

Public Health Organization

2016-2017

Organization Philosophy/Mission:

Formed in May of 2009, the purpose of the UMKC Public Health Organization is to protect and safeguard the health and safety of the community by promoting healthy lifestyles and raising awareness through education on a local and international level. Some of the upcoming projects of the organization include a health education trip to the Dominican Republic in November of 2015 and partnering with the UMKC Medical School's Sojourner Clinic in their dispensary. Sojourner Clinic is a free health clinic that provides medications and medical care for the homeless and uninsured.

Major advocacy, leadership, and community service activities:

Sojourner Clinic: The Public Health Organization partners with the UMKC Medical School in providing volunteers for the clinic every Sunday. We volunteer in the dispensary and fill medications the students have prescribed for their patients. We do our best to provide medications and medical care for the homeless and uninsured. We also have biannual hygiene drives within the School of Pharmacy to gather products to donate to the clinic.

Morning Glory Cafe-Morning Glory Café: The Public Health Organization provided volunteers on various Saturdays throughout the semester. As volunteers, we prepared both breakfast and lunch for the café guests—consisting of homeless men and women in downtown Kansas City.

Dominican Republic Trip: We are continuing our annual Dominican Republic trip this November. We visit the town of La Ramona and its surrounding communities where we partner with Dominican Republic Medical Partnership (DRMP) of the Village Presbyterian Church to provide medical services to the local citizens. We immerse ourselves in their culture and provide extra hands in the clinic. While in the DR, our mission is to promote healthy lifestyles through education.

United Planet medical mission trip: In May 2016 our trip was forgone due to financial restraints of participants. In May 2015 students traveled to Cusco, Peru where a main

contact and a residential area was provided by United Planet, a volunteer organization that provides volunteer sites all over the world. Students were able to provide patient education, shadow physicians and work in the clinics with patients of all ages. The students had a few days to explore the city and surrounding areas. This included a visit to Machu Picchu, Aguas Calientes, a Cusco City Tour and some evening free time. In May 2014, students traveled to Quito, Ecuador to work in the area and learn about the healthcare system in that area of the world. PHO plans on attending further medical trips through United Planet over the coming years.

Advisors and Officers:

President: Kim Nezianya

President-Elect: Sophie Didier

Treasurer: Morgan Dahm

Secretary: Lauren Steiger

Vice President of Development: Collin Davis

Columbia Liaison: Paige Stipanovich

Springfield Liaison; Marian Lyford

Advisor: Dr. Mark Sawkin

How to join:

We have monthly meetings to address upcoming events and volunteer opportunities.

Everyone is welcome! Look for our emails once school starts or email one of the officers for more information. Be sure to like our page of Facebook: "UMKC Public Health Organization"