Community Action Research & Empowerment (CARE) Project

**The Vietnamese Friendship Association (VFA)**

VFA was established in 1978 to help Vietnamese refugees and immigrants adjust to life in the US after the Vietnam War. Today, VFA offers educational services and academic enrichment to children and youth throughout the year, parent advocacy services, and youth and community leadership programs for the Vietnamese community. Our mission is to empower the Vietnamese community to succeed while bridging, preserving, and promoting cultural heritage. We envision a society where all members of the Vietnamese community are self-reliant, successful, and contributing to the betterment of our world. Learn more at www.vfaseattle.org.

**The CARE Project**

CARE is a strategic community planning process designed to address social and economic inequities in the Vietnamese community of southeast Seattle. The goals of the CARE Project are to:

* Promote greater civic participation, grassroots leadership development, and general community involvement among Vietnamese community members;
* Provide and encourage experiential learning and professional networking opportunities for undergraduate students to develop critical career and academic skills;
* Connect young Vietnamese undergraduates and elders to promote greater understanding and mutual cooperation between different generations;
* Develop a community-based plan that reflects community needs and desires, fosters community ownership of the plan, and is recognized as an official community plan by the local planning agency.

**Phase 1 (completed 2010)**: A team of undergraduate students were trained in community assessment and participatory research methods, and used their skills to explore issues and challenges within the Vietnamese community of Seattle.

VFA Care Project (Phase 1) Overview: www.youtube.com/watch?v=qYiv5UZRRNk

VFA Digital stories from team members: www.youtube.com/watch?v=SeujiQgojZs

VFA Care Project (Phase 1) Report and Findings: www.vfaseattle.org/reports/

**Phase 2 (begins Sept 2011)**: In Phase 2, we will use the data gathered from Phase I to create an action plan for the Vietnamese community, and to further build constituency so that the plan can be successfully implemented.

**Undergraduate Leadership and Research Opportunity**

The VFA is has openings for 10 undergraduate students to participate as team members in the nine month (Sept-May) project. Students will have the opportunity to connect this field experience with their university education through service-learning, research, and professional internship. During this project, team members will: 1) be trained on community outreach, facilitation, and organizing; 2) lead meetings and forums to collect input and feedback from community members; and 3) synthesize findings to develop a community action plan, and presenting it to the broader community.

All trainings and support needed to successfully complete this project will be provided.

Application Information and Instructions

**Eligibility**

To qualify, applicants must:

* Be a current undergraduate student enrolled in an accredited college or university for Fall 2011;
* Have a cumulative GPA of 3.2 or above;
* Familiarity or experience or with the Vietnamese culture and language.
* Commit to ~40-60 hours a quarter, every Tuesday or Thursday (tbd) evening from Oct 2011 to May 2012.

**Educational and Professional Benefits**

* Connect classroom learning with real experience in grassroots leadership and community development;
* Receive 2-3 academic credits via service-learning, research, or internship through your school (established through your department or program and VFA);
* Letters of recommendations provided to successful team members toward scholarships, academic awards, graduate school program;
* Network with Vietnamese professionals and other community leaders in the field.

**Application requirements** (checklist)

* Complete the CARE Project Application Form with your personal information
* A copy of your academic transcript for your most recent term completed (pdf copy accepted)
* Resume / C.V. (include relevant work or volunteer experiences; and three professional references)
* Statement of Purpose (1 page max, double spaced): Please indicate why you are interested in the VFA CARE Project. As appropriate, describe your prior experience, cultural background, and/or interest in community research and development among the Vietnamese community of Seattle.

**Submission**

Send the completed application form, transcript, and resume (include three professional references), and statement of purpose to James Hong, Director of Youth and Community Leadership, by **6:00 pm** on **Saturday, October 1st, 2011**.

By **e-mail**: james.hong@vfaseattle.org or by **postal mail**: 7101 MLK Jr Way South, Seattle, WA 98118

**Timeline**

Qualified applicants will be invited to a group interview on Sat, Oct. 8th, 2011. Final decisions will be made by Mon, October 10th, 2011. The project will kick off on Sat, Oct. 15, 2011 with a 2-day retreat.

**Questions?**

For questions or more information about the CARE Project, application, etc., contact James Hong at james.hong@vfaseattle.org, or call 253-234-4393.

CARE Project Application Form

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Personal Information** |  |
| Name (first, last) | Email |
|  |  |  |  |
| Current Mailing Address  | City | State | Zip |
|  |  |  |
| Cell Phone  |  | Home Phone |  |
|  |  |
| College or University | Expected Date of Graduation (Month/year) |
|  |  |
| List all academic major(s) and minor(s) | Cumulative G.P.A. |
|  |
| How did you hear about the VFA CARE Project? |

**Don’t forget!**

You will also need to submit:

* A copy of your academic transcript for your most recent term completed
* Resume / C.V. (include relevant work or volunteer related experiences; and three professional references)
* Statement of Purpose (1 page max, double spaced): Please indicate why you are interested in the VFA CARE Project. As appropriate, describe your prior experience, cultural background, and/or interest in community research and development among the Vietnamese community of Seattle.