



Metropolitan Volunteer Program

SFAC Report FY 2011

Submitted January 28, 2010

STUDENT FEES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SFAC)

FY2011 PROGRAM QUESTIONNAIRE

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 action to empower the campus and community by:

- Nourishing the spirit of volunteerism
- Enhancing educational experiences
- Affirming human dignity
- Advocating equality of opportunity, and
- Striving for social justice

MVP works to achieve these objectives through education, recruitment, referral and commitment to service

MVP accomplishes our organizational goals by:

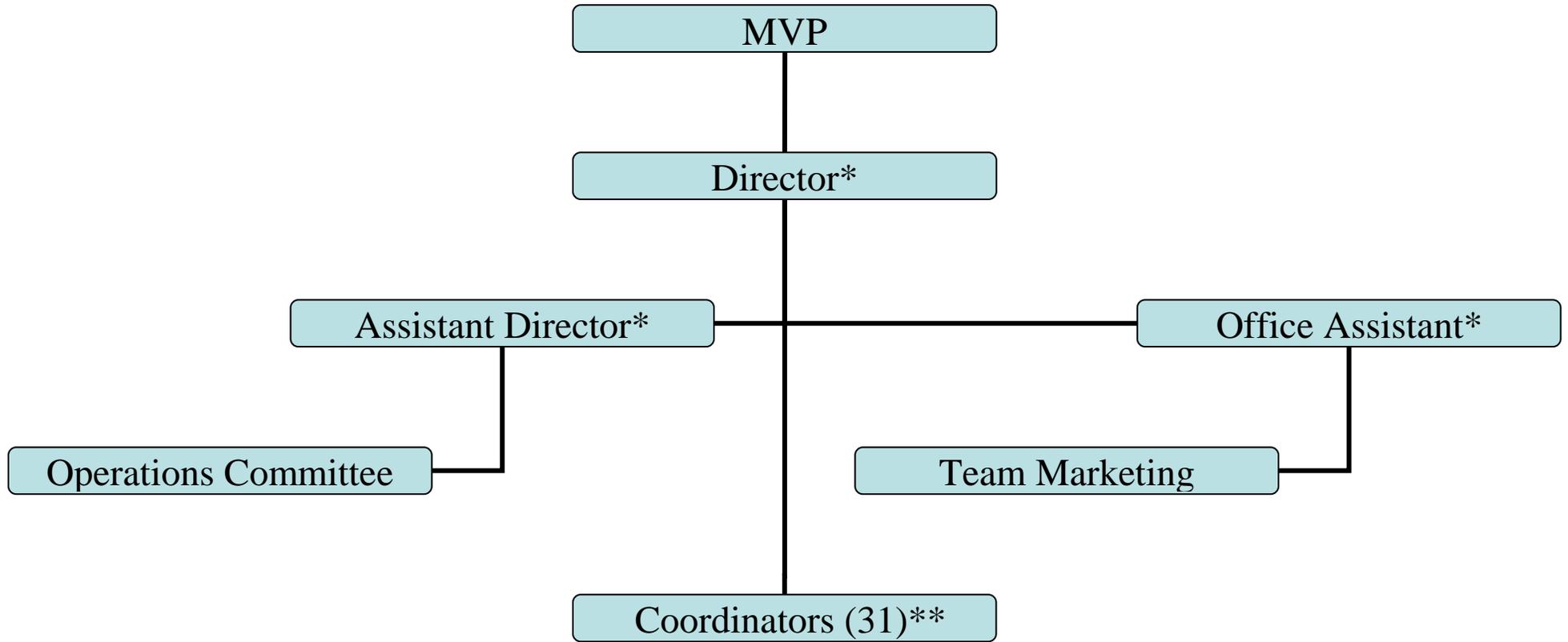
The Metropolitan Volunteer Program linking students, faculty and staff to the Houston community through volunteerism outreach. MVP educates the student body about the importance of volunteerism through our general body informational meeting, outreach programs workshops and events such as Yates School Day, Propositional 4 Informational and Homeless Awareness day. Additionally, through programs such as Revolution of Heroes Volunteer Fair, MVP educated UH students, faculty, and staff about the myriad of non-profit agencies and volunteer organizations that are available locally and are continuously looking for volunteers. A primary method utilized by MVP to accomplish our mission is the recruitment and retention of volunteers. This year MVP continues to focus on increasing awareness of the organization at the university and in the community through advertising, maintaining more office hours, and maintaining our involvement with student organizations, non-profit agencies, and community centers. We have enhanced the appeal of MVP to motivated students by increasing the number of MVP coordinator positions and creating a team marketing to specifically market the upcoming events. Additionally, we used our contacts with both student and volunteer organizations to refer volunteers for events and to refer agencies to those volunteers. Another way we have accomplished our goals is through learning from mistakes. In order for MVP to grow, we understand that there will be some mistakes along the way. Our goal is to learn from those mistakes and use those lessons to help the organization continue to grow. MVP also accomplished its mission by continuing to keep updated records of service hours in the volunteer database.

