

FEINSTEIN ENRICHING AMERICA PROGRAM

2019-2020 ANNUAL REPORT



**CENTER FOR COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT AND SERVICE**

"VOLUNTEER TO WORK FOR A WORLD THAT IS HARMONIOUS, JUST, AND MERCIFUL"

It's more than a ten hour commitment...

SERVICE ADVOCATES

Service Advocates are given the opportunity to participate in a yearlong civic engagement and service program, providing them with the knowledge, skills, and experiences necessary to become active leaders. The students participate in regular training, direct service, and reflection activities. Service Advocates perform at least 100 hours of service at their primary site, which can be Child & Family Services, Potter League, Salvation Army, Donovan Manor, Newport Hospital, or Edward King House.

SERVICE IMMERSIONS

Service immersions offer a unique opportunity for students to volunteer, experience a new culture, build community, and reflect on their service experiences. These immersions offer students an opportunity to live the mission of Salve Regina through these experiences. The Center's current immersions are: Jamaica Service Trip, Alternative Spring Break, Service Plunge 2.0, Florida Service Trip, and the South Dakota Service Trip.

SERVICE PLUNGE

The Service Plunge provides new students with a challenging and fun opportunity to lead and learn through active experiences. Through direct and indirect service, "plungees" learn the importance of service, social justice, and civic engagement. They also meet community needs, identify and build upon community assets, and share their experiences with the campus community, all while making lifelong friends.

THOMPSON AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM

The Center for Community Engagement and Service organizes an after-school program on campus for fifth and sixth-graders from Thompson Middle School in Newport. Salve students are needed to help Thompson participants become community leaders, dynamic team members, and positive role models. These volunteers seek new opportunities to work with student-led clubs on campus to organize engagement activities that foster creativity and personal growth.



...it's a mercy tradition

SERVICE HOURS

In the Fall 2019 semester, we kicked our year off with two of our largest service programs: Service Plunge and the Exploratory Day of Service. On Tuesday, September 5, 2019 over 700 first-year students volunteered with our community partners across the island, logging a total of **2,106** service hours.

For our Service Plunge program, happening in the Fall volunteers served at over **10** community partner sites on Aquidneck Island. The volunteers were able to log a total of

1,520 hours

For the 2019-2020 academic year, our 25 Service Advocates completed a grand hourly total of

2,181

As we look back at our 2019-2020 year of service, the Center is proud to announce a grand total of **10,261** hours completed by the undergraduate students at Salve.

SERVICE PROJECTS

Over **2115** non-perishable items were donated during our Thanksgiving food drive.

For our holiday gift drive, over **1,695** gifts were donated to Child & Family, the MLK Center, Jamaica, Potter League, Donovan Manor, Edward King House, Salvation Army and more.

In January 2020, a group of 15 students and four chaperones traveled to Jamaica to volunteer with the Mustard Seed Foundation.

For the 2019-2020 academic year, the Center for Community Engagement and Service provided Salve students with over 128 service opportunities throughout the semester at 119 community partners.





Throughout the 2019-2020 academic year, the Center for Community Engagement and Service hosts various donation drives to help local community members. Each year, more students become involved in giving back to our community: Aquidneck Island.

THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE



This year 2,115 non-perishable items were collected and donated to different organizations around the island. This drive assists the MLK Center, Child & Family, Salvation Army, and Florence Grey Center in providing meals to families in need.

ANGEL TREE DRIVE

This year 1,695 gifts were given to local community members to help make their children's holidays more special.



END OF YEAR DRIVE

At the end of every Spring semester, the Center encourages students to donate items. The Center organizes a community yard sale that is open to the public. All money raised is allotted to funds for future service trips.

BETTER WORLD BOOK DRIVE



Better World Books' textbook drives have raised millions of dollars for literacy and diverted millions of books from landfills. Salve Regina University has participated in the program since 2011, donating more than 5 boxes of textbooks each year. Donation bins are placed around campus at the end of each semester.

SHEETS & TOWEL DRIVE

This is our second annual sheet and towel drive to benefit the Housing Hotline. This year will make a total of 38 bags being donated.



