

Cougar Volunteer Spirit

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Katharine Gottfried

Advocate for the Increased Awareness of Human Reproduction

By Meghan M. White



**Katharine Gottfried
(pictured left)**

Senior Katharine Gottfried spends much of her time working for a non-profit organization called VOX, which stands for Voice of the Student, a student organization that exists to increase awareness of human reproductive health on the college campus. Though she has much experience, Katharine is passionate about volunteering for VOX.

She prides herself on being a reliable resource for college students with questions, problems and concerns regarding sexual health. She feels that VOX plays a large role in campus-wide education because there are few other places students can turn to for information concerning these sensitive issues. As the VOX President, she devotes a substantial amount of her time and effort to advocating for the organization and its beliefs. She is involved in holding open forums and information tables around downtown, as well as other community efforts.

About Katharine Gottfried...

Hometown: Stonybrook, New York

Degree Objective: Sociology

Expected Graduation: May 2006

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Contact

Professor Patrick Harwood
Department of Communicationharwoodp@cofc.edu**001373**

Current Volunteer Activity: Katharine is the president of VOX for Planned Parenthood. The organization exists to inform and college community about human reproductive health and increased awareness into pro-choice activism on campus.

Previous Volunteer Activities: Katharine volunteered with Crossroad Program in Costa Rica last summer. There she worked at a day care facility and soup kitchen in an underdeveloped urban area of Costa Rica. Moreover, Katharine worked closely with Planned Parenthood International her sophomore and junior years here at the College of Charleston. She worked as a voter registration coordinator for the national campaign for Planned Parenthood.

What do you enjoy most about volunteering in the community? Community service is one of the most underrated activities in college. It provides emotional rewards. Being involved in community service gives a person a sense of accomplishment and is just really one of the most rewarding activities a person can have. In Costa Rica I was able to help take care of children and provide them with a safe environment while their parents were working, whereas most of the time this is not possible for them. Being involved with VOX, I enjoy being knowledgeable and able to discuss pertinent and important topics. I am happy that I am able to help with issues that constantly have many questions, concerns and people who need help.

What have you learned about yourself through volunteer work? I learned that I am a better leader than I ever thought, as well as that I have a creative side too. Furthermore I have learned that I possess skills that are helpful in group situations such as listening skills and respect for others' opinions.

How would your friends describe you? Well organized, reliable and easy to talk to.

What is your role in the organization and what are you most proud of contributing? I am the current President of VOX. I believe I am contributing most effectively by taking other people's ideas seriously and ensuring they are not brushed off. I value our organization's ability to listen to all of our members' opinions and ideas. I also contribute a lot of time and effort to organize functions, meetings, discussions and fund-raising events.

What are your plans after graduation? I plan to go to Graduate School to further continue my education and passion in sociology and public health.

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