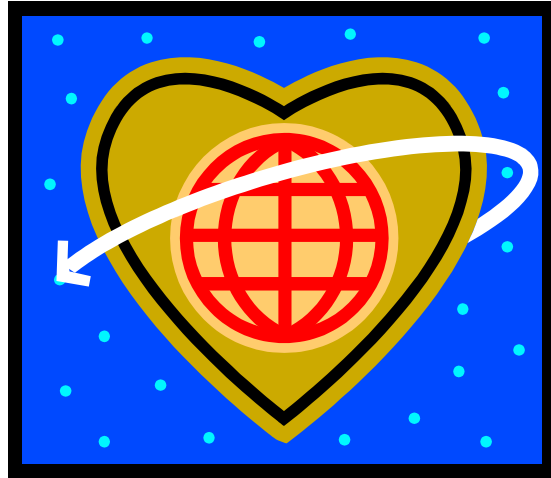


# **Ursuline Students Making A Difference**



**Student Service Recognition Program**

**2010-2011**

**Ursuline Educational Services (UES)**

## *Ursuline Educational Services*



*Spring of 2011*

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

*Our annual sharing of Student Service Projects is here!  
The projects are filled with the dedication, compassion and deep sense of joy  
that reflects St. Angela's spirit. They share about service outreach both in the  
States and around the world. The participants this year are from 16 Ursuline  
sponsored and affiliated schools including:*

**Academy of Mount St. Ursula, Bronx, New York**  
**Beaumont School, Cleveland, Ohio**  
**Marquette Catholic High School, Alton, Illinois**  
**Sacred Heart Academy, Louisville, Kentucky**  
**Saint Ursula Academy, Cincinnati, Ohio**  
**Saint Ursula Academy, Toledo, Ohio**  
**Saint Ursula Villa, Cincinnati, Ohio**  
**The College of New Rochelle, New Rochelle, New York**  
**The Ursuline School, New Rochelle, New York**  
**Ursuline Academy, New Orleans, Louisiana**  
**Ursuline Academy, Dedham, Massachusetts**  
**Ursuline Academy, St. Louis, Missouri**  
**Ursuline Academy, Cincinnati, Ohio**  
**Ursuline Academy, Dallas, Texas**  
**Ursuline High School, Santa Rosa, California**  
**Villa Angela-St. Joseph, Cleveland, Ohio**

*Enjoy the spirit of caring so evident in this sharing of service!*

*United in St. Angela's peace,*

***Sister Patricia Homan, OSU***

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**Student Name: Francheska Bravo**

**Grade Level: 12**

**Name of place where service was given:**

People to People (an organized trip)

**Describe your service and what you did:**

With a group of students from New York, I went to Europe and visited five countries. I learned about the culture and customs of each country: Belgium, The Netherlands, England, Ireland and Wales. Before we went we were given training that helped us to spread goodwill, a better perception of American people and a global consciousness.

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

People to People is a great program since it allows students to explore the world and learn new things. Many countries have a certain perception of Americans, and People to People changes that. It allows the people of other countries to see how Americans want to learn about their culture and how much it is appreciated.

**Describe how this service was important in your life?**

It was important because it allowed me to experience life in other countries and embrace the wonderful customs/cultures the world has to offer.

**Student Name: Carriel Brodie**

**Grade Level: 11**

**Name of place where service was given:**

NABB- National Association of Blessed Billionaires

**Describe your service and what you did:**

NABB is an entrepreneurial program where we teach children how to start and run their own businesses. The project allows young people “to acquire knowledge, build self-esteem, courage, a sense of ownership, commitment and responsibility.” We’ve had kids run their own culinary, fashion, entertainment and law businesses.

During my time at NABB, I worked with many different children from many different races. I helped oversee the ordinary efforts of reading books, doing arts and crafts and caring for children on field trips. Beyond this I helped direct the dance program. The children are divided into three rotation groups: Arts, Drama and Dance. I work with each group as they rotate to dance. With the help of a more experienced dancer I oversee the student efforts to prepare for various talent shows through the year and to prepare a spectacular performance for the end of the year “Night of the Stars”.

**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 my service did make a difference in those children’s lives. I think I was directed to enhance the talent of these younger students and to create an atmosphere of warmth and support. With the one on one attention they received and the positive encouragement, they can now believe they can do anything as long as they put their minds to it.

**Describe how this service was important in your life?**

This service was important because I've realized no one child is like another. No child is a "bad" child. Working with kids of all ages taught me how children develop in many different ways, and leadership means responding to them as they grow.

**Student Name: Alvalia Pemberton Grade Level: 12**

**Name of place where service was given:**

New Orleans, Louisiana

**Describe your service and what you did:**

With the People to People organization, I travelled to New Orleans to help the community that was damaged and is still in ruins from Hurricane Katrina. We were part of a large group of students and were assigned to smaller groups in order to get to know each other. Students in my group came from California, Puerto Rico, North Carolina, New York and England. I worked with them to help a man rebuild his home that had been destroyed when the levees broke. Together, we dug out his basement and back porch. Then we insulated his basement along with his front and back porch. We worked side by side with this man and came to share many stories.

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

Our service helped a man who lost everything from a natural disaster create a new home for himself and his family. He was no longer receiving government aid and felt very alone. The service we provided was just bringing him closer to getting out of the motel he's been forced to live in and back into his home. And we helped him realize that others were willing to help. Our service helped us to form bonds across long distances. We learned together about the devastation of New Orleans and about the power a small group of dedicated people has to bring hope to others. We have built a strong friendship within our group and are eager to reunite in the future to achieve even more.

**Describe how this service was important in your life?**

This service opened my eyes to how easy it is to lose everything. It also helped me come to know that as long as you keep a strong spirit and find reasons to smile every day, you can get through the hard times. I believe, so far, that's the best lesson I've learned in my life.

**Student Name: Ashley Scott Grade Level: 11**

**Name of place where service was given:**

Kips Bay Boys' and Girls' Club

**Describe your service and what you did:**

I mentor and tutor inner city children who need someone they feel comfortable with to help with their education and social skills. I provide homework assistance and computer training. I am a confidante and give them the opportunity to see that it is okay to aspire and work hard.

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

I have been part of this program for three years and so have had the opportunity to see how community is formed and how important it is for young children to have a community like Kips. For some of the

participants this is the only way they will be able to succeed in school and aspire to attend good high schools and even college. There is an atmosphere at Kips that is special, and as a young leader, I feel responsible to help it remain strong and continue to offer the friendship, encouragement and fun that make life more wonderful.

**Describe how this service was important in your life?**

Volunteering is very important to me because giving back is very important to my family and my school's motto of Serviam; therefore, I was immersed in the concept of community service. Because I have no younger siblings I feel this program gives me the opportunity to feel that I can give to younger children some of the good things I have received.

**Beaumont School Cleveland, Ohio**

**Student Name: Diana Hauptman      Grade Level: 12**

**Name of place where service was given:**

Frontier Day Camp and Camp Pristava

**Describe your service and what you did:**

At Frontier I worked as a counselor to children with learning disabilities. I assisted the children in camp activities that would require special help. At Camp Pristava, I was also a camp counselor for children from ages 8-14. I planned activities in which the children could participate. I do it because I like helping these children.

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

Service is so important in our community! By volunteering, not only do the people who you help benefit, but you benefit as well. I know the children I helped truly appreciated me and my friendship. One child even told me I was his best friend, and he invited me to his birthday party. You can tell that the children truly appreciate a friend who cared for them.

**Describe how this service was important in your life?**

Volunteering has positively affected my life because it has made me a happier and better person. I have learned that service is a lifestyle. I have truly enjoyed serving others, and I plan to continue my lifestyle of service. I believe that service is what keeps the world going!

**Marquette Catholic High School Alton, Illinois**

**Student Name: Stephen Ditman      Grade Level: 12**

**Name of place where service was given:**

Evangelical United Church of Christ Gymnasium

**Describe your service and what you did:**

I run the scoreboard for the Alton/Godfrey Catholic League's youth basketball program on weekends from October through January. I provide my services for free. (I have worked with the basketball league as a scorekeeper for five years.) I work with 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade boys as they learn to play the game of basketball. I come in at 7:30 A.M. on Saturdays and 11:30 A.M. on Sundays in order to prep the gym and get ready for the day ahead. I have to come in early so I can sweep the gym floor, bring out the bleachers, bring out the coach and players chairs, assemble the scoreboard equipment, and perform last minute tasks in the gym. As the players check-in at the scorer's table during the game, I often give them a few kind words before they enter the game. After the games are all completed, I stay after and clean up the gym and fan bathrooms.

