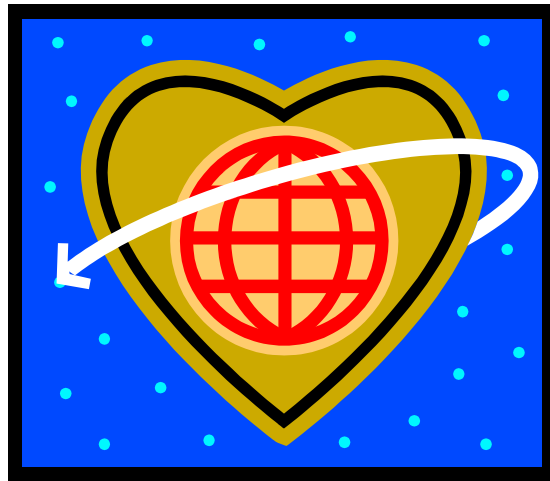


Ursuline Students Making A Difference



Student Service Recognition Program

2007-2008

Ursuline Educational Services (UES)

Ursuline Educational Services



Spring of 2008

Dear Students, Friends, and Co-workers in Ursuline Education,

*Our annual sharing of Student Service Projects is here!
The projects are spirit-driven, filled with the dedication, compassion
and sense of joy that reflects St. Angela's spirit. They have a global
sensitivity, and they share about service outreach both in the States
and around the world. The participants this year are from 15 Ursuline schools,
including:*

**Beaumont School, Cleveland Heights, Ohio
The College of New Rochelle, New York
Marquette Catholic High School, Alton, Illinois
St. Ursula Academy, Cincinnati, Ohio
St. Ursula Academy, Toledo, Ohio
St. Ursula Villa, Cincinnati, Ohio
The Ursuline School, New Rochelle, New York
Ursuline Academy, Cincinnati, Ohio
Ursuline Academy, Dallas, Texas
Ursuline Academy, Dedham, Massachusetts
Ursuline Academy, New Orleans, Louisiana
Ursuline Academy, St. Louis, Missouri
Ursuline Academy, Wilmington, Delaware
Ursuline High School, Santa Rosa, California
Villa Angela-St. Joseph High School, Cleveland, Ohio**

Enjoy the spirit of caring so evident in the sharing!

United in St. Angela's peace,

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STUDENTS MAKING A DIFFERENCE

School Name: St. Ursula Academy Toledo, Ohio

Entire Student Body, Faculty and Staff and Parents

Reason(s) for Nomination:

In April, our school participated in a service project called our “Day of Caring”. We closed school for an entire day, and all our students, teachers, staff members, administrators, and even some parents, met at school in the morning for prayer and to prepare to go into the community to serve. In all, 700 individuals were involved. After our prayer, we boarded 16 buses and went to 18 different sites to volunteer. Food banks, neighborhood centers, family centers, and group homes, were some of the agencies we served. We ate lunch at our work sites, and later in the afternoon returned to St. Ursula for prayer and witness talks.

It was powerful to see 700 people in the gym, all there for the purpose of serving others. The students had a great time, and it was a great experience for teachers and students to work together in this capacity. In addition, it was a wonderful opportunity for our community to see us living out our mission to serve in such a real way. It made a huge impact on all involved.

School Name: The Ursuline School New Rochelle, New York

Grade Level: Sophomores

Describe your service and what you did:

On November 28th, the sophomore class organized a “Make A Wish Day” to raise money to adopt a wish for a local child. The students prearranged a dress down day, as well as a day filled with various fundraising events. They sold shirts, boxer shorts, wish bracelets, candy and wish magnets. In addition the students decorated a wishing well where other students could donate a dollar and make their own wish. The day culminated with a “homemade treats only” bake sale. The success of the day was due to the sophomores’ devotion to the cause. All in all the sophomores raised a total of \$5,150.00.

Grade Level: Juniors and Seniors

Describe your service and what you did:

On February 18th, twenty four juniors and seniors and six chaperones departed Newark Airport for the Habitat site in Robbins, Tennessee, and returned on February 24th. The Appalachia Habitat for Humanity is a Christine partnership whose goal is to restore pride and stability into the community by building and financing quality, affordable housing for all low-income persons in Scott and Morgan Counties, Tennessee. This was the first week long

Appalachia Habitat for Humanity venture during the February school vacation week for the Ursuline School of New Rochelle. During this week the girls worked on three different sites building, restoring, painting, putting in flooring and learning more about the people directly affected by poverty. It was a wonderful experience for all and the students and chaperones raised all of the funds necessary.

Student Names: Katie Doyle, Gina Finazzo, Emily Simon, Clare Abkemeier, Josephine Behr, Kelsey Berry, Margaret Brueggen, Emily Clegg, Jaclyn Cotter, Mary Danforth, Megan Flynn, Theresa Goodwillie, Janet Hanneke, Emily James, Kelsey Jarrett, Mallory Layton, Danica Leitner, Emily Milford, Nina Sykora.

School: Ursuline Academy

St. Louis, Missouri

Name of Place where service was given: New Orleans, Louisiana

Describe your service and what you did:

Our group of Ursuline students from St. Louis and our chaperones traveled to New Orleans, Louisiana, to help with Hurricane Katrina relief. We resided at Ursuline, New Orleans, sleeping on their gym floor and eating at their convent. With the guidance of Catholic Charities, we gutted three houses destroyed by the hurricane so that they could be rebuilt. We had to move all of the possessions out of the home (if not already done), knock down the walls, remove the carpet, tear down the ceiling and take out the insulation, remove nails, and then sweep the house clean.

In your opinion, how did your service make a difference to the community you served or to those who received your service?

