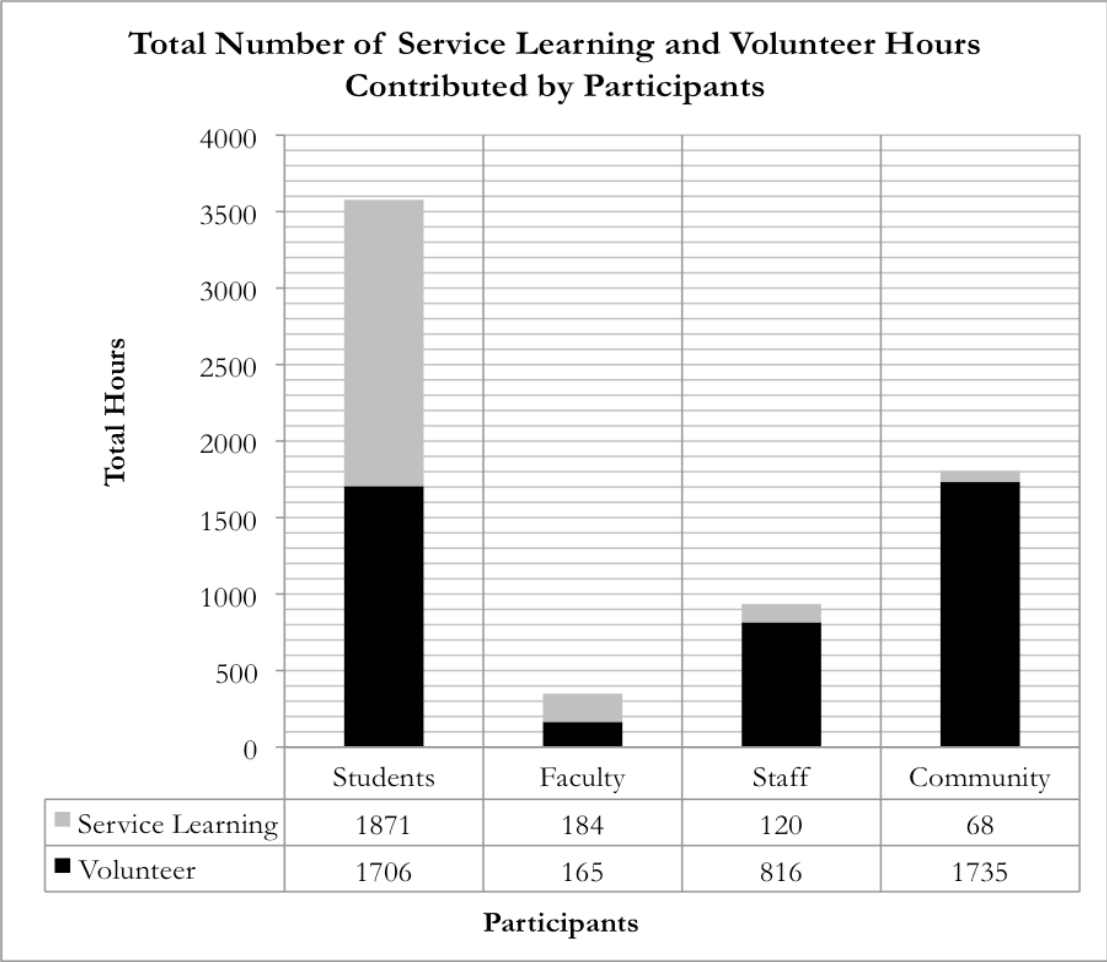
Table 1 shows that a total of 449 participants were involved in the planning, organizing, and execution of each of the activities described in this document. It highlights the total number of volunteer and service learning hours contributed by each. The average hours of volunteer and service learning contributed per person is equal to 14.84 hours

**Graph 1. Service Learning vs. Volunteer Hours**



Graph 1 shows that the total hours of service from volunteering accounts for 66% of the work, while the total hours from service-learning accounts for 34%.

**Graph 2. Number of Hours Contributed by Different Categories of Participants**



Graph 2 represents the amount of volunteer and service learning hours contributed by the participant groups.

**Conclusion**

Our purpose behind this work is twofold. First, at GMC we are committed to educating the next generation of transformational leaders that will foster meaningful change in their communities and the broader world. As reflected in the figures presented in this report, through our work at the Sustainability Office, we demonstrate our commitment to this mission by providing students with hands-on experiences that immerse them in their immediate communities through volunteering and service learning. Our hope is that through these activities they can develop their leadership skills and establish long-lasting relationships as they carry out their careers.

Second, GMC is committed to helping build the social, financial, and natural capital of the Town and the region. We strive to have a net positive impact on the world across all three of these areas. We aim to be active, responsible citizens of our local and global communities.

## APPENDIX. CHARTS BY ACTIVITY

### Activity 1. Global Bazaar - October 12, 2013

Category	No. of Participants	Volunteer Hours	Service-Learning Hours
Students	6	42	0
Faculty	2	2	0
Staff	1	9	0
Community	0	0	0

### Activity 2. Voter Registration and Education

Category	No. of Participants	Volunteer Hours	Service-Learning Hours
Students	9	144	96
Faculty	0	0	0
Staff	1	49	0
Community	6	76	0

### Activity 3. Martin Luther King Day - Monday, January 21, 2013

Category	No. of Participants	Volunteer Hours	Service-Learning Hours
Students	3	10	5
Faculty	1	5	0
Staff	1	5	0
Community	2	10	0

### Activity 4. Spotlight on Business - Saturday, April 13, 2013

Category	No. of Participants	Volunteer Hours	Service-Learning Hours
Students	6	30	0
Faculty	0	0	0
Staff	1	7	0
Community	0	0	0

### Activity 5. Maple Fest - Saturday, March 23, 2013

Category	No. of Participants	Volunteer Hours	Service-Learning Hours
Students	3	12	0
Faculty	0	0	0
Staff	1	6	0
Community	0	0	0

### Activity 6. Poultney Art Mural - Wednesday, May 1, 2013

Category	No. of Participants	Volunteer Hours	Service-Learning Hours
Students	4	24	121
Faculty	2	7	0
Staff	1	34	0
Community	32	96	68

**Activity 7. Poultney Historical Society - October 2012 - June, 2013**

Category	No. of Participants	Volunteer Hours	Service-Learning Hours
Students	4	25	4
Faculty	1	0	4
Staff	1	57	0
Community	0	0	0

**Activity 8. MindMixer - March 15, 2013 (Spring 2013)**

Category	No. of Participants	Volunteer Hours	Service-Learning Hours
Students	20	120	275
Faculty	1	25	0
Staff	2	26	0
Community	0	0	0

**Activity 9. Poultney 2020 - Wednesday, April 24, 2013**

Category	No. of Participants	Volunteer Hours	Service-Learning Hours
Students	48	600	540
Faculty	8	50	90
Staff	6	240	120
Community	55	550	0

**Activity 10. 6th Annual Poultney Earth Fair - Thursday, April 25, 2013**

Category	No. of Participants	Volunteer Hours	Service-Learning Hours
Students	86	448	830
Faculty	6	24	60
Staff	5	290	30
Community	108	979	0

**Activity 11. First Year Impressions - Ongoing**

Category	No. of Participants	Volunteer Hours	Service-Learning Hours
Students	13	251	0
Faculty	1	52	0
Staff	1	93	0
Community	1	24	0