

First-Year Impressions (FYI!) Pre-Orientation Program



**Interim Report
2014**

Submitted to: Hills and Hollows of the Vermont Community Foundation

Date: Tuesday, November 11, 2014

Name of the Organization: Green Mountain College

Fiscal Agent: Sustainability Office, Green Mountain College

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Kevin Bubriski, *Professor of Arts and Communication Studies*

Program Name (if applicable): First Year Impressions! (FYI!) Pre-Orientation Program

Grant Amount: \$5,000.00

Period that this report covers: 8/14 to 8/15

Summary of Accomplishments:

1. Town-gown relationships were strengthened.
2. New students had the opportunity to familiarize themselves to the area before classes started.
3. Over 700 hours of service were dedicated to the Poultney Community during the program.
4. Student leaders solidified and honed their leadership skills by having active participatory involvement in the decision making process of the program.
5. A significant contribution was added to the college's retention effort.
6. FYI! participants learned and lived the habit of getting off- of campus and to explore the larger Poultney Community.



FIRST YEAR IMPRESSIONS! (FYI!) PRE-ORIENTATION PROGRAM



(Report 2014-15)

By José Tulio Gálvez Contreras

Project Description

The First Year Impressions (FYI!) pre-orientation program at Green Mountain College (GMC) gives new students the opportunity to build relationships with the people in Poultney before classes begin. New students and upperclassmen travel around the town and surrounding communities to do community service projects for one week. Some of the service projects involve trail maintenance, garden weeding, town-wide cleanup, farm gleaning, special history tasks with the local historical society, and several other volunteer projects needed in community. While students engage in these projects, they constantly interact with various residents and neighbors of Poultney.

Throughout the week-long pre-orientation, FYI! students get the chance to eat at local restaurants and diners in the area. On the second night of the program new students, along with the student leaders, cook a meal with a family in Poultney. At the same time they also get the chance join GMC faculty and staff for potluck gatherings. All participants in the programs become kitchen certified to use the GMC's Solar Harvest Center, which provides the group plenty of future opportunities to cook community meals for themselves, their guests and friends.

By the end of the week-long adventure students have been introduced to several local area organizations including:

- Green Mountain College (GMC)
- GMC Cerridwen Farm and Solar Harvest Center
- Green Mountain Power
- Local Businesses and Restaurants
- Local Area Farms
- PEG-TV – Rutland Community Access
- Poultney Food Shelf
- Poultney Historical Society,
- Poultney-Mettowee Natural Resources Conservation District (PMNRCD)

- Poultney Rotary Club,
- Poultney Town Hall,
- Rutland Area Farm and Food Link (RAAFL),
- Rutland Young Professionals
- Stone Valley Arts,
- St. Catherine State Park,
- Young At-Heart Senior Center

Eight new students to GMC and seven student leaders enrolled in FYI! 2014. This year was particularly special for FYI! as we welcomed foreign exchange students as part of the program. In the late spring of 2014 the GMC administration made the decision to combine the FYI! program with international student orientation. Three out of the eight new students participants in FYI! were international students. **(See APPENDIX A for List of Participants).**

Accomplishments

FYI! 2014 success is assessed based on feedback received from participants: including students, faculty, staff, and local community members. Assessment consideration includes evaluation of the program events and the operational flow of the scheduled daily activities . **(See APPENDIX B for Detailed Program Schedule).** All sixteen FYI! student participants (new and upperclassmen) are still enrolled in the college. All of them have reported to be having a good semester.

Specifically, some major accomplishments of FYI! 2014 include:

1. Town-gown relations were strengthened through the creation of trust, friendships and collaborative partnerships with our neighbors and local organizations. **(See APPENDIX C for List of Community Partnerships & Acknowledgements).**
2. Young and talented people, who were new to the area, are now inspired to be responsible citizens as they go through their college careers and make a new home for themselves in Poultney.
3. Over 700 hours in community service was contributed to the Poultney Community. **(See Appendix D for Breakdown of Total Service Hours).**
4. FYI! participants' discovered the social and natural beauty of our region and how they fit in this environment.
5. Student leaders' grew personally and developed as they had an active voice and opportunity to take ownership of the program. They have become mentors to new students, and continue to use knowledge about GMC and Poultney to make sure all new participants feel settled and at home.
6. Foreign exchange students were given a closer introduction of the area than they would have had in a traditional college orientation. As result, two of the FYI! foreign exchange students recently made a trip to Boston with one of the Poultney residents they met during the program.
7. The college's retention effort is supported through establishing camaraderie between upperclassmen, new students, faculty, staff, administration and local community members who participated in FYI! 2014.
8. FYI! Students have been motivated to work toward the objectives stated in the GMC Sustainability 2020 plan.