All of the people in New Orleans were still trying to recover from the hurricane, and our presence and hard work reassured them of the rebuilding of their future. As a group, we were told over and over again that our work made a difference. Whether through a tearful thank you from a homeowner, the appreciation from a simple passer-by, or our fellow Ursuline Academy students, it was evident our work inspired the community. It was also refreshing to see other Catholic Charity signs on homes throughout the city. We were their hope.

Student Name: Alex Hill, Courtney O'Neill, Caroline Linke

Grade Level: 12

School: Ursuline Academy

Cincinnati, Ohio

Name of Place where service was given: A variety of agencies, including: Over-the-Rhine Community Housing, Tender Mercies, St. Joseph Orphanage, People Working Cooperatively, Freestore Foodbank, Drop Inn Center, and Kenzie's Closet

Describe your service and what you did:

We provided a lot of different services on Make a Difference Day. At Kenzie’s Closet, we helped sort through the prom dresses that were donated. At People Working Cooperatively, Tender Mercies and The Drop Inn Center, the volunteers helped clean and did yard work. At Over-the-Rhine Community Center, we fixed up rundown buildings, and at St. Joseph’s Orphanage, we organized donations.

In your opinion, how did your service make a difference to the community you served or to those who received your service?

Each service site was dedicated to helping those in the community who needed it the most. Whether directly or indirectly, every person involved in this day was helping to make the city a better place for everyone to live. Also, at some sites we were helping the directors of the sites.

Student Name: Rita Pansky

Grade Level: 12

School: Beaumont

Cleveland, Ohio

**Name of Place where service was given: John Carroll University Labre Project;
Habitat for Humanity**

Describe your service and what you did:

I served the poor and homeless in Cleveland in three principal ways. I participated in the Labre Project at John Carroll University. I helped prepare, pack and deliver simple meals and personal care items to homeless individuals living in different parts of Cleveland. Responding to an unmet need expressed by one of the homeless individuals encountered on one of the Labre visits I made, I organized a successful tent and sleeping bag collection at my school. To further understand and experience solidarity with people who are homeless, I participated in Inward Bound the summer of 2007, a week-long inner city mission trip sponsored by Cleveland Habitat for Humanity. During the week, I showered and had meals at a homeless shelter, helped with landscaping at a home being rehabbed, stocked grocery items at the Cleveland Foodbank and befriended residents at the shelter.

In your opinion, how did your service make a difference to the community you served or to those who received your service?

It is my hope that in a very small way, I brought a caring touch to those I served directly and indirectly. Sometimes, just a kind word or action that recognizes a person’s humanity can be enough to interrupt the cycle of events that has led to a person’s misfortune. As much as I hope my service has made a difference to the people I have served, I am confident in knowing that this

service experience has changed my life and continues to shape my future career direction. Before I began my service work in earnest, I considered myself an average teenager with no particular talents or firm educational or career goals. I discovered that you don't need a 4.0 GPA or a 2400 on the SAT to serve in a meaningful way. I have a mind, a heart and two hands that I can use, and will continue to use, in simple and profound ways wherever my faith may take me.

Student Name: Musa Abdul Ali **Grade Level: Senior**

School: The College of New Rochelle **New Rochelle, New York**

Name of Place where service was given: Westchester Ave.

Describe your service and what you did:

I am a Religious Leader and I sit on the Board of Adopt a Friend, non-profit organization. I'm a volunteer Chaplain at Bronx, Lebanon Special Care Center, and I assisted at the funeral service for the Magrasa and Somise Family. I also initiated an anti-crime rally.

In your opinion, how did your service make a difference to the community you served or to those who received your service?

I believe that the work I do helps bring comfort to the minds and heart of the people. It also is guidance for some. The services that I'm a part of bring me more comfort and peace of mind, body and spirit, as well as safety and direction.

Student Name: Danielle Delancey **Grade Level: Junior**

School: The College of New Rochelle **New Rochelle, New York**

Name of Place where service was given: Isaac E. Young Middle School, New Rochelle

Describe your service and what you did:

I worked with classmates to educate middle school students about global child labor. We then organized the 41st Chapter of Operation Day's Work in the United States and the first in New York. The organization raises funds to support projects which aid children in developing countries. We helped fund six group homes in Ethiopia for sixty AIDS orphans.

In your opinion, how did your service make a difference to the community you served or to those who received your service?

The middle school students with whom I worked were able to develop a sense of awareness about matters relating to global child labor. More importantly, they were able to make a difference in the lives of children in developing countries. They developed a true sense of autonomy as members of a national organization, voicing their opinions regarding fundraising.

Student Name: Willette M. Fletcher

Grade Level: Graduate Level

School: The College of New Rochelle

New Rochelle, New York

**Name of Place where service was given: Redeeming Hearts Soul-2-Soul
Ministries, Bronx, New York**

Describe your service and what you did:

I am helping to create a resource center to teach communication, writing and oral skills for personal and professional enhancement for adults in the community. Having the opportunity to improve these skills will help families to be better prepared for employment and for college. I have also initiated women's and men's support groups, free counseling for parents and children, and referrals to other programs in order to serve the whole family.

In your opinion, how did your service make a difference to the community you served or to those who received your service?

As a result of this program, many of the parishioners have gone into higher levels of education (college or graduate school) or have gotten jobs and promotions. Overall, this program "has increased the (parishioners') quality of life by encouraging them to pursue higher levels of education, by receiving jobs, or by obtaining employment upgrades." (Quotes from personal testimony of several parishioners.) What the program has done is enhance the experience of community in our city so that now people in the parish relate to one another as kin rather than as strangers. This acts as a model for other communities. For me, it has become an extension of who I am and of what I believe. Interacting with the community has enhanced the quality of my life.

Student Name: Valerie A. Sirani

Grade Level: Senior

School: The College of New Rochelle

New Rochelle, New York

Name of Place where service was given: The College of New Rochelle

Describe your service and what you did:

The Student Nurses Association Revenue funds were increased by 73% by advocating for support from The Student Government Association. I initiated State participation for three students on the State Board of the New York State Student Nurses Association. I increased school participation of Student Nurses by formulating a school wide internet communication site through medical services.

