Guardian Engagement
Rachel Baywol, Jessica Carag, Rosalind Fennell, Laura Johns, John-Hanson Machado, Sara Rothenberg, Indira Singh, Christie Toolin, Meghana Vijaysimha

Who We Are

Rosalind Fennell
1st Year MPH, Global Health
“ISCOPES has been a great way to bring together students, who may not have otherwise known each other, to work together to create something fun and impactful.”

Christie Toolin
MS Candidate ’15, Public Health Microbiology & Emerging Infectious Disease
Favorite ISCOPES Moment: Having parents and staff truly enjoy and show interest in our healthy recipes.

Jessica Carag
MS Candidate ’15, Public Health Microbiology & Emerging Infectious Disease
“ISCOPES has given me the opportunity to meet and work with students in a variety of disciplines that I otherwise may have never interacted with.”

Indira Singh
1st Year MPH, Marketing and Communications
“ISCOPES has given me the opportunity to put what I’m learning in the classroom to practice in the real world.”

Meghana Vijaysimha
2nd Year MPH, Community Oriented Primary Care
Favorite ISCOPES Moment: Playing Nutrition Jeopardy!

Laura Johns
MD candidate ’17
Favorite ISCOPES moments: competitive parents during Jeopardy

Sara Rothenberg
1st Year MPH, Health Policy
Favorite ISCOPES moment: Introducing parents and children to “Sleepytime Tea” to help their kids relax at night.

John-Hanson Machado
Candidate for American Chemical Society Certified Degree in Biochemistry ’15

Introduction

• We had the pleasure of working with the parents/guardians of the kids at Southeast Children’s Fund (SCF) in Anacostia/Ward 8.
• This community includes individuals who can really benefit from the resources we offer them.
• Parents/Guardians @SCF are very busy & hardworking, but were engaged in what we had to say and are doing their best to provide for their families.
• School-based health programs are very important and we wanted to bring a version of that to SCF.

What We Did

• Weekly team meetings to discuss project plans, logistics, accomplishments, and lessons learned.
• Meet & Greet with director of Southeast Children’s Fund and interested parents.
• Discussed what health topics they were interested in and collected contact information.

1st Event: Supper Club
✓ Set up a taco bar and spoke with parents about nutrition and healthy eating habits.
✓ Played Nutrition Jeopardy with parents.

2nd Event: Chill at the Chili Bar
✓ Set up chili, chocolate and tea tasting bars for parents picking up their kids.
✓ Discussed exercise, stress management, relaxation strategies and health benefits.
✓ Engaged parents and children in yoga demonstrations.

3rd Event: Smoothie Tasting
✓ Made several types of healthy smoothies for parents and children to taste.
✓ Provided recipes and suggestions for making smoothies at home.

4th Event: Parent Teacher Meeting
✓ We plan to educate parents and teachers about completing the Universal Health Certificate, being advocates for their children’s health and the importance of childhood vaccinations.

Project Outcomes

• Educated parents on nutrition, stress relief, and healthy lifestyles.
• Parents and families learned new ways to be physically active during their stressful lifestyle.
• Began building relationships with parents/guardians.

Key Recommendations

• Become a familiar face in the beginning of the year using “grab-and-go” activities, elevator speeches, or presence in the classroom with the kids.
• Find parent leaders who can contribute and interact with the team to improve community involvement.
• Try to keep dates of supper clubs consistent (ie, the first Friday of every month) so that it is easier for parents/teachers to remember.
• Send thank you notes/e-mails to parents that attend supper clubs and teachers/staff that help out as well.
• Have weekly group meetings at the same time/place for consistency with an agenda and meeting minutes.

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