The list of accomplishment in summary shows that the FYI! provides student participants with quality education by introducing them to the rich academic and extracurricular opportunities beyond the campus gates.

Funding Sources:

GMC, Hills Hollows of the Vermont Community Foundation, and new student registration are all instrumental sources of funding for the FYI! pre-orientation program.

Green Mountain College:

- GMC financially supports the FYI! pre-orientation program in two ways. GMC's allows staff to allocate hours to plan, coordinate, and execute FYI! during the summer and the start of the Fall Semester. The college also provides housing for the students who participate in the program.

Hills and Hollows Grant:

- The funds from the generous \$5,000.00 grant funding -- allocated for a period of three years -- by Hills and Hollows in 2013 supports the planning and makes it easier to coordinate the FYI! pre-orientation program. This money helps pay for upfront costs and cover unforeseen expenses. The grant funding is particularly resourceful to demonstrate that there is enough financial stability to grow the program over the next couple of years. Some funds from this grant award still remain in the account for next year.

Student Fees:

- New students are required to pay \$250.00 registration fee. This fee covers room, meals, transportation, special programs, and access to several local venues. Student leaders are not required to pay any fee. Their expenses are also absorbed by the registration fee paid by the new students.

Three out of the eight paid the registration fee. The costs of registration for the three foreign exchange students were paid by the remaining funds of Hills and Hollows grant.

Budget Breakdown:

- \$2,874.21 was carried over from last year
- \$1,250.00 as income this year
- \$4,124.21 was the total in the account before expenses
- \$2,787.00 were the Expenses for year 2014
- \$1,336.96 is the amount of funds that remains in the account

(See APPENDIX E for Detailed expenses report.)

Lessons Learned & Evaluation

Four key lessons that came out of FYI! 2014.

The FYI! pre-orientation program can only flourish and thrive with full endorsement from the GMC Admissions Department. FYI! 2014 fell short in meeting its desired goal of attracting between ten to

twelve new students. The total number of new students enrolled in the program was eight and this includes the three foreign exchange students that join the program this year. Admissions Department assistance to help recruit participants for FYI! 2014 came late in the summer. An earlier start would have been very helpful in meeting the mark.

Open communication and transparency works better than none. This year FYI! was combined with international students' orientation due to budget cuts and personnel transitions at the college. This decision was not part of the original plans of the program coordination. Several alterations to the planned schedule had to be made and there was miscommunication about budget allocations necessary to support international students. These issues could be avoided in the future through more transparent and direct communication between administrators, staff, and parties involved in the planning of the program.

Empower FYI! participant, leaders and new students, to take ownership of the planning and coordination of the program. FYI! was designed with the intention to become a student led and student driven pre-orientation program. The hope is that FYI! participants take responsibility for the program and make sure it runs smoothly every year. This will allow them to grow as individuals. They will get the chance to polish their leadership, marketing, budgeting, and communications skills, all resourceful and essential tools in today's globalized society. Additionally, the group will be building a culture of service among each other and they will be able to create a true family for themselves in Poultney.

Keep a 2 to 1, new student to student leader ratio. Although the program expenses were within the projected budget, it must be noted these expenses were exceeded given the number of participants enrolled in the program. A possible way to prevent this situation is to reduce the number of student leaders. For the past two years, the program ratio has been one new student to one student leader. It is suggested that for the upcoming FYI! program the ratio be reduced to two new students per one student leader.

Sustainability of the Program

FYI! is one of the most innovative programs that GMC has created in order to significantly advance the social capital component of the Sustainability 2020 Strategic Plan. FYI! involves multiple stakeholders from the college and the greater Poultney community. Participation ranges from GMC Trustees, to students (new and upperclassmen), to faculty and staff, to town residents, to local businesses and organizations.