MVP benefits the University of Houston and its student by:

MVP benefits the University of Houston and its students by helping the university fulfill its community service mission by encouraging students to serve in local non-profit organizations as volunteers and locating service opportunities that fit the students' needs. By acting as a volunteer clearinghouse, MVP is a primary source of information on agencies and programs. University of

Houston departments, well-known non-profit groups, and any agency needing volunteers, rely on MVP to coordinate volunteers and activities for them or for a particular event they are hosting. MVP also promotes a lifetime commitment to philanthropy, service, and volunteerism among students. The Metropolitan Volunteer Program provides an effective experiential learning opportunity for students by combining classroom study with co-curricular, leadership, and internship experiences, while enhancing the public image of the university by showing our strong commitment to community service and the betterment of society.

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, custodian, etc), note this on your chart. Student employees should be cited on the chart and identified as students.



*Compensated Positions

** Environmental, Residential Life, Children and Youth, Arts and Culture, Tech/Media/Website, Special Events, Healthcare, Nutrition and Fitness, Education and Literacy, Family Issues, Social Justice, After-School, Senior Citizens

3. List the objectives that you provided with your 2009-2010 SFAC request. 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: Create new MVP annual programs'

Achieved/ On-going

MVP created a mentoring event for the students at Jack Yates High School. Since Jack Yates freshman class has a 43% drop out rate, MVP took the initiative to create a mentoring event to spend a day with Freshmen and Sophomore students. During the event, MVP was able to really connect with the students and explain the importance of graduating High School. Since the event was a complete success, MVP will be making this event an annual event.

Objective: Become an umbrella organization

Achieved/ On-going

MVP created a sense of community and support that makes students and organizations derive utility from multilateral and shared activities. We also increased organizations' awareness with the addition of Team Marketing. We also assist volunteer and community service based registered student organizations and allow them to have the ability to carry out activities which could not be accomplished alone, due to size, experience or sense of community and support that makes students derive utility from multilateral and shared activities

Objective: Plan another large scale event with Universities in the Community

On-going

MVP is currently working with various universities such as HCC, TSU, City of Houston and Houston Parks and Recreation with the planning of Rock the Block. MVP had coordinated conference calls and meeting throughout the semester.

We have also maintained and developed contacts with volunteer organizations on most university and community college campuses within the Houston area.

Objective: Create an educational workshop series

On-going

MVP is currently in the process of creating an educational workshop series for the Spring MVP Week.

Objective: Host a Revolution of Heroes twice a year

On-going

MVP hosted a Fall Revolution of Heroes and is in the process of planning a Spring Revolution of Heroes. We have already contacted the organizations from last semester and they are more than excited to participate. We will revisit this goal Spring 2010.

Objective: Attend local volunteer conferences

Revisit Spring 2010

At this time, we have not currently attended any local volunteer conferences. This was the goal of the previous MVP administration. We will revisit this goal in Spring 2010.

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 the satisfaction level of those served. Please provide the method for collecting these data.

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. These forms can now be found online at the MVP website, making the documentation of these service hours easier for students. We have sign-in and sign-out sheets to track volunteer attendance and time at MVP events. We have created databases to track participation in MVP. One database that we maintain tracks community agencies that we work with. We currently have over 150 agencies and organizations in this database. After starting a new database June 2009, MVP received 1500 new members after the first 3 months. Our database continues to grow daily, which contains information about all MVP volunteers.

Revolution of Heroes

Our greatest periods of recruitment occur during organization fairs held during freshman and transfer orientations and periodically throughout the year. MVP held its annual Revolution of Heroes Volunteer Fair where 20 volunteer agencies informed the UH student body about volunteer opportunities in the Houston community. The event was a resounding success and many students walked away with valuable information and ideas on how to become more involved in service and in their communities. According to our records, an average of 10 students visited each volunteer agency's booth. We had 20 booths, in which we calculated about 200 students in attendance at the event. Additionally, feedback received on the evaluations from volunteer agencies indicated that the service organizations that participated in the fair enjoyed the event, felt they shared valuable information to students, and inquired about a spring Revolution of Heroes.

