FORCEs Feminist Pharmacy - Progress Report

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Requested Metrics
We hosted a collaborative program with APASA (Asian Pacific American Student Affairs) and the ExtraVAGanza project on 2/12, which had 28 sign ins. This was our most successful “open attendance” program to date (as compared to our Students for Sustainability collaboration, which had a closed registration/was only open to members of SFS), and interns who participated in the program overwhelmingly reported that the discussion felt like the best so far. Students were genuinely engaged and shared about their experiences with cultural taboos regarding menstruation and menstrual products. We also were able to partner with ExtraVAGanza on the distribution of items, complimenting their offering with items they don’t carry (such as menstrual discs) so that attendees had broader options and learned about this more long-lasting program.

Project Accomplishments
We have made successful connections to 5 of the 7 Cultural Resource Centers (WGRC, LGBTQRC, APASA, GSC, and DCC), and two campus partners that share in the work of sustainability and reducing period poverty on campus (SFS and ExtraVAGanza). To date we have $1875.25 remaining in our budget line (if ASUA budget tracking is accurate- we know there were errors last semester on when purchases got reconciled), so the demand for these reusable items has seen an increase.

Next Steps
We intend to use Women's Herstory Month collaborations with Wildcats Events Board, Jellywink Boutique (a queer-affirming, woman-owned sex store that does community sex education and will be collaborating with WGRC on 3/13), VALID USA (a program that distributes gender-affirming clothing and wants to partner on providing menstrual products to trans masculine folks on campus), and the broader FORCE x WGRC programs in this month (such as our tabling on the mall to promote Women's Herstory Month on 3/14, 3/20, and 3/27) to continue our outreach. Items will be distributed along with information by the FORCE interns who attend programs throughout March, as many of these programs are a drop-in, tabling format and benefit from giving interns the chance to chat with folks that come in and walk them through how to use the items. We anticipate that in the future, the ExtraVAGanza team and VALID USA will be long-lasting partnerships for us.
Challenges Faced

As we are drawing to the end of this grant cycle and are waiting to find out the fate of FORCE's budget/team composition in light of impending cuts to ASUA, we are hoping for support on how to continue the work if we A) have to cut personnel or B) lose funding for our regular pharmacy offerings, which would reduce our capacity to prioritize the reusable items. We know ExtraVAGanza can be someone we refer folks to, as well as VALID USA, but the uncertainty of our organization's budget is causing some anxiety for us and is why we did not re-apply, because we don't know if we will have one or two co-directors next academic year. We would also appreciate seeing CSF folks attend programs in Herstory just to be in community with us, if you have capacity, because showing up can help us make the case for the importance of the work we do on campus.

Project Support

See above! Attending our program would be beneficial.

Photo Link

Note from Audrie: I believe Grace Harrington took photos! I will ask them to share those once they are back from Spring Break. We will also take pictures during our Herstory programs.

Media/Links

Marketing calendar for Herstory: https://www.instagram.com/p/C3-kICCPZsD/?img_index=1