



Campus Compact

Ohio

2023

Charles J. Ping Student Service Award
Recipients



Campus Compact

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Charles J. Ping Student Service Award Winners 2023

The Charles J. Ping Award was designed to recognize and honor undergraduate students' outstanding leadership and contributions to community service on their campus and within their community. This award is granted annually to undergraduates from Ohio Campus Compact member institutions that exhibit outstanding leadership in their community service endeavors both on their campus and within their community.

The award is named in honor of Charles J. Ping, who served as President of Ohio University from 1975 – 1994. An early supporter and Board Member of Ohio Campus Compact, Dr. Ping was a tireless advocate for campus-community partnerships and increased opportunities for students to become active and engaged citizens.

Candidates must be nominated by the president of their college or university. Candidates have met the following criteria:

- 1) Evidence of exemplary community service during each student's undergraduate years should reflect the student's efforts to meet needs in his or her community. The Ping Award recognizes student efforts, from individual commitment to service and community to the ability to create an organization and to involve others.
- 2) Although outstanding community service of any kind will qualify, Ohio Campus Compact is especially interested in efforts that have connected service with academic study or designed programs with long-term community involvement.

Each year, Ohio Campus Compact awards a \$250 Legacy Award to the top two nominees. This donation is made to a community-based nonprofit organization in the student's name. The Ping Legacy Award recognizes students who address economic, emotional, and environmental community needs.



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Congratulations to the 2023 Charles J. Ping Student Service Award Winners. We applaud your outstanding leadership and many contributions to your campus and your community.

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*Legacy Award Recipients

Kyrsten Stuckey
Bowling Green State University



One thing I was always taught growing up was "if you can, you should". If you can study harder, do it. Train harder, do it. Be of service to others, do it. I carry that sentiment with me now in everything I do, but especially in the areas of my life that I take for granted. It is important to me to give back to my community and those around me because if I were in that position of need, I would want someone to help me.

When I engage in acts of service, I start with what fuels my passion. All services are worthwhile, but when I operate from a place of passion, I provide a better level of service. An example has been volunteering at my church nursery. When working there, I take care of kids between 0-5, giving them a snack, reading books, or teaching songs. I volunteered with the church for years and it has allowed me to really develop my love for working with kids and my passion for service.

My most recent service project was a toy drive for foster children in Wood County, the county where Bowling Green State University (BGSU) resides. This was in collaboration with 34 organizations, all connected through BGSU Greek Life. Over a month, we collected over 500 toys, totaling about \$2,000 in donations. This project was important to me because it allowed me to give back to my area in a way that connected to what I am passionate about: kids! Seeing how grateful the agency was for our items left me feeling extremely fulfilled because I knew that we were making a significant difference in those kids' lives.

It's important to give back to your communities, not only to be of service, but to also remember that kindness and care go a long way. While I am involved in several organizations that require highly valued service, I do it because it is important to me. I want to ensure that I am leaving a legacy of care and servitude. I want to be of service where I am needed and where I know I can have an impact. My work directly serves my community because I ensure that I serve in communities I am connected to. We cannot change the world overnight, but we can work to make our corner of the world and our communities better. I am simply happy to do my part in changing the world.

Alivia Mae Kruczowski
Defiance College



While pursuing my undergraduate degree at a small private college, I was given endless opportunities. Some of the on-campus opportunities include; The Women's Softball Team, Service Leader, Affinity Program Peer Interventionist, Admissions Student Ambassador, founder and president of RallyCap Sports, student employee of the Institute for Career Readiness and Lifelong Learning, and McMaster Scholar with the McMaster School for Advancing Humanity. Additionally, I have been fortunate to make a difference in our local community as well as internationally. I am employed with Kaitlyn's Cottage, a respite care facility for individuals with developmental disabilities, and also volunteer at our local homeless shelter. As part of the McMaster School I traveled to Belize and implemented lessons in their schools to help improve emotional resilience and stress management skills. This year I am working on a local initiative creating a resource guide for the Path Center (local homeless shelter) that includes activities and ways to create an inclusive environment. The opportunities presented to me during my time at Defiance College have truly shaped me into the person I am today. Being a McMaster scholar was a very important goal for me. My first two years as a scholar I was part of the Belize learning community, which allowed me to travel to Belize and implement my project while researching on the ground. Studying in a culture so different from my own was an amazing experience and opened my eyes to a new way of thinking and acting. After returning from Belize I decided to apply for the local learning community. The main reason I decided to do so was because I saw the impact that I was able to have while in Belize and I wanted to have that same impact on my own community. Going to a community outside of my own allowed me to reflect on the problems that we often ignore when they are right in our backyard.