In your opinion, how did your service make a difference to the community you served or to those who received your service?

It has sparked a sense of community and pride, not only in the School of Nursing, but amongst the individuals themselves.

Student Name: Maria Repking

Grade Level: 12

School: Marquette Catholic High School

Alton, Illinois

Name of Place where service was given: United Methodist Village

Describe your service and what you did:

Talked with the residents, visited, painted their fingernails, played games.

In your opinion, how did your service make a difference to the community you served or to those who received your service?

I believe my time at the Methodist Village helped many of the residents recall special times in their lives. One day last spring, some friends and I dressed up in our prom dresses. This activity prompted many of the residents to share with us some of the special parties or events they had attended in their younger days. It was fun to see their faces light up. It is rewarding to have many of the residents share some of their past experiences with me. Some are happy memories, but some are sad, as well. I admire the strength and wisdom of these older persons.

Student Name: Keely St. Peter

Grade Level: 12

School: Marquette Catholic High School

Alton, Illinois

Name of Place where service was given: Several locations throughout the U.S and Mexico

Describe your service and what you did:

We have been everywhere from Michigan to Mississippi and have participated in flood and hurricane repair, housing projects for the homeless (comparable to Habitat for Humanity). Last summer, I was given the opportunity to go to Reynosa, Mexico, where we ministered to the orphans at Casa Hogar Orphanage.

In your opinion, how did your service make a difference to the community you served or to those who received your service?

Obviously, the structural repairs to different homes and buildings made a difference in the lives of the people served. More importantly, they hopefully felt God touching their lives through people willing to help out for nothing in return. Our goal is to exhibit the unconditional love of Jesus, and glorify Him through our service. I have been very fortunate to have the opportunity of going on Mission Trips since I was very young, and it has instilled in me, early-on, that we as Christians have to give back. Also, I have been able to enjoy the feeling of seeing someone or a group of people receive something they wouldn't have otherwise. These experiences make me very thankful for what I have.

Student Name: Katie Berno

Grade Level: 12

School: St. Ursula Academy

Cincinnati, Ohio

Name of Place where service was given: Nicaragua

Describe your service and what you did:

I went on a mission trip to Nicaragua with a group from my parish to build relationships with our twinning community there. During work days, we painted over graffiti and helped with the construction of a new school. Most of our time, however, was spent getting to know the people of Nicaragua by participating in classes at the Batahola Cultural Center and by playing with the kids.

In your opinion, how did your service make a difference to the community you served or to those who received your service?

My service in Nicaragua made a difference in a concrete way because the donations we brought to the people can offer new hope and opportunities in their lives. However, I think that the relationships we built made a more significant difference. By spending time together and sharing our stories we were able to recognize each other as people and friends, building a solidarity that makes a much more heartfelt difference. As I continue to reflect on my mission trip to Nicaragua, I feel that I am more aware of my many blessings and my call to share them with others. I am inspired by the generosity, perseverance, and faith of the people I met. Most of all, I learned that the face of Christ can be seen in the faces of others.

Student Name: Cara Hemmer

Grade Level: 12

School: St. Ursula Academy

Cincinnati, Ohio

Name of Place where service was given: St. Francis Soup Kitchen

Describe your service and what you did:

I serve people food from the food line. I walk around tables pouring drinks for people. Afterwards, I clean up and wash the tables.

In your opinion, how did your service make a difference to the community you served or to those who received your service?

My service made a difference in the community because I not only was serving the people food and drinks, but I was also smiling. By smiling I feel that it says to the people that even though they need some help it does not mean they cannot be treated with the kindness and respect they deserve. A little bit of kindness can brighten someone's day. Serving people brightens my day.

Student Name: Megan Jones

Grade Level: 11

School: St. Ursula Academy

Cincinnati, Ohio

Name of Place where service was given: St. Ursula Academy and Sedamsville

Describe your service and what you did:

This year I was part of our in-service, as well as Student Outreach Service. I am on the ISSE Service Captain Team and specifically I am in charge of the Fall Canned Food Drive. I also work at Sedamsville House and Rehab.

Describe how this service was important in your life.

I feel that through Sedamsville I am directly helping people who are less fortunate than I am. I love the feeling of making a difference in someone's life, even if it is a small one. Service has impacted my life in some significant ways. I have learned how to be kind and sympathetic towards people who aren't as fortunate as I am. I've become more accepting and generous. I've learned to love life because you never know when things are going to change. Service has become a way of life.

Student Name: Rebecca Thompson

Grade Level: 12

School: St. Ursula Academy

Cincinnati, Ohio

Name of Place where service was given: Children's Hospital

Describe your service and what you did:

I started a used magazine drive for Children's Hospital. I collected the magazines at school, separated them and removed the addresses at home, and then delivered them directly to the hospital.

In your opinion, how did your service make a difference to the community you served or to those who received your service?

The patients and families of the patients spend countless hours, days or months in the hospital. They received an updated form of distraction. Before this magazine drive was started, these people only had old tattered magazines to read and now they are constantly updated. I think that a new magazine may have made one person's day a little brighter, and for that I am grateful.

Student Name: Lauren Sheehan

Grade Level: 12

School: St. Ursula Academy

Toledo, Ohio

Name of Place where service was given: Mission Trips in Athens and Youngstown, Ohio, Florida, Chicago, Louisiana, Mexico, and Africa

Describe your service and what you did:

In Athens, Ohio, I fixed a roof on an elderly family's home and also worked at a homeless shelter. In Youngstown, Ohio, and Chicago, Illinois, I helped fix and clean up community centers (painting, tiling, weeding, etc). In both Florida and Louisiana I did hurricane relief on a few houses, mostly roofing and painting. In Mexico, I helped start a Church (cleared out and painted a building and spread the word.) In Africa, I participated in a youth conference, comparing cultures and lives.