FYI! is also an alternative pre-orientation program to Wilderness Challenge. FYI! provides an opportunity for new students who want to arrive on campus before semester starts and who do not want to be completely immersed in the outdoors for a whole week. **(See APPENDIX F for student feedback from students)**

FYI!'s motto is "Ready to Grow!" The mission of the program is to create many unforgettable service experiences for future incoming students, and give them a chance to meet their peers and neighbors, learn about the region, and think about the many assets that make our community so special. FYI! encourages new students to get off campus and explore the community around us. In this sense, the program serves as a medium for students to learn what it is that they can do to help themselves and the community to grow in a sustainable manner.

To continue to attain the most value out of FYI! and ensure sustainability of the program there are three recommendations.

1. It is highly recommended that an optional 1 credit academic component is attached to program. This will help attract a critical mass of students to future FYI! programs and it will also give new students to get a fresh start into academics as they begin their journey at GMC. Students who choose to take advantage of the 1 credit will be required to write about their experiences in a journal and work on a research paper on community resilience. The credit will count towards the students' credit schedule for the Fall Semester and cost of the credit fee will be done by arrangement with the registrar's office, if the student does not to have a credit overload. Fee for registration is still required. (NOTE: Leaders should also have the option to make FYI! a credit course.)
2. It is necessary to begin to promote the program early in the spring. This effort can only be successful with commitment of the College's Admissions Department to help market and publicize the FYI! pre-orientation program to prospective students, student applicants, and accepted students. The Admissions Department has direct contact with these stakeholder groups, which makes them a key stakeholder group who can help advance the goals of the program.
3. The Hills and Hollows grant from the Vermont Community Foundation is the grease that has kept the wheels spinning for FYI!. The grant money has supported FYI! in so many ways and has allowed the coordinating team to provide students and every participant involved with an unforgettable and life-changing experience. After next year, however, there will be no more funds to support the program. GMC, hence, will have to come to the determination on how much value they see on keeping the program running and what is it that the College can do to keep it alive.

Conclusions

Through community service the FYI! Program, introduces new students to the human and physical landscape beyond the College gates. New students get an early start at building connections with the greater Poultney community, and are empowered to take action to make the Poultney area an even more sustainable place to live. FYI! is a program that specifically contributes to the building of resilient communities. The program exemplifies how when one works in the local area much can be accomplished for the betterment of the community. The program brings people from all backgrounds together through civic engagement and community service projects. As participants in the program engage in experiences together and with each other, they also build trust and are inspired to continue building community relationships. FYI! students, new and upperclassmen, are the main beneficiaries of the program as their self-confidence is enhanced and they are able to find comfort in their new home away from home.

Appendixes

APPENDIX A. First Year Impressions (FYI!) Pre-Orientation Program 2014

Leaders:

Jordan Cohen
Macauley Lerman
Salima Mahamoudou
Violet Neff
Maggie Parson
Carlos Torrealba
Christopher Weslosky

New Students:

Eun Jeong Kim
Jada Lee
Mia Leeds
Andrew Graham Smith
Allison Stopyra
Amanda Terry
Suong Bo Yeon (Sally)

2014 Program Coordinators:

José Gálvez Contreras,
Sustainable Community Development Outreach Coordinator

Kevin Bubriski,
Professor of Arts and Communications

Joseph Petrick,
VP of Student Life

APPENDIX B. Detailed FYI! Program Schedule 2014



**(Tentative Schedule)
August 24-29**

SUNDAY, AUGUST 24TH

8 a.m. - 12 p.m. | FYI! Check-In | Location TBD

When you arrive you will be given your welcome packet. Representatives from Admissions, Student Life, Financial Aid, GMAP, and FYI! will be there to greet and welcome you to the Green Mountain College (GMC) family. Once you submit your health and information technology forms, you will receive your keys.

12 p.m. - 1 p.m. | Friends & Families Lunch | GMC Solar Harvest Center

At the Solar Harvest Center we will meet and greet, while we enjoy lunch together. This will be the time when we go over our schedule for the week.

1 p.m. - 2 p.m. | What is it like to be a student at GMC? | GMC Solar Harvest Center

Students and leaders will discuss what it is like to be a part of the GMC community. This is a great time for students to ask questions in preparation for the upcoming semester.

2 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. | Student IDs | GMC Campus Security, Basement of Withey Hall

Campus Security will issue your GMC Student IDs. It is strongly recommended for everyone to bring big, bright, and shiny smiles for their photos!

