



**Metropolitan Volunteer Program**

**SFAC Report FY 2014**

**FY2014 Program Questionnaire for SFAC**

1. *Please provide a one-page executive summary of your questionnaire responses. This summary should include, in brief terms: your unit's mission, how you accomplish your unit's mission, and a justification of your unit's student fee allocation in terms of benefits for students.*

**For the sake of tomorrow, the University of Houston Metropolitan Volunteer Program (MVP) takes pride in empowering our community by nourishing the spirit of volunteerism, enhancing educational experiences, affirming human dignity, advocating equality of opportunity, and striving for social justice. MVP aims to unite these values through our commitment to service.**

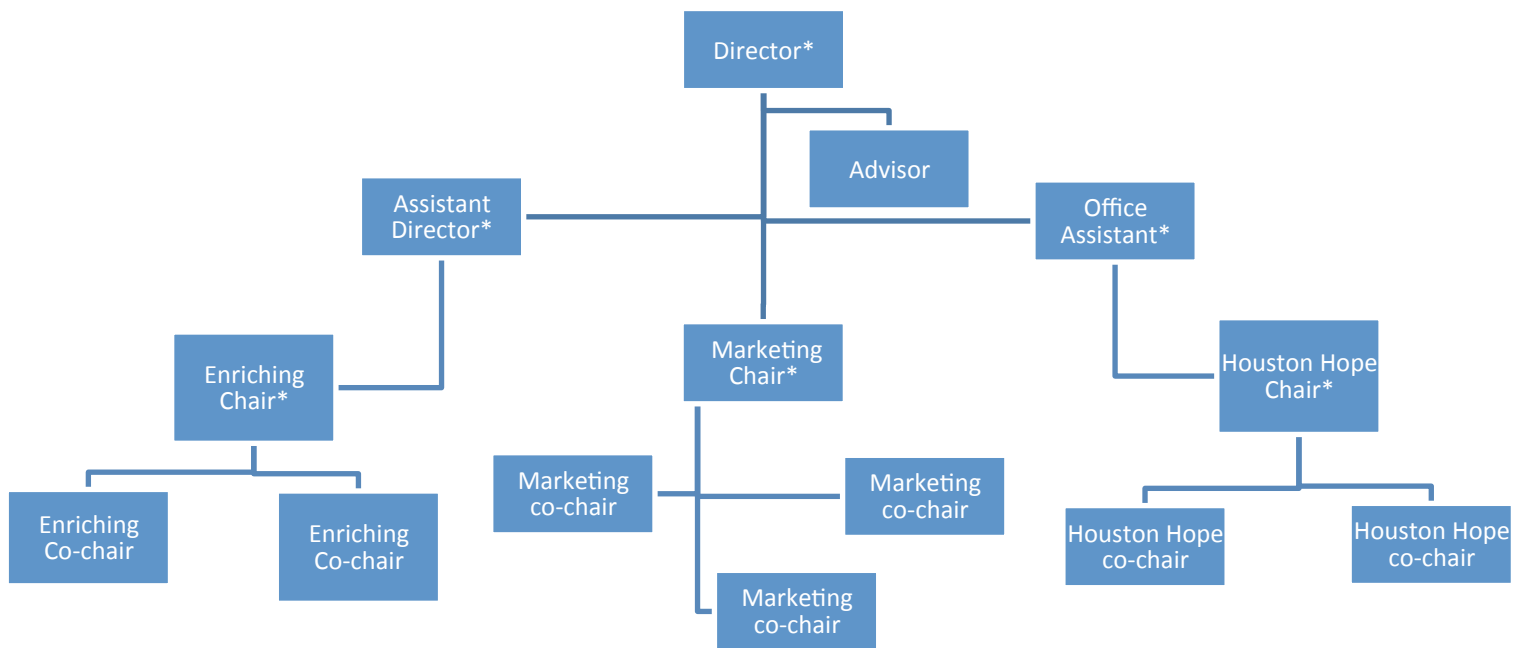
We believe that the first step to making a change in the world is reaching out both hands. In 1989 a group of students came together with a vision of a better tomorrow. They believed that by empowering our community through volunteerism, the world would be one step closer toward a better place. Even though changing the world is no easy task, they believed that the first step was to change the world an individual at a time. Whether it is through service in a children's hospital or a homeless shelter, our vision has not changed. By devoting ourselves toward excellence through service, we have taken the first initiative to embody our mission statement. For the past 23 years, our founders left us with the same beliefs and dreams that today are embodied in a single organization known as Metropolitan Volunteer Program (MVP).

Metropolitan Volunteer Program is devoted to excellence and provides volunteer opportunities and events to all university students, staff, and faculty to benefit our local community. MVP enhances the educational experiences of each individual by providing them with a different perspective about volunteerism and how the world functions. By combining our values with our volunteers, students will strive for human dignity and social justice in both their local community and the world. Metropolitan Volunteer Program strives to provide the best quality experience at all events and will continue to positively change others through service.