Working at the Defiance Regional Hospital (Kaitlyn's Cottage) has given me even more opportunities on campus. In February 2022 I was approached by RallyCap Sports asking if I would be interested in starting a chapter at Defiance College. Committing to starting this chapter was easy, but I never could have imagined the impact that it would have on me. I have now organized two sports seasons and am currently working on a third. Every time we hold an event my heart becomes fuller with the amount of support and love that the community and athletes individually have for RallyCap Sports. Being a senior, I am in the process of finding someone to take over as the next president for RallyCap Sports at Defiance College. It is very important to me that this program continues to grow on campus and in the community, so finding the next president is something that I am determined to take my time in doing. Defiance College has helped me develop many skills as well as given me an endless amount of opportunities that I could have never imagined existed, and for that, I am forever grateful.

Jacob Eppley
Denison University



In high school, community service provided me with one of my most valuable experiences that launched my commitment to service at Denison University. This high school service came while serving the Backpack Program for Feeding America, an initiative that seeks to provide food for school students by placing bags of food in the students' backpacks. On my first day helping, I vividly remember my shock when seeing the number of bags we had to fill. It was not the size of the number that shocked me, but the proportion of students who were receiving them. In the elementary schools, roughly one out of every seven or eight students was receiving a bag, meaning about fifteen percent of the school did not have enough to eat weekly. This realization was the moment when I knew I had to make service a focal point in my life, and I thought of how in class earlier that same day classmates were sitting around me who did not know where their next meal was coming from.

Moving forward to my time at Denison, I knew service was something that I was going to want to continue. I had seen the need for service in my hometown, and with Denison becoming home for the next four years, it felt natural to give some of my time to the community. Luckily, I was able to be introduced to Denison and service in the area at the same time through the Denison Service Orientation which provided a wonderful welcome not only to Denison but to the potential for community service and building meaningful relationships both on and off campus. Throughout my first year, I would volunteer with various organizations through the Denison Community Association's (DCA) Saturday Service, which are service events on Saturdays both on and off campus working with community partners as well as clubs and organizations on campus. Throughout this first year, I was able to work with various organizations off campus including Together We Grow Gardens, Newark Homeless Outreach, Licking County Coalition for Housing, Spark Employment Strategies, and Denison Alumni.

By the end of my first year, I wanted to do more than just the service I was doing. One of the outcomes of service I was not entirely expecting was the sheer enjoyment of being able to serve with different people and build connections with everyone who is a part of the service, whether it is who you are serving, the organization you are working with, or the other students at the orientation or service event. This is why I applied to be the Saturday Service Coordinator for the 2022-2023 school year and lead the Denison Service Orientation myself. Through these positions, I have been able to facilitate the connections to service that others had given to me while also continuing to give back to the community and shape the future of community service at Denison.

Erin Kipp
John Carroll University

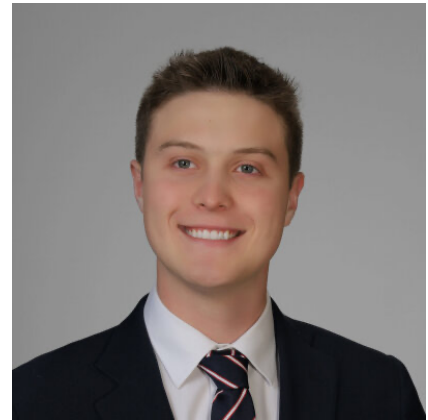


As a student at a Jesuit university, I have explored the deeply-rooted systemic issues that impact the communities in which we serve. I have also gained an understanding of the role that direct service can play in supporting human dignity. As a Peace, Justice, and Human Rights major, finding the balance between these two approaches has been at the heart of my college experience, including the best way to lead others in the process. Opportunities for leadership came sooner than I had anticipated. My sophomore year, during the pandemic, I was selected for a position on the Center for Service Learning and Social Action's Student Leadership Team. This role has allowed me to mentor other passionate and social justice driven student leaders as they led students to weekly service-learning placements.

