Joshua Freund Connects GCC with Stone Soup Café

By Mary McClintock, ’82

Joshua, new 29 and living in Greenfield, dropped out of high school when he grew up in Kansas City. Conversing with GCC Farm and Food Systems program coordinator, Heather Dredwic, inspired Joshua to study for his GED and then toward an Associate degree in Farm and Food Systems. Joshua is thriving at GCC and has been on the Dean’s List for three semesters. GCC’s supportive faculty and staff helped shift Joshua’s story from “college not available to me” to “I am a successful college student.”

Interning at Stone Soup in spring 2013 was life-changing for Joshua. He still helps out at the Café and is an after-school teacher at Greenfield High School teaching nutrition, creative writing, and bartending. After finishing his Associate degree at GCC, Joshua plans to study for a bachelor’s degree and work as an educator. Currently serving Stone Soup’s Development Director, Art explained, “As a grassroots organization, reliable interm leads to big difference for us. The Stone Soup folktale — about a stranger who comes to town, shares a pot of soup with water and a stone and invites everyone to put something in the soup until the community has come together around a tasty, nutritious meal — is an analogy for how we operate. We mix ingredients from everyone involved, including people who pay, those who donate food, and volunteers who work. Joshua has been a living “stone soup” for the Café for himself as a GCC Associate degree student, Joshua encourages others to get involved, saying, “Some people come to Stone Soup hungry for food, some come hungry for connections. I go for both the good food and to get involved with social action and love. The people who provide that connection are often people who go to the Café hungry for food. At Stone Soup, we don’t see anyone as homeless or as wealthy. There is so much opportunity for people to make a difference in our community and lives. Now’s the time! The resources are available. This is a great opportunity for you and a great place to get involved.”

To watch short video on Stone Soup, including Joshua and others visit: stone-soup.org

To learn more about GCC’s Civic Engagement Initiatives, contact Judy Rapier at 413-775-1819 or jrapier@gcc.mass.edu.

GCC Offers Internship Opportunities

Greenfield Community College continues its commitment to partner with local employers in every industry to advance student success while offering the local workforce a valuable opportunity to gain experience, ready and eager to gain experience contributing to your organization. This partnership can be a win-win situation for you and your emerging local workforce!

What is an internship? An internship is a special work-based learning opportunity that extends a student’s education beyond the classroom setting, allowing GCC students to work with local employers and businesses. Based on work from a business or organization, students gain hands-on professional work experience that relates to his or her academic and career interests.

Interested in learning more about internship opportunities available through GCC? Are you an employer or organization who would like to be matched with a GCC intern? Please visit our site at http://gcc.mass.edu/internships/

Contact Christine Copeland, GCC Internship Coordinator at christine.copeland@gcc.mass.edu

Here’s what one of our student interns is saying…

Lovingly prepared, local and organic when possible. Photo: Shannon Dry, Farm & Food Systems student

My career internship at Stone Soup Café were well worth it. I met a lot of amazing locals and continue to have part of a community. Incredible people here in Greenfield and feet are great to be from part of an organization that is not only doing wonderful service at Stone Soup but also encouraging and setting examples for the community across the U.S.

I’ve had the pleasure of doing various activities for the café, including working in the kitchen on Saturdays and prepping the meal. Throughout the week, I meet weekly with the café coordinator and volunteers to discuss decision-making goals and projects. I’ve enjoyed working blog posts, weekly a manuscript and listening with nutritionists. I’ve worked to experience a hospitable role in the kitchen as head chef. I’ve made something that I never thought I’d be able to make it at Stone Soup Café! An encouraging, and being encouraged role that I hope to have you will have the pleasure of being a part of in any way that you can. As volunteers, we’re welcomed the next Stone Soup interns or as it or a role model for others. I want to send positive messages. Promas Dry Farm & Food Systems student

The GCC’s internship web site and Internship Coordinator is available at the Community College Workforce Development Transformation Agenda (CCWDTA), a state-wide $20 million grant from the U.S. Dept. of Labor, Employment & Training Administration (ETA). Contact arslanian@gcc.mass.edu

The GCC Cannon Alumni Association (GCAA) offers an activity for a global audience. Contact arslanian@gcc.mass.edu

Registration for January Intercession & Spring 2014 classes now in progress.

Evening Information Session

Wednesday, December 4, 5 p.m.

Thinking about coming back to college? Or planning to start college for the first time? Join us for an evening information session.

To RSVP or learn more, call 413-775-1810 or admission@gcc.mass.edu

ONE COLLEGE DRIVE

Greenfield, Massachusetts 01301

On the Web at www.gcc.mass.edu

You are invited to our Student-led teen-ceremonies plays

Friday, December 6, 7:30 p.m., Sloan Theater, Main Campus

The GCC Dance Department presents Body Talk with guest performers KDS Dance Company/Cheerleader, Tanzschoon Dance Team, Final Draft Hip Hop Team, UMASS Tap Dancers. Ticket prices: $15 General Admission, $10 Seniors/Students.

No seatting is limited, advanced tickets purchased recommended. Contact: Sharon Antamian, 413-775-1562 or eantamian@gcc.mass.edu

Student/Faculty/Community Dance Concert

Friday, December 6, 7:30 p.m., Sloan Theater, Main Campus

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Music Performances

Contemporary Music Ensemble

Wednesday, December 4, 11:00 p.m., Dining Common, Main Campus

Contact Matthew Shippee, 413-775-1228 or Email: shippeem@gcc.mass.edu

Songwriting Class Concert

Wednesday, December 4, 7 p.m., Sloan Theater, Main Campus

Contact Matthew Shippee, 413-775-1228 or Email: shippeem@gcc.mass.edu

Vocal Jazz Ensemble

Tuesday, December 10, 7 p.m., Sloan Theater, Main Campus

Contact Matthew Shippee, 413-775-1228 or Email: shippeem@gcc.mass.edu

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What’s really included on GCC’s Alumni Association Web site?

Join the GCC Alumni Association now at gcc.mass.edu/alumni

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