In your opinion, how did your service make a difference to the community you served or to those who received your service?

I think my service made life better for the communities I served because although I could not build a whole new house or give them money, I could show them there is hope in the world and people out there who care. In some situations, I think I also helped lead some people to Christ and start their faith journey. In addition to a stronger faith and appreciation, I have also developed a concrete group of friends who have the same beliefs I do and who I know will always be there when I need them. Those friends also keep me grounded and remind me who I want to be.

Student Name: Kasey Rahn

Grade Level: 11

School: St. Ursula Academy

Toledo, Ohio

Name of Place where service was given: Toledo Zoo – ZooTeen Program

Describe your service and what you did:

I have worked mainly in educating youth about animals and the environment. This included showing animal hides during the summer and talking to the public. Other off ground projects include volunteering at the Humane Society and Metro-parks. I also headed the Community Service Committee, coordinating projects at the Anne Grady Center and organizing donations for Operation X-Mass Child.

In your opinion, how did your service make a difference to the community you served or to those who received your service?

My service enriched the community because I helped to increase their awareness about the natural world. I also help the environment through conservation projects. My volunteering put me out into the community, where I really got a chance to make a true impact. ZooTeens has

given me incredible opportunities, and I've met some of my greatest friends through volunteering.

Student Name: Colleen Weiher

Grade Level: 12

School: St. Ursula Academy

Toledo, Ohio

Name of Place where service was given: Perrysburg Academy of the Performing Arts

Describe your service and what you did:

I assisted teaching dance classes to younger children when the classes were large and slightly overwhelming for the teacher.

In your opinion, how did your service make a difference to the community you served or to those who received your service?

I relieved some stress for the teacher and allowed her to watch and correct students as I demonstrated. I provided support to the parents and students because the student teacher ratio is better and they learn more quickly. By helping with younger children I discovered a patience within me I didn't know I had, also, I grew more compassionate and became a better teacher.

Student Name: Maggie Wentz

Grade Level: 12

School: St. Ursula Academy

Toledo, Ohio

Name of Place where service was given: Sylvania Branch Library

Describe your service and what you did:

I helped children in the summer reading club report how many hours they read. I handed out prizes and talked to the kids about what they read. I also assisted with special events for summer reading club participants, like crafts.

In your opinion, how did your service make a difference to the community you served or to those who received your service?

My service helped the community library run a program to increase literacy and love of reading. My service helped each child I came in contact with associate reading with fun and friendliness. I loved talking to kids about books and love of reading so much that I came back for four summers. It is so rewarding for me to realize I am helping encourage reading, which is something I enjoyed as a kid and consequently still enjoy.

Student Name: Erica Behrens

Grade Level: 5th

School: St. Ursula Villa

Cincinnati, Ohio

**Name of Place where service was given: Hike for Hospice of Cincinnati;
Locks of Love at the Valenti Salon; Over-the-Rhine area**

Describe your service and what you did:

I did many things. I volunteered for Hike for Hospice. I also donated over 10 inches of my hair to Locks of Love. I donated many of my sweaters to children in Over-the-Rhine. I also organized a book drive throughout St. Ursula Villa. The books will be given to Children's Hospital.

In your opinion, how did your service make a difference to the community you served or to those who received your service?

Children who have cancer will get a nice wig. Children at Children's Hospital will have books to read. Money from Hike for Hospice has been donated for counseling families who have lost loved ones. Children from Over-the-Rhine will have nice sweaters. I think if I was in the shoes of all the people I helped, I would be really grateful. It meant a lot to me.

Student Name: Kristen Behrens

Grade Level: 7th

School: St. Ursula Villa

Cincinnati, Ohio

**Name of Place where service was given: Hospice of Cincinnati;
Drake Center; Madisonville Day Care Center; Ci Alpha Retirement Homes**

Describe your service and what you did:

Hike for Hospice: I went to meetings, set up the hike, worked at booths, supplied envelopes, helped clean up, earned \$100,000. Drake Center: helped older people at a cook-out. Madisonville Care Center: helped with 2 year-olds, served food, etc.

In your opinion, how did your service make a difference to the community you served or to those who received your service?

The service that made the most difference was the Hike for Hospice. We earned around \$100,000 for Hospice of Cincinnati. I worked for a long time on this. My service really changed me. The more I did the more I wanted to do. It made me feel good. I like to make a difference.

**Student Name: Megan Gorman
Kate McGreevy**

**Grade Level: 12
Grade Level: 12**

School: Ursuline Academy

Cincinnati, Ohio

Name of Place where service was given: The Drop Inn Center

Describe your service and what you did:

At The Drop Inn Center, we serve dinner to the residents as well as sort the clothing basement. In order to head this project, Kate and I contact the coordinator of volunteers at The Drop Inn Center, and from that contact select dates for groups to go visit. In selecting the dates, we need our regular serving dinner weeks and we need to coordinate those weeks with weeks that Kate or I can travel down with a group to sort in the basement. We also meet with Ms. Barnes to check dates in reference to other projects and to recruit adults to chaperone each visit. Once the dates and chaperones are set, we entice students to come to the site to volunteer.

In your opinion, how did your service make a difference to the community you served or to those who received your service?

Our service at The Drop Inn Center helps to organize the clothing that the residents use. We help make their lives a bit more presentable when we sort clothing in the basement. With the dinners, we help them receive a much-needed meal with a nice smile. By going to The Drop Inn Center on a regular basis we can form relationships with the residents and can be a familiar face to anyone we serve. This shows that we support their decision to make significant life changes.

Describe how this service was important in your life.

By going to The Drop Inn Center we have been able to meet many new people and learn about their lives that are so different from our own. The Drop Inn Center has allowed us to witness the life situations of people outside of our typical environment.

