

Service Trips at Concordia

By Bethany Brandvold

To date, there are many service trips that Concordia University has facilitated for students to participate in. Most have been international, but domestic trips have occurred as well. To name a few: Nicaragua, Jamaica, Colorado, and Alaska. This year Concordia is facilitating trips to Nicaragua, Colorado and El Salvador.

Many students enjoy going on these service trips not only for the experience of mission/service work in another country or culture, but also because they get to help someone in need. Many students walk away reflecting on the impact made on the lives they have served. But if you were to ask students what one thing they would walk away thinking about after a service trip, it would probably be reflecting on how their life was changed by the experience.

For those students that have taken the opportunity to serve elsewhere in this country or world, they have come to realize that the impact they make is the impact that they also receive. Anna Dauffenbach, a senior at Concordia this year has traveled to Nicaragua in the past through one of Concordia's Service Trips and this is what she had to say: "My favorite, and weirdest part about going to Nicaragua, was honestly the culture shock. It was hard for me, but I also reveled in it. Having the opportunity to experience a place and people that were completely different from me taught me a lot. God used my trip to teach me a lot about loving others and being grateful. The Nicaraguan people have so much love to share and it was incredible to be a part of that." For Dauffenbach, there was a lot of inward reflection after experiencing the loving atmosphere in Nicaragua. But she also walked away feeling different then when she first arrived,

because she had not only made an impact but had been impacted.

Another student, Brittany Arlow who is also a senior at Concordia this year has traveled to Jamaica in the past. When asked what her favorite part about going on a Service Trip, Arlow responded with the following: "I enjoyed the experience of bonding with a new group of people and sharing in the process of planning, learning about a new culture and then embarking on a journey of serving, growing as a group and meeting new people. There are moments on service trips that you share with each other that teach you things that you will carry with you for the rest of your life. I often randomly think of moments from trips I've been on and thank God so much that I was able to have that experience." Service trips are not only about just going somewhere. Rather there is a lot of planning and team bonding that needs to happen before you can go to serve others. Arlow appreciated this experience and then took joy in being able to see what that look liked, implemented in the culture they were serving.

There are many other comments that can be heard from students of all walks of life who have attended a service trip in the past and are preparing for one now. If you are curious about opportunities that you can still be involved with, you can visit the CALL Center which is located in the tunnel. As of now trips to Nicaragua and Colorado have been set, but they are still looking for people who are willing to go to El Salvador. For any additional information for this year or next year, stop by the CALL Center.

November Crossword

By Tara Rupiper

ACROSS:

- 6) Traditional Native American dwelling
- 9) Name of the village established by the settlers
- 11) Traditional holiday bird
- 13) Symbol of abundance and nourishment
- 14) The country the settlers left behind

DOWN:

- 1) Native American tribe that attended the first Thanksgiving
- 2) 4th Thursday of November
- 3) Name of the settler's ship
- 4) Another word for "settlers"
- 5) Harvest season
- 7) An orange squash and popular pie
- 8) Native American, taught the settlers many things
- 9) 16th and 17th Century English Protestants
- 10) Gathering of crops
- 12) A new grain in the settler's diet