I was fortunate to grow up in a foster and adoptive multiracial family in the greater Boston area. Learning about the realities of racial injustice, along with the impact of indirect and direct trauma, was a call to action and created my desire to work to address childhood trauma. My passion led me to an internship the summer of 2021, where I worked alongside the Director of Scholar Wellness at Boys Hope Girls Hope, an international Jesuit organization that provides educational support and mentoring to youth. At Boys Hope Girls Hope's northeast Ohio campus, I created and implemented lesson plans, such as "high school boot camp" or "healthy relationships and sleep patterns." These plans were accompanied by a summer-long research project to assess and portray the importance of trauma-informed social workers in academic settings. This research, in addition to being presented to the organization, was used in my classes as an Arrupe Social Justice Scholar to help build an advocacy project within my major.

While social justice guides my advocacy work and service-learning leadership, I know there are many John Carroll students who might not be as exposed in their classroom setting. From this understanding, Jesuit Day of Service in the spring each year allows students from across campus to participate in one day of direct service, while incorporating the importance of social justice awareness into their future careers. I was invited to the Jesuit Day of Service leadership team beginning my sophomore year. It is a great privilege to work with a wide breadth of community partners and bring together over 300 JCU students, faculty and staff to learn about the assets and challenges of our neighbors. Building student awareness around social justice and working alongside community organizations and residents has been gratifying, and it is something that tangibly represents the best of Jesuit education in a way that has been transformative for me and others.

Nathan Ritchey
Kent State University



In a country with such abundance, every person should have access to food. However, I was surprised to discover the extent of food insecurity in my community. It became my mission to help alleviate this problem in the Kent area. While I am honored to be nominated for this award, my accomplishments would not be possible without the help of my team.

As a first-year student, I joined Flashes Fighting Hunger (FFH), a student-run food pantry that aims to fight food insecurity and decrease food waste. FFH collects food near its expiration date and works quickly to repurpose and distribute it to those in need. I was impressed by the difference FFH was making in people's lives and decided to dedicate my time to this organization. I led recovery efforts several nights a week and served food through our twice-weekly pantry. In my first two years, I volunteered for over 930 hours.

In my junior year, I became the manager of FFH. I saw this as an opportunity to improve and grow this great organization. I worked to expand our program by utilizing partnerships with Akron-Canton Regional Food Bank and Kent State Dining Services. We were able to offer more food and add high-quality items. I also worked to overcome obstacles facing our patrons. First, I discovered that some international students refrained from taking food because of religious and cultural dietary restrictions. Ensuring that FFH was culturally sensitive, I organized the pantry so that every patron was able to receive foods that met their unique needs. Secondly, I found that some people were unable to get food because they lacked transportation. So, I led fundraising to purchase a truck to create a mobile pantry. We were then able to take food directly into the community.

As a result of my group's hard work, we were able to help more people than ever before. In 2022, we recovered and distributed 130,451 pounds of food to over 700 local households, an increase of 20% from the previous year. During my time as manager, we never canceled any of our pantries. Even through sub-zero weather, we have powered through to recover food and get it to those in need.

As I near the end of my service to this great organization, I reflect on the late nights and early mornings of hard work and remember that every second was worth it. I gained over 1,000 additional hours of service in my last year and trained the next generation of hunger fighters to ensure our organization will remain into the future. Along the way, I have met people from around the world and made great friendships. I learned more about culture and the hardships people experience than I ever could in a classroom. Even though my career goals are to become a physician, reducing food insecurity will always be an integral part of my life.

Kate Brand
Miami University



For the past year, I have been extremely fortunate to be part of the first cohort of the AmeriCorps Service+ Program, hosted by the Center for Social Impact at Miami University Regionals. This program allows students to serve as AmeriCorps members and enhance their workforce and leadership skills through work at a local non-profit organization. At my host site, EDGE Teen Center, I work to provide a safe, inclusive environment where teenagers can express themselves and seek academic, life skills, and personal guidance. Through my project in post-graduation planning, I am empowering teens to be invested in their futures, to be prepared for the responsibilities, and to believe in their success. I believe that through my service at the teen center, I am truly making a difference in these teens' lives by simply being an adult they can trust to give them the space they need to grow every day.