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

My service is crucial to the success of the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade basketball program. All of the hard work I put in during the game, and also before and after the game, allows for the players, their families and other fans to have an extremely enjoyable experience. I try to be as encouraging as possible to the kids as they check-in with me at the scorer's table during the games (some players are hesitant to enter when their team is down by twenty points) and as helpful as I can be to those players who are just picking up and learning the game of basketball.

**Describe how this service was important in your life?**

The basketball games are a very rewarding experience. I love the opportunity to help and watch the young athletes. The service brings me close to the game of basketball that I love, and I enjoy every minute of it. Over the years I feel like all of the work I have put in has yielded great results. I am thankful that God has given me the opportunity to work so closely with such an exciting program. And all of the hard work is worth it to see a 4<sup>th</sup> grader make his first shot or a 5<sup>th</sup> grade boy make the winning buzzer beater shot. The games are a lot of fun, and there is always a lot of laughing and joking around at the scorer's table –never a dull moment. I love the work I do, and I cherish every minute of it.

**Student Name: Kathryn Randolph****Grade Level: 12****Name of place where service was given:**

Tilles Park

**Describe your service and what you did:**

Challenger Baseball, is a baseball league for kids with disabilities. I do everything from pushing wheelchairs to physically carrying players around the field. My buddy is Max; his disability is that he is blind.

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

For three hours a week, handicapped kids can enjoy themselves playing baseball. They do not have to worry about other people staring at them. They do not have to worry about their physical limitations stopping them from playing; however, they can have fun. With the trust there is in me, they know I will help them play safely. For three hours they can be just like you and I.

**Describe how this service was important in your life?**

I believe the true measure of a person is not what they take out of this world but, in fact, what they give back to it. Children with disabilities have an amazing ability to see inside a person and are attracted to



**Student Name: Alex Hepfinger      Grade Level: 11**

**Name of place where service was given:**

Visually Impaired Preschool

**Describe your service and what you did:**

Helped with fundraising: aided with the silent auction; worked with the children: played games and mostly had fun and laughed a lot.

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

I helped my mentor Amy Sitterly with a big fundraiser; Governors Cup- this event raised thousands of dollars for the preschool which directly goes to help these children and provides materials and aides to help a visually impaired child.

**Describe how this service was important in your life?**

I will never take my health or vision for granted. I do not judge anyone with any kind of limitations. I am humbled; working with Amy and Vip's, they are the ones who deserve to be recognized. With the help of my parents, we own 65 vending machines and the proceeds from these machines go to the Federation for the Blind. We have been doing this for almost 4 years now.

**Student Name: Emily Kegel      Grade Level: 10**

**Name of place where service was given:**

Magnolia Springs Assisted Living

**Describe your service and what you did:**

I helped out with all the activities such as bingo, ice cream socials, arts and crafts, poker club, and I went on various outings with the elderly.

**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, my service brought joy and happiness to the lives of the elderly I helped. It also gave a model of good Christian behavior to those who were witnesses of my service.

**Describe how this service was important in your life?**

This service was important in my life because it helped me to become more aware of the needs of others and helped me become more selfless. It also taught me many important lessons about life and how I should live mine in order to become closer to God.

**Name: Elizabeth Willenbrink**

**Grade: 11**

**Name of place where service was given:**

Louisville Science Center

**Describe your service and what you did:**

I was a day captain, meaning that I coordinated about 15 teens, and I also worked on the floor. I would entertain visitors with table-top experiments and answer any questions about science or just about anything. This summer/year I am also the person who appears as Elmo on numerous occasions (in costume).

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

Many people who come into the science center just look at the exhibits and go. I know that when I worked on the floor, doing experiments, visitors learn science and interact. They leave with a good experience and a bit more knowledge of interesting, everyday science.

**Describe how this service was important in your life?**

This sounds cliché, but working at the LSC has really changed my life. Since working there, my interaction skills with people have improved, and I have become very personable and extraverted. Also, I have learned the importance of helping people (my teens and I received humorous compliments) and how much it means to them. Volunteering at the LSC has led me to realize that service is a large part in my life, leading me to pursue service at Arcadia and Americana community centers. To put it plainly, I love the LSC.

**Saint Ursula Academy**

**Cincinnati, Ohio**

**Student Name: Sarah Hulsman**

**Grade Level: 12**

**Name of place where service was given:**

Ronald McDonald House, Cincinnati, Ohio

**Describe your service and what you did:**

Twice a month on Sundays, I lead a group of students that goes to Ronald McDonald House. At Ronald McDonald House we prepare both brunches and lunches for families who are living in the house. The food is prepared from scratch at the house and is served while it is still hot. For brunch we usually make pancakes and casseroles and for lunch we prepare soup and sandwiches. After serving the food we get to interact with the families; they often times talk about their situation or the home town where they came from.

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

The service I performed was something as easy as preparing a homemade meal, that most people take for granted. However a healthy homemade meal for the people at RMH is so much more. The families there are often times always on the go making trips to the hospital for doctor visits and treatments. They get caught up in the whirlwind of their busy schedules, so often times a quick snack from a convenient vending machine becomes their form of nutrition for the day. When the group comes in and makes brunch or lunch it becomes one less thing that the family has to focus on. They can grab a quick nutritious bite to eat on their way out. Not having to worry about making food allows them to concentrate on the next step to helping their child recover.

**Describe how this service was important in your life?**

The service I have done this year is only a continuation of the service that I love to do. In eighth grade I was recognized for the ways I positively affect the lives of others. From that point on I made it a goal of mine to affect others lives in the most positive way possible, even if it was something as simple as smiling at a person when walking down the street. The service at RMH is a way for me to continue on my mission. This service was a learning experience; it often times reminds me that I am blessed to have the life I have and to live every day to the fullest because you never know when things will change. A part of living my life to the fullest includes volunteering my time to organizations like Ronald McDonald to make life a little bit easier for others.

**Student Name: Veronica Lowe      Grade Level: 12**

**Name of place where service was given:**

Lucy's Mission in Martin's Fork, Kentucky

**Describe your service and what you did:**

I, along with a group of fellow Ursula women, went to Lucy's Mission in Appalachia to deliver the goods our community collected during the canned food drive. We took an entire truck load down thanks to the generosity of our classmates. Once we arrived, we spoke with Lucy's daughter, Carolyn, who explained the impact of our donation. We stayed until late afternoon to help load the cars of anyone who stopped by.

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

The conditions I saw people living in were not good; however, the expression of true gratefulness on many faces helped me understand that they are appreciative of the most basic things. Since we were there around Thanksgiving, I could tell that they felt blessed.

**Describe how this service was important in your life?**

I gained so much out of this experience. When I am hungry, I open the fridge and complain that "there is nothing to eat." I learned to truly appreciate the gift of food because I take it for granted too often. Like I said before, their living conditions were not great, yet they lived with the spirit of peace and joy! Their faith was strong even in the face of hardship. So many of the people who came to Lucy's gave witness to Christ, which was truly amazing. I feel that my faith was strengthened by this experience because I came to appreciate everything as a gift from God; I learned that the struggles are worth it if at the end of each day I have the strength from God to ask for not a lighter load, but stronger shoulders. I learned that no matter where we live or what kind of house we have, we are all brothers and sisters in Christ.

**Student Name: Kate Miller      Grade Level: 12**

**Name of place where service was given:**

Academy of World Languages

**Describe your service and what you did:**

At the elementary school, Academy of World Languages, I help kids with their homework, as well as talk to them about their lives and try to be a positive influence for them. Most of the children do not come

from well-off families, so it is important that I am always there for them to be a consistent person in their lives.

**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 this service made a difference to the children I tutored because I was able to be a positive influence in their lives and also to encourage them to do better in school. This helps the community that they live in because the kids hopefully strive to become better people and want to help others in the community.

**Describe how this service was important in your life?**

This service is important to my life because I am able to appreciate all the different personalities I encounter, as well as learn things from the children. Tutoring these kids has helped me to decide that I want to go into a job involving children because they have such a big influence on me.