In this report we will present the Fiscal year 2014 SFAC report and strategic plans. Included in this report is our organization chart, our reflection on our progress through fiscal year 2013, our Evaluation methods, programing and financial changes, our fiscal year 2014 strategic initiatives and actions steps, and how we differ from other organization at the University of Houston.

Metropolitan Volunteer Program request that SFAC continues funding MVP programs that help provide Volunteering opportunities that guide students toward the first step in making a difference in the community.

2. Provide an organization chart of your unit. Large units may need to have an overview chart and then more specific charts for each program. Where you have multiple staff in the same position (e.g. counselor, advisors, etc.), note this on your chart. Student employees should be cited on the chart and identified as students.



- Bi-weekly volunteer opportunities:
- Community Garden
- Children’s Museum
- Houston Food Bank
- And more

- Advertising all MVP Events
- Social Media
- Posters, Banners, Flyers
- Information Tables
- Outreach to classes

- Major campus events
- Adopt-a-Beach
- Revolution of Heroes
- Yes to the Prom Dress
- Family Fun Day – Frontier Fiesta
- Sandwiches for the Homeless

\*Compensated Student Positions

3. List the objectives that you provided with your 2010-2011 SFAC requests. Please comment on your success in achieving these objectives. If an objective changed during the year, please note this and explain. Also list any new objectives, the rationale for the addition, and comment on your success in achieving these objectives.

**Objective: To enhance educational experiences**

Did not achieve

- MVP did not have at least one mentor for the surrounding schools
- We did not contact surrounding schools for various mentor/tutor opportunities
- We did not create a weekly tutoring program at 3 local schools
- MVP did not mentor Jack Yates High school students last year
- MVP did not attend various Third Ward Community meetings to maintain community awareness.

**Objective: to become the premier student organization at the University of Houston**

Achieved/On-going

- MVP increased involvement of the University of Houston Students
- Increased the awareness of MVP among students, faculty, and staff
- Continued to maintain High quality service programming for both the University and the Houston community
- MVP kept accurate records of volunteer hours and volunteer agency contacts
- Continued to collaborate with other student organizations on campus
- Continue to host effective events
- Increase membership of MVP to include more volunteers that serve on a long-term basis and work to further the organization.

*4. Please discuss the means that you are utilizing to evaluate both your success in achieving the aforementioned objectives and their importance as compared to other objectives that you might pursue. Where data exist, discuss the number of persons served by each of your programs and any assessment measures used to evaluate program success. Please provide the method for collecting these data.*

The Metropolitan Volunteer Program uses various methods on examining our programs that we develop in order to make sure that our programs are being completed and accomplished.

**Volunteer Information:**

MVP strives to evaluate the success of the program by keeping records of accomplishments and soliciting feedback from program participants. To document service hours, we have publicized our service reports and created a database for entry upon request. These forms can be found online at the MVP website, making documentation of these service hours easier for students. We also have sign-in and sign-out sheets to track our volunteer's time and attendance at MVP events.

**Recruitment:**

We evaluate our success by counting attendees at our informational meetings and general meeting throughout the year. Over the past year attendance has grown exponentially at these events. Our greatest periods of recruitment occur during organizational fairs held during freshman and transfer orientations and periodically throughout the year.

Informational (Fall 2011)- **120 Participants**

General Meeting 1 (Fall 2011)- **45 Participants**

General Meeting 2 (Fall 2011)- **60 Participants**

General Meeting 3 (Fall 2011)- **67 Participants**

Informational (Spring 2012)- **60 Participants**

General Meeting 1 (Spring 2012)- **42 Participants**

General Meeting 2 (Spring 2012)- **20 Participants**

General Meeting 3 (Spring 2012)- **4 Participants**

**Revolution of Heroes:**

MVP holds one Revolution of Heroes' fair per semester. Various volunteer organizations/ non-profits come to inform the students about volunteer opportunities in the Houston community. This event has always been a resounding success for MVP; and it is a staple event. According to our records about 10-15 students visited each agencies booth. Last year we had 25 agencies each semester as well as 110 student participants in the fall and 100 plus in the spring. Additionally, feedback received on the evaluations from volunteer agencies indicated that the service organizations that participated in the event enjoyed it and are looking forward to partnering with us for years to come.

### Homecoming:

To kick-off Homecoming 2011, MVP gathered student/volunteer support to rally a team and participate in the festivities. Homecoming is a campus wide event that encompasses UH tradition and student pride. There was a list of events that MVP participated in:

Paint the UC-**15 volunteers**

Canned Sculpture- **20 volunteers, collected 2000 cans**

Cooglympics-**25 volunteers**

Float Building-**20 volunteers**

Homecoming Queen- **MVP's very own Office Assistant, Courtney Brown, ran for the position**

Although we did not win any huge awards this was a great way for our MVP staff to get involved with our student volunteers as well as Cougar sports. There is no set evaluation process for this event, but we believe that our participation is vital to the success of our organization as well as the university.

