

MIAMI-DADE CHAPTER

Florida Association for Marriage and Family Therapy



2011 MIAMI-DADE CHAPTER VOLUNTEER INITIATIVE STRATEGIC PLAN

*Web Site: <http://miamidadechapter.vpweb.com/>
Blog: <http://famft-miami-dade-chapter.blogspot.com/>
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P.O. Box 144448, Coral Gables, Florida 33114

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Why Seek Student Volunteers?

Volunteering is the perfect way to feel connected to our community. The simple act of offering ones skills and enthusiasm positively impacts the lives of others, as well as our organization.

The intent of volunteerism is to both generate and harness the Marriage and Family Therapy student's desire to assist in facilitating the mission of the Florida Association of Marriage and Family Therapy (FAMFT) as well as the local Chapter development.

Each individual brings a unique perspective, which fosters relationships and interaction with others. As such, several factors drive students into community service, but the powerful force behind volunteering is in promoting the field of Marriage and Family Therapy that is made through the inspiration of students who will in the end make a difference to our profession. Our organization can't function without the energy and input of volunteers (students) in general.

Volunteering is an invaluable experience and engaging in service creates a valuable dimension to the communities we serve as Marriage and Family Therapist.

Introduction

The philosophy of the Miami-Dade Chapter of FAMFT Volunteer Strategic Plan is quite simple. We believe that powerful change can occur when we reach-out to students and solicit their involvement in promoting the field of Marriage and Family Therapy. Underpinning our philosophy is a strong resolve to partner with these students who will in time set the course for direction of the FAMFT organization in the future. A commitment to this partnership requires us to listen to our students, learn about their needs and assets, and enter into a collaborative relationship with them.

These partnerships take two primary forms:

1. Community service and volunteer initiatives; and,
2. Academic service learning and community based research.

Each functions in a critical way to benefit the community and enhance the experiences of students, bringing the university and colleges that offer a program of study in the field of Marriage and Family Therapy together.

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Mission

The Miami-Dade Chapter of FAMFT advances the idea that by developing and promoting student engagement, we subsequently strengthen learning that in turn facilitates a collaborative partnership through public service, community based involvement, and continual scholarship and development in the field of Marriage and Family Therapy. We fulfill this mission by:

1. Engaging a diverse community of students in learning and leadership through service to local, county and state-wide delivery of services;
2. Assisting Associate and Clinical members of FAMFT in the design of service oriented and community-based programs, that advances scholarship and educational participation in the field of Marriage and Family Therapy;
3. Collaborating with other Chapters throughout the State of Florida, community organizations, citizen groups, and local coalitions to identify and meet the needs of various communities in understanding the scope of services that Marriage and Family Therapy has to offer; and,
4. Promoting a commitment to our profession and active participation within our community.

Vision

The Miami-Dade Chapter of FAMFT has recently been re-activated and is in the process of developing community recognition as a resource for promoting the field of Marriage and Family Therapy that would incorporate civic engagement, public service, academic service-learning, community-based research, and university and community partnerships. As a result of our initiatives, we advocate:

1. Student involvement and leadership on a local (Chapter) and State-wide level that is an integral part of the college experience.
2. The core value of the local (Chapter) and State-wide level of engagement is instilled in students, building a foundation of active participation and leadership.
3. Civic engagement through active participation at annual State conferences.
4. Student involvement on a local (Chapter) level is valued driven that leans towards professional development.
5. Productive communication and collaboration between the universities and local (Chapter) levels to meet identified needs.
6. Linkages to a network of State-wide chapters that facilitate a continual engagement in what Marriage and Family Therapy have to offer.
7. Community involvement and community based research.
8. Service and student learning, and as pedagogy for multicultural education.
9. Students recognition for their engagement activities; and,
10. Recognition on a State-wide level.

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Our Community of Client Groups and Partners

Our primary constituencies are students, as well as local community organizations and educational institutions. Our work is necessarily done in partnership and collaboration with a myriad of individuals and groups on a local level. As we partner with and link with these various groups, the Miami-Dade Chapter of FAMFT will engage on a number of levels that will include:

1. **Students and student groups:** Individual students interested and or involved in a myriad of local (Chapter) and State-wide engagement activities service, with a focus on promoting core values that facilitate Marriage and Family Therapy initiatives.
2. **Academic and Faculty persons:** Those teaching or facilitating academic service based delivery of learning or community-based research in the field of Marriage and Family Therapy.
3. **University affiliates:** Marriage and Family Therapy programs of studies at the university level.
4. **Community:** Community and local organizations that stand to benefit from delivery of services in the field of Marriage and family Therapy.

Priorities for 2011

Priority Area 1: *Faculty/Instructional Staff Engagement*

Work with local university faculty and other instructional staff to further institutionalize academic service learning and community based research throughout the curriculum via the expansion of professional development opportunities in the Field of Marriage and Family Therapy. Examples include, but are not limited to:

1. Course development,
2. Developing a faculty affiliates program,
3. Opportunities for scholarship and research development; and,
4. A community based student involvement program.
5. Creation on a local (Chapter) level of a Community Based Coordinator to expand and strengthen our outreach to faculty/academic instructional staff and better develop and facilitate the field of Marriage and Family Therapy.

Priority Area 2: *Student Engagement*

Develop, expand, and promote civic engagement opportunities to engage students and student organizations in volunteer, service-learning, and community based research opportunities that facilitate Marriage and Family education and leadership development. Examples include but are not limited to:

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1. Expand and strengthen the Miami-Dade Chapter of FAMFT programming, that would include a continual investment by Marriage and Family Therapy students with that would incorporate networking and participation in monthly events (i.e., Chapter presentations, outreach programs, etc.).
2. Implement and utilize marketing plan targeted at students, including social media, updated marketing materials, and promotional events; and,
3. Student portal website to reflect and engage students using audience friendly language (i.e., chat rooms for career development discussions, expansion of communication mediums like Twitter and Blog sites, etc.).

Priority Area 3: *Campus Community Engagement & Partnerships*

Continue our collaboration with university campuses and local community organizations to foster our students' academic promotion of the field of Marriage and Family Therapy, as well as meeting identified local (Chapter) and FAMFT needs. Examples include, but are not limited to:

1. A shared community consultants program,
2. Interstate university campus community partnership development with other students throughout the State of Florida who are also enrolled in a Marriage and Family Therapy track program,
3. Supporting academically based FAMFT initiatives for graduate education in the field of Marriage and Family Therapy; and,
4. Supporting residential learning continuum that promotes an active participation on a local (Chapter) level.
5. Strengthening the Miami-Dade Chapter of FAMFT presence in the South Florida area.

Priority Area 4: *Development/Fundraising*

Create a comprehensive development plan in order to diversify our funding sources and to support and expand our programs and delivery of services to the community by working with local area foundations to promote Marriage and Family initiatives.

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