In addition to my host-site service, I also serve as the Service+ LeaderCorps Representative. In this position, I meet with and share ideas with AmeriCorps members in other programs across Ohio, participate in Legislative Outreach, and assist in planning a service project and AmeriCorps week activities for our program. This year, the service projects are meant to focus on addressing hunger in our community. Students at Miami's regional campuses have repeatedly expressed a need for an easily accessible, free food service, so I am currently working to address that need in an effective, sustainable way. It is well-known that food insecurity is related to lower GPAs in college students and according to a study by Miami and the Butler County OSU Extension Office, more than half of Middletown and nearly half of Hamilton, the locations of the Miami Regional Campuses, are classified as food deserts. Therefore, improving access to food for our regional Miami community will likely allow for better health outcomes and overall stability that allows students to flourish both personally and academically. By creating a grab-and-go food pantry that is available through swipe access and regularly stocked with fresh foods from Jee Foods, the nearly 4,000 students that attend the regional campuses will have daily access to many healthy options that they may not otherwise have. Our partnership with Jee Foods has been a catalyst for the establishment of the food pantry by providing start-up funding assistance and equipment. Their commitment to food supply along with the continuation of the Service+ Program and the Center for Social Impact will ensure the sustainability of the food pantry in the future. Working on this project has given me a great appreciation for all the work that is done to improve food access and has shown me that by working together, we can make a positive difference for those around us in any way that is truly necessary and impactful to other areas of life. I am excited to see the completion and continuation of this project and the great effects that it has on the Miami community!

Anthony Wright
Mount St. Joseph University



My name is Anthony “Ant” Wright and I serve as an AmeriCorps member and Student Resource Center (SRC) Coordinator at Mount St. Joseph University. My commitment to the community is to break any socioeconomic barrier that students may face throughout their academic careers. I assist students by providing resources that will assist with their needs. Needs include transportation, childcare, affordable health care, mental health services, and the most important one on our campus: food insecurity. I manage the food pantry on campus, The Lions’ Cupboard, and our goal is to eliminate any food insecurities at the Mount. Throughout my service, I’ve organized many events to address our community’s food insecurity. I’ve organized hygiene drives, food drives, and events where faculty and staff got a chance to be involved and show their support. The most important drive I’ve facilitated was the Get Dirty for a Cause Pie-A-Thon; this event set the standard for the year and allowed me to get the message across to the community that we do have needs at the Mount. By doing so, I was able to bring attention to what I do at the Student Resource Center and Lions’ Cupboard, which meant more interaction with students and chances to resolve the food insecurity problem. This event alone increased the number of visits to the food pantry and the student resource center. I made the Lions’ Cupboard a place where students feel comfortable shopping for food while providing any resources they may need in a time of crisis. My work has affected the community and our university because it’s influenced others to address the needs of our student body and involve themselves in drives, meetings, etc. that are pushing to resolve these conflicts. Faculty and Staff have the closest relationships with students, and I’ve challenged them to support what I’m doing by referring students my way if they’re in need.

My actions have led to success in different areas such as the community, university, and myself. The work I’ve done has affected the community drastically due to the involvement of outside vendors. We’ve managed to gain partnerships with Gold Star Chili of Cincinnati, Proctor and Gamble (P&G), and the endless amount of support from the Delhi community. My work has allowed MSJ to come closer as a university and find ways to address our insecurities; the countless donations, referrals, and shoutouts have brought much light to the Lions’ Cupboard. Finally, I believe the work I’ve done has affected me because I’m learning to become a true leader. Every day I’m finding ways to influence others and show them how powerful we can be as a whole, especially when it comes to attacking insecurity. I’ve become more selfless and have learned to value the concerns of others. The work I’ve put in has been a humbling experience and something I’ll do over and over if it means making someone’s current situation better.

**Emma Hart
Oberlin College**

Ping Legacy Award Recipient



I created Survivors Of Sexual Harm & Allies (SOSHA), an advocacy organization, to meet a need in my community. Following my own experience of violence on campus, I had the extraordinary privilege of being surrounded by loved ones who ensured that I was never alone while healing. While reflecting on this support and hearing peers share their own stories of assault, I became aware that the majority of survivors face their trauma alone. I also noticed an absence of conversation about sexual violence on campus due to stigma. Seeing this realization as an opportunity to create a novel space for survivor voices, I mobilized a team of peers to serve as the leaders for a new organization.