**Student Name: Andrea Vessel                      Grade Level: 12**

**Name of place where service was given:**

Kelley's Island (Operation Military Kids Camp)

**Describe your service and what you did:**

I am a volunteer counselor for "Operation Military Kids" which is a nationwide organization that reaches out and creates community support for children with a deployed family member through a variety of programs. For seven days in August of 2009 and 2010, I was a counselor at the Kelley's Island camp where over 300 kids attended. I chose to work with the younger kids, ages 8-11, and had 11 campers in my cabin with another co-counselor. I was responsible for my campers at all times and made sure to put their needs before mine, so that they had the greatest possible experience. During this time, I got to know each and every camper in my cabin and learned about what it was like to have one parent or both parents in the military. The second to last day of camp we were visited by Maj. Gen. Kambic, one of the highest personnel in Ohio Army National Guard, and members of all five branches of the military. They commended us, the counselors, for our hard work and dedication to serving military families.

**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, my service helped make a difference to the military families living in our communities because I fully engaged myself in getting to know the campers and was able to console them or entertain them so they didn't worry about their parents. When I left camp in 2009, I got contact information from a few of my campers so that we could keep in touch. Over the course of the year Mariah, an 11 year old camper, and I kept in touch by emailing each other. She told me that she wasn't going to be able to attend camp the next year because her family was relocating to Jacksonville, Florida. I was shocked during Christmas time last year when I received a letter in the mail with a picture of Mariah and on the back it read, "The best counselor ever, thank you for being such a great friend and counselor, I will miss you so much." With that being said, I think that my contribution to my community has been to be a comforter and a friend to Ohio kids who are affected by our war every day.

**Describe how this service was important in your life?**

This service was important in my life because it was an eye opening experience. I never really paid attention to the war going on or listened to the somber news when a local soldier died in Iraq. Now I see first-hand how much soldiers give for their country and how much their families sacrifice.

**Saint Ursula Academy**

**Toledo, Ohio**

**Student Name: Hollis Dana      Grade Level: 11**

**Name of place where service was given:**

Ndola, Zambia and Toledo, Ohio

**Describe your service and what you did:**

In Ndola I spent my days in the children's school at the Kafakimba Training Center. I helped teach bible verses, pass out snacks and play with the kids during recess. I also raised money to buy each child a coat, toothbrush and candy. In Toledo, I work with the homeless on a regular basis. At the beginning of February, 2010, I participated in a program known as 4.5 where I spent four and a half days essentially homeless. I learned what it was like to be homeless in various situations; I learned how to best serve the unhoused; I heard a number of stories that changed my view of the unhoused and changed my life forever. Since my experience in February, I have spent hundreds of hours serving the homeless in food pantries, soup kitchens and acting as a team leader for another session of 4.5.

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

In both cases I feel the people I served began to realize that there are people in the world who care about them and want to help them. Also, I was able to make more people around me aware of the struggles people have and how they can help.

**Describe how this service was important in your life?**

In Nola my service was one of the most fun experiences of my life. The smiles on the children's faces and their tears when I was leaving made me realize that I am only one person, but I still have the capabilities to make a difference in people's lives. When I got home I knew I needed to find a way to serve someone in Toledo. When I found a way to work with the homeless, my whole life focus changed. I realized there was enough struggle in my own area to deal with, and I now attempt to use all my free time to help them. With all the people I've met I've also attempted to use my power in other organizations such as United Way and my school to make people more aware and spread my passion for solving a worldwide problem. I know I cannot eradicate homelessness, but I know I can touch many lives with my willingness to listen, learn and help.

**Student Name: Elizabeth Garrison**

**Grade Level: 12**

**Name of place where service was given:**

Epworth United Methodist Church Junior High Mission Work Team Trips to Youngstown, Ohio and Athens, Ohio

**Describe your service and what you did:**

I was a counselor for two-week long mission trips in Youngstown, Ohio and Athens, Ohio for the Junior High at Epworth.

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

In Youngstown, we painted outside stairways and cleaned up an over grown property to enable the members of the community to grow a garden. In Athens, we worked at the regional food center boxing thousands of pounds of food for those in the community who needed it. Our services helped those in need and acted as stepping stones to make those people's lives just a little easier.

**Describe how this service was important in your life?**

These two trips were extremely rewarding. Not only did I help the people in Youngstown and Athens, but I had the opportunity to act as a mentor for all of the junior high who gave a week out of their summers to help those in need. I have been on a mission trip as one of the kids, but from a counselors' perspective, the work and dedication to helping others shown by the junior high was an amazing sight. The junior high students were truly the working hands of Jesus. The two weeks of being a counselor for these mission trips are two weeks I will never forget. I was truly blessed.

**Student Name: Morgan Giovannucci      Grade Level: 12**

**Name of place where service was given:**

YES project and Food Fast

**Describe your service and what you did:**

When I served for the YES project, it was a 4 day program where I went out to places/people in the Toledo area and helped people and fixed up or cleaned their homes. For the food fast, it was 24 hours; we couldn't eat, and we had to go to different services around the area and help out for a day.

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

I know for a fact that the service I did cleaning, painting, building and more made a huge difference in the people's lives, and even how they live their lives. These people were always so grateful, which makes me always want to come back.

**Describe how this service was important in your life?**

Through all of this service over the years I have met some pretty amazing people and have definitely made some lifetime friends. I like knowing I will always have great people to lean on, and they will always be there for me, and we will always be there for the people in need.

**Student Name: Mariah Trucsinski      Grade Level: 12**

**Name of place where service was given:**

Downtown Toledo near Historic St. Patrick's Church

**Describe your service and what you did:**

It is easy to recognize poverty, but it takes effort and energy to make a difference. I pack one hundred brown bag lunches each month to distribute in the inner city. I put a Bible verse or kind note on the

outside of the bags to give them a special touch. My favorite part of feeding the poor is taking the lunches that are left over from the soup kitchen to a government housing area for the children. As many as twenty children approach the car to get lunch. The smiles on their faces make my day! At Easter, I made baskets and filled them with candy. Many parents approached the car to thank me. It was great to see children sitting together enjoying their treats. Together, with the Girl Scouts and other local companies as sponsors, we have reached a thousand lives with my leadership and dedication!

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

By distributing lunches to the less fortunate, they have seen someone make a difference in their lives. The impacted are given a meal that they normally would not receive on the weekends. Through this gift they sense a level of caring that I believe is far more important than the nutrition itself. I also share a message of my Christian faith, hoping to encourage them to believe in God's good works.

**Describe how this service was important in your life?**

This service has opened my eyes to the dire situation of local government housing people. It has given me a chance to appreciate the food and family that I had previously taken for granted. It motivates me to continue to be the bright spot in their day as often as possible to give them hope that things will get better. I am optimistic that one day other fortunate people in the community will help spread this service to the whole city.

**Saint Ursula Villa**

**Cincinnati, Ohio**

**Student Name: James Heskett**

**Grade Level: 8**

**Name of place where service was given:**

Matthew 25 Ministries and Crayons 2 Computers

**Describe your service and what you did:**

Matthew 25 Ministries is a relief organization helping those who are in need everywhere. During our time at Matthew 25 Ministries we performed basic tasks such as sorting everyday necessities such as coats, shirts, shoes, pants, soap, shampoo, small wash cloths and other basic needs. Also, hours were spent on packaging school supplies such as paper, pencils, notebooks and math and reading worksheets. Crayons 2 Computers is a free store that helps teachers and students across the many Ohio counties. During our days at Crayons 2 Computers, we unpackaged books, made simple learning tools and stocked the shelves throughout the store.

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

Our service made a difference. At first performing the basic task did not seem like much; in reality, our service helped many people locally, nationally and all across the world. Many kids are able to learn through the school supplies we sorted at Matthew 25 Ministries and Crayons 2 Computers. Also, many now have shoes, clothing and care-good items.

**Describe how this service was important in your life?**

My community service is important to my life because it helps me grow as a person and shows how fortunate I am. I take for granted the clothing and basic needs I have. Community service gives me a true

reality check, shows me how many people are in need. Through my community service work, I have come to realize that I am very blessed.