2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. | Computer Services Info Session | GMC Griswold Library

Paul Millette, director of Griswold Library, IT Services & Learning Support Services, will lead a computer service technology informational session and you will have the opportunity to activate your email account, learn how to connect to the college's internet, moodle, and MyGMC.

4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. | Welcome Dinner | Lake St. Catherine St. Park

We will eat, play, swim, and have fun together during a welcome gathering and dinner at Lake St Catherine St. Park.

MONDAY, AUGUST 25TH

NOTE: the FYI! Crew will be split into two groups who will alternate experiences throughout the day. Monday is also the longest day of the program.

7:30 a.m. - 8:45 a.m. | Breakfast | Perry's Main Street Eatery

Less than a block from campus we will enjoy a delicious breakfast at Perry's Main Street Eatery before we start our community service journey together.

9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. | Tour of Two Villages| Downtown Poultney & East Poultney Green

GROUP A: Jaime Lee will bring the FYI! crew for a tour of Main Street. Jaime Lee is a Green Mountain College Alumna who stayed in Poultney after graduation. This will be one of the best introductions to downtown Poultney that any student could ever hope for, as Jaime Lee is a valuable asset of this community. She brings a lot of positive energy, creative thinking, and lots of passion to all of the community organizations she is involved with. This is a great chance for any participant of FYI! program to connect with her!

GROUP B: Students and leaders will bike to East Poultney, where a member of the Poultney Historical Society Board will lead FYI! on a tour of the historic district. This will be a great chance to learn about the East Poultney Green and its surroundings. East Poultney was the place where Jeffrey Brace was set free and where Horace Greely and George Jones (who later founded The New York Times and The New York Tribune) became friends. The tour will be guided using the Poultney Historical Society's podcast tours, available on their website.

10:15 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. | Community Service Activity | Town Hall & Poultney Historical Society

GROUP A: The FYI! crew will engage in community service activities together. Poultney's town manager, Mr. Jonas Rosenthal, will guide everyone through the several projects. Some service opportunities include roadside cleanup, clearing brush, and weeding the local high school gardens.

GROUP B: FYI! will help and connect with the Poultney Historical Society through numerous ways. Some of the projects that will take place for this service opportunity include accession, maintenance, and clean up of historical records, documents, and equipment.

11:45 a.m. - 12:45 p.m. | Lunch | Trolley Taco/ East Poultney General Store

GROUP A: FYI! Crew will head to the Trolley Taco for lunch, once the service projects have been completed downtown.

GROUP B: FYI! Crew will head to the East Poultney General Store for lunch, once service projects have been completed at the Historical Society.

1 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. | Tour of Two Villages| Downtown Poultney & East Poultney

Group A and Group B will swap places.

3:45 - 4:30 p.m. | Discuss Preparations for Dinner with Poultney Families | GMC Circle

Everyone will meet at GMC Brennan Circle. We will coordinate dinner plans. New students will be cooking dinner for Poultney Families with help of FYI! leaders.

5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. | Cook a Meal for with Poultney Families | Numerous Poultney Residences

FYI! will head over to the Poultney families' residences. Each family is expecting a group of 5-7 people. New students will cook a meal for them.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 26TH

7:30 a.m. - 8:45 a.m. | Breakfast | Nancy's Place

For breakfast we will meet Nancy Dunkin at her restaurant, Nancy's Place. Nancy makes delicious baked goods for her customers and makes very good breakfast sandwiches. Nancy takes care of her customers as if she were their own grandma.

9:00 a.m. - 11:45 a.m. | Community Service Activity | Poultney, VT

We will assist the Poultney Mettowiee Natural Resources Conservation District and Poultney 2020 Parks and Trail Committee to clear and maintain Poultney's Educational Trail. The trail extends 3 miles around town. We will all learn about the natural and recreational areas that we are lucky enough to have in our town.

12:00 a.m. - 12:45 p.m. | Lunch | Localmotive

Localmotive will prepare lunch for FYI! Localmotive is a student led restaurant that offers practical experience to students at LiHigh School. The mission of Localmotive is to serve the community healthy and affordable foods, while partnering with local farms.