STEPPING OUT OF DARKNESS

Every Fall semester the Center takes part in a Suicide Prevention Awareness Campaign. This year, our campaign consists of a shoe drive to signify the amount of college campus suicide deaths each year. After the shoes are collected they are displayed across campus during wellness week in the Spring. This year we collected over 500 shoes to use for the event and donate to Child & Family.

FALL & SPRING SERVICE WEEKS

From October 7 to October 13, 2019, Salve students participated in the Center for Community Engagement and Service's Third Annual Service Week. This week was comprised of on-campus service opportunities within the Center with the goal to provide a gateway to our office, specifically for first-year and first-generation college students. On-campus opportunities led by current Service Advocates created an environment that fostered engagement. It also served as an opportunity for marketing more programs and service opportunities available through the Center. We had over 50 participate.

987 Pumpkins

Unloaded at the Trinity Church
Pumpkin Patch

46

Reusable bags made out of
t-shirts by 20 volunteers

157 Items

baked for St. Paul's Church
Warm Up Wednesday Program
for the homeless

42

Halloween masks made by 10
volunteers for
East Bay Community Action
Sidewalk Parade



MLK DAY OF SERVICE

January 24, 2020

Over 15 students participated in our 3rd annual MLK Day of Service projects. Our student volunteers created t-shirt bags that were donated to the local shelter. In addition, a group of students decided to make a homemade meal for the McKinney Shelter that include pasta, meatballs, a veggie platter and desserts!

FEINSTEIN SUSTAINABILITY WEEK

The Center for Community Engagement and Service collaborated with the Protect Our Wildlife Club and the Environmental Club to create programs surrounding the environment.

We collaborated with Clean Ocean Access to bring the students a sunrise cleanup of the Cliff Walk, located in close proximity to campus. Students gathered at 7AM at 40 Steps to help clean up one of the most populated and visited coastal tourist destinations in Rhode Island.



Making Ronan's Dream Come True



The Florida Immersion Trip group helped raise funds to make Ronan's dream come true. His "Dream Come True" is to go to the Florida Theme Parks and to play at a water park! \$5,000 was raised for Ronan thanks to the work of our Salve Regina University students and connected community, led by our student leaders Olivia Iula, Kayla Sledzik, and Caitlin Neuman.

Roger's Closet: Shifting Focus to Help During COVID-19

Due to COVID-19, students are participating in home learning and teachers at Rogers are working hard to be flexible and change their teaching methods to ensure the students continue to learn. However, many students, especially during these challenging times, are facing food insecurity and financial crisis at home, making it difficult to focus on their schoolwork.

Our Center will be using the \$1000 grant to provide students in need with hygiene products, school supplies, and non-perishable foods. Our intention remains the same, but like teachers and administrators, we are flexible and ready to change our approach. We are all navigating uncharted territory, but it is imperative we make this initiative happen regardless of the distance learning. Student's needs are greater now than ever and they need to know that there is still support available to them.

We created care packages that include hygiene products, food, school supplies, our business cards, and a personal note. While the program is available to all Rogers students, we reached out individually to students in the Alternative Learning Program (ALP) asking if they would like a care package. We are specifically engaging ALP students because they have missed five or more days of school prior to the start of distant learning and are an at-risk population.

Students that would like a care package will have the option to pick up the care package from the Florence Grey Center at a specific time or request we drop it off at their home. We also have two other local groups that we plan to engage to help make care packages.

It is our duty to help support our community, especially during a time of crisis, and the Center for Community Engagement and Service is dedicated to continuing to do so.



Service Advocates Program



The Service Advocates and Senior Service Advocates programs offer outstanding students the opportunity to participate in a yearlong civic engagement and service program, providing them with the knowledge, skills and experiences necessary to become active leaders.

This year, we had 28 students participate in the Service Advocate Program

Our Service Advocates worked with our community partners: Child & Family, Newport Hospital, Donovan Manor, Salvation Army, Potter League, and more.

Service

IMMERSIONS

Jamaica, January 2020

The Jamaica service trip is run through the Mustard Seed Communities, an organization that works with the local Catholic church to serve the needs of abandoned or orphaned children with mental and physical disabilities. Mustard Seed Communities was founded in 1978 as a home for children with disabilities on the outskirts of Kingston. The majority of their programs are dedicated to the care of children with serious physical and mental disabilities, children affected by HIV/AIDS and teenage mothers and their babies.