**Student Name: Alex Hilsinger      Grade Level: 6**

**Name of place where service was given:**  
Downtown Cincinnati and Bethany House

**Describe your service and what you did:**

I sent an email to family and friends asking them to help me collect blankets for the homeless. Then we passed them out on Christmas Eve in Downtown Cincinnati.

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

I think it made the homeless people feel warm and like somebody cared about them.

**Describe how this service was important in your life?**

This was important to me because it made me feel caring and helpful to people I don't know.

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

**Student Name: Hellen Konyango      Grade Level: Senior**

**Name of place where service was given:**  
New Orleans, Louisiana with Habitat for Humanity, and the College of New Rochelle

**Describe your service and what you did:**

In January, 2010, I attended the Plunge in New Orleans with a group of students, faculty and staff from the College of New Rochelle. We worked with Habitat for Humanity on the exterior of two houses. I worked on one of the houses and did different tasks such as painting, installing the wooden steps to the side entrance and installing the finishing touches on the edges of the roof. While I was attending the Plunge, I documented the trip on video and captured the work done at the building site and the other activities we took part in as a group. I also interviewed each of the participants on their views and experiences during the service trip.

**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 service showed the people in the community that there are others who care about them and what they have gone through since Hurricane Katrina hit. We only worked on two houses, despite the fact that a greater part of New Orleans still needs help in reconstruction. I believe that our time, strength and efforts were important to the families that we assisted. We helped them reconstruct their lives by volunteering to help build the houses that will serve as good homes that they deserve.

**Describe how this service was important in your life?**

Going to New Orleans and helping to build houses showed me how I could give my time and skills for the benefit of others. I believe one of the most important gifts we can give to others is our time because it also shows how much we respect and value our fellow brothers and sisters. I was happy to serve others by giving my time because I believe in the principles of Catholic Social Teaching that call on us to respect the dignity of the human being by making ourselves available to assist those who need our help. Through the video that I made of the trip, I wanted to share with others how going on the plunge was a life changing experience for the group that took part in it. As I interviewed my fellow group members, I was overwhelmed by how much they were committed to helping others, hence one of the main reasons why they were attending the plunge. I was glad to be a part of this group working together in New Orleans to help build the houses and better the lives of the two families that would own them.

**Student Name: Clover McLennon**

**Grade Level: Senior**

**Name of place where service was given:**

The College of new Rochelle Student Nurses Association

**Describe your service and what you did:**

As Mentorship Director, I have engaged in several initiatives to help nursing students succeed. First, I have been collecting food from a food pantry for students who are experiencing hardship as a result of being fulltime in school and not being able to work. Second, I started a Med. Math Clinic to assist students to prepare for their Med. Math exams and have tutored students in various projects. For example, in a recent exam, students were very worried about the workload and how difficult it was to absorb all the information. I researched the TV program, "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire" and loaded questions on the Student Nurses Association Website for my classmates. They really enjoyed playing the game, and it helped them to remember the material and improve their grades. Even the instructors thought the game was fun. I also created a Website geared to assist students to become more successful while in the program and to prepare for a challenging job market. Recently, I established a program called "The Students Make a Difference Program" to award students for their contributions in the success of other students. In my effort to improve retention of students in the nursing program, I have attended seminars and researched strategies to increase retention, not just in my school but other nursing programs.

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

My classmates have been very appreciative of my mentorship. They verbalized an increase in motivation and self-confidence and have told me that the help they received taught them how to stay positive and focused. In addition, my peer mentoring prevented some of them from dropping out of the program and provided them with valuable tools on their quest for success. Many of my classmates call me "Mother."

**Describe how this service was important in your life?**

Recently, I was asked by a student if I got paid for my services. I laughed and showed the student the back of my business card which states, "*If I could help someone as I pass along, then my living would not be in vain.*" I live by that motto. I enjoy giving back and providing a shoulder to lean on. Having faced adversities during my first year as a student nurse, I empathize with other students who are struggling. Hence, my decision to assist students has been successful. My only regret is that I did not start this mission soon enough. I feel proud when a student walks up to me and says, "Thank you for being there when my world seemed like it was about to crumble. I feel lucky that someone was there during my first semester. You provided a shoulder to lean on during those dark days." I plan to continue my mentoring as I move forward in my career as a professional nurse. It is my intention to be a powerful leader in my

nursing career and to be that person that *will* make a difference. A leader supports change and creates change. My role at The College of New Rochelle is, in a sense, providing me with the opportunity to perform at my maximum capacity and reach self actualization that is being all that I desire to be. Because the program has been successful through my strong drive to achieve and my ability to be optimistic even in the face of failure, I know that if I remain committed, I can be that little engine that could. And as a result, change can happen.

**Student Name: Sylvia Siciliano      Grade Level: Graduate School**

**Name of place where service was given:**  
Concourse House, 2751 Grand Concourse, Bronx, NY 10468

**Describe your service and what you did:**  
The Concourse House provides shelter to homeless women and children. My fifth grade class and I sponsored a school-wide project to help women and children at the Concourse House. We asked school families for donations of various needed items for babies, children and women. Our school parish was very generous and we collected much needed items such as diapers, bottles, baby food, toiletries, clothing, blankets, etc. In addition, because the project took place before Christmas, we also collected toys for young children.

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

Without a shadow of a doubt, I truly believe this service made a huge difference for the people of this community. They were extremely grateful and sent us pictures and letters to express their gratitude.

**Describe how this service was important in your life?**  
This service was very important to me. I am the type of person who always wants to lend a helping hand to someone in need. The looks on the faces of the women and children receiving these gifts were priceless. What a great feeling it is to make a difference in a person's life, especially children. It is one of the many experiences in my life I will never forget. What a great way to be a follower of Jesus.

**Student Name: Loren Smith      Grade Level: Senior**

**Name of place where service was given:**  
New Orleans, Louisiana with Habitat for Humanity

**Describe your service and what you did:**  
The College of New Rochelle's Office of Campus Ministry coordinated a service trip to aid in the recovery work following the devastation of Hurricane Katrina in 2005. I and the other CNR volunteers worked with New Orleans Area Habitat for Humanity. CNR students volunteering with NOAHH were able to take part in rebuilding efforts which included exterior and roofing work, framing repair, rough and finish electric, plumbing, insulation and drywall, interior texturing and painting, flooring and cabinets, interior doors, baseboards and trim work. Specifically, our team worked in rebuilding two houses with NOAHH.

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

I went into this joint effort to help change someone's life. I felt we were helping to rebuild a home, to give a new start, to breathe life and give a stir of hope to a forgotten community. I never expected to be

impacted by the city's people. The stories that were shared by the victims that witnessed and returned to their homes, the commitment felt by the people who helped to build these new homes (Habitat for Humanity), and the involvement of its soon to be owners were all soul touching. I couldn't imagine how they felt throughout the relief efforts, which five years later still looked as though Katrina had just visited. But being able to reflect each night with our colleagues, we were able to grow. We vented and, in some cases, were rejuvenated and healed by the words and opinions from each other.

**Describe how this service was important in your life?**

I was nothing short of excited to make "The Plunge" trip. All a buzz, exhilarated and filled with anticipation, I daydreamed of the challenges we were going to face. My only disappointing reality was we only had a week to accomplish our monumental task. However, I couldn't ignore the heaviness I felt after realizing how much time had passed before this opportunity was allotted to me. Five years too late weighed like a brick on my chest. How could I truly make a difference at this stage, how can my efforts be felt after taking five years to finally respond to the call to rebuild a community? These were the questions that continued to surface in my mind. Nonetheless, my chance to do something to help, to be involved, and to give back, was in front of me.

Having grown up in a small knit community in the Caribbean, we experienced devastating situations like Katrina practically every year, so I knew how much hard work and dedication it would take to revive this city that was almost totally demolished by the hurricane. Back home we just roll up our sleeves and help our community get back to normal. This is a way of life in the Caribbean that has carried over into participation in the Plunge. It was only a hand full of us, seven members of the student body, that actually participated in making this trip, but we were all geared up for the difference we were about to make. Each one of us offered our own uniqueness through our efforts. I think if you were to ask each of us individually how we felt before we left and after we returned, it's fair to say our responses would be centered around how different we now feel and how we were changed.