1 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. | Hike Dean's Preserve or Cook a Meal for the Potluck | Poultney, VT

Option 1: Meet at Brennan Circle to take a van to Deane's Nature Preserve, 4 miles away from campus. The Lewis Deane Nature Preserve is an 85-acre forest located on St. Catherine Mountain, southeast of the main campus and was a gift to the college by Bill and Linda Osborne in 2002. The view from the top is spectacular.

Option2: Prepare food to contribute to the potluck dinner we will attend later in the evening.

4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. | Special Dinner with GMC Family | Laird and Christina's, Poultney VT

During this dinner FYI! will share a meal with numerous members of the GMC community. This is a good opportunity for new student to meet administrators, faculty, staff, and friends of the GMC family. It is a potluck! You will also get the chance to swim by the river.

7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. | Guided Meditation with Shirley Oskamp | GMC Labyrinth

Shirley Oskamp, GMC Chaplin and Professor of Religious Studies Professor, will lead a walking meditation at the Labyrinth. Everyone is encouraged to bring their good intentions as a new academic year at the college commences once again.

8:30 p.m. - 10:30 p.m. | Blue Grass Night | Taps Tavern (Optional)

Blue Grass night is a very popular Tuesday night tradition at Taps Tavern. You will enjoy the experience. All students are welcome to Taps Tavern for music and food. If you plan to drink alcohol you must be over 21 and present a valid photo ID.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 27TH

7:30 a.m. - 8:30 a.m. | Breakfast | Café Paziienza

Poultney's new coffee shop, Café Paziienza, will serve a quick and light breakfast for FYI!. Café Paziienza specializes in using locally grown and produced gluten free ingredients in all of their in-house baked goods and foods.

8:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. | Solar Harvest Kitchen Certification | GMC Solar Harvest Center

Eleanor Tison, Professor of Sustainable Agriculture and Sociology & Anthropology, will meet FYI! for commercial kitchen certification. One must have the certification to use the facilities at the GMC Solar Harvest Kitchen.. GMC students, faculty, and staff who are certified can make use of the space and equipment free of cost.

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 a.m. | Farming Service Opportunity | Poultney, VT

We will glean at Dutches Farm in collaboration with the Rutland Area Farm and Food Link. Jenn from RAFFL will join us for this activity. It will be a fun time to learn about our local food systems.

12:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. | Castleton Pizza | Castleton, VT

After we finish our community service activities, we will take a van to Sissy's Kitchen. Sissy Hitch will cook a delicious lunch. Sissy is an internationally known chef.

1:00 p.m. -2:30 p.m. | Break or Swimming on the Poultney River | Poultney, VT

As a way to cool off, we will splash and play in the Poultney River behind campus.

2:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. | Take this time to Breathe and Relax| GMC Solar Harvest Center

Enjoy your break and make sure you are ready to cook dinner with Professor Eleanor Tison, later in the afternoon. Also if you have not yet done so, please use this time to complete your writing assessment. The link was sent to your email prior to your arrival on campus. See José if you need more information or clarification

4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. | Cook Dinner Together | GMC Solar Harvest Center

The FYI! Crew along with Professor Eleanor Tison will cook a meal together, after everyone is kitchen certified. We will prepare (and eat!) delicious food, play fun music, and enjoy each other's company.

7:00 - 8:00 p.m. | Tie-Dye Your FYI! T-Shirt | Moses Lawn

Tie Dye your own T-Shirt and wear it with pride!! This is your shirt and gift for being part of the FYI! Program.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 28TH

7:00 a.m. - 8:15 a.m. | Breakfast with Poultney Rotary Club | Tot's Diner

FYI! will join the local chapter of the Rotary Club for an early breakfast at Tot's Diner. Tot's, next door to Town Hall, is a very traditional American Diner and hosts the Rotary Club every week.

8:15 - 9:00 | Take the Bus to Rutland | Stewarts

After breakfast with the Rotary Club we will walk down to Stewarts and take the bus to Rutland. Rutland is 15 miles away and is the largest urban center in the area.

9:00 a.m. - 11:45 a.m. | Community Service Activity| Rutland

Aaron Ashton, GMC Alum and Manager of The Brass Butterfly, will lead a community service opportunity with an organization in downtown Rutland. Aaron was an AmeriCorp Vista and he helped restore communities in the Rutland Region after Hurricane Irene two years ago. Aaron is a fun guy and very knowledgeable about the area.

12:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. | Lunch | TBD

1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. | Tour of Rutland & Trip to Social Security Office | Downtown Rutland

While international students go to the Social Security Office getting their papers in order, Aaron will lead a tour of downtown Rutland. We will stop in Walmart to pick up beverages for the dinner at Paul Millette's home. *International students: please make sure to bring originals and a copy of all your travel documents. This includes: foreign passport, I-94, and DS-2019, but could vary depending on what type of VISA you have.*

4:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. | Dinner in Paul Millette's Home | Benson, VT

Paul Millette, director of the library and computer services technology, will host a dinner and bonfire for all of us at his home.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 29TH

7:30 a.m. - 8:45 a.m. | Continental Breakfast | GMC Bogue Hall

On our last day of FYI! we will enjoy a light continental breakfast on the first floor of Bogue Hall.

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 a.m. | Community Service Activity | TBD

Our final community service project will involve town-wide beautification as we prepare to welcome the new school year.

11:45 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. | Young at Heart Senior Center | Poultney, VT

After we finish our community service activities, we will walk down to the Young at Heart Senior Center to enjoy a meal with the seniors in our community.

1:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. | Relaxation Time | GMC Campus

After we return from lunch, we have a couple of hours to relax and have time to pack before getting the keys to your dorm room.

3:00 p.m. - 4 p.m. | Gong Meditation | Moses Lawn

The Conduit Center from New Hartford, CT will lead a gong session for our enjoyment. This is a wonderful time to reflect over the experiences of the past week.

4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. | Debrief with José Gálvez Contreras | Poultney, VT

We will all gather to share anecdotes of our experiences and figure out ways how to always care for and support one another.

5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. | Pizza Dinner | Bogue Hall Common Area

Tasty pizza from Poultney House of Pizza will be provided for dinner in Bogue's Common Room. This will be an informal gathering as we are beginning to prepare for orientation the next day.

7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. | Move In to Your Dorms | GMC Campus

At this time, you can move into your dorm rooms.

APPENDIX C. List of Community Partnerships and Acknowledgements

Aaron Ashton '12, Alumni, Poultney Resident

Bob and Debbie Buciak, Poultney Residents

Café Paziienza

Conduit Center & Friends

Mark Dailey and Eleanor Tison, Poultney Residents, GMC Professors

Wendy Ellis, GMC Financial Aid Office

Janie Evans, GMC Human Resources

East Poultney General Store

Paul and Marsha Fonteyn, Poultney Residents, GMC President & First Lady

GMC Cerridwen Farm

GMC Garland Kitchen Certification Program at Solar Harvest Center

Green Mountain Power Innovation Center

Bay Hammond, GMC Farm Manager

Michele and Ed Harmon, Poultney Residents, Original Vermont Store

Kathleen "Katje" Hews, GMC Financial Aid Office

Noah Hurley, Poultney Resident, GMC Student Life

Ryan Ihrke, Poultney Resident, GMC Student Involvement

Tom and Ina Smith Johnson, Poultney Residents, Poultney Historical Society

Maggie Kniffin '17, GMC Student

Jaime Lee, GMC Alumna, Poultney Resident, Town Hall, Rutland County Planning Commission

Carol Linskey, Poultney Resident, GMC Adjunct Professor of History & Women Studies

Mac's General Store

Greg Manchester, GMC Business Office

Paul Millette, GMC Director, Library, Computing and Technology Services, & Learning Support Services

Andrea Mott, Poultney Resident, Poultney Historical Society

Nancy's Place

Original Vermont Store

Shirley Oskamp, GMC Chaplin, Pastor United Methodist Church

Amelia (Bella) Palmeari '17, GMC Student

PEG TV

Perry's Main Street Eatery

Poultney Food Shelf

Poultney Mettowee Natural Resources Conservation District (PMNRCD)