Due to COVID-19, three of our Service Immersions were cancelled: our Stay-Break on Aquidneck Island, our trip in May to Give Kids the World Village and Sunshine Foundation and last trip to Simply Smiles. We are hoping to be able to work all of these organizations come 2021.

Thompson After School Program

2019-2020

The Center for Community Engagement and Service organizes an after-school program on campus for fifth- and sixth-grade students from Thompson Middle School in Newport. Salve Regina students are needed to help Thompson participants become community leaders, dynamic team members and positive role models. Volunteers will seek new opportunities to work with student-led clubs on campus to offer engaging activities that foster creativity and personal growth.



Some favorite activities were:

Teamwork: Thompson students and volunteers worked together as a team to untie a human tie knot.

Creativity: Thompson students were joined by the Salve Art Club on Halloween to create monster drawings and masks.

Giving back: Thompson students sent positive messages through chalk art and helped make blankets for babies at Newport Hospital.

Having fun: Thompson students toured campus, ate dinner at the dining hall, went trick-or-treating and visited the game room on rainy days.

Congratulations to our Director, Kelly Powers!



The 2019 Volunteer of the Year was presented to Director of Community Service for Salve Regina University, Kelly Powers. Through her role at the University, Ms. Powers has recruited and coordinated hundreds of hours of volunteers each and every year. As a parent of four boys at Sandpipers Early Learning Center, Ms. Powers is deeply committed to the success of Child & Family, serving on many committees including parental advisory, events and fundraising initiatives.

Congratulations

TO OUR 2020 NEWMAN CIVIC FELLOW

Eden Zaleski



Eden Zaleski, a double major in Elementary and Special Education at Salve Regina University, uses her passion for education and service to be a leader and change-maker. Her goal is to create more equitable school environments and access to resources for underprivileged youth. After taking the course Race and Inequity in the American Education System, her eyes were opened to the struggles faced by minority and disadvantaged youth in school and society overall. The research she is conducting for Salve's Education Department tracks how this class impacts pre-service teachers' racial identity development so they can reach and teach all students, no matter their backgrounds. In August 2019, Eden became the first Salve student to visit the Cheyenne River Sioux Reservation in South Dakota. This August, she will lead ten students as they provide summer camp activities and help build the Children's Village for Lakota youth. Additionally, she participated in the Florida Service Trip, was a student facilitator for Service Plunge 2.0, and organize the East Bay Special Olympics as President of Salve's Special Olympics Club. She believes that education, awareness, and service allow changes to come to fruition, improving the lives of those being served and those completing the service.

Response to COVID-19: Serving Our Community Remotely

The Center for Community Engagement and Service has been working hard as a team to stay engaged with the community and keep our students engaged in service, while adhering to the precautions that need to be taken in response to COVID-19. It is now, more than ever, that the community needs to be able to rely on each other.

There are four essentials in high demand right now that can be hard to find: gloves and masks, food, toiletries, and communication.

Gloves and Masks-The Center for Community Engagement and Service is collecting masks and gloves from departments on campus to distribute to medical personnel. The Chemistry department has made the first donation: 24 boxes of gloves. Director, Kelly Powers, brought these to the Newport Fire Department. They will distribute the gloves to medical professionals on Aquidneck Island and in Providence.

Food- Sodexo has donated 36 gallons, bread, vegetables, and other foods and paper goods to Salvation Army. The Center for Community Engagement and Service also sent trays of frozen food, bread, granola bars, chips, frozen meat and utensils to St. Joes. We are still collecting items for the Salvation Army for their bagged lunches, which are being distributed at the soup kitchen on Fridays and Sundays.

Toiletries- Throughout the year, the Center for Community Engagement and Service has collected toiletries. These will be donated to Latisha Michel at the Newport Health Equity Zone. Facilities also dropped off a box of toilet paper to the MLK Center.

Communication- Service Advocates are creating social media support for our community partners. Alexandra Harkness, a Senior Service Advocate, is helping with the Salvation Army. Darren Christie is working on a newsletter for Donovan Manor that we will print from Salve and I will delivery for distribution. In addition, Kathleen and Kelly are maintaining communication with the Senior Centers in Newport and Middletown to offer support. They are creating a “pen pal” program to have students mail letters to Carmella Geer, the Aquidneck Island volunteer coordinator. She will then distribute letters.