**Student Name: Abby Stein
Ashley Holbrook**

**Grade Level: 12
11**

School: Ursuline Academy

Cincinnati, Ohio

Name of Place where service was given: Blue Ash Nursing Home

Describe your service and what you did:

A group of students goes to the Nursing Home and plays Bingo with the residents. When they win, we give them 50 cents that we save up for every time we go.

In your opinion, how did your service make a difference to the community you served or to those who received your service?

We love seeing the looks on the faces of the residents when they win Bingo. It is amazing how excited they get over 50 cents. We know that when we come it makes a difference because it adds excitement to their lives. We have learned so much from the residents. Apart

circumstances and need some encouragement. It was important because it was a way of involving others in my service, to help them see ways in which we can help others around us.

Student Name: Kristina Ferguson

Grade Level: 11

School: Ursuline Academy

Dallas, Texas

Name of Place where service was given: International Rescue Committee's ARC Center

Describe your service and what you did:

I worked at an after-school program and a summer camp. At these programs I taught the refugees English and how to read. The summer camp was set up like a school and I taught a group of younger children.

In your opinion, how did your service make a difference to the community you served or to those who received your service?

The refugees I teach are the greatest kids I have ever met. Working with them, I saw how difficult it is to adjust to an entirely different culture. Most of these kids do not have parents who can read books to them in English, so I felt it was important to spend time with the children individually and help them develop good reading skills. Living in a sheltered community, it is easy to forget about the hardships that people around the world go through. It breaks my heart to realize what these kids have gone through before coming to America. This experience helped me learn how to communicate with people who do not know English.

Student Name: Meagan Moore

Grade Level: 11

School: Ursuline Academy

Dallas, Texas

Name of Place where service was given: Mission trip to Honduras through St. Rita

In your opinion, how did your service make a difference to the community you served or to those who received your service?

The people of Honduras share an incredibly strong, true Catholic faith like no one I have seen before. By helping them build a church, the people now have a haven where they can unite and worship God together. Also the friendships we developed with them put light in their eyes and gave them the reassurance that they are truly cared about. It gives them hope that with the continuous support, one day their life would be better.

Describe how this service was important in your life.

This mission trip has made a huge impact on my life in more ways than I can describe. The constant hospitality and genuine love they gave us, even with the little they have, reminded me how ungrateful I have been and how much I take for granted. Their undeniable and strong

faith has helped me grow as a Christian. I will never forget the smiles of the Honduran people. This mission trip is a memory I will keep for the rest of my life.

Student Name: Charlotte Walker

Grade Level: 11

School: Ursuline Academy

Dallas, Texas

Name of Place where service was given: St. Patrick Catholic Church

Describe your service and what you did:

I volunteer at the Sudan Outreach program. Some days I sort donated supplies, other times I babysit. Mostly, I work with the 9-12 age groups, working with them on sentences, games, American customs, etc. We teach them the tools they need to be successful here in America.

In your opinion, how did your service make a difference to the community you served or to those who received your service?

These people come here with nothing, and have no knowledge of our customs. We help them integrate smoothly and assist them in any ways we can. These people are just happy to be alive, but are a bit clueless. That is where we come in.

Student Name: Skye Hawkins

Grade Level: 12

School: Ursuline Academy

Dedham, Massachusetts

Name of Place where service was given: “radKIDS”

Describe your service and what you did:

The program “radKIDS” is a non-profit personal empowerment safety education course for children ages 5-12. The classes instill confidence in participants and assure them that no one has the right to hurt them. Taking safety one step further, “radKids” does not just tell children how to recognize, avoid, and escape danger, it shows them and lets them practice what to do in a dangerous situation so that defense becomes second nature. I became involved in the program as a participant at the age of 12, and upon completion of the program was invited back to the next set of classes to assist as a peer mentor. After five years as a mentor in the program, I was invited to take a training course to become an instructor. I passed my physical technique exam and scored 100% on the written test, so I will be able to teach on my own once I turn eighteen. Recently, I was invited to join the committee of directors, instructors, and police officers which is developing a “junior high version” of the “radKIDS” program. This is my latest endeavor with “radKIDS”, and is currently research intensive as we write the new program which is

focused on subject matter that affects teens such as drugs and drinking, eating disorders, peer pressure, etc.

Describe how this service was important in your life.

This service makes a difference in my life because I know that I am influencing each of the children I work with in a positive way. To say that “radKIDS” has documented 39 saves against real life abduction attempts is certainly impressive, but for me, I am thankful that my students have the confidence children need to perform to the best of their ability and keep their life on a straight path. These children are the future, and I am hoping to direct as many as I can toward wellness and success.

Student Name: Skye Hawkins

Grade Level: 12

School: Ursuline Academy

Dedham, Massachusetts

Name of Place where service was given: South Middlesex Opportunity Council – Voices Against Violence Program

Describe your service and what you did:

To prepare for my service I attended multiple trainings covering subject matter from domestic violence and sexual assault to correct procedure for answering hotline calls. Since the location of the program has a high Brazilian population, we even began one of the trainings by trying to read Portuguese in order to understand what some of the non-English speaking clients were going through. Once my service began, I had designated hours to be in the program’s office but I spent most of my time in the confidential shelter. Sometimes this meant cleaning the basement and reorganizing all the cans of food (there were many) by expiration date, but other times it meant comforting a client who had been having recurring nightmares, or welcoming a new mother and child to the shelter by preparing a gift basket. The strongest memories I have are of the children I worked with, watching them transition from extreme levels of anxiety to being comfortable enough to run and play once they realized their new environment was a safe one.

Describe how this service was important in your life.

