THE DREW GOODERS

They educate us. They entertain us. They feed the hungry. They sell us cookies. All for good causes. Across the nonprofit spectrum, Drewids flourish. Here are 10* stellar examples.

“Check out two more Drew Gooders on page 64 and on the back cover.

LIDIA SOTO-HARMON C’85

POLITICAL SCIENCE, SPANISH

Who: Chief Executive Officer, Girl Scout Council of the Nation’s Capital

Where: Washington, D.C.

She oversees: The country’s largest council serving 86,000 girls in Maryland, D.C., Virginia and West Virginia

By the numbers: Soto-Harmon drew more than 250,000 Girl Scouts to the National Mall for the organization’s 100th anniversary celebration in 2012

Best perk: Throwing out the opening pitch at a Nationals game on the stadium’s Girl Scouts’ Day. After considerable practice, “I did not disappoint.”

The reward: “The multiplier effect of what girls can do in their community is one of the things that excites me about this position.”

POLITICAL SCIENCE, CHINESE

Who: Elementary school language arts teacher, Teach For America (following a two-year stint with Teach For China).

Where: Inverness, Mississippi

Realized early on at Drew: “So many people working in education policy have no experience in the classroom.”

Those who can, teach rural: Professor of Chinese Di Bai told him, “To understand China, you really need to go out into the country,” which is Teach For China’s focus.

What’s next: Serving a second year in Inverness and figuring out his long-term plan. “I’m filling a need, and every day I have an opportunity to have an impact on a child’s life.”

ANDREW BISHOP C’14

SOCIOPOLITICAL SCIENCE

Who: Member of the AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps working with the Federal Emergency Management Agency on disaster preparedness and response.

Where: Vicksburg, Mississippi

We caught her just as she was about to: “Go boots on the ground” in the wake of tornadoes and floods in Kansas City, Missouri.

It turns out: “Disaster relief is my passion.”

Life-changing event: Lending a hand to Hurricane Sandy victims through Drew’s Circle K Club.

The big picture: “I’m helping the mass population. I feel like, if you’re able to get the community back on track, then individuals will have the resources to help themselves and others.”

“Disaster relief is my passion.” — LIDIA SOTO-HARMON

“...The multiplier effect of what girls can do in their community is one of the things that excites me about this position.”

— LIDIA SOTO-HARMON
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Who: Director, Charles E. Culpeper Arts & Culture Program, Rockefeller Brothers Fund.
From the Upper West Side: Rodríguez-Cubeñas doles out $2.5 million annually to New York City arts organizations, from nascent groups to established entities such as the Brooklyn Academy of Music.
The Pocantico Center: Running a residency program for artists at the Rockefeller estate rounds out his responsibilities.
No rest for the weary: He also chairs the Citizen Advisory Committee of CreateNYC, an initiative making recommendations on cultural issues to the City Council. “For the first time, New York City will have a comprehensive cultural plan.”
Why nonprofit? “It represented an opportunity to make a difference.”

POLITICAL SCIENCE

Who: Community builder extraordinary, founder or founding member of multiple nonprofits, from Jersey City Lacrosse and Hoboken’s Cantigas Women’s Choir to a Hudson County group that teaches English as a second language to adults.
Where: Northern New Jersey
Day job: Teacher in Jersey City’s port-of-entry program for Spanish-speaking immigrant children whose education has been interrupted.
 Interrupted how? “Literally walking from South America to New Jersey for nine months.”
What drives her? “If I were to die tonight, I’d want to be proud of my last 24 hours on this earth.”

RELIgION AND SOCIETY

Who: Founder and Executive Director of the nonprofit Safe Havens.
Where: Boston, Massachusetts
Impetus: A Methodist pastor, Hunter launched the national interfaith organization to help faith communities address domestic violence. “I felt strongly that people of faith needed to be standing with people who are faithful and experiencing abuse.”
Funding from the feds: One of Safe Havens’ clients is the U.S. Department of Justice, which relies on the group to train faith communities across the country.
At the end of the day: Hunter was effusive about a recent training session involving a rabbi, an imam, Christian clergy and two pagans. “Seeing that kind of diverse community approach and willingness to find solutions is why I do this work.”

POLITICAL SCIENCE

Who: Fundraiser for United Nations World Food Program, which works to stop famine in 80 countries.
Never forgot: Professor E. Obiri Addo, of Drew’s Pan-African Studies program, who pushed the Uganda native to “always give back” to those still caught in poverty and conflict in Africa.
Life-changing visit: After hearing United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan speak at Drew in 2010, Kawuba was accepted into a graduate program in Geneva of which Annan was an alumnus.
Suddenly, at age 24: “I was hanging out in these forums with people like the foreign minister of Syria when Syria was blowing up, and we were saying, ‘Let us get food to these people.’”
Saving lives through work: “This is where my heart is, where my passion is. It gives me energy to jump out of bed every morning.”

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THEATRE ARTS
Who: Director of Development of the nonprofit Theat...