I connected with campus administrators, including the Title IX director, to ensure we existed within college policy and built a partnership with the Nord Center, a local rape crisis center, to assist in supporting our members and guiding our leadership team. Through the process of chartering and advertising, my energy for the topic galvanized the people I worked alongside, and we gained over 100 members—no easy task with starting in March 2020 and forming during the height of the coronavirus pandemic.

Within months, we invited survivors and their loved ones to share experiences with trauma and healing and support one another during our first listening session. We later added educational programming and began advocating for more accessible information about the Title IX process and support options. I coordinated Take Back the Night, a protest against assault and a celebration of survivor resilience that garnered over 200 attendees.

I organized open forums for students to share perspectives about sexual violence and the Title IX system and, with the college's administration, began the process of conceptualizing more survivor-centered policies. I also co-created the Athletic Coalition to End Sexual violence (ACES), a group that facilitates dialogue about masculine standards and sexual harm. This spring, in partnership with the Oberlin Bonner Center, the Nord Center, and Collaborative to End Human Trafficking, I co-facilitated a panel about human trafficking in order to raise awareness and mobilize a community action team.

After three years in SOSHA and its various programming, I now serve as the organizational advisor, and have brought over fifteen new leaders into the organization within the past year. I believe that my biggest impact in the Oberlin community is serving as the peer mentor to these younger students that I needed as a first-year student. I am excited to leave Oberlin with the legacy of SOSHA, an organization that directs the fervor of survivors of sexual harm and their allies into constructive, impactful action. More importantly, I am inspired by the new generation of leaders who are continuing to dedicate themselves to creating support, advocacy, and education in our community.

**Parwinder Singh
Ohio University**

Ping Legacy Award Recipient



During my time at Ohio University, I have demonstrated commitment to community service, service-learning, and community-based research. As a student studying entrepreneurship and computer science, I am involved in various co-curricular activities that allow me to engage with the community positively.

As the President of the Entrepreneurship Club, Vice President of OU Pickup Soccer Club, and Director of Outreach for National Residence Hall Honorary, I have organized and executed several events, workshops, and initiatives for the club members and the community. I have also engaged in volunteer work, such as organizing charity events and participating in various community service projects. My leadership and teamwork skills have been evident in these positions, and I have convened diverse groups to work towards a common goal. I also worked to promote entrepreneurship and innovation on campus, growing the club from just four members to over forty and organizing events and activities to inspire and support new leaders and innovators.

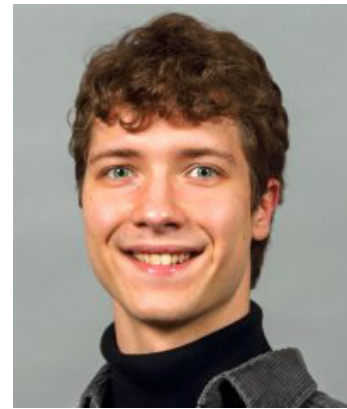
I have participated in various fellowships, including the Stanford Innovation Fellows Cohort 2022-23 and Pepsi Leadership Cohort 2022-23. These fellowships have enabled me to gain valuable experience and learn from industry leaders in innovation and leadership. One of my most significant contributions to the Ohio University community has been my work to create a co-op program, providing students with valuable hands-on experience and help them better prepare for their future careers. It will also be an excellent opportunity for international students to get their first internship and work experience early. I am also building a new learning management system for the Center of Entrepreneurship, which will enhance student resources and support their growth and development as entrepreneurs.

My internships at Ohio University Innovation Center and Mission Met have provided me with valuable experience in the field of innovation and entrepreneurship. Through these internships, I have worked on various projects and contributed to the growth and development of the organizations. My commitment to positively impacting the environment is evident in my volunteer work at Tenderfoot Learning Lab and my win in the Eco Impact Challenge Ohio University 2022.

In addition to these activities, I have participated in various hackathons and coding competitions, where I have developed my programming skills and ability to work under pressure and think strategically. Using my experience, I am hosting a hackathon at Ohio University, HackPalachia, a 24-hour event that brings together students from various backgrounds and majors to collaborate and build projects on real-world problems, I am contributing to developing the next generation of leaders and innovators in the community.