Residential Life & Housing

MVP worked with Residential Life & Housing, Freshman Year Residential Experience, and Moody Tower RAs on a Mayor's Race Informational. At the event, MVP informed the details for Proposition 4 and provided information packets for each candidate. Over 50 students attended the event

MVP worked with Residential Life & Housing on hosting an innovative event called Who Wants to Win Money. Who Wants to Win Money was designed to bring together individuals from diverse backgrounds on the basis of playing games. The main game was a modern day Charades that brought awareness to family issues. Each student was split up into teams and received a chance to play for monopoly money. The team with the most points won. The event promoted relationship building and gave MVP the opportunity to increase its awareness. Over 100 students were in attendance at the event.

Rock the Block

To conclude another successful MVP year, we will be hosting the 3rd Annual Rock The Block event. This year Rock the Block is expected to reach new levels. We are teaming with various Third Ward organizations to involve the community and bring attention to the event. During the event, we will be cleaning up the Third Ward communities surrounding the University of Houston. We will be providing

food and entertainment at the event as well. Various sponsors have donated house supplies which will be distributed to families in need at Rock the Block.

Black Student Union and Haiti Relief

MVP is currently partnering with the Black Student Union and various other organizations for a donations drive for the victims of the Haiti. MVP is the drop location for all the items collected. So far we have collected 25 bags of clothing, 5 bags of shoes, 3 boxes of school supplies and 4 boxes of miscellaneous items.

Campus Community Garden

Several MVP Members attended to plant the Campus Community Garden in Lynn Eusan Park. The Organic Garden services: Shasta's Blazin' Salsa and other UH Dining favorites. This particular event was featured in the Daily Cougar.

Homecoming

MVP teamed up with Homecoming to promote healthy Cougar lifestyle. 100 Runners and Walkers participated in the 5K Fun Run/Walk. 32 MVP members attended to make sure the event was a success.

Jack Yates Mentoring Program

MVP created a mentoring event for the students at Jack Yates High School. Since Jack Yates freshman class has a 43% drop out rate, MVP took the initiative to create a mentoring event to spend a day with 20 Freshmen and Sophomore students. During the event, MVP was able to really connect with the students and explain the importance of graduating High School. The students also received a tour of the university and enjoyed pizza and bowling with MVP. 15 MVP coordinators attended the event. Since the event was a complete success, MVP will be making this event an annual event.

Homeless Awareness

MVP directly impacted the Houston community by creating an event to feed the homeless. Over 100 volunteers and coordinators gathered to make sandwiches for the homeless in the Cougar Den. Later that night, volunteers and the MVP exec board personally delivered the sandwiches to the homeless. MVP delivered over 700 sandwiches.

Caring For the Elderly

MVP connected with the elderly community in a holistic way. We made homemade Christmas cards and personally delivered them during our Christmas Carol event. During that event, the elderly enjoyed cookies and hot chocolate while listening to the carols. 25 MVP members participated in the event.

Councilman Rodriguez Christmas Party

MVP teamed up with the James Rodriguez campaign party to give back to the community. Select families were invited to the Christmas Party to enjoy free entertainment, presents and food. 15 MVP members in addition to volunteers with the City of Houston, served over 500 people in the Houston District 1 area.

Office and Coordinator Positions Improvements

With the increasing participating in MVP, we have added additional coordinator positions to the organizations. The positions include team marketing, operations committee, and various other coordinator positions. Team Marketing is responsible for marketing all the MVP events. They are also responsible for promoting MVP and increasing the membership. The operations committee is responsible for assisting coordinators on preparation and execution of their individual events. Various other coordinator positions include: Environmental, Residential Life, Children and Youth, Arts and Culture, Tech/Media/Website, Special Events, Healthcare, Nutrition and Fitness, Education and Literacy, Family Issues, Social Justice, After-School, and Senior Citizens.

For our smaller events, the intimate groups of volunteers are a tremendous benefit to the students that participate because it strengthens their bond with MVP. The students that participate are very motivated to get involved and they receive a maximized benefit from the smaller group setting. In fact, many of these students take a more active role in MVP by participating in more volunteer events or in applying for coordinator positions that require a weekly five hour commitment, in which they are able to clock in and out online. Therefore, MVP fulfills its mission through nourishing the spirit of volunteerism. After each semester, each coordinator is required to fill out an evaluation form on their experience with MVP. We then use those comments from the evaluation to improve MVP.