When I went to the shelter, I figured I would be helping people who were not in the position to help themselves. I did help, but in return I gained much from the residents. One man who was quite the chef taught me that even if you’re having a bad day, it’s nothing that baking a cake cannot fix. There was a female victim in a situation with heightened danger who needed to work during the night so that she was less likely to be seen. She worked every night and slept all day, demonstrating that, no matter what it took, she would be strong and make the money to get on her feet and move far away from her batterer. The strength these residents displayed will stay with me always. They decided to speak up, and in my eyes there is nothing more remarkable than that. I have a great respect for the residents of the shelter, and they will always remind me to be strong and keep a positive attitude no matter how dreadful things may seem.

Student Name: Stephanie Mowles

Grade Level: 7

School: Ursuline Academy

Dedham, Massachusetts

Name of Place where service was given: Camp Juampas, Needham, Massachusetts

Describe your service and what you did:

For my service I was a camp councilor. Camp Juampas is a camp for kids between three years old and eight years old. During the days all the councilors played games and watched all of the children.

Describe how this service was important in your life.

This service was important in my life because all the money raised from this camp went to a poor town in Haiti. It showed me how good my life here is and showed all the children the same thing. Also, it showed me that children can have a lot of fun with simple games.

Student Name: Emma Hodges

Grade Level: 7

School: Ursuline Academy

Dedham, Massachusetts

Name of Place where service was given: Camp Juampas, Needham, Massachusetts

In your opinion, how did your service make a difference to the community you served or to those who received your service?

During those five days, I believe that I gave the parents a little time for relaxing and getting things done that wouldn't be as easy with their children. Also, the kids had a lot of fun. Also, all the money we made went to needy people in Haiti.

Student Name: Samantha Babin

Grade Level: 11

School: Ursuline Academy

New Orleans, Louisiana

Name of Place where service was given: Riverbend Nursing Home; Padua House

Describe your service and what you did:

At Riverbend Nursing Home, I do crafts and play games (such as bingo) with the residents. At Padua House, I push the handicapped children around and interact with them.

In your opinion, how did your service make a difference to the community you served or to those who received your service?

Visiting the elderly is so important because the visitors they get are few and far between. To listen to their stories is as valuable for me to listen to as it is fun for them to recollect. The Padua House service project is something I genuinely love. All patients there are severely physically and mentally handicapped children, and they are virtually ignored by the community. Truthfully, it was hard to go there the first couple of times. However, now I know all the kid's names and personalities. It has redefined my view of what is important. By just simple actions like singing and jumping, we can make them laugh – and laughing is one of the few things they do throughout their days. I communicated my feelings to my Catholic Youth group, and now we have made visiting both these places more routine. I think this is a small step in bettering the community and lives of not just the people we see but the actual people who are giving their time.

Student Name: Anne Cerniglia

Grade Level: 12

School: Ursuline Academy

New Orleans, Louisiana

Name of Place where service was given: School, Senior Citizen Homes, Cemetery, Cogne Rehab, Audubon Zoo, Lower 9th Ward

Describe your service and what you did:

Bingo for teachers and senior citizens (gathered prizes and called numbers); tutored; organized teacher Christmas presents, food drive and toiletries drive for Poor Clare's; Divisional Rally (informed students about Key Club and raised \$2000 for UNICEF); textbook recycling (collect and donate them to 3rd world country); Crescent City Classic and Mardi Gras Marathon; passed out water to runners; ran a game booth at the Zoo; Habitat for Humanity, helped build houses; Cemetery Clean Up of public cemeteries; organized a Project for the school to create Christmas cards for the soldiers; Summerville volunteer.

In your opinion, how did your service make a difference to the community you served or to those who received your service?

Throughout my high school career I have created, assisted and volunteered in many service projects. There are some projects that show instant gratification to the community such as the runners who were happy to receive water after two miles of running for charity, or even the Senior Citizens who might not have been in contact with teens the past few years. They appreciate the thought of teens remembering their name or just helping them to the cafeteria. There are also those projects that made a difference in the long run, projects such as the cards for the soldiers. It is only safe to assume that they appreciate the thought, but I am not going to see their faces when they receive them. Sometimes there are projects that I helped build, for example, a part of a home. Unfortunately, I will not be there when they receive the keys to the new house. Yet, if I put myself in their place, then I know I helped put a roof over their head. Service might go unnoticed at times, but if I step back, then I know these people are appreciative because a small action goes a long way.

Student Name: Taylor Dornier

Grade Level: 11

School: Ursuline Academy

New Orleans, Louisiana

**Name of Place where service was given: Family Life at St. Angela Merici Church Parish
Teen Cross**

Describe your service and what you did:

I helped in putting on World Youth Day for Teen Cross; I help weekly with parties, functions, and my mother, who is the President of FLA, helps me greet fellow friends and clergymen in my parish.

In your opinion, how did your service make a difference to the community you served or to those who received your service?

I feel that others have enjoyed my service and I love seeing my friends. I serve God with help from my family and friends. I like seeing others and talking with others about my faith in service. Even if the community didn't need my service, I would serve anyway.

Student Name: Caroline Smith

Grade Level: 10

School: Ursuline Academy

New Orleans, Louisiana

Name of Place where service was given: Crossroads Irish dancers, Lakeside Country Club

Describe your service and what you did:

I teach Irish Dancing to the children in my neighborhood, swimming and other ways to have fun while exercising.

In your opinion, how did your service make a difference to the community you served or to those who received your service?

In my opinion, I help teach these children about positive attitudes, different recreational activities and how to maintain an open mind to new and different things.

Describe how this service was important in your life.

It helped me to become more tolerant of those around me. It is important to me because it helped me to realize part of what I want for my future.

Student Name: Emily Geraghty

Grade Level: 11

School: Ursuline Academy

St. Louis, Missouri

Name of Place where service was given: Shrewsbury, Missouri

Describe your service and what you did:

Some friends and I put on four plays over four summers, raising over \$2,000 for the Family Center and Our Angels Orphanage in Haiti. I also volunteered at Shrewsbury Community Center's children's drama camp for two summers.