Overall, my various roles and initiatives have allowed me to engage with the community positively and make a meaningful impact. My commitment to community service, service-learning, and community-based research reflects my primary areas of study, including Entrepreneurship, Computer Science, and Strategic Leadership & Management. I have gone above and beyond the requirements of my service-learning classes and have designed one-day service events that address community needs, involve innovation, and incorporate plans for sustainability or continuity in the future.

Graham Steed
Ohio Wesleyan University



I entered Ohio Wesleyan as a transfer student and also as a first generation college student. Before coming here, I would never have imagined that I could engage in such a wide array of service and such in-depth community-based learning while in college and earning a degree. When I arrived on campus in August of 2020, I moved into the Service Engagement and Leadership House (SEAL), a new small-living unit whose mission was to equip and encourage those interested in service to mobilize the OWU and surrounding community for service for the creation of leadership, compassion, and knowledge in both self and others. In our first year, we contributed over 900 hours of service, established significant relationships with community nonprofits, and become a source of campus information regarding existing community needs. As house members, we created individual programs. During this first year, my favorite personal contribution was the creation of an interactive, Covid-friendly trivia event with the National Alliance for Mental Illness (NAMI) to raise suicide awareness.

In the two years following, I continued to live in SEAL, and together we learned more about community organizing and volunteer mobilization. In the Fall of 2022, I became the moderator of SEAL. In this capacity, I was able to help others create and plan their own service initiatives. Throughout this time, I have volunteered for a variety of community organizations such as Turning Point, Habitat for Humanity, The Kirkmont Center, Salvation Army, The Red Cross, Stratford Ecological Center, MTSO Seminary Hill Farm, Franklinton Farms, and Glass Rooster Cannery.

My most meaningful service experience was my work with the Saint Bernard Project (now known as SBP) in Houston, Texas. As part of our Spring Break Service Program, I served as team leader for work in disaster recovery, rebuilding a home damaged by Hurricane Harvey. As an Environmental Studies major, I was especially interested to learn about how disaster relief affects communities as climate change becomes a more present and pressing issue. Our group explored issues of community building, and we learned about and reflected upon national and global responsibility for disaster restoration. SPB is a nonprofit co-founded by an OWU alumnus, Zack Rosenberg '95, and I am proud to have continued our tradition of engagement with their important work. This project created lifelong friendships among our team members, and it was so deeply emotional because the work was so fulfilling.

All of these experiences have played a significant role in my career development. I aspire to become a sustainability director, an individual who creates and monitors different initiatives that impact the environment, the economy, and, most importantly, the community. Although my time at Ohio Wesleyan is coming to a close, I am thankful that I finally found a place that not only granted me access to knowledge, but also expanded my understanding of the community and the needs that exist around me.

John Holzaepfel
The Ohio State University



Throughout my time at Ohio State, my involvement in community service has contributed to my capacity for personal growth. Service is what led me to Ohio State, as it was my high school experiences on a youth council of a local nonprofit that first opened my eyes to the impact that service can have on a community and its ability to counteract public issues. From this, I found the John Glenn College of Public Affairs, determined to pursue a career in nonprofit management to reverse the disparities rural communities face. As a freshman student, I became involved in the Mount Leadership Society Scholars program, which emphasized leadership and service. Through recurrent service projects through Mount, I explored new perspectives and encountered new public issues. I grew in my ability to facilitate reflective discussions, develop leadership skills, and avoid engagement with uncomfortable realities that service can encompass, such as saviorist attitudes.

Thus, I decided to pursue a position within the Mount program sophomore year co-chairing the Service Committee. In this position, I not only was able to orchestrate and provide logistical support of service projects for freshmen students, but I was able to encourage new members to see the value and impact of service. As lead chair of the program's Empty Bowls fundraiser, I engaged with community partners organizing a three-month-long service project of creating, completing, and selling over 300 clay bowls. The program's emphasis on food access motivated our committee to market our project and raise over \$3000 for the Mid-Ohio Food Bank. Coupled with my experiences volunteering at NNEMAP Food Pantry, through conversations with dedicated staff and volunteers, I saw the collective impact that individuals engaging in service can have on our community.

