School-Based Initiatives

Green Earth Gang (GEG)
The GEG mission is to promote environmental awareness among children ages 8 – 10 in local schools through experiential and interactive activities. Once every two weeks, volunteers teach a 40-minute class about an environment-related topic. The leaders of GEG and any other interested members collaborate on the bi-weekly lesson plans.

Hamilton Elementary and Secondary Tutoring
Colgate students provide one hour of tutoring a week to K-12th grade children. The student tutors provide instruction on an individualized and/or small group basis, working alongside the teachers.

Head Start/Stockbridge Valley Pre-K
Head Start is a federal, nationally-funded program that supports the positive growth of low-income children. The group’s work is geared toward role modeling and teacher support in nearby Madison and Morrisville. One hour per week, volunteers participate in playtime, reading, and general classroom assistance.

Let’s Get Ready
Let’s Get Ready helps local high school students prepare for the SAT, discuss college choices, and aid with the application and financial aid processes. Colgate students may coach either verbal/writing or math for a 3-hour session each week during the spring semester.

Liberty Kids
Liberty Kids is a children’s literacy program that helps 1st-3rd graders who struggle with reading. For 90 minutes once a week, participants meet at Hamilton Public Library to read in pairs, socialize at snack time, and participate in group story time. The program aims to build confidence and reading skills through one-on-one mentorship.

Madison Craft Club—(MadCrafts)
MAD Crafts is an after-school art program at Madison Central School Tuesdays from 2:45-4:00pm. Colgate students work with 4th graders on projects such as kites, leaf collages, q-tip painting, and making clay sculptures. No art experience is necessary.

Madison Homework Club
Meeting Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 2:45-4 pm, volunteers work with students at Madison Central School on homework in any subject while building strong tutor/student relationships. At the end of the fall semester, the group has a holiday party and at the end of the spring semester they have a bowling party at Colgate.

North Broad Street Tutoring
Colgate students mentor K - 6th grade students at North Broad Street Elementary School in Oneida, a relatively low-income area. Volunteers tutor the grade level of their choice during or after school, encouraging the children academically and socially.

Refugee Tutoring
This program focuses on ESL instruction and conversational groups for refugees from around the world. Participants tutor high school students at Proctor High School in Utica.

Stockbridge Valley Tutoring Program
The Stockbridge Tutoring program offers help to students of late middle school and high school age in mathematics. Tutoring sessions occur Tuesday —Thursday, 2:10 - 3:35 pm.

Waterville Elementary Tutoring
Colgate students provide one hour of tutoring a week to K-6th grade children. The student tutors provide instruction on an individualized and/or small group basis, working in coordination with the teachers.

Emergency & Community Services

Disaster Response Team (DiRT)
DiRT organizes Colgate’s response in times of global, national and regional crisis. Past activities included trips to Louisiana after Hurricane Katrina and a semester long Tsunami Relief effort.

Hamilton Fire Fighters
These dedicated volunteers undergo intensive training and become full members of the Hamilton Volunteer Fire Department, providing emergency services to residents in crisis.

Southern Madison County Volunteer Ambulance Corps (SOMAC)
SOMAC is a non-profit ALS ambulance service covering the greater Hamilton area. Students commit significant hours to training and are scheduled for 6 on-call hours each week.

Working with the Elderly

Adopt-a-Grandparent
Adopt a Grandparent is a program where students visit the elderly at Community Memorial Hospital's Extended Care Unit (ECU). Students can either attend weekly planned events, such as bingo and manicure nights, or be paired with one of the ECU's 40 residents. If paired with a resident, the student will schedule weekly, hour long meetings to talk or play games. AAG also hosts several yearly parties.

Friends of Madison Lane Apartments
This group seeks to unite Colgate students with members of the senior community in Hamilton to foster friendships through Banana Bingo and Odd Jobs. Banana Bingo meets weekly for an hour and a half on Friday afternoons. Aside from playing bingo, members may decorate the facility or host special visitors. Odd Job meets monthly; students go to Madison Lane on Friday afternoons to assist seniors with chores around their apartments and socialize to form friendships.

Hamilton Manor
The Hamilton Manor is a local group home for people with developmental disabilities. The residents range in age from 50 to 95. Many have outlived all of their family and prior caretakers, so Colgate students are often the only visitors Manor residents ever have. Their lives are truly touched by their time with the Colgate volunteers. Typical visits last one hour and include playing card games, reading books, telling stories and general socializing with the residents.

Mentoring Opportunities

Colgate Buddies
Colgate Buddies is designed to enhance the lives of people with intellectual disabilities. Volunteers develop one-on-one friendships with intellectually challenged adults in the Hamilton community and maintain regular contact with their Buddy. Group events include bowling, Super Bowl party, spring picnics, crafts, etc.

Friends and Mentors (FAM)
FAM works with Berkshire Farms, a temporary group home for adolescents sent there by family courts because of truancy, behavioral problems, or family issues. Students mentor Monday-Thursday nights by providing homework and job-finding assistance, directing sports activities, and team-building through positive interactions. The group aims to build friendships, stress the importance of education, and develop the confidence and skills needed for success.

Hamilton Center for the Arts (HCA)
The HCA Group provides an opportunity for Colgate students to mentor elementary and middle school kids in an arts-oriented environment right in the center of Hamilton! Whether you’re interested in art, music, theatre, dance or creative writing, you can help kids express themselves through the arts and promote their self esteem. Volunteer for one hour, three hours or more a week.
Mentoring Opportunities (continued)

Hamilton Outdoor Group (HOG)
HOG’s mission is to teach Hamilton middle schoolers outdoor skills and an environmental ethic that will encourage a positive outdoor experiences. The group meets at Outdoor Education’s Base Camp on Fridays directing activities including scavenger hunts, rock climbing, snowshoeing, and capture the flag.