The College of New Rochelle, School of New Resources provided a number of new opportunities to me. Not only has it been instrumental in assisting me with the ability to further my education by obtaining a bachelors degree, but it has also allowed me an opportunity to be able to give back to communities through service. My recent "The Plunge" to New Orleans with Campus Ministry presented this opportunity. The School of New Resources is not only equipping their students with finding a career, but also providing the prospect to affect change through service.

**The Ursuline School**

**New Rochelle, New York**

**Student Name: Key Club**

**Describe your service and what you did:**

The Key Club organized a Christmas party for families in need. The families are located through different venues and supply the club with clothing sizes, children's ages, interests and wish lists. We also request that the parents give their clothing sizes, ideas for family gifts and a personal wish list.

After we receive the information from the families, the girls sign up to "sponsor" a child. The "family gifts" and the gifts for the families are covered by general club funds. We also give each child a goody bag as they enter with toys and things they can entertain themselves with during dinner. The students are also responsible for bringing in a two liter soda for the party, as well as

a covered dish. After dinner, we give the families and children their gifts. The children are so overwhelmed and the parents get teary eyed.

I think this is what makes this project the student's favorite. It is the only time they get to see the reactions of the recipients of their generosity, and that makes all the planning, shopping, decorating and time well worth the effort.

## **Ursuline Academy                      New Orleans, Louisiana**

**Student Name: Shelby Duckworth    Grade Level: 9**

**Name of place where service was given:**

Saint Agnes Church

**Describe your service and what you did:**

I have been a youth Lector since I was in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade. I read either the first or second reading, the prayers of the faithful and the announcements. I just started teaching CCD pre-k at the beginning of September.

**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, my service makes a difference in my community because it shows little kids that they can be a Youth Lector or Altar Server. It shows them that they can be active in and serve their Church. It also shows a deep commitment to my Church.

**Describe how this service was important in your life?**

By doing this service I have become a better public speaker. It has given me a better understanding of the Scriptures. This service has made me confident in everything I do. In teaching little kids what I know about Jesus and the Church lets me know that they are learning what God wants them to know.

**Student Name: Charlotte McLoughlin      Grade Level: 12**

**Name of place where service was given:**

YRNO (Youth Rebuilding New Orleans) various locations

**Describe your service and what you did:**

YRNO is an organization made up by teens from local high schools who work together to buy, gut, completely re-do and sell houses to teachers at local schools.

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

We build these houses for teachers at local schools. It's good to give back to those who always help us. My favorite part is the Act of Sale, because of the teacher's reactions.

**Describe how this service was important in your life?**

This service is important in my life because I've learned business skills such as how to buy and sell houses. It has also helped me learn how to build strong relationships and how to work as a team.

Through building houses I have also learned valuable skills such as floating sheetrock, putting down flooring and painting. Overall this organization has helped me to put others first. Sacrificing my time, waking up early on a Saturday morning was totally worth it. I enjoy every minute of working on these houses and have worked my way up to a board member. YRNO is not only something I do to complete service hours, but it is now a part of my life.

**Student Name: Bridget Nourse      Grade Level: 11**

**Name of place where service was given:**

Spina Bifida of Greater New Orleans: Camp Friendship

**Describe your service and what you did:**

This summer I was a camp counselor at a non-profit camp for children born with Spina Bifida. Most of the children are unable to walk or use the bathroom. Each day of camp, I received a new camper; we would go swimming, play games or do crafts. Every few hours I was responsible for bringing my child to the restroom to be catheterized.

**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, this service made a huge difference to the children with Spina Bifida. These kids have had tough lives, and Camp Friendship is the only summer camp that meets their needs for free. I know that the kids will appreciate their summer memories because they could not stop smiling or laughing at camp. I feel honored to have helped the kids by providing them with the best possible summer.

**Describe how this service was important in your life?**

This service was really important in my life by teaching me the importance of serving others. I will never forget the joy on the kid's faces. Camp Friendship really showed me that even though these children were faced with medical, developmental and emotional issues, they were still able to have fun, and I became friends with many of them. This was my second year working at Camp Friendship, and I will go back next summer too because of the life lessons I learned and the joy I receive from making the kids happy. This service has taught me to respect all life and to see the value of service.

**Student Name: Megan Schmidt      Grade Level: 10**

**Name of place where service was given:**

Piedras Negras, Mexico

**Describe your service and what you did:**

In Mexico I helped build a house that will later be used as a clinic where doctors and dentists can go to help out the poor people in the town. I helped to lay bricks around the building and stucco the whole thing. In the afternoons I went to the orphanage and played with the orphans. We played games and bonded with the orphans.

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

I felt like the service we did by building the clinic made a difference because the citizens wouldn't have to go that far to receive the help. The clinic is behind an old poor people's home I call the poorest of the

poor. The people that lived there were so appreciative before we even finished it. The orphans benefited from us.

**Describe how this service was important in your life?**

This service was and still is important to my life because it opened my eyes to how fortunate I am. I experienced poverty and orphans with no family. This week made me think of how thankful I am. When I came home it just felt weird because the orphans will always have a place in my heart. The service has also changed my life, because of how wonderful and amazing the citizens of Piedras Negras were. They had open arms in welcoming us and making us feel at home even though they didn't have that much. It made me think that maybe at home we can be the open arms towards new people. The experience changed my life and I hope to go back this summer.

**Ursuline Academy**

**Dedham, Massachusetts**

**Student Name: Laura Hays**

**Grade Level: 11**

**Name of place where service was given:**

Massachusetts Hospital School, Canton, MA

**Describe your service and what you did:**

During the summer I worked with mentally and physically disabled children and young adults. The activities ranged from scrapbooking, computer and cooking as well as dance/music, sports, canoeing, horseback riding and swimming. During the school year we do table games, mat madness, karaoke and bike.

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

In my humble opinion, my service to the Mass Hospital School has benefited them greatly. They are able to have a devoted and helpful volunteer who will do anything she can to make the lives of both the staff and students easier. My service has helped the children to learn that they always have someone to listen to them and give them her unconditional love.

**Describe how this service was important in your life?**

Mass Hospital School is no longer just a place in Canton but it is now my second home. The staff at the school welcomed me with open arms and helped me along the way. In a special way the children and young adults feel like family. They have taught me so much about themselves, as well as myself. I now know that giving myself to what I love is more important than anything. The bonds I have formed with the students will live on for many years to come.

**Student Name: Emma Hodges**

**Grade Level: 10**

**Name of place where service was given:**

Hato Nuevo in El Salvador

**Describe your service and what you did:**

For my service project, I traveled to El Salvador, a country filled with poverty, with a youth group of 9 teenagers and 5 adult mentors. While there, we worked on a church that was being constructed in a town called Hato Nuevo. There we mainly moved rocks and dirt. While there, we also visited an orphanage in the town of San Miguel. We were only there for a half day, but we played with the children. Along with this, we visited a few museums in order to learn more about the culture and the world we had entered. We learned about Oscar Romero and about the history of El Salvador.

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

Although the people in the town of Hato Nuevo could have finished their church without our help, the main thing is that they knew that we cared. They knew that their struggle was acknowledged and appreciated. It was more that we were there and trying to help that mattered instead of how much work we actually accomplished.

**Describe how this service was important in your life?**

The extreme poverty in El Salvador was like nothing I had ever seen. You hear about it in the news or see something like it in movies, but until you're there actually experiencing it for yourself, there is no way you could have imagined. It furthered my belief not to judge someone by their appearance. I came back changed somehow. It seems like I appreciate the things I have more than I did before I left. I met people who weren't able to access medical care or clean water, and that made me all the more thankful that I have these resources. But it also showed me that I enjoyed mission work. It wasn't as scary as I thought it would be, and I hope to continue in the future, if not in El Salvador, then in some other country in need of help. I have so much here, and it should be shared with the other people of this world. I learned so much from the people I met. The children at the orphanage were so warm and welcoming, and the people in Hato Nuevo treated us as friends from the beginning. Another reason this trip impacted me was that it opened my eyes to God in my life. Our mentor asked us one night, "Where did you see God today?" and it really got me thinking. So each evening, I would look back on the day and ask myself that question, always with multiple answers. But it didn't stop when I returned home. I would still ask myself where I saw God that day and I still had multiple answers. It taught me that God isn't just visible in third world countries, but right here as well; I just wasn't looking before.