Our Call to Service During COVID-19

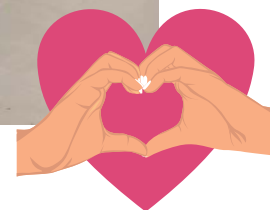
In Salve Regina's response to the coronavirus pandemic, the University has been reminded how deeply the call to service and care for neighbors is central to its vocation as a Mercy, Catholic institution. And the Center for Community Engagement and Service takes up this call in a meaningful way, now and all year long, through the leadership of the Service Advocate program.

"Service Advocates have been so special for all of us at God's Community Garden," said Linda Wood, coordinator of God's Community Garden. "They sign up when they are freshmen and usually continue to volunteer the four years at Salve. Peggy, our garden manager, and I rely on Salve students not only to work the greenhouses and gardens, but to teach others coming to volunteer as well. We are blessed and have been blessed with so many wonderful volunteers in the last 10 years." This year, a Senior Service Advocate initiative was also created to further the impact of the program. Five graduating seniors who have dedicated their careers at Salve Regina to service and solidarity in the local community chose to take on a leadership and mentorship role for the rising cohort of Service Advocates.

Throughout the academic year, Senior Service Advocates have led groups, planned events, participated at their service sites, completed office hours each week and served as role models in the Center for Community Engagement and Service. Through their work in the local community, all Service Advocates gain experience, skills and an understanding of the common good grounded in their community collaborations. "My service at the Salvation Army helps me empathize with 'us,' and this, in turn, will help me to create better art, because it allows me to see things from differing perspectives," said Ryan Miech, a Service Advocate for the Salvation Army. And the Service Advocates' dedication has continued throughout this time of remote learning and Virtual Salve. In the last two weeks, Senior Service Advocates have reached out to Service Advocates to create virtual meetings and support their local community partners.



Service Spotlight: Three Sisters Volunteer at Newport Hospital



One of the greatest rewards is seeing how both Salve Regina students and their community partners grow and appreciate the transformative work in these collaborative partnerships. Three Service Advocates — sisters Kaitlyn, Elizabeth and Anne-Marie Brilhante — have been working all year in partnership with the Newport Hospital. The Brilhante sisters use their teamwork, strong work ethic and creativity to contribute to the needs of this local community partner with genuine kindness and mercy.

Lisa Coble, director of volunteer services at Newport Hospital, was so impressed by the Brilhante sisters that she designated them with a special volunteer award during National Volunteer Week. Coble shared that the Brilhante sisters go above and beyond. "They've reorganized storage spaces and closets that would have taken a staff member months to do," said Coble. "They are always encouraging and uplifting when they are at Newport Hospital."

Coble's words and Newport Hospital's recognition of these three Service Advocates is a wonderful beacon of light in this time. The Center for Community Service and Engagement is so appreciative of the ways in which Kaitlyn, Elizabeth and Anne-Marie Brilhante have developed a strong partnership with Newport Hospital and are living out Salve Regina's Mercy mission.

International Service Reflections

SRU has over 125 international service “alumni” at this time after having sponsored 7 trips to Nicaragua and 2 trips to Jamaica in recent years. Each international service trip that I have been on to Nicaragua and Jamaica has been a genuine life-changing and transformative experience for the participants involved. For some it has literally been a first-time out of the U.S. (ok maybe Canada) cultural experience.

For nearly all it has been a first time experience of being a racial minority with language challenges. Participants encounter poverty, limited resources (particularly water), limited health and transportation services and “different” diets in real time vs. textbooks, videos, guest speakers and charts. They learn to draw upon newly discovered inner talents and strengths which were often never used or recognized. Participants speak about developing a degree of self-confidence after the trip which they transfer to other areas of their lives when they return.

The experience of being “functionally illiterate”, i.e. being unable to function (read, speak) easily in a given society (this occurs in Nicaragua for most participants) creates a dependency upon others to manage daily tasks and opens eyes to the variety of “skills” each person possesses and shares in a community.

Participants realize on these service trips that success requires team work and consideration of others’ needs. Living, traveling, eating, working and playing together creates community. Even with planning meetings and pre-trip orientation sessions, the creation of community represent a process that takes time. Usually after 48-72 hours a group chemistry develops. Fortunately, in nearly every situation the chemistry experiment has been a success.

