

Nutrition Network uses a mini-grant to promote healthy eating and raise hunger awareness.

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April 23, 2012

Camelle Bell, Dietetics major at Madonna serves as the secretary for the student group: Nutrition Network. She is more than a secretary however, she is the reason Madonna was awarded a mini-grant.

After attending the Michigan Campus Compact Student Leadership camp, she was inspired to apply for a \$250 grant from the Jenazbar Foundation to promote healthy eating and raise hunger awareness in Livonia, through the public schools.

“When I found out that I qualified to apply for a mini-grant because I attended the leadership camp, I was really excited!” exclaimed Bell. “I went and shared my idea with Olga Martinez, Service-Learning Director and she encouraged me to pursue the idea. Professor Kull, the advisor for Nutrition Network, approved my grant application and I submitted it. Two weeks later I found out we had received the grant.”

This grant was used to develop a hunger awareness lesson that would be taught to 4th graders in four different Livonia elementary schools. In this lesson, the children were introduced to the “My Plate” concept which shows the five food groups that are essential for a healthy diet using a familiar image—a place setting for a meal. Additionally the children decorated lunch sacks to be given to Kid’s Food Basket which deliver healthy meals or snacks to children in Michigan.



“It was not easy, but it was definitely worth it,” Bell explained. “It was a group effort, and not only benefited the children but the Madonna students themselves.”



Though the grant is finished, the Nutrition Network is still hard at work. This summer they will be partnering with Students Creating Opportunities to Promote Education student organization. There they will be preparing nutritious snacks and meals for bridge camp which helps to introduce middle school students to the college preparation process.

While this mini-grant may have been the first grant Bell even applied for and received, it won't be the last if she has anything to say about it.

“There aren't any grants out there applicable to Nutrition Network right now, but as soon as there is, I will definitely apply for it!” said Bell. “I encourage other students to apply for grants for their organizations. Go for it!”