In your opinion, how did your service make a difference to the community you served or to those who received your service?

My service work not only provided better care for children in Haiti, and money to families in need in St. Louis, but also helped me to spread my love for theatre to other children in St. Louis. Researching the Orphanage and the Family Center expanded my awareness and knowledge of poverty in my own home town of St. Louis and in other countries. It also helped me understand working for children and helped me expand my love of theatre.

Student Name: Molly Stadler

Grade Level: 12

School: Ursuline Academy

St. Louis, Missouri

Name of Place where service was given: Metamoras, Mexico

In your opinion, how did your service make a difference to the community you served or to those who received you service?

Juanito was the name of the man whose house we were building. He was so grateful for all of our hard work but he also wanted to be a part of building his new home. Even though Juanito spoke little English and our Spanish was not that great, we all felt like we had made a new friend in Juanito. The day we gave him the keys to his house he cried and he said, "Thank you, you rock," (something we taught him). Most adults worked during the day, but the children in the community could not wait until we arrived every day. There was a bit of a language barrier, but once we overcame that, all of us learned that playing and having fun is universal. One of the girls had a birthday while we were down there and a few of the kids made her a birthday card and gave her some of their toys. That day we all realized how much we had touched their lives.

Describe how this service was important in your life.

This trip was the best experience of my life. It sounds silly to say, but I live in a bubble. I have done a lot of different service projects, but to see three hard days turn into a home for two people was remarkable. We got a chance to meet people who are not as lucky as we all are, but who truly are just like us. I learned that smiles are universal. Most importantly, I learned that

twelve 17 year old girls made two people's lives change forever. I know that Juanito and his wife will never forget us, and neither will we forget them.

Student Name: Melissa Vatterott

Grade Level: 12

School: Ursuline Academy

St. Louis, Missouri

Name of Place where service was given: Ursuline Academy, Schnuck's Marketplace in Eureka, and my home

Describe your service and what you did:

I have lived Serviam by taking action in environmental efforts. I have promoted awareness for the need to protect the environment and encouraged those around me to take action in small ways. My main focus at this time is to encourage recycling. As a strong advocate of recycling, I took the initiative to order forty recycling bins for plastic bottles. I distributed a bin to each classroom and I collect the bottles once a week with the other Environmental Club members at Ursuline Academy, which are then taken to the recycling center in Kirkwood. As well as taking action in my school community, I persuaded my store manager at Schnuck's Marketplace in Eureka to allow bins in our break room for plastic, aluminum, and glass. I empty the bins at least once a week, rinse the recyclables and bring them to the Kirkwood recycling center as well. In addition, as a bagger at Schnuck's, I often encourage customers to buy or bring in their own canvas bags for their groceries to reduce the amount of plastic used. In my home environment, I completely transformed the way my family recycles. I have convinced my family that it is worth the time and effort it takes to sort the paper trash and to clean all recyclable materials we used to throw away. Our weekly trash has decreased by one half.

Describe how this service was important in your life.

This service is very important to me because I believe we as an entire race can take much better care of the beautiful earth God gave us. It is important to me to promote awareness and recycle everything, everywhere I can. This is because it is unsettling to imagine my grandkids learning about rainforests and exotic plants and animals from history books. God created such magnificent creatures and we do not have the right to endanger their lives for the sake of convenience. This service is important because I feel it is my vocation to defend the lives of all living things and to preserve the natural beauty God placed on this planet. I plan to major in environmental law, but until then, this is the way I can serve our planet and defend God's creation.

Student Name: Lauren Blackson

Grade Level: 12

School: Ursuline Academy

Wilmington, Delaware

Name of Place where service was given: Academy of Dog Training and Agility

Describe your service and what you did:

Agility is a dog sport where the handler guides the dog through a number of obstacles and the fastest dog with no mistakes wins. I helped train beginner dogs to become familiar with the obstacles and intermediate and excellent handlers to better their handling skills.

In your opinion, how did your service make a difference to the community you served or to those who received your service?

Not only did my service help people to teach their dogs new skills, but it taught the handlers new ways to achieve the fastest times. The handlers learned to try new things and to step out of their comfort zone sometimes. Most of all it taught the handlers to be confident and to believe in themselves.

Student Name: Kelly Bradley

Grade Level: 12

School: Ursuline Academy

Wilmington, Delaware

Name of Place where service was given: Habitat for Humanity, Dorchester County, Maryland

Describe your service and what you did:

For one of my service projects, I worked on insulating the crawlspace under a house, building and painting a whole shed, putting up walls, and dry-walling a house. The project was with Habitat for Humanity in Cambridge, Maryland.

Describe how this service was important in your life.

Coming from a middle-class family with two parents and going to a private school, I have not experienced anything compared to what the families living in Habitat for Humanity house, have been through. The family moving into the house I worked on was a single parent family with three children. There were nights when this family did not have dinner on the table, or days when there was no electricity to have heat in the winter. I am happy to have had the opportunity to work closely with those less privileged than me. The experience has opened my eyes to how others live, and I look forward to receiving another opportunity to help those in need.

Student Name: Aliya Wilk

Grade Level: 12

School: Ursuline Academy

Wilmington, Delaware

Name of Place where service was given: Guardian Angel Day Care Center

Describe your service and what you did:

Of the many experiences that have influenced my life in some way or another, one of the most meaningful would have to be volunteering at a low-income, inner-city day care. Since I am a person that loves to work with children, working at a day care seemed exceedingly suitable. I decided to dedicate my summer between freshman and sophomore years to doing 100+ hours. I was assigned to work with the one and two year-olds, and since I had never worked with children so young, I was usually with the four and five-year olds, this made me apprehensive. When the children had snacks, or lunch, I helped them eat it, cleaned up, and got them in and out of their booster seats. If they wanted to read a story, I usually read it to them, or even if they just wanted to go outside and play on the playground, then I thought of new and creative ways of playing games, so that all children could be involved.

