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On November 16th the 2017-18 Fellows gathered with the Board of Directors to share some holiday spirit (of gratitude) and provide updates on their respective projects.

“It was a lively evening with inspiring stories from our current Fellows,” stated Gabrielle Hansen, Executive Director for the ASFHG. “This mid-year point is always an important one for both the Fellows and the Board; the opportunity to hear highlights in an informal setting has allowed us to truly capture the spirit of the season and see the momentum of each project” added Hansen.

Indeed, the projects this year are gaining momentum as evidenced by the updates provided by each Fellow.

After enjoying the hospitality of the host for the evening (BOD Co-Chair, Dr. Andrea Link and her family), the group was welcomed by introductory remarks by Link, Chair Emeritus Dr. David Buck, and Executive Director, Gabrielle Hansen, PhD. Of special note, this year’s Humanitarian of the Year, Dr. Carl Josehart was in attendance. The Fellows then pulled their courage and elevator speech together and lined the living room to share a brief update of their project.

This largest cohort of Fellows to date (18 plus 5 Junior Fellows) said few words, but the message each time was powerful with a common thread: meeting the needs of underserved groups, learning more about these individuals and their unique situations and frequent reminders that overcoming the barriers and providing lasting change is a marathon not a sprint.

The excitement and comradery was infectious and the briefings fueled the conversations for the remainder of the evening.
"The spirit teaches us the great truth that we men must come to love, that is to have reverence for life, to [have] true humanity." — Albert Schweitzer

Sanjana Puri Shared tips on breathing and meditation to reduce stress at Assisthers, an organization serving LGBT women with a disability or chronic disease

Priscilla Ly hosted a cancer awareness event, "Cast Away Cancer" to educate members of the Galveston community about different topics related to cancer (risk factors, screening, emotional support and healthy foods).
More from the Winter Showcase

Pictured at right are UT Health students, Fellows Jennifer Holcomb, Joanna Hawkins and Amber Ansari (and an unnamed colleague). Joanna and Amber are working at Angela House providing support for women as they enter the program and again as they exit the program for a continued healthy and successful life outside of Angela House programs. Jennifer Holcomb is working to support older lesbian women through The Montrose Center and assisting their access to healthcare that is de-stigmatized and comprehensive for their needs.

UT Health Fellows

Stephanie Crowley, a doctoral student at the UH School of Pharmacy is volunteering at a New Hope housing location inside the loop. She is working with residents in recovery for addiction, and when asked to lead a group doing beading, she shared that she had no idea how to ‘do beading’. She added that not knowing how to bead was a benefit to the interactions with the residents in her group. Learning the process of creating beautiful jewelry with beads together was empowering and opened the communication channels. Here Stephanie is modeling a bracelet that one resident started but did not finish. She wears it to remind herself as well as the person who started it and all who see the lovely bracelet that small steps can lead to big results.

Find more information about the work of this year’s Fellows at www.asfhg.org
The mission of ASF is improving the health of vulnerable people now and for the future by developing a corps of Leaders in Service—professionals skilled in creating positive change with and in our communities, our health and human service systems, and our world.

ASFHG has four overall goals:

- Develop Leaders in Service who are educated, experienced, and committed to addressing unmet health needs;
- Improve community health by providing direct service to individuals and strengthening the capacity of community-based organizations;
- Expand educational opportunities in partnering schools while raising awareness of the needs of underserved communities; and
- Maintain a growing and vibrant community of Schweitzer Fellowship alumni (Fellows for Life) committed to lives of service.

Know a student interested in applying for a fellowship or a potential patron to support this important work?
Contact ASFHG Executive Director Gabrielle Hansen, PhD at Gabrielle.Hansen@bcm.edu

Save the Date!

- April 12, 2018: Annual Celebration of Service event celebrates the current Schweitzer Fellows and the accomplishments of their year-long Fellowship projects and honors the Albert Schweitzer Fellowship Humanitarian of the Year at The Junior League of Houston, Inc. Awards Program and Luncheon 12:00-1:30pm
  Tickets and Sponsorship opportunities available
  For more information and tickets go to: 2018 COS
  Or email us at ande.bloom@asfhg.org

Look for other events and volunteer opportunities on Facebook and email announcements

Your end-of-year (tax deductible) donation is important! ASFHG Fellows’ work honoring the legacy of Albert Schweitzer is made possible by you.

Thank you to all of our foundation, corporate, and individual donors as well as the educational institutions in the Houston-Galveston region.
Without you this program would not be possible.