**Student Name: Paige Marino**

**Grade Level: 12**

**Name of place where service was given:**

The ARC programs in South Norfolk County (Westwood), Charles River (Needham) and Let's Motor (Norwood)

**Describe your service and what you did:**

Bears Care is a volunteer group that works with physically, emotionally and mentally challenged children and young adults. We work with the ARC programs over vacations with children in daycare programs, and on Fridays once every two months or so with teenagers at the Teen Dances. Also, we occasionally help out on Sunday afternoons for Parents' Day Out. With the children, we act as supervisors. Generally, each day we are paired with a specific child who we work with on skills that their parents have noted is not his or her strong suit. At the Teen Dances, we act as friends. We dance and have fun just as we would at any other social event, and we help the teenagers feel comfortable in social settings with peers their own age. At Let's Motor, we work with children and try to help them learn to use their motor skills. We do obstacle courses and yoga to help the children learn how to use their bodies.

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

I would like to say I can consider myself a friend to those I work with. I hope that through my help and guidance I have been able to brighten their outlook on life, as well as teach them skills necessary to live in the world. Their lives are not easy, so I hope that I have been able to lessen that burden at least a small amount. One of my favorite parts of volunteering is watching the parents' faces when they come to pick their children up and they see how much fun they're having. I know it is incredibly stressful for the parents of mentally, physically and emotionally challenged individuals, so if I can ease any of their worries, I feel as though I have accomplished something. I think this benefits the community of Ursuline Academy, especially. Bears Care has more members now than I ever could have imagined. We truly are spreading awareness about the ARC programs, and I hope that stays with the girls in the future.

**Ursuline Academy**

**St. Louis, Missouri**

**Student Name: Megan & Marissa Block    Grade Level: 11**

**Name of place where service was given:**

Wings of Hope

**Describe your service and what you did:**

We participated in various aspects of this event from creating some of the forms for participants, publicity, collecting donations, constructing cardboard boats, racing in the event and working the event. After the event was over, we also helped organize and calculate the proceeds.

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

We feel that our service really helped the coordinators and recipients of the Cardboard Boat race. Our efforts, listed above, helped the coordinators ultimately raise over \$25,000. The proceeds from this event all went to the Medical Relief and Air Transport (MAT) Program, which benefits children in our community with birth defects and/or needing life-saving care, at no cost to them or their families.

**Describe how this service was important in your life?**

This service was really important in our lives because it made us feel awesome to be able to help those in need. We are so thankful for our numerous blessings and really love reaching out to those who are less fortunate, in hopes that they will be granted blessings as well. It feels so amazing to reach out to families that could really use a helping hand so that their child can receive necessary treatment for a better life.

**Student Name: Molly Eggleston    Grade Level: 12**

**Name of place where service was given:**

Lemay Housing Partnership, Inc.

**Describe your service and what you did:**

- I created a social media campaign to help us reach out to those with concerns for affordable housing in our community and raise funds to address our mission.
- I canvassed the residential community and let them know about our work.

- I established a presence for the organization on Face book. I educated our Board and volunteers about the Internet, Face book and social media so they could more effectively use it to recruit volunteers and donors.
- I created a commercial to air on public television highlighting the Lemay Housing Partnership and all they do.
- I created a video to be used in outreach campaigns on Face book and in live presentations around St. Louis.
- I created a third video about their work and entered it into a grant competition that – if awarded – will be put to use in Lemay.
- I recruited friends and family to help this agency.
- I also fulfilled a much-needed administrative support role in the office.

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

I feel my service to Lemay Housing Partnerships impacted the greater Lemay community by giving them a voice in the social media market. Technology is constantly evolving, and it is one of the best ways to educate key constituents in getting involved both through volunteering and by donating financial resources. I was able to educate staff members about the various social networks and how they can best use these for their organization. I am happy to give my time and talents to this organization.

**Describe how this service was important in your life?**

This service was important in my life because I am very passionate about human communications through various media forms such as broadcasting and video design and editing. This volunteer position allowed me to use my talents in a way where I can help the greater Lemay community for years to come. It is exciting to see the videos I created used as a way to inform others of this organization. Maybe one more person will be utilizing this organization for assistance because of a commercial they saw. Maybe one more person will volunteer or make a financial pledge because of the video on their website. It is humbling to know my work will have a lasting impact on the community.

**Student Name: Student Council and Leadership for Diversity  
Grade Level: 9-12**

**Name of place where service was given:**

Ursuline Academy

**Describe your service and what you did:**

We invited the Missouri State Patrol to do a presentation on distracted driving. We also had the students participate in a simulator that gave them a sense of what it felt like to be in an accident. For part two of this experience, we met with our local police dept, fire dept. and paramedics to set up an accident scene on the parking lot of our school. We made it as real as possible with two wrecked cars that were brought onto our lot, and a dramatization that included students being arrested for drunk driving, as well as students being carried off in an ambulance. Students were laying on the hood of the car, students had to be cut out of the car, and we tried to make it seem as real as possible in hopes of getting the point across to our student body about what happens when we drink and drive. Our student body watched this as it unfolded, and then we gathered in the gym with all of the first responders, as well as a judge and an attorney to explain what happens in the event of a real accident involving alcohol.



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

I believe I helped both the children and their families. Some of the kids are in desperate need of attention, and I strive to provide that. Although most did not speak, I could see the joy on their faces when we played and watched them become more affectionate through the summer. I helped, to the best of my ability, to teach the kids the proper behavior while also providing someone to play with and release their energy.

**Describe how this service was important in your life?**

Volunteering at Stepping Stones has completely changed my life. I do not act differently around people with disabilities, but respect them the same as anyone else. I have come to appreciate all of their unique characteristics and abilities, both good and more challenging. Although the work is challenging and quite tiring, I find myself completely fulfilled at the end of each day. The children taught me a lot about happiness and the beauty in different things. I love those kids with all my heart, and feel so lucky to have discovered such an amazing volunteer opportunity.

**Student Name: Katie Woodall**

**Grade Level: 10**

**Name of place where service was given:**

Camp Stepping Stones

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

The great thing about the Stepping Stones Center is the fact that everyone involved wins. The campers get to do all the normal fun stuff kids should have the chance to do, like fishing, swimming and sports. The parents or care givers of the campers win because not only do they know their kids are safe and having an awesome time, they get a well deserved break for a couple of hours. I really admire the primary care givers of the campers, because being responsible for young people with disabilities is often a lot of work and a lot of heart ache. And finally, the volunteers (I consider us the luckiest ones of all) get the opportunity to hang out with these incredible inspiring individuals. Honestly, I can say that SSC has been one of the biggest and most positive influences in my life.

**Describe how this service was important in your life?**

I can barely put into words how much SSC has changed my life. It put my life in perspective and gave me a whole new appreciation for people who must face life's difficulties every day. I learned how to appreciate the little things, to just sit in the grass and think. It unplugged me from my cell phone, made me turn off the TV and actually start living. My life will never be the same; I have held someone's hand as they had a seizure, I have seen torment in the eyes of someone trying to communicate, but not able to form the words. I have been given daily hugs, and melt-your-heart-out smiles. I spent so much time with one camper that I anticipated her needs and responded like a reflex. I consider myself very blessed to be an SSC volunteer.

**Student Name: Jackie Healey**

**Grade Level: 10**

**Name of place where service was given:**

YMCA Camp Ernst

**Describe your service and what you did:**

Every day my fellow crew members and I woke up before the rest of the camp to start preparing breakfast, setting tables, pouring water and juice and putting out all the food. When all the campers woke up and came to breakfast, some of us spent the time serving food and refilling water pitchers for two sets of kids while others went out to clean bathrooms and collect the trash. After the two meals were served, we had to clean up the kitchen and sweep all the floors. After meals, we had about an hour of free time, usually to sleep. The same things happened three times a day for every meal, each meal took us about 3 hours to cook, serve and clean up. We had a different job every meal and we knew about each job from the schedule we received every week. We also set up their evening activities like the carnival and dance so that the counselors didn't have to. We tried our best to serve quickly and created strong bonds with each other through working together.

**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 to all the campers. My fellow crew members and I cooked every meal for every camper, administrator and counselor, cleaned their bathrooms, picked up their trash, and set up their evening activities so they had an enjoyable camp experience.

**Describe how this service was important in your life?**

This service was important in my life because it taught me how to work hard and not give up; it also taught me how to work well with a team and rely on help from my team mates, but also pull my own weight. I made some of my best friends there because working together formed a strong bond of friendship between us.

