

March 2009

Volume 1, Issue 4

The VOICES Project  
be social. be responsible. be socially responsible



Division of Student Affairs

The VOICES Project  
Coordinators: Jackie Lorens  
and Sarah Rothman

Emily Ce Anderson, VOICES  
Intern

## Upcoming Events...

FABOU Collecting  
School Supplies! **2**

The VOICES Project is  
looking for interns **3**

Chicago Cares, Inc.  
Recruitment **3**

To learn more about The  
VOICES Project, its ini-  
tiatives and socially re-  
sponsible leadership  
opportunities,

E-mail us at:

rothman@depaul.edu

jlorens@depaul.edu

eander29@depaul.edu

Or

Visit us at:

www.studentaffairs.depau-  
ul.edu/ministry/  
VoicesProject.html

DePaul University

# Virtual VOICES

*A virtual publication to connect the DePaul University commu-  
nity with socially responsible leaders, ideas and opportunities*

## Student Profile: Veronica Lozano

*Veronica Lozano, Sophomore, 19,  
Political Science and Psychology  
Office of Students with Disabilities  
Nominated by Karen Meyer*

### How would you define so- cially responsible leadership?

I would define it as having a  
diverse thought of what com-  
munity looks like. A socially  
responsible leader is very open  
and very liberal to different peo-  
ple. You take things into per-  
spective to make sure you in-  
clude everyone. People with  
disabilities are often overlooked  
– diversity is not just based on  
race or gender – there is a bigger  
spectrum of people in society.

### How do you see yourself as a socially responsible leader as a woman?

My mission is to enlighten oth-  
ers about people with disabilities  
– people don't take the time to  
get to know them. I try to talk  
to people about myself and  
what my disability entails. I  
really try to keep myself in-  
volved. I went on the Winter  
Leadership Conference last year  
and a lot of people didn't en-  
vision people with disabilities  
being there so I put my voice  
out there at the Conference.

### How are you involved on campus as a socially respon- sible leader?

I'm part of Access Living's Em-  
powered FeFes. It [FeFes] is an  
organization for young women



*We all go through  
life the same way;  
people should just  
realize not every-  
one's life is the  
same. People are of-  
ten intimidated or  
afraid of the differ-  
ences, but they don't  
have to be.*

with disabilities in different  
aspects of life. We try to voice  
a different side of life through  
a different perspective. I always  
say, don't judge a book by its  
cover because it has its own  
story.

### What do you think of the term "Empowered FeFes?"

The name makes me feel like  
I'm empowering myself be-  
cause I can express my way of  
life that people might not see  
every day. I like that I'm able

to spread my own words of  
wisdom and go down in history  
with this.

### What struggles have you had as a woman with disabilities?

I did go through the stage of  
being the "girl with disabilities"  
when I was younger and the  
FeFes has helped me stand up  
for myself. When I was in high  
school at Lane Tech, we had an  
open-lunch campus. There was  
one situation where the head of  
the Special Education Depart-  
ment made it a policy that you  
couldn't go to lunch without an  
adult if you had disabilities. I  
thought, 'Just because you have  
a disability doesn't mean you're  
more at risk to get hurt; they're  
just like any other person.'

### What did you do in this in- stance?

I fought back. They didn't  
know what to say at first be-  
cause it was so discriminatory. I  
told my fellow peers that we  
can't be guarded by adults;  
there are much greater situa-  
tions out there. People often  
put people with disabilities into  
one category – that we can't  
take care of ourselves or that  
we need special care. People  
need to think - would you like  
for someone to be on you all  
the time?

### Have you ever faced these sorts of struggles while at DePaul?

I do run into situations where

## *Student Profile Continued...*

students are trying to be nice and it's automatic for me to tell people I don't need extra help. During orientation, incoming freshmen have to sleep over. The people in my orientation group were treating me differently and one girl got fed up with them. I just say that I don't need people to point it out; it's just a part of who I am.

### **How do you see DePaul as a socially responsible institution?**

I find it helpful that organizations show there's diversity at DePaul and I know one of the goals of the University is to have socially responsible leadership in the community, but it's not all there right now. But in the long run we need to realize who are they [some students] hurting but themselves by being so close-minded? I think socially responsible leadership has to be motivated more among students.

### **What do you think socially responsible leadership should look like at DePaul?**

I think that whenever a group

or student organization advertises an event or opportunity, they should take into account people with disabilities, not just a diversity of races and ethnic backgrounds. I've run into a lot of problems with accommodation. I think DePaul has a specific mindset of what diversity there currently is – as shown in little things like events, get-aways, trips – but they need to build more accessibility. There are some things that will take time to accommodate where DePaul can set itself to another standard.