### Adopt-A-Beach:

This event has gained so much popularity over the years that we actually have waiting lists for spots!! This event is a part of the Texas-Adopt-A-Beach program and we have continued success each year. Last year we took **86 students** to the Galveston coast-line to pick up trash. The students collected **122 bags of trash and a few tires**. After the service event, the volunteers gathered for food on the beach (to promote social activity). These gave students a way to bond and communicate with other students from other universities as well as UH. This event continues to be a success as each year passes and can be seen in our constant requests to continue attending as well as student/volunteer support.

*5. Please discuss any budget or organizational changes experienced since your last (FY2013) SFAC request, their impact on your programs, and your reason for implementing them. SFAC recognizes that some programs did not receive the funds that they requested, that some programs were impacted by additional expenses after the conclusion of the budget cycle, and that some programs may be ahead of or behind their self-generated income projections. In addition, if your unit concluded FY2012 with a Ledger 3 Fund Equity balance, please describe the conditions which caused the fund balance.*

Over the past Fiscal Year, Metropolitan Volunteer Program has undergone several structural changes. Unfortunately, some of the programs that were presented in the FY 2012 request did not occur due to both advising and University changes. However, MVP adapted to the changes and decided to take a more financially conservative route.

Throughout the Fiscal year 2012, MVP was under the supervision of the Center for Fraternity and Sorority Life (CFSL) and went through multiple changes in advisors. This caused programing and professional guidance problems that effected the entire Fiscal year.

Towards the end of the year, the university went through construction changes which caused us to relocate. The construction caused some of the end of the year programing like participating in the New Student Orientation (NSO) to go unplanned. The renovating also caused MVP a hiring delay due to transition deadlines.

Some of the affected programs were:

- MVP Mentoring Program and community awareness.
- Expanding the Number of Coordinators. MVP did not have the resources and time to find coordinators.
- MVP Cougar Cubs. Cougar Cubs was merged under Enriching Houston. This created a programming conflict that led to the dismissal of Cougar Cubs.
- MVP Senior Smiles. Senior Smiles merged with Houston Hope causing change in programming.

Due to all the changes from this past year, MVP took a more Fiscal conservative route. We started Fiscal Year 2012 with \$59,698. Through our efforts to limit our programming and our savings in salaries, we finished the year with \$7,705.71 remaining.

6. *The terminology for responding to this item has been amended to be consistent with the strategic planning framework. Therefore, SFAC requests that you report your success measures in terms of strategic initiatives and action steps versus goals and objectives as previously requested. To this end, please list your 2013-2014 strategic initiatives and action steps in priority order. Larger units may wish to group responses by subprogram. Under each strategic initiative, please state the specific action steps (programs, activities, services, policies/procedures, etc.) you implemented to accomplish your stated initiative.*

### ***Nourishing the Spirit of Volunteerism***

#### **Maintain the position of being one of the top volunteer organizations at the University of Houston Campus**

- By Connecting and collaborating with other Higher Education Institutions in the Houston area
- Increasing the impact of MVP uniting with other organizations of similar interest to provide a positive impact to the greater Houston community.
- Grow and create the number of UH volunteer members on all three MVP committees by increasing both MVP participation and developing more leaders.
- By increasing the student participation on each of our events.
- By improving marketing through fliers, banners, word of mouth, and/ or anything that is creative that our marketing team discovers is appropriate.

### **Advocating Equality of Opportunity**

#### **Increasing the variety of new initiatives of Metropolitan Volunteer Program through Houston Hope events, while maintaining some signature events.**

- By increasing the intake of new initiatives events.
- By providing students with a minimum of one new event each semester.
- By increasing participation in the events that are already taking place.

#### **Increasing the variety of new initiatives for Enriching Houston events while continuing to Maintain signature events.**

- By increasing participation in volunteer opportunities like the Houston food Bank, the children's Museum, and community Garden.
- By Creating new bi weekly volunteer opportunities for students
- By increasing the awareness of enriching Houston events by having more advertising of bi weekly events through classrooms, professors, and our MVP newsletter.



*7. What are the other possible sources of funding available to your unit and what efforts are being made to access them (e.g. grants, donations, etc.)? If you receive funds from other sources, please briefly describe the source, purpose, and duration of the funding and report the amounts received in the appropriate rows/columns on the SFAC Spreadsheet.*

MVP currently does not have any additional sources of funding available to the organization.

*8. Please describe any services that are similar to yours and/or any overlap between unit and any other unit(s) providing services to students and the rationale for the overlap.*

One of the most valuable traits of the University of Houston is diversity. The University of Houston has 500 plus organizations including Academic Honor Societies, Greek, multi-cultural, athletic, and Interest based. Many of them require some form of service to the community whether it is philanthropy or required service hours or an average project. However, Metropolitan Volunteer Program differs from other organizations by dedicating our entire mission solely to service. MVP is open to all UH students and does not have any additional membership restrictions or requirements. MVP dedicates its entire budget for volunteering opportunities and events for students. In fact, many service-based organizations come to MVP for co-sponsorship and ideas to improve their volunteer opportunities. Therefore, Metropolitan Volunteer Program is and will continue to provide volunteerism to students at the University of Houston.