Poultney Rotary Club

Poultney Town Hall

Jonas Rosenthal, Town Hall Manager

Roxy's

Rutland Area Farm and Food Link

Rutland Chamber of Commerce

Sissy's Restaurant

Max Seeland, GMC Development and Alumni Relations

Hilary Solomon, PMNRCD District Manager

Stone Valley Arts

Taps Tavern

Cody Tedford, GMC Residence Life

Tot's Diner

Trolley Stop

Karla Vargas, GMC Admissions

Wells Country Store

Mary Lou Willits, GMC Development Office

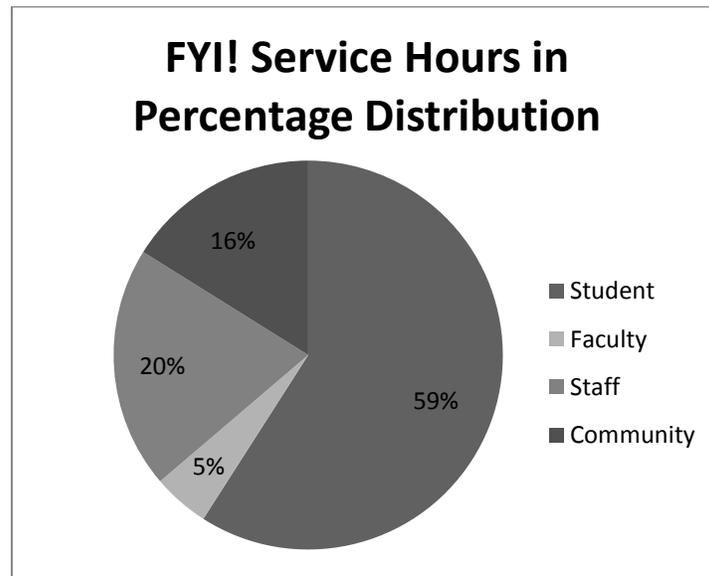
Young at Heart Senior Center

APPENDIX D. Breakdown of total service hours contributed to Poultney during FYI!**Table A. Data of Community Service Hours Contributed by FYI!**

Category	No. Of Participants	Volunteer Hours	Service-Learning Hours
Student	15	440	0
Faculty	2	35	0
Staff	6	150	0
Community	20	120	0
Total	43	745	0

The collected data shows that the total number of hours that were contributed to community service through FYI! 2014 amounts to a total of 745 hours. This hour contribution records account for all hours dedicated in community service during the program. The numbers are conservative because they do not fully represent the effort of so many people in the background who helped this run this program and who also came out to participate in some of the numerous service activities scheduled during the week.

In percentages the distribution of hours is represented as follow.

Chart A. Distribution of Community Service Hours by Participants in Percentages

The graph shows that students contributed 59% of the total sum of the hours; community members, 16%; staff, 20%; and faculty, 5%. This distribution of percentages is significant because it shows that GMC students who participated in the program play a protagonist role in making the program so successful.

APPENDIX E. Detailed expenses report.**Report on Expenses**

Date	Paid to (Store/Vendor)	Purpose	Amount
21-Aug	Nancy's Place	Food	\$ 51.82
22-Aug	Sissy's Kitchen	Food	\$ 82.91
22-Aug	Tenney Brook	Transportation/ Gas	\$ 40.00
23-Aug	Wells Country Store	Snacks	\$ 4.27
23-Aug	Wells Country Store	Food	\$ 34.98
23-Aug	Mach's General Store	Food	\$ 40.29
23-Aug	Twin Falls Farm	Food	\$ 65.00
23-Aug	Poultney Discount Store	Food	\$ 52.23
23-Aug	SVCM	Snacks	\$ 26.43
23-Aug	Shaws	Food	\$ 64.71
24-Aug	Shaws	Food	\$ 4.23
24-Aug	Shaws	Food	\$ 29.45
24-Aug	Cerridwen Farm	Food	\$ 10.00
25-Aug	Jaime Lee	Honorarium	\$ 50.00
25-Aug	Shaws	Food	\$ 13.46
25-Aug	Perry's Diner	Food	\$ 103.85
25-Aug	Trolley Taco	Food	\$ 83.93
25-Aug	EP General Store	Food	\$ 71.49
26-Aug	Nancy's Place	Food	\$ 112.00
25-Aug	NYCE Designs	T-Shirts	\$ 169.60
26-Aug	Full Belly Deli	Food	\$ 109.66
26-Aug	Taps Tavern	Food	\$ 41.42
26-Aug	SVCM	Food	\$ 31.35
27-Aug	Johnson & Son Bikeworks	Transportation/ Bike Rentals	\$ 60.00
27-Aug	Café Paziienza	Food	\$ 80.00
27-Aug	SVCM	Food	\$ 4.99
27-Aug	SVCM	Food	\$ 22.38
27-Aug	Roxy's Snack Stand	Food	\$ 119.74
27-Jan	Cerridwen Farm	Food	\$ 20.00
28-Aug	Tot's Diner	Food	\$ 93.06
28-Aug	The Sandwich Shoppe	Food	\$ 85.00
28-Aug	Poultney Discount Store	Snacks	\$ 15.48
29-Aug	Stewarts Shop	Snacks	\$ 16.96
29-Aug	Charn Thai	Food	\$ 32.00
29-Aug	Young at Heart Senior Ctr.	Food	\$ 63.75
29-Aug	Café Paziienza	Snacks	\$ 6.69
29-Aug	Poultney House of Pizza	Food	\$ 69.49
29-Aug	Conduit Center	Wellness Program	\$ 350.25
30-Aug	Wells Country Store	Food/ Guests	\$ 21.70
30-Aug	Stewarts Shop	Transportation/ Gas	\$ 27.39
30-Aug	Poultney Irving	Transportation/ Gas	\$ 40.00
1-Sep	College Van Rentals	Transportation/Gas	\$ 315.29
2-Sep	Aaron Ashton	Honorarium	\$ 50.00
		<u>TOTAL EXPENSES</u>	\$ 2,787.25