From these experiences, I applied for my current role serving as a Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service Chair for Pay It Forward, Ohio State's student service cohort. In my final year at Ohio State, I now participate in the organization of service opportunities for all Ohio State students to connect with their community. I am ecstatic about the opportunity to facilitate an in-person day of service once more since the onset of the coronavirus pandemic and hope that our range of service activities will make the event accessible for all. I am relentlessly grateful to be a part of having such a large collective campus presence dedicated to serving the greater Columbus community in honor of his legacy. I hope that students can not only contribute to the betterment of their communities but have constructive conversations about how race and gender intersect in our society. Connecting with both new and previous agencies, I am passionate that this year's event will only lay the groundwork for expanded in-person days of service Pay It Forward provides for future students. As I advance towards graduation, I am more passionate and driven than ever to continue to utilize the power of service coupled with the nonprofit sector to move towards an equitable and just future for all.

Joseph Haas
University of Mount Union



I have been heavily involved in community service both on campus and in the city of Alliance ever since I began attending the University of Mount Union. Most of my service experience has been through Mount Union's Regula Center for Public Service & Civic Engagement and Alpha Phi Omega, a co-ed service fraternity. At the Regula Center, I have worked as a Student Employee since the beginning of my sophomore year. In this role, I assist the Center's director in the logistical planning and execution of various service events and civic engagement initiatives, both on- and off-campus. Many of these events include service events with local non-profits (e.g. Habitat for Humanity, YWCA, local food pantries, Alliance Neighborhood Center, etc.), on-campus service events (e.g. card making for nursing homes, Christmas Giving Trees, trail clean ups) and voter engagement events. Being involved at the Regula Center has greatly impacted my attitude towards service in a positive way and has helped me to connect more with the Alliance Community.

As mentioned, much of my service-based involvement has also stemmed from Alpha Phi Omega (APO), a co-ed service fraternity at Mount Union. In this fraternity, members are required to complete 25 hours of community service per semester, as well as requirements for social and leadership events. Quickly after joining APO during my first semester of college, I jumped into the office of Leadership Vice President. In this role, I was responsible for planning all leadership events which our members attended to satisfy their credit requirements. After serving as the Leadership VP, I was elected to be our chapter's next Vice President. In this role, I assisted the President and fulfilled many other duties such as running elections for awards and the next executive board. My greatest accomplishment in this office was the planning and execution of an event called Light Up the Lakes. At this event, members of the campus and Alliance communities were invited to come light a floating lantern on the Mount Union Lakes in memory of a loved one. Attendees could purchase the lanterns at the event along with raffle tickets for items donated by local businesses. Through this event, we raised over \$1,200 for the Alliance Community Pantry. This was a huge success, especially since this was the first time the event had taken place since the pandemic. Service through places like the Regula Center and within organizations such as Alpha Phi Omega has been an integral part of my college experience and has helped shape me into the person I am today.

Amanda Kot
Wittenberg University



Service is foundational and indispensable to me, both as a community member and individual, because it encourages building and sustaining cohesive communities. In high school, service was a core value of mine, but I didn't understand the true impact of serving a community. I came to a deeper understanding of true service after becoming involved in the Springfield community through Wittenberg's community service program. Specifically, I learned how important it is to work directly with communities and public organizations to achieve social justice and bring about change by listening and meeting the needs of the community. I believe that education is a wonderful place to start when addressing community needs. There is a large value placed on schooling, so service should start by bringing parents, communities, and students together. My passions lie in youth work and being able to nurture the development of children in the community by committing to their success. With this commitment to fostering connections and growth, I started tutoring English language learners at a local high school.

My experience with ESOL tutoring largely impacted me culturally and the way I think about the education system. Providing supplementary aid to Hispanic and Haitian students allowed for me to practice my Spanish skills while building connections with the students and valuing their agency and voice. This experience allowed for me to reflect on my own implicit bias (growing up in predominantly white town) and fueled my dedication to cultural awareness and an equitable learning environment. Cultural awareness is the first step to building a culturally responsive approach to teaching which is what I advocated for in the classroom. In addition to my devotion for equity, I value the preservation of student identity and helping them develop a sense of historic identity and cultural connection. I hope to help bridge the culture gap within education by addressing student needs and building a stronger, inclusive community. I am proud to be a member of the Springfield community and ESOL tutoring was my first step to making a positive difference in students' lives.



Campus Compact

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