USC OTSC Philanthropy Report, 2017-2018

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AT A GLANCE

- Hosted 16 philanthropy events, many in collaboration with Chan Division and over 18 nonprofit organizations, increasing student participation by 400% from 2017-2018.
- Established the first OTSC Philanthropy committee, comprised of 56 OT students, a platform to perform more outreach and showcase USC OT’s commitment to philanthropy.
- Mobilized OT students to volunteer 278 times, putting in 516 hours between September 2017 and April 2018.

Goal: To provide opportunities in increasing outreach generally and/or specific to OT, learning about complex social issues, increasing advocacy, and promoting the unique value of occupational therapy.

To inform direction and help increase participation of philanthropy events, we looked at the USC Provost’s Wicked Problems, and determined to focus on homelessness, artists for social change, and aging across the lifespan, among other complex issues. Additionally, we created and conducted a feedback survey to understand what the student body’s philanthropic interests were to also put these interests into action.

In 2017-2018, USCOT Philanthropy:

- Crafted 30 cards for the Cards for Hospitalized Kids
- Fundraised $130 through candy grams for victims of Hurricane Harvey
- 25 volunteers shelled peas and prepared meals for seniors at LA Kitchen
- Donated clothes, shoes, accessories, and more to fill three vans and one sedan (thirty 10-gallon bags, fifteen 15-gallon bags) for the Skid Row Carnival of Love with donations from over 40 students, faculty, staff and with the help of 26 volunteers sorting/transporting clothes
- Wrapped and passed out 100 burritos to persons experiencing homelessness with Share a Meal
- Represented OT at the KidCity Career Fair for low-income youth
- Planted 2 trees with the TreePeople
- Performed developmental screenings with KASEC for 75 infants, and will take part in 3 more events through June 2018
- Wrote an article for OTAC about Chan Division’s way of celebrating OT Month this year

For OT Month:

- 17 students marched alongside Lady Gaga and the Born This Way Foundation in solidarity to end gun violence in schools at the March for Our Lives.
- Screened FITe (From Incarceration to Education) documentary for over 90 attendees, which delves into the lives of formerly incarcerated students’ paths to higher education. Panelists were six formerly incarcerated student changemakers from CSULA, CPP, USC, and UC Berkeley, film directors, and faculty Dr. Mary Lawlor, Dr. Tessa Milman and Jody Armour from USC Gould.
- Fundraised over $1200 and packaged over 300 hygiene kits for the Painted Brain’s Art Cart, which provides art materials and hygiene kits for the homeless population in Los Angeles.
- Coordinated a time management workshop with Dr. Rachelle Nagata and a diverse panel of 5 women in OT, all USC Chan alum, for 52 students in collaboration with MOSTe (Motivating our Students Through Experience), an organization that empowers young girls in underserved communities of Los Angeles to pursue and graduate from college.
- 27 volunteers shared the power of occupational therapy with over 500 from USC and greater LA community at the Los Angeles Times Festival of Books at USC, through specialized OT services stations, including sensory integration, weight management, and stress management.
- Arranged a Battle of the Cohorts, to incentivize participation in OT Month Philanthropy events.
OTSC Philanthropy Committee Members

Alexis Nalbach  James Lee  Phoebe Yam
Amy Zhao*  Kaitlin O’Hagan  Rebecca Snyder*
Ashley Hvidt  Karen Lai  Rosa Vessal
Carly Roberts*  Keene Liang  Sarah Kim
Creig Smith  Leanne Hoppers  Sheridan Lamb
Erin Bussell  Mia McGovern  Talent Dang
Hali Curry  Milah Behlmaier  Vanessa Miller
Miriam Brown*  Yoko Fukumura

OTSC Executive Board

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Sarina Tetley  Carlos Juarez Aguilar  Evan Nicholas
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Special Thanks to:
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Dr. Tessa Milman, OTD, OTR/L
Kimberly Kho, MBA
Bianca Ojeda

Compiled by:
Elissa Lee
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Some of the panelists at FITE Night

Packaging 300 Hygiene Kits for Painted Brain

USC Chan Alum Panelists at MOSTe

MOSTe Time Management Workshop & Panel

Sorting clothes for Skid Row Carnival of Love

Meal Prep with LA Kitchen Founder Robert Egger

#MarchforOurLives with Lady Gaga and BTWF