In your opinion, how did your service make a difference to the community you served or to those who received your service?

When these children at this day care would see me walk through the door, they would sprint over to me, and every single one would try to grab some body part to leech onto me. When I sat on the floor and read stories, they would all fight over who got to sit near me, or on my lap. When I was about to leave, most children would ask, "When are you coming back?" When I really went home and thought about the impact that I made on those children's lives, I think that it makes me happy knowing that each child had something to look forward to the next time I would be back! Some kids told me that they loved me, and some of the time, it even brought tears to my eyes! Even though these kids may not be in the best situation at home, I felt as if I was helping them to just have a little something to look forward to in life.

Student Name: Kate Griffith

Grade Level: 12

School: Ursuline High School

Santa Rosa, California

Name of Place where service was given: St. Thomas Catholic Church

Describe your service and what you did:

My parish, St. Helena Catholic Church, adopted St. Thomas in Long Beach, Mississippi after hurricane Katrina. I went to Long Beach for two weeks this summer to help teach their Vacation Bible School. I was in charge of prayer and taught 4-6th grade the second week. This

September, I held a “Dinner and a Movie” fundraiser at my church and raised \$2,863.46 for St. Thomas to help them start rebuilding.

Describe how this service was important in your life.

After my parish adopted St. Thomas, we built a strong connection with them and raised over \$75,000 and brought them two truckloads of supplies. During that time, I really wanted to do something extra, something personal, for St. Thomas. I was rewarded for my efforts by seeing the kids I worked with sing in front of Church and by meeting all of the people who were so grateful for my presence in their community. I hope to go back to Long Beach next summer and continue my work there, possibly building homes next time.

Student Name: Aunna Melton

Grade Level: 12

School: Ursuline High School

Santa Rosa, California

Name of Place where service was given: St. Rose

Describe your service and what you did:

I worked at St. Rose in the Confirmation class. I was a leader. I also helped with the retreat and other activities.

In your opinion, how did your service make a difference to the community you served or to those who received your service?

A lot of the kids who go into the class don't want to be there. But by the end of the year, the kids didn't want to leave and their faith became important to them. This service was important because it is amazing to see kids find God the same way I did.

Student Name: Lauren Morehouse

Grade Level: 12

School: Ursuline High School

Santa Rosa, California

Name of Place where service was given: Theatre on the Green: Windsor Shakespeare Festival

Describe your service and what you did:

I first heard of the Windsor Shakespeare Festival in February of my freshman year. My mother encouraged me to audition for one of the four place open to high school students, and I got it. Ever since I have been on the crew, ran informational booths at farmer's markets, coordinated pre-show entertainment, and I am currently the stage manager and actrice for our Christmas fundraiser.

In your opinion, how did your service make a difference to the community you served or to those who received your service?

The Windsor Shakespeare Festival is solely responsible for bringing live theatre to Windsor. Without the founders, Jim DePriest and Steven Martin, Windsor probably still would lack live theatre, as well as the stage that is to be installed thanks to their perseverance. Not only is it an experience of live theatre, but also the only free Shakespeare Festival in California. Every time I see someone come back season after season, I realize how much this company has brought the community together for free, appropriate, and even educational, entertainment. To think that I have been part of such a thing's inception is mind blowing to me, to know that I helped put this company on the map. To me, working with this nonprofit company has been a thrill; in fact, I almost don't see it as volunteering at all, because I love dedicating my summer to this organization, and to the community.

Student Name: Misa Scharfen

Grade Level: 12

School: Ursuline High School

Santa Rosa, California

Name of Place where service was given: Guide Dogs for the Blind

Describe your service and what you did:

I began to raise guide dogs for the blind, from puppies, which means that I took puppies for one and a half years to train and socialize the dogs. It is a rigorous training process, and the dogs had to be everywhere with me.

In your opinion, how did your service make a difference to the community you served or to those who received you service?

Guide dogs for the blind do not only provide a safe mode of travel for the blind, but they also provide a source of companionship and a link to the community. The dogs are extremely loyal and there are many incidents where guide dogs have saved their partner's life. Furthermore, where people will be less likely to approach a blind person with a cane, they will approach a dog, and be more friendly and relaxed. Through raising guide dogs, I have learned to be responsible for another life, and I learned about the importance of commitment and perseverance. Most importantly, I have learned how to invest my heart and time to better another's life.

Student Name: Maura Furlan

Grade Level: 11

School: Villa Angela-St. Joseph

Cleveland, Ohio

Name of Place where service was given: RoseMary Center

Describe your service and what you did:

I teach children with profound mental retardation a simple lesson about Jesus in the Religious Education program. I also help feed them a snack and clean up after.

In your opinion, how did your service make a difference to the community you served or to those who received your service?

The program gives the child extra love and one-on-one attention that is not always available in group living. It also helps them practice communicating with new people. It also teaches the child how to sit in church. The children teach me. They can still learn even though they have severe disabilities.

Student Name: Joseph Zucker

Grade Level: 11

School: Villa Angela-St. Joseph

Cleveland, Ohio

Name of Place where service was given: RoseMary Center

Describe your service and what you did:

I teach children with mental and physical disabilities about God and Jesus and I'm currently preparing one child for First Communion. I also feed the children various snacks.

In your opinion, how did your service make a difference to the community you served or to those who received your service?

The children, I believe, received some understanding of God. The children also receive a friend with me, one that they would probably not receive on their own. I help brighten their lives, even if they can't show it. The program gives the child extra love and one-on-one attention that is not always available in group living. It also helps them practice communicating with new people. It also teaches the child how to sit in church. The children teach me. They can still learn even though they have severe disabilities.