The variety of academic majors represented by students on international service trips typically provides a range of applied skills and interests within the group; often these hidden resources and skills emerge and are utilized in real circumstances. This represents experiential learning at its best. In addition, on several occasions, a spring semester “service-learning” course has been offered to students who had participated in a Salve-sponsored international service trip. These courses have been wonderful theory/praxis experiences both for the students and faculty who were also participants on the trips.

A few final observations about the impact of international service trips are: (a) the number of participants who vow to “return again next year” (b) students who attempt to continue to live on “Nica Time” once back and work to consciously “embrace the moment” (c) students that self-identify as “Jamaricans” who will not forget those with whom they lived, worked and served in Jamaica.

EARTH MONTH

highlights

The Center for Community Engagement and Service has been encouraging our students to continue to do their part in supporting Earth Month from home. We started our first initiative with "Earth Hour" where we asked students to turn their lights off for an hour and see the stars.



As we continue to support Earth Month, we are posting challenges for our students on our social media and working with one of our community partners, Clean Ocean Access to educate our students on what they can do from home to help protect our planet. Some suggestions that you can do to help from home are to: save electricity by unplugging things and shutting off lights when not in use, say no to plastic bags and straws, use reusable products, or send an email to a company you support asking them to switch to sustainable products. Help us do our part in saving our planet during this worldwide pandemic.



Aquidneck Island Earth Week: Virtual Student Showcase!

Three communities coming together to celebrate the 50th birthday of Earth Day from April 18th - April 25th

Senior

HIGHLIGHTS

Thank you to our Senior Service Advocates for your continuous hardwork and dedication to serving our community throughout your college experience. We are excited to see what the future holds for you all.

“ I think the best part of service is seeing how it impacts others. The smiles on their faces are the best part of it all. I’ve learned that giving a little goes a long way!

DARREN CHRISTIE '20



Darren Christie

Caroline Parks



“

I changed my major to social work to continue serving and helping others. There’s nothing better than seeing the smiles of people you’ve helped; I’m looking forward to a lifetime of smiles.

CAROLINE PARKS '20



Alley Harkness



I love lending a hand to others, especially those in need. In a time like this, it's so easy to feel overwhelmed by everything going on in the world, but if there's one thing I've learned through all my service experiences so far, it's that it's also so easy to reach out and help those in need! As Catherine McAuley said, "we should be shining lamps giving light to all around us."

ALLEY HARKNESS '20



Kali Major



“ By serving others, you are serving yourself. Doing community service brings light and joy not only into other people's lives, but gives a meaning and purpose to your own. The communities that I have built through service and the people I have met will forever impact me and impact my life. At the end of the day, we are all people, and we all need help sometimes, so sometimes we need to put aside our busy life and focus on bringing the light and joy into someone else's.

KALI MAJOR '20

Olivia Alcott



Community Service has become one of the most important aspects of my life because of Salve. Getting involved with this office was the best decision I ever made. Beyond the service we've done we have created a community that I will cherish forever. In these uncharted times we need to work together to find new ways to help our communities even when we can't be together physically.

OLIVIA ALCOTT '20



looking ahead

PLANNING FOR IN-PERSON SERVICE FOR FALL 2020

As we wrap up our academic year remotely, we continue to work diligently in planning for a return to in-person service in the Fall of 2020. We hope to be able to reconnect our students with our community partners as soon as possible. As our students continue to connect with our partners and support them remotely, we know that they are eager to return to their sites.

However, with the current climate of COVID-19, we must follow the recommendations made by the state and Salve Regina University in returning to what is going to be a "new normal". With this in mind, we are always looking for new ways that we can continue to work in service to our community.

If you have any needs or recommendations and believe that the Center for Community Engagement and Service can be of support to you, please contact us. We hope to see you all face-to-face soon.

Annual Report
**CENTER FOR
COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT &
SERVICE**

**GERETY HALL
401-341-2440**

COMMUNITY.SERVICES@SALVE.EDU

**SALVE.EDU/OFFICE-SERVICE/CENTER-COMMUNITY-
ENGAGEMENT-AND-SERVICE**



@salveservice