### **How do you see yourself as a socially responsible leader?**

Another organization I'm currently working with is the Illinois Caucus of Adolescent Health (ICAH). I've been with ICAH since last summer, when I went to the workshop *Action Out Loud!* Since then I've been involved with many projects, including the Illinois Youth Policy Council and the Reproductive Justice and Access Act Groups. Now I also train other youth.

### **What is the Illinois Youth Policy Council?**

It's the first of its kind. IYPC serves to change Illinois School Code around sexual health education, and secure state funding for sexual health education programs in Illinois. Through serving on IYPC, I've participated in a weekend conference in Washington, D.C. where I learned a variety of advocacy skills to create positive change around sexual health education. I've heard so many stories where many students with disabilities aren't included in safe-sex education.

### **What are your thoughts on your future goals and endeavors?**

I really want people with disabilities to be involved with more things around campus they may not instantly think of such as dance, cheerleading, etc. Why should they limit themselves because they somehow don't fit the prototype of what they're trying to do? We all go through life the same way; people should just realize not everyone's life is the same. People are often intimidated or afraid of the differences, but they don't have to be.

*You take things into perspective to make sure you include everyone. People with disabilities are often overlooked – diversity is not just based on race or gender – there is a bigger spectrum of people in society.*

## **DONATE PENCIL CASE, PEN, PENCIL, AND ERASER FOR CHILDREN IN CAMEROON, AFRICA!**

FABOU will collect individual pencil cases with a pen, a pencil, and an eraser that are in good conditions, which will be sent to the kids in this school. There is an official drop off box in University Ministry (Lincoln Park Student Center 3rd floor).

FABOU AFRICA'S CHILDREN EDUCATION is a group of motivated students seeking to provide children in Africa with the tools they need for their education and success. The initial project that FABOU will start with is "Operation Pencil Case", which will be coordinated with Cameroon Association for the Protection and Education of the Child (CAPEC). CAPEC is creating a school in the village of Nkolfoulou, Cameroon, which is expected to start Sept 2009. The school will enable the kids of the village to acquire an education like other children around the world, and above all build their future.

If you would like to join FABOU coordination team please email us at [faboudepaul@gmail.com](mailto:faboudepaul@gmail.com) <<mailto:faboudepaul@gmail.com>>

## BE SOCIAL. BE RESPONSIBLE. BE A LEADER...

*Calling all student leaders!*

### APPLY TO INTERN WITH THE VOICES PROJECT!

THE VOICES Project (Vincentians Offering and Inspiring Change and Engaging in Social Responsibility) focuses on promoting a community of student leaders who are dedicated to being socially responsible leaders in their lives and in their campus leadership roles and creates a forum for students to discuss social responsibility, presenting students with the opportunity to become active socially responsible leaders.

The VOICES Intern will have a primary role in supporting VOICES dialogues in classrooms and with student organizations, promoting the DePaul Graduation Pledge for Social Responsibility and supporting ongoing VOICES student organization programming, collaboration and publicity.

PLEASE SUBMIT APPLICATIONS TO [dborgeal@depaul.edu](mailto:dborgeal@depaul.edu) OR TO THE STUDENT LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE (SUITE 302 OF LINCOLN PARK STUDENT CENTER)

QUESTIONS? CALL 773.325.1760 OR E-MAIL DAVE BORGEALT AT [dborgeal@depaul.edu](mailto:dborgeal@depaul.edu)

## Chicago Cares, Inc. is recruiting an AmeriCorps Member for Youth in Service

Chicago Cares is an award-winning, nonprofit volunteer service organization that provides opportunities for individuals and businesses to improve the Chicago community through structured group volunteer activities. Since our inception in 1991, Chicago Cares has contributed more than 900,000 hours of community service through 22,000 projects.

The minimum-time Youth in Service Corps Member will report to the Program Manager for Youth in Service and will work directly with a full time AmeriCorps Member team.

The YIS Project Development Corps Member will act as support for the development, management, and leadership of youth projects for Chicago Cares' YIS Program. These project models will integrate service-learning components and be utilized for on-going, on-demand and special event projects geared towards youth ages 8-18. This position is essential to the growth of the organization and the quality of youth volunteer opportunities. The corps member's time will be split between working from home utilizing the Internet for research and communication, and in the field creating new partnerships with local service agencies, leading projects and procuring and delivering supplies.

This is a National Direct AmeriCorps position through Hands on Network's Citizen Action AmeriCorps program. Members must serve no less than 300 hours by August 31, 2009. Members must be enrolled by March 15, 2009. Upon successful completion of the term of service, the member will receive a \$1,000 education award.

