



Inside This Issue:

Coordinator's Corner pg. 1

Spotlight pg. 2

Viewpoints pg. 3

The Beach Sweep pg. 4

From the Coordinator of Volunteer and Community Services



Greetings from the Office of Volunteer and Community Services! Throughout the Fall semester students continued to put forth great effort in performing a variety of volunteer and community service activities throughout the local area and beyond. This past year students performed over 20,000 hours of community service and continue to make a significant impact in the area. I am so proud that our students are continuing to make a difference in the lives of others in the local community, the region and beyond.

Many of our volunteers include individual students, student groups, and athletes. In the past students have accomplished an array of tasks and continue to do so. Some of these tasks included the thirteenth annual Community Service Fair where approximately 200 students along with faculty and staff participated. Another popular event is the Move-in Crew where over 193 students participated. During the Feeding Fredonia Challenge student volunteers, faculty, and staff helped to collect over 4700 pounds of nonperishable food items for impoverished families. In conjunction with the Fredonia Days of Service, the annual Fall Sweep event had over 225 lawns raked by student groups in the village of Fredonia. Our students involved with Habitat for Humanity have shown care and compassion to those who were in the greatest need by assisting families in building and rehabbing affordable housing.

Other service projects that student volunteers engage in include cooking and serving meals to impoverished families at the local Friendly Kitchen; providing social and recreational activities to seniors while helping to improve their quality of life; making enhancements to the environment by planting trees at Greystone Nature Preserve; assisting local youth and senior citizens at local organizations and agencies among many other events and activities.

Furthermore, I would also like to congratulate our students for making such a positive impact in the community and the world.

For more information on volunteer and community service please contact the coordinator, Joyce.Smith@fredonia.edu or call (716) 673-3690. You can also visit us on the web at students.fredonia.edu/volunteer

Intern in the Office

Hello! My name is Molly Mellott and I am the intern for the Office of Volunteer and Community Services. I am a senior English major with a minor in Creative Writing. I am originally from Nashua, New Hampshire, a suburb of Boston. I decided to do this internship because of my passion for volunteering.

By working as a Resident Assistant, this has allowed me to base my programs around volunteering. Such programs include 'The Hearts of St. Columban's' and 'Flowers for St. Columban's' where we did culinary and crafting activities for St. Columban's. As the president of English Works, we also volunteered at St. Columban's where we assisted residents of the home in making journals.

During my Senior Seminar class this semester, I also helped to coordinate the WCA Home's 125th Anniversary Tea Party in order to raise funds for the home. This endeavor parallels my goals in improving senior citizen quality of life.

My volunteer work has helped to improve my leadership skills, interpersonal skills and has taught me the importance of community involvement and how that has an impact on not only myself but also the members within the community and creating greater bonds between the campus and local community.

For more information, students can stop by the Office of Volunteer and Community Services in the Williams Center, room S227. If you would like to contact me regarding volunteering, please email me at mmellott@fredonia.edu.



Students

Making a

Difference

Students



Making a



Difference



In the Spotlight

Voices for Autism

Voices for Autism is a community-service based student group whose main mission is to provide volunteering opportunities for students, faculty and alumni in their awareness, advocacy and fundraising efforts for Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

Voices for Autism offers hands-on volunteer experience for its members at the Boys and Girls Club in Dunkirk by providing games and activities to the children. This allows members the opportunity to gain experience working with children on the Autism Spectrum.

During the fall, Voices for Autism also provides an annual Science Sensory Extravaganza where children from the local community in Fredonia and Dunkirk along with Buffalo Hearing and Speech in the Wheelock School are invited to participate in sensory-based activities for children with ASD. This volunteer-based event has allowed Voices for Autism to create a positive impact on the local community and the surrounding region.

Voices for Autism hope to continue raising awareness in the community about autism. President Madison Courtney remarks, "By giving Fredonia students the opportunity to help these individuals, we are embedding an emphasis of serving all individuals, regardless of any type of disability." This group's passion and commitment in serving those with ASD will no-doubt leave a lasting impact on the children they have reached out to in their volunteer efforts.

Fredonia Blue Devils Baseball Team

The Fredonia Blue Devils Baseball Team's mission in volunteering is to help children in the community by playing and teaching baseball. Through their service, they have gone beyond the field by volunteering and engaging in the local community.

