

## Suggested Grad Challenge Projects: Ideas from our Community

Occasionally community members call MaryAnne Gatos with ideas for Grad Challenge projects or requests for volunteers. The ideas below are only suggested projects. It is up to the CVU student to contact the person listed and ask questions to determine the project's appeal, expectations, and particulars. Read through the section on Designing a Project in the Grad Challenge Student Handbook or on the webpage for a list of questions to ask when assessing a project/s feasibility. TIP: Always call first before contacting by email.

**The Haunted Forest**, Vermont's largest and longest-running Halloween event, has many community service opportunities. Volunteer forms are available at [www.thehauntedforest.org](http://www.thehauntedforest.org). You can reach Jana Beagley at 238-0923, The Haunted Forest, PO Box 973, Williston, VT 05495 [jana@thehauntedforest.org](mailto:jana@thehauntedforest.org) [www.thehauntedforest.org](http://www.thehauntedforest.org)

**Teen Fest** – looking for two students from each school in the district to be part of a focus group. TeenFest is held at Champlain Valley Fairgrounds. For more information, see MaryAnne Gatos in the Direction Center.

Cher Feitelberg's suggestion - **Heath Clinic in Honduras** – more information soon

John Paul Oren of **Vermont Optechs** located in Charlotte. This company refurbishes microscopes. <http://www.scopeshop.com/> Located in Charlotte on Rt. 7. Contact phone is: 425-2040. John's daughter graduated from CVU in 2007 so he is familiar with Grad Challenge program. Ideal for any student who was interested in microscopy, photography, engineering, computers, physics, optics, etc.

If you have a student who would like to work with the **Project MICRO** program, a program that teaches middle school students how to use microscopes, contact Janet E. Schwarz, Research Lab Technician, Senior, Microscopy Imaging Center - HSRF 203, Department of Pathology, UVM. Web information at: <http://www.med.uvm.edu/microscopyimaging/HP-STD.asp?SiteAreaID=519> Jan has worked with students in Grad challenge many times and is very familiar with the requirements. Great project for students interested in microscopy, research, teaching, pathology, etc. May be able to also include some time in the lab at UVM.

### Soles4Souls

Soles4Souls is a non-profit organization that has distributed over 3 million pairs of shoes to people in need around the world. A student could undertake this fundraising projects as an innovative new way to contribute to others. Here's how your school can earn money and also highlight the importance of giving back and making a difference in the life of someone else.

- Students accept donations from family, friends, and neighbors for Soles4Souls clogs or flip flops.
- Soles4Souls ships the shoes directly to people in need, domestically and internationally.

300 million children are without shoes, and your students and community can come together to help children in need. This simple act of giving footwear can help prevent infectious diseases and will improve the quality of life for each recipient. If you would like details on this unique

fundraising opportunity, please contact Laura Headley at 615-391-5723 or [fundraiser@giveshoes.org](mailto:fundraiser@giveshoes.org) for more information. CVU students need to find a local community consultant and may see MaryAnne Gatos for suggestions. Soles4Souls also has a prize/reward structure for fundraising that may conflict with CVU policy, but a student may undertake the fundraiser without participating in that component.

**Shelburne Community School** needs volunteer coordinator to run a proposed afterschool program in **Garage Band**. Call Sue Schaeffer for more details at 383-1151.

**Shelburne Community School** needs volunteer coordinator to run a proposed afterschool program in **Lego Robotics**. School has funds to support this program for equipment, etc. Call Sue Schaeffer for more details at 383-1151.

#### **CVU Fish Tank**

**CVU has received a generous donation of a fish tank.** We are looking for a student, or students, to help transport the tank to CVU and set it up for all to enjoy. Contact MaryAnne Gatos in the Direction Center or Adam Bunting in Snelling if you are interested.

**Allen Brook Water Quality Monitoring Project** in Williston is looking for a student to help collect macro invertebrates (bugs) from the water and be part of creating the storm water review. For more information see Sarah Strack.

**Winooski Conservation District** is looking for assistance with **Painting the Rain Barrel Program**. Ten rain barrels will be painted this fall and distributed. There is also need for an additional brochure. For more information see Sarah Strack.

**Charlotte Recreation Department wants to design and build a shed** from which to serve refreshments at sports events/jamborees. Approximate size is 8'x12'. Volunteer to design or build. Contact MaryAnne Gatos 482-7195 or Deb Stone 425-6129 for more information.

**Charlotte Recreation is looking for help with the Soccer Jamboree.** Soccer refs for the Sept. 26 jamboree and volunteers to help set up fields the night before. Contact Deb Stone 425-6129.

**Build a bench** (or benches) for CVU Four Corners. See MaryAnne Gatos for more information.

**Build a bridge** to go over the culvert by the CVU soccer field (to the parking lot?) See MaryAnne Gatos for more information.

**A Project pursuing a career in health care** - A great weekend conference sponsored by AHEC in November- it's in the announcements- cost is only \$40 for weekend at Goddard College- just stop by the Health Office for application from Claudia Moore . This could be used to supplement hours for any student who is interested in working in health care.