Documentation

In order to document the number of students at a particular event we email students prior to the event, send out newsletters, and Facebook messages to estimate attendance and then provide a sign in sheet at the actual event to calculate attendance. We do have a survey to evaluate success which is collected after our larger events from both volunteers and non-profit agencies if applicable. MVP is currently in the process of revamping the survey to be more inclusive in order to provide more information to our benefit.

Website

MVP has made many improvements that were designed to be a more professional website to market MVP and inform students of upcoming events. Improvements includes creating an appealing template with UH colors to attract volunteer members to our exciting events, customized layout with flash based count-downs to each event and flash based photo album with pictures from the current and previous years in MVP. Readily available contact information added for user friendly access for volunteers and coordinators and forms for each event and hours of volunteers and coordinators for fast check in. We have a Java based pop-up on home page with news and information and the website can be located at uh.edu/mvp and uhmvp.com. Information added to the website includes a list of all upcoming events on homepage, calendar of events provided by Google integrated into MVP website, and a downloadable weekly newsletter on homepage. The website is updated daily with any new information. Additional information that would be helpful to students includes a contact page with mission statement, address, phone numbers, email addresses, and office hours. For new volunteers step by step instructions on how to volunteer with the Metropolitan Volunteer Program.

5. Please discuss any budget changes from your last (FY2010) 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 FY2009 with a Ledger 3 Fund Equity balance, please describe the conditions which caused the fund balance.

MVP is requesting an increase in the amount of funds as the previous year. MVP concluded FY2009 with a Ledger 3 fund balance of \$1,640. MVP is requesting the same amount of funding as last year. There was a ledge 3 Fund Equity balance of \$1,640 as a result of wages and benefits that were a result of vacant positions.

6. Please list your 2010-2011 objectives in priority order. Larger units may wish to group your response by subprogram. Under each objective, state the specific programs, activities, and/or services that you plan to implement to meet your objectives.

NOURISHING THE SPIRIT OF VOLUNTEERISM

Maintain the status of one of premier student organization on University of Houston campus

- Increase involvement of University of Houston students
- Increase awareness of MVP among students, faculty and staff
- Continue to maintain high quality service programming for both the university and the city
- Keep accurate records of volunteer hours and volunteer agency contacts.
- Continue to collaborate with other student organizations on campus
- Continue to host effective events
- Increase efforts to strategically recruit volunteers on campus
- Increase membership of MVP to include more volunteers that serve on a long-term basis and work to further the organization

ENHANCING EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCES

Reach out to surrounding schools for mentor opportunities

- Have at least one mentor event for the surrounding schools.
- Contact surrounding schools for various mentor opportunities
- Continue to mentor to Jack Yates High School students because they have the highest dropout rate.
- Continue to attend various Third Ward Community meetings to maintain community awareness.

ADVOCATING EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY

Expand the number of coordinators and programs

- Enhance MVP by adding an additional number of coordinators to allow students to work hands on with MVP
- Increase the number of MVP programs
- Have at least one annual program for every coordinator position

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.)?

MVP currently does not have any additional sources of funding available to the organization. MVP currently seeks free entertainment, food and prize giveaways for various events. MVP currently does not have any additional sources of funding available to the organization for operational purposes. MVP is currently planning to apply for independent grants that fund student-run community service organizations. A few on-campus departments house volunteer outreach as a part of the department; while MVP fosters service learning and is not attached to an academic unit and thus allows students to gain valuable experience that will be applicable real world experience.

MVP has an account that allows it to collect donations for philanthropic events. This year, MVP will utilize this fund to purchase energy efficient appliances for a few residence residing in Third Ward during Rock the Block.

8. Please describe any overlap between your unit and any other unit(s) providing services to students and the rationale for the overlap.

MVP understands that there are other organizations that include volunteerism in their mission, but none solely serves as a clearinghouse for Houston non-profit agencies and the University of Houston community. It is the desire of MVP to work hand-in-hand with many service organizations and departments to foster the spirit of volunteerism at the University of Houston. In fact, many service-based organizations come to MVP for co-sponsorships and ideas for volunteer opportunities and service projects. Therefore, MVP will continue to remain vital to the University of Houston community and the City of Houston at large.