The Baseball Team provides volunteer-based programs held throughout the academic year including baseball clinics at Fredonia High School, a clean-up at the Fredonia Little League complex and Kid's Night Outs. At the end of each season, they also hold a benefit game to support a local child with cancer. Other campus and community events they have participated in include the Move-in Crew, the annual Mini-Maker Faire, ringing bells for the Salvation Army and assisting the Boy's and Girl's Club Halloween Party.

The Baseball Team certainly hits a home run in terms of the volunteer work they have done and plan to continue. The impact they have left on the community is certainly memorable to community members they have built relationships and affiliations with. Coach Matthew Palisin notes that, "It's great to be recognized in the community for positive things, especially when a kid recognizes you and gives you a big smile." Their energy in helping the local and campus community is uncanny and will surely continue to bring smiles to many faces.

Teacher Education Club

The main mission of the Teacher Education Club is to support and give back to the community through their volunteer work. Their community and civic service is centered on serving the greater good of Fredonia both on campus and beyond to the local community.

Teacher Education Club's commitment to their volunteer work spans from campus volunteer events to public elementary schools. Campus volunteer events Teacher Education Club has been involved with include Fall Sweep, Rockin' the Commons, Safe Halloween, the Harvest Fest and the Hanging of the Greens. They have also assisted and volunteered for Dunkirk's Elementary School 7 Halloween Dance where they assisted the faculty staff and students by providing educational games and activities, engaging with the children of Dunkirk's Elementary School 7. President Olivia MacWilliams states that, "We helped because as future teachers, we believe it is important to get involved in the schools and help out as much as possible!"

The range of their volunteer efforts are reflected in their motivation to create a bridge between the campus and the community. MacWilliams comments that, "We have gained incredible experiences working with children and adults from the community as well as other club members." Teacher Education Club hopes to continue volunteering and serving the greater good for Fredonia both on campus and beyond to the local community.

Viewpoints on Volunteering: Sean Smith

I am a student volunteer who has been involved with many activities, events and organizations including the Alzheimer's walk (Committee Member), Safe Halloween, Fall Sweep, a carnival for kids at Dunkirk Elementary school, the Feeding Fredonia Challenge, Stop Hunger Now, Operation Breakfast Rescue, a haunted house fundraiser, 22 Push-up Mandatory, a spaghetti dinner for the homeless, Relay For Life, The Beach Sweep and the annual Spring Egg Hunt.

I am also a member of Kappa Sigma and was elected Community Service Chair for a term spanning from Fall 2016 to Spring 2017. Kappa Sigma has been involved in various community service events including the annual Spring Egg Hunt with over 200 community participants. Kappa Sigma has also participated in Operation Breakfast Rescue, a breakfast food donation drive to benefit the Chautauqua Country Rural Ministry.

I became involved in these events because I enjoy doing community service. Volunteering is a great way to create a positive impact for those in the community and it not only benefits those who were helped but also leaves a lasting positive impression on the volunteers who provided their time and effort to civic engagement.

I plan to continue helping others because through my volunteer work, I believe the community has been positively affected by my help while also benefitting myself.

Viewpoints on Volunteering: Jayla Williams

I am a student ambassador, a student worker, a mentor, a tutor and president of Fredonia's Sister Circle. I volunteer in many aspects of my life including as a student, as a member of my neighborhood, and as president of Sister Circle.

Sister Circle is a Fredonia student group whose main mission is to empower its members. We provide an open atmosphere for all individuals and educates individuals on relevant issues that affect women of different ethnic backgrounds. In addition, Sister Circle also volunteers in the community on a regular basis to establish new positive relationships within the campus community. We have held a long-standing relationship and connection with the Boys and Girls Club in Dunkirk where we participate in an ice cream social among other activities.

My community service was motivated by my own neighborhood. I see potential within younger generations and want to be a helping hand for those students. I decided to join these activities because I aspire to be a role model to those around me and a leader in my community.

I have gained a lifetime of patience and motivation from my volunteer engagement which has pushed me to become a better student and citizen. Through my civic service, the community has gained an outspoken voice who lives and breathes for change. I plan on furthering my volunteer service by applying for Peace Corps positions around the world.

