



Celebration of Service  
Monday, March 31, 2008  
Welcome Speech by Missy Gugerty, SSND

Dear distinguished & committed students & colleagues from all around campus,  
Dear distinguished & committed alumni and community partners,  
WELCOME!

WELCOME to A Celebration of Service!

An evening in which we gather,

- to share stories of lives impacted, changed, maybe even transformed,
- to view Kodak service moments,
- AND, last, but certainly not least, to sample & savor the sweet treats laid out before us.

As we begin, I'd like to explore with you why I believe it's important that we **celebrate** service.

I believe that it is as simple, and complex as this:

The world we live in is, regrettably full of injustice - poverty, racism, sexism, and elitism, to name just a few isms. And each of you, for whatever reason you first volunteered - personal, political, spiritual or mandated, elected to open yourselves up to that world - to go, to hang out where, in our right minds, we'd opt not to go. But you went! **This we celebrate!**

Secondly, for most of you here, you went back! You didn't go just once, but weekly! **This too, we celebrate!**

And finally, you realized that behind every ism or issue, there stands a person - a man, a woman, a child who needed you to be **with** her or him.

And you chose to do so, because you also realized that she or he was a human being, a child of God. **This, most of all we celebrate.**

And, **we thank YOU**, because not everyone in this world sees and/or responds to those who are materially poor, or to those who are homeless, or to those who are un or undereducated, to those who wrestle with addiction, to those who are jobless. . . **as persons. BUT, YOU have** - you have seen, touched and embraced all of these as individuals. AND, in many cases, YOU have allowed them to touch YOU! AND that is so very worth celebrating!!!!

Thank YOU - let the celebration continue!!!!!!!