**Student Name: Jennifer Teeters      Grade Level: 9**

**Name of place where service was given:**

Countryside YMCA in Lebanon, Ohio

**Describe your service and what you did:**

I volunteered my time over the past two summers helping counselors work day camps at the YMCA. I got trained for the five consecutive days in first aid, CPR and child management. Then I became a "CIT" or counselor in training. At that time I chose a camp where I wanted to assist. I chose pre-school camp as the camp that would receive my help. Pre-school camp is split into two sessions; a morning camp, which was aquatics, and an afternoon class, which was sports camp.

The counselors and CIT's arrived at 8:30 in the morning to review the "game plan" and know what we were going to do with the kids, even though it was planned the week before. Camp started each day at 9 o'clock with devotion, where the pledge of allegiance was said and silly songs were sung. Then we went off to the YMCA building to do a craft. At the beginning of the week it was a time to introduce the kids and counselors and get the kids pumped up for the fun week that was ahead of them. This was my job, to interact with the kids, play games and help the counselors. After introductions, it was craft time! I got the children in a big group in the soccer arena and gave them the directions for the activity, whether it was a coloring page that Kayde the counselor or I printed out or a puppet that went with the theme of the week. The children enjoyed the chance to be creative.

After that, we took them to the pool where everyone, including the CIT's and counselors, got in the pool and did swim lessons. We did have a certified swim instructor who taught the kids the basics of swimming, but I also helped with the lessons and drills. Following swim lessons was snack time. I opened the closet full of snacks and various allergy safe drinks and food. It was my job to ready snacks on some days. I made the lemonade and placed the snack on the napkin for them, and called the kids

from the playground or the chalk drawing that they were working on. They ate the snack and played on the playground everyday, which gave me time to interact with each and every child that week. Subsequent to snack time was sign out for the first group. I entertained the kids with games of duck-duck-goose or other games until their parents arrived. We all got a 45 minute break before the next group arrived. A short couple minutes passed before I had to walk outside for the next group of kids. I also had to switch modes from swimming to sports! There were many sports for the entire summer because each week was a specific sport including golf, basketball, soccer and multi-sport. The rest of the day we did the same things, but the sports instead of aquatics! Overall, the camp was a great mix of activities and jobs for me to do.

**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 helping the YMCA counselors and the children makes a great difference in the community and to the people who received the services. Since the preschoolers that I worked with will grow up into the adults that run the world, I hope that my actions and kindness towards them would influence them all through their childhood as someone to look up to and take from the things that I did. The YMCA is a community by itself. I know that by taking a little stress off of a pile of things that the parents and counselors have to do every day would help them. The little things that must be done ritually are a big chore by themselves. When I make snack or take a group of children to the restroom, I know that my hard work that I do everyday helps someone and may even make someone's day.

**Describe how this service was important in your life?**

The services that I did were very important to my life. Being with the children and getting to know them makes me smile. Even when I had a rough day, when I thought about the excitement and fun that the staff and crew had that day, it makes me know that the work is worth it. The service has also made me realize a career that I would want to go into. After years of wasting my time thinking about the impossible jobs I could try, I finally figured out what I want to do all for the help of the kids. The service was also important to me because I got to be a role model for many children. There was a child named Nicole who clung to my side the entire summer. She looked up to me, and I knew that I had made a best friend who would look up to me and remember me forever!

**Ursuline Academy**

**Dallas, Texas**

**Student Name: Camille Dollins**

**Grade Level: 12**

**Name of place where service was given:**

All community service fulfilled by my club, Students for Scottish Rite, benefits Scottish Rite Hospital in Dallas, Texas.

**Describe your service and what you did:**

Last year my friend and I co-founded the club "Students for Scottish Rite" at Ursuline. Students for Scottish Rite is a community service club that focuses on holding service projects that benefit Scottish Rite Hospital. Last year we started a service project called Colors for Cupcakes. In this service project we asked students and faculty at Ursuline to donate art supplies. If someone donated art supplies, then they received a complimentary cupcake. We felt that this gave people more incentive to donate, and it truly worked. Cupcakes were also available for sale for one dollar during all lunches. Last year we only had eleven members, but we managed to bake over five hundred cupcakes at my house in one afternoon. We

sold every single cupcake during our two day bake sale and received over three hundred and fifty art supply donations. Overall we were able to donate all of the art supplies and purchase more art supplies with the \$450 we earned. We used the additional \$450 to purchase additional art supplies and games that the hospital requested. This service project was so successful the school administration decided to make it an annual service project. This November we will be having the second annual Colors for Cupcakes.

When I am not baking hundreds of cupcakes in my free time, I am working on other service projects for Students for Scottish Rite. Last month we held one of our most successful service projects, called Socks for Tots. Scottish Rite informed us that arm slings are a choking hazard to toddlers, so at Scottish Rite they cover a child's injured arm with a tube sock and then safety pin them to the child's shirt. We decorated 659 socks at my house in eight hours during the weekend of October 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>. We decorated the socks with images that would bring the children joy, such as cartoon characters, sports or other fun images. We received a letter from Scottish Rite last week informing us that our socks were the best socks they had ever received, and they were so grateful for all of our hard work!

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

When I co-founded this club, I was not aware of the impact that the work of this club would actually have. Bringing a smile to the face of even one child makes all of my hard work worth it. Being in the hospital is depressing, so we strive to bring joy to children who might not have a reason to smile that day. Last December we had a service project where we made Holiday cards for the children who had to stay at the hospital over the Christmas holidays. We realized that not everyone there is Catholic, so we decided to make "holiday" cards. Each card was handmade and also had a prayer for sick children in it.

**Describe how this service was important in your life?**

This service is so important to my life; it truly has become the focal point of my attention. My life outside of school is always focused on Students for Scottish Rite. I am always trying to ensure that we have a substantial club fund so that this club can continue to help others after I graduate from Ursuline. Students for Scottish Rite is truly one of the best examples of Ursuline Serviam that I have ever encountered in my years at Ursuline.

**Student Name: Hannah Juarez      Grade Level: 11**

**Name of place where service was given:**

I traveled with the organization called "Me to We" and worked within two rural Ecuadorian communities named Gulahuayco and Lullin.

**Describe your service and what you did:**

In both communities, I participated in building a school. In the Gulahuayco community, I made clay bricks, bent iron rods for the wall structure, and carried large rocks for the foundation. While I worked with the Lullin community, I helped mix cement for the floor of the classroom. Also, on the very last day with the community, my group started building the walls of the school.

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

During this trip, I felt like I was not only giving these Ecuadorian kids a physical building, but I was also giving them hope and an opportunity to see things in the world beyond their community. By providing them with a school building, these children will be able to receive at least an elementary education and be one step closer to reaching their future dreams. These new schools will not only impact the children now, but also the children of that community for the generations to come.

**Describe how this service was important in your life?**

This trip has changed my life and the way I viewed the world. In both communities, my group worked together with the mothers and the fathers and the children and created special friendships as we worked together in unity. When we first arrived in Lullin, the children were scared to even talk or play with us. However, as the week progressed, these children slowly became more comfortable with us and began to help build the school. My sister, who accompanied me on the trip, told me how she did not consider the people building the school American or Ecuadorian but rather brothers and sisters who live in different parts of the world and are coming together for a common goal. While I spoke to individual kids, I noticed how proud they were to be attending school. All of the kids taught me how fortunate I am to be receiving a quality education at Ursuline. Even though I had given all my heart and effort into these two communities, they taught me so much more. For 18 days, the members of Gulahuayco and Lullin made us part of their community and welcomed us with open arms which are gifts that money cannot buy. I have traveled on different mission trips before, but during this trip, I also rediscovered my passion for serving others in the world. I now know that I want to continue going on mission trips and making a difference in the world.

**Student Name: Allie Ryan      Grade Level: 12**

**Name of place where service was given:**

Hillcrest House

**Describe your service and what you did:**

Every third Thursday of the month, a group of girls travels to the Hillcrest to provide supper to the residents. The residents are struggling with AIDs and are not financially stable. We bring food with us and cook some there. We then serve the food to the residents and interact.