APPENDIX F. Feedback from student participants**Christopher Weslosky**

This year for FYI! Program had a lot to live up to based on its debut success last year. I will start off by saying that when I met the other leaders I was a bit worried about how things would go just based on the shyness of some of them. Every year is different so I quickly set aside my preconceived notions on how things would play out. This year was all about taking full leadership and I feel that as a leader we took control and handled things effectively, even though some may have worked differently than others.

I saw tremendous improvement in group engagement from the first day to the last and that honestly makes me smile and feel proud to be a part of this program. It is warming to hear from the new students how excited they are for next year so they can be the leaders for the new incoming students. Having a mixture of international students brought an interesting dynamic to the table and it was a joy to see them open up to this new culture and group of people who they had never experienced before. I feel that everyone as an individual grew in some sort of way from the week we all spent together, whether it was personally, spiritually, or socially. Some people had never done any sort of community service, cooking or community outreach, and the point of the experience was to try new things and see how easy it is to be a part of something larger than one's self and that was accomplished 100%. I truly hope that this program can live on past me and a few of the other leaders because I wholeheartedly believe that it's an important part of growing and it is beneficial to all who were engaged.

(Anonymity)

First Year Impression was a fun and innovative pro-school program that allowed first year students to learn more about the community they will live in and do some community services. As a leader, FYI was and meant a lot more than that to me. A little challenging for me(at first) but I was able meet new people from different places, with different cultures, likes and experience which at the end made only "One". We were a group, we were ONE. I am really glad I participated in it and looking forward doing similar programs.

(Anonymity)

The FYI Orientation week was an overall positive and fun week that I really enjoyed. It was helpful to get to know that area of Poultney before I actually started classes. It made the transition easier and more comforting. Getting to meet upperclassmen also helped in the process because they all gave insightful tips about the college, and classes, and anything else useful to know. It made me feel good to know I was helping different parts of the community through community service all week too. The community dinners where everyone got together, had fun and shared food was probably my favorite part. I love this aspect of people coming together and meeting new people that welcome you and make you a part of that community. Even now, three weeks into school, I'm friends with everyone I met during FYI! and I keep in contact with them all as well. I'm really glad that I opted out the Wilderness Challenge to do FYI! instead because if I didn't I would have missed out on such a wonderful experience.

(Anonymity)

My week spent with the FYI program really made me feel at home in Poultney. All of the projects we worked on made me feel very connected with the community. My favorite activity of the week was going to east Poultney and learning about all of the history that Poultney holds. My least favorite part was the tour of Rutland, I felt somewhat disconnected from the area and felt like it was unnecessary. FYI was a huge part in making me love GMC.

(Anonymity)

When I first learned about FYI through my mom, I was quite hesitant. Entering a campus a week before everyone else intimidated me, but I am so happy and grateful that I chose the program. Jose and the student leaders allowed me to connect to the community, the campus, and the surrounding area in ways I wouldn't have been able to without that experience. I also have a better significance to community experience and how appreciative people truly be. Looking ahead at next year, my hope is that my peers and I will be able to keep the program a lot for the next year of incoming freshman.