

# Events

## SSWO Activities and Events By Professor Deb Renzi

### Past Activities

The Student Social Work Organization (SSWO), under the leadership of President Betsy Bergmann, has been very busy this past year supporting the local community. Their activities have included collecting clothing, personal items, and school supplies for families in need via a partnership with the Big Brother and Sister Program. Additionally, they supported the BSC Sleep-Out for the Homeless, an annual event whose purpose is to increase awareness of the problems of hunger and homelessness in our community. They also distributed voter registration cards and gave away water bottles, compliments of Planned Parenthood.

SSWO has also been active in supporting the BSC Social Work Department along with the SSWO organization. Recently, they participated in the BSC's fall 2008 Open House, helping to acquaint potential students and their families with the social work program in general, and the Student Social Work Organization in particular. Their table was extremely popular thanks to Jacqueline Spencer's (Vice President) baked cookies that spelled out, "I love social work"!

To familiarize students with the various fields of practice, the organization hosted a number of guest speakers: Ryan Daley Class of 2007, social worker at Compeer; Joe Scibetta, social worker in private practice; and Jody Tucker- Kasprzyk, Class of 1991, school social worker at Erie #1BOCES. This event was greatly appreciated by the social work students.

### Looking Ahead

SSWO has exciting plans for 2009. They intend to collaborate with the social work honor society, Kappa Omega, to support a local agency in need - Cornerstone Manor. Additionally, March is named Social Work Month, and plans are in the works to devote special attention to issues of poverty. They will host an administrator from the Erie County Department of Social Services to address BSC students on laws that influence social service delivery systems and the clients they serve.

---