Ophelia’s Girls
This program inspires adolescent girls at Madison Central School to believe in themselves and achieve great things through group discussions, activities, and mentorship from female Colgate students.

Sidekicks
Sidekicks is a mentoring program between Colgate students and children in the Hamilton community. Children enter the program between the ages of 6-9 years old and Colgate students maintain their relationship with their sidekicks throughout their Colgate careers, interacting regularly and keeping in touch while on long breaks.

Students for Fiver
Economically disadvantaged kids from NYC and rural counties around Colgate attend this camp free of charge. Students for Fiver (located in nearby Poolville) provides one-on-one mentorship for local campers throughout the year, assists with program in NYC during breaks, and do special events on behalf of the camp.

Awareness and Advocacy

American Heart Association (AHA)
Colgate AHA works with the fourth largest chapter in the nation (Utica) to fight America’s number one and three killers: heart disease and stroke. The group is dedicated to raising awareness about cardiovascular risk and health, with a smaller focus on fund-raising. Past events have included America's Greatest Heart Run/Walk in Utica and Red Dress Day supporting women’s heart health.

The Clean Water Coalition
Working with the Chenango Canal Association to maintain and clean an adopted section of the canal, this new initiative plans to sponsor campus events to inform others about water pollution and raise money to build wells in Africa.

Colgate Hunger Outreach Program (CHOP)
CHOP targets issues of hunger and poverty in Madison County. Members participate directly through working in the Friendship Inn Soup Kitchen on Monday nights, volunteering at the Hamilton Food Cupboard on Tuesdays or Thursdays, or salvaging food on campus to deliver to the soup kitchen. The group also hosts fundraising events throughout the semester.

Do Random Acts of Kindness (DoRAK)
DoRAK is designed to increase volunteerism among Colgate students by encouraging their participation in short-term, community volunteer projects. These projects promote a positive atmosphere on the Colgate campus and in the greater Hamilton community.

Fabindia
Our mission is to develop an alliance with the Fabindia School to help them fight issues surrounding illiteracy, sexism in education, and the caste system. We will do this through fundraising for their scholarship fund and building awareness in the Colgate community.

Habitat for Humanity
Habitat for Humanity is an international non-profit organization dedicated to providing affordable, decent housing to families in need. Habitat for Humanity is a critical supporter of the Madison County affiliate, working on local build sites on weekends and fundraising for builds through Hamilton’s annual HomeRun 5K race. The group works with COVE staff to organize winter and spring break trips to out-of-state build sites. It is a group that champions hard-work and cooperation to improve lives and living conditions in the Hamilton area.

Project PEACE
Our mission is to provide badly needed resources to children living on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota, one of the poorest regions in the United States. Our goal is to spread awareness about Native-related issues to the Colgate and Hamilton communities while providing aid to the reservation.

The Network
The Network is dedicated to improving campus awareness about relationship violence through their support of a local Victim's of Violence program and launching of a peer-support group. Members serve as advocates on a 24-hour hotline, co-facilitate the annual Speak Out and Take Back the Night programs, perform fundraisers for local shelters, and host guest lecturers to raise awareness.

Oxfam
Oxfam America is an international relief and development organization dedicated to fighting hunger, poverty, and injustice worldwide. Colgate’s division specifically works on three campaigns: the Hunger and Poverty campaign, the Extractive industries campaign, and the Climate Change campaign.

Pet Pals
Pet Pals volunteer at Wanderer’s Rest and Spring Farm Cares. They exercise, groom, and socialize the animals and provide general help to the shelters. Volunteers go in groups of 2-3 for 2 hours per week.

Green Gates
The mission of Green Gates is to foster respect and compassion for all living things, to promote understanding of all cultures and beliefs, and to inspire each individual to take action to make the world a better place for people, animals and environment. Colgate's chapter will be primarily focused on energy efficiency and environmental awareness, promoting the Green Campus initiative with a variety of instruments, such as academic research and campaign strategy.

The Shapna Project
The Shapna Project seeks to raise awareness about the economic, environmental, and social issues of the coffee and tea supply chain. Partnering with The Shapna Tea and Coffee Company, a for-profit venture, The Shapna Project invites students, faculty and the administration to engage in socially-informed consumerism and to extend campus support for sustainable products.

Sister 2 Sister (S2S)
S2S is an organization dedicated to exploring health issues and concerns of all women. Each month S2S actively researches and educates our members and the community at large of an issue. One weekend of the month it finds a specific service project related to the head topic and actively serves the community on campus and locally.

Student Global AIDS Campaign (SGAC)
SGAC is a national student and youth movement with chapters at high schools, colleges, and universities across the United States committed to bringing an end to HIV and AIDS in the U.S. and around the world through education, informed advocacy, media work, fundraising and direct action.

Students for Students
Students for Students (SfS) supports underprivileged students at under-funded schools around the world. Students involved in the group propose and vote on a new project each semester. Through fundraisers, they seek to raise awareness about and directly impact at-risk, vulnerable communities and children.

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (VITA)
The VITA program at Colgate provides income tax preparation services for low-income households in Madison and Chenango counties. It trains approximately 35 student volunteers each year, who travel to five different sites in the area to file income taxes. In 2007, it helped 1,100 families and returned over $1 million to the local community.

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