Viewpoints on Volunteering: Jad Shehabaldin

I am a member of Colleges Against Cancer. I also volunteered at the Mini Maker Faire where I helped assemble and launch rockets with children from ages 5 to 12. The turnout for community members at this event was very high.

What I feel the community has gained from me is a different viewpoint on life. I have connected with plenty of people through my volunteer work about what it's like back home, allowing me to give others a perspective of the Middle East. My instructors told me I should do something different to stand out amongst my peers which is why I decided to become a volunteer. One of the biggest differences I have noticed since being in America is that interacting with people is a lot easier and there are more opportunities to volunteer here than back home. This is my first time volunteering because community service opportunities are very limited in Saudi Arabia.

I do plan to continue volunteering and I am very interested in healthcare related community service because of my major in Biology. I have been able to incorporate my interest in science into my community service endeavors by joining Colleges Against Cancer and volunteering at the Mini Maker Faire. Volunteering helps keep me busy and allows me to have an association with a group of like-minded people while also helping me get out of my comfort zone and in touch with those that could use some help.



Sean Smith

*Year: Senior
Major: Video Production
Hometown: Buffalo, NY*

Activities:
Alzheimer's Walk
Kappa Sigma
VCS Advisory Committee



Jayla Williams

*Year: Senior
Major: History
Hometown: Buffalo, NY*

Activities:
Sister Circle
Student Ambassador
Student Mentor



Jad Shehabaldin

*Year: Freshman
Major: Biology
Hometown: Jeddah, Saudi Arabia*

Activities:
Colleges Against Cancer
Mini Maker Faire

The Beach Sweep (International Coastal Cleanup)

The International Coastal Cleanup is a vast one-day volunteer event organized by the Ocean Conservancy. Christina Jarvis, English professor at Fredonia has helped arrange Fredonia's participation in The International Coastal Cleanup through 'The Beach Sweep' which has occurred annually at Point Gratiot since 2009. This year, 187 pounds of garbage and debris were collected mostly consisting of small plastic products. These results are recorded and tallied, then reported to the New York Littoral Society and the New York Adopt-a-Beach program, which is part of the Alliance for the Great Lakes. The data collected at 'The Beach Sweep' has helped the Alliance for the Great Lakes lobby for bans on microplastics.

This event has impacted the local community in many ways including creating a cleaner beach for visitors to enjoy. 'The Beach Sweep' also benefits Fredonia student volunteers and according to Professor Jarvis, "The event helps raise awareness about plastics pollution, encourages stewardship of the Great Lakes, and connects students to beautiful, natural and recreational places in the local community."



Students collecting debris in the 2017 Ninth Annual Beach Sweep



Kappa Sigma assists with Operation Breakfast Rescue, Days of Service



Sister Circle at Dunkirk School 7



Habitat for Humanity Club Student Volunteers

Volunteers Wanted:

Boys & Girls Club

Chautauqua County Nursing and Rehab Center

Friendly Kitchen

Habitat for Humanity

Lakeshore Humane Society

Salvation Army

St. Columban's Home

St. Vincent's Home

WCA Home

Volunteer Events:

Fall Sweep (in conjunction with DOS)
Saturday, November 4
9:30am-12:00pm
Meet in Williams Center MPR
(Village of Fredonia)

Days of Service
November 4, 6, 7, 8
Various times and locations

Operation Breakfast Rescue
Donations/Collections: November 8
Williams Center G103B
Additional Donations: November 6 and 7
9:00am-4:00pm, Reed Library

Up 'til Dawn
Sat. Nov. 11, 9:30pm – Sun. Nov. 12, 2:00am
Williams Center
Sign up and create teams at:
www.events.stjude.org/

VCS Advisory Committee

Joyce Harvard Smith – Coordinator
Molly Mellott – Intern
Marc Wilcox – Comm. Disorders/Sciences
Adrienne Sader – Residence Life
Barbara Jones – WCA Home
Sue McAvoy – St. Columban's
Paul Dunleavy – Student Representative
Jacob Patterson – Student Representative
Tyler Fairchild – Student Representative

Contact Information

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Please visit us at:
students.fredonia.edu/volunteer