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

The residents are given breakfast and lunch by the Hillcrest House, but they are on their own for supper unless an organization provides it for them. Most of the time they are given pizza or something easy to cook for almost 70 people. When we go, we pick a theme for the night. Their favorite is Breakfast for Supper. I think they enjoy the special themed nights as well as being able to interact with teenagers. They are surrounded by adults their age and older, and being able to see smiling faces that are truly happy to be there with them must brighten their day. I can tell by the way their faces light up when they see us cooking that they are excited we are there.

**Describe how this service was important in your life?**

This service has not only shown me how fortunate I am to be healthy, but it just has shown me the impact I can make on the world. I have been attending these projects since my sophomore year and at first I thought it was just another meal for them to eat. I know they were happy that they had food, but I really started to notice what a difference I was making when I kept coming back. I started to recognize faces and even interact with mostly the same people. They remembered who I was and became more comfortable with me. My favorite job to have is pouring the drinks for the residents. As time went on, I began remembering which drink each resident would like, and that was an awesome feeling. I was no longer shy around them and felt I could joke with them and have fun without worrying. I can't imagine a more important way to spend my Thursday nights because I'm not only helping these people, I'm helping myself become aware of the effects of a major disease.

**Student Name: Morgan Uber**

**Grade Level: 12**

**Name of place where service was given:**

St. Vincent de Paul

**Describe your service and what you did:**

Once I selected that I wanted to work with St. Vincent de Paul, my next step was figuring out the group of people that I wanted my project to benefit. I constantly prayed about this decision because I knew with God's help I would make the right choice. With guidance from God, my family and my Girl Scout Troup, I chose to work with incarcerated men, women and teens in the Society of St. Vincent de Paul's program called Oasis of Justice. I knew there would be many people who would disapprove of my project, so it was a risky decision. However, I knew there would be those who would support and commend this project because it was different. That is what I liked most about my project—it was different. Rarely will one ever hear of a high school student leading a community service project for the incarcerated. Even though I was very excited to begin my project, I was filled with a sense of nervousness wondering if people were going to judge me. I continued praying to God to overcome this; I also asked for His guidance to make me realize that I was doing the right thing.

Once I chose my organization and group, I had to plan activities and find volunteers who would make these incarcerated men and women feel loved. I knew I wanted to incorporate all the students in my high school, Ursuline Academy of Dallas. After weeks of contemplating, I decided that writing letters would be an effective way to let these people know that people in the community are thinking of them and praying for them. When I spoke with the administration, they loved the idea of getting all the girls involved; each Ursuline student wrote a letter to an incarcerated man or woman, so in the end I had a total of 800 letters. I assembled a group of volunteers to help me proofread each of the letters. Reading these letters made a difference in my life because it was astonishing to see how much time and effort the students put in to their letters of support. About two weeks had passed after mailing the letters when I started receiving mail from the jail. I was totally awestruck to see that these people were so much affected by the letters that they decided to write back. One specifically caught my attention. "These letters I recently received encouraged me to go back to school and get my degree once I am released," one man wrote. I received about fifty responses. It made me realize that my project did change someone's life. These people have dreams similar to mine. The letters reflected their values of family, education and faith. Along with the letters, I collected backpacks filled with seven different hygiene items; these are simple things that we take for granted that some people in the world lack. From the responses, I believe my project was a success. I touched these peoples' lives in a meaningful way by a simple act of writing a letter and giving them simple necessities of life.

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

The hope for my project was to write letters that would be uplifting to these incarcerated men, women, and teens and to let them know that there are people in society who are thinking about and praying for them. The students were able to relate their lives to the lives of these incarcerated, despite how different their lives actually are. From all the responses I received, it was apparent these people were touched by the letters. The backpacks filled with hygiene items intended to give these people the basic necessities of life. Through my project, I intended to give the people support and hope that it is not too late to go back to school and get a job. This is such a neglected part of society that does not receive much attention, so I know they were very appreciative of the letters and the hygiene items.

**Describe how this service was important in your life?**

I learned that to change a person's life one does not need to give a donation of a million dollars or travel to a foreign country to do mission work. It is possible to make a difference in others' lives within the community through simple acts. Not only did this project change the lives of those that are incarcerated, but it also changed my life. My eyes were opened by working on this project, and it made me realize how forgotten incarcerated people are in society. God tells His believers to "comfort the imprisoned" in the eight Beatitudes. When I contemplate on these words, I realize that I did in fact carry out God's will by alleviating those who are imprisoned. Through my project, I hope I was able to encourage others to step outside of their comfort zone and help mankind in ways that they might not usually think of.

**Ursuline High School**

**Santa Rosa, California**

**Student Name: Jordan Henry**

**Grade Level: 12**

**Name of place where service was given:**

Special Olympics

**Describe your service and what you did:**

I will be coach for Special Olympics during basketball season. I will put together a slideshow for the end of the season BBQ that me and my partner will put on.

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

I am creating more of an opportunity for special needs children and adults to participate in organized sports. I am sharing my passion and love for basketball with the athletes and passing it on to them. I am trying to be an inspiration for future hopeful basketball players.

**Describe how this service was important in your life?**

This will be important in my life because I have never had to be a coach or be patient. I will be involved with my community and have the opportunity to introduce a life-changing game to someone in need of it. I am making an impression on someone's life forever.

**Student Name: Emily Weiss**

**Grade Level: 12**

**Name of place where service was given:**

Fitch Mountain School, Healdsburg/PPST (Public School Success Team)

**Describe your service and what you did:**

I will be teaching seven 5<sup>th</sup> grade students at Fitch Mountain School about critical thinking and creative writing skills that will hopefully improve their writing skills. I will be creating a book of their stories and pieces of work to present, as well as a power point.

**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 to the community I served by challenging students who are at the top of their class. These students are not struggling, but instead need to be challenged and taught something new. I am sharing my passion for writing and teaching to create an advanced environment for learning.

**Describe how this service was important in your life?**

This service is important in my life because I am striving to be an elementary school teacher, and this gives me a chance to see what being a teacher is like. This project forces me to be prepared to teach others, be one step ahead of the students and have great patience, as well as study techniques to help the students learn in a different way. I will also be able to teach something I love to others while challenging them.

**Villa Angela-St. Joseph**

**Cleveland, Ohio**

**Student Name: Terika Hyneman      Grade Level: 12**

**Name of place where service was given:**

Hospice of the Western Reserve

**Describe your service and what you did:**

The role I play as a teen volunteer is to make patients and their visitors happy, whether that is achieved by baking goods, creating arts and crafts or having creative discussions with them. My job is to provide comfort and peace for the patients who reside there.

**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 to others because when others ask me about what I do, I am a model and provide a positive voice about what Hospice does for the terminally ill. My words inspire and encourage people to come and try the Hospice experience and see if they have an emotional and spiritual connection within themselves.

**Describe how this service was important in your life?**

It was important because I'm getting the satisfaction of knowing I am making a difference in patients' lives every day, and I am also developing a more in depth spiritual relationship with God. I learned that life is too precious and sometimes it is cut way too short to the point where the person didn't get a chance to live their lives the way they wanted to.

**Student Name: Chad Thomas**

**Grade Level: 12**

**Name of place where service was given:**

Cleveland Clinic Euclid Hospital

**Describe your service and what you did:**

I am a comfort runner at Euclid Hospital. I help the nurses with their assigned patients, like answering patient call lights, having conversations with the patients and their families, getting supplies and food for patients and briefing nurses.

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

My service to the hospital has made a difference to the community because I not only make the patients feel comfortable in the hospital setting, but also their families, so they would get the best service I could do for them.

**Describe how this service was important in your life?**

This service was important in my life because it has influenced me to become a better person, helped me appreciate the fortunate things in my life like my family and surroundings, helped me learn from other's experiences; and I have been given the chance to interact with people.

**Student Name: Derek Witcher      Grade Level: 11**

**Name of place where service was given:**

Collinwood Arts Café, Cleveland, Ohio

**Describe your service and what you did:**

I helped younger kids with art activities for a couple of weeks and created art for the Collinwood Arts Museum.

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

I feel the community bettered from my service because they see a male trying to better myself, so I am setting a good example on how to do the right thing in the community. Also, I helped do a mural, so that ties in with the physical appearance of bettering the community.

**Describe how this service was important in your life?**

It was important in my life because I am doing something I love and show younger people how to better their artistic abilities. Also, it helps me build my character and leadership skills.