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Warehouse  
DISTRICT

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**WALSH  
UNIVERSITY**

2017-2018  
ANNUAL REPORT

*Office of  
Service Learning*

# Office of Service Learning 2017-2018 Annual Report



IN THIS ISSUE	PAGE
<b>ABOUT SERVICE LEARNING</b>	2
<b>COURSES + COURSE SPOTLIGHT</b>	3
<b>STUDENTS + STUDENT SPOTLIGHT</b>	4
<b>FACULTY MEMBERS OF THE YEAR</b>	5
<b>COMMUNITY PARTNERS + PARTNER SPOTLIGHT</b>	6
<b>SL PROGRAMS + PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT</b>	7
<b>THE ROAD AHEAD</b>	8

## Service Learning at Walsh University

The Office of Service Learning's vision to empower change-makers for our community speaks to its goals to support students in discovering and using what they're passionate about, good at, and educated in to effect positive change. As part of Walsh's Division of Experiential Education, Service Learning gives students an opportunity to *experience* what they're learning in the classroom: it is a hands-on application of academic coursework through service to Stark County. In doing so, it helps prepare our students for their careers and life beyond college. Further, the Office of Service Learning is an arm of the University which reaches into the community and which exhibits the potential of institutions of higher education to do good for society.

As the Director of Service Learning, I have been grateful for our wonderful community partners and faculty who collaboratively support our students' learning and development inside and outside the classroom. Your efforts and energy inspire and enable our students to be better learners and citizens.

*-Abby Poeske, Director of Service Learning*



## About Service Learning

Service Learning is a form of experiential education and civic engagement used to help take learning outside of the classroom in ways that are mutually beneficial to the community.

### Mission

To facilitate mutually beneficial service learning opportunities among Walsh and the local community.

### Vision

In collaboration with Walsh faculty and local partners, the Office of Service Learning seeks to equip & support students to positively impact their communities and become educated change-makers and leaders in service.

## 2017-2018 Service Learning Courses



609  
students

47 Service  
Learning courses



10,025  
hours

50 community  
partners



# Office of Service Learning

EMPOWERING  
CHANGE-MAKERS  
FOR OUR  
COMMUNITY



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# Service Learning Courses

*The following courses represent a small sample of the 47 course sections offered with a Service Learning designation in the 2017-2018 academic year.*

BIO 315 Field Botany

BUS311 Marketing Research

CHEM450 Environmental Chemistry

COM475 Senior Capstone-Corporate Comm

ENG200-5 Intro to Drama

HIST210 Research Methodology

MUS350 Global Learning in Choral Music

NURS420 Population Focused Nursing Lab

PSYC200 Psychology of Violence

SOC213 Sociology of Growing Up

THEO 309 Principles of Justice and Peace

## Course Spotlight: GFA/HIST 312 The Border: US-Mexican Integration and Separation

Professor: **Dr. Koop Berry** Partners: **The Congregation of Saint John, The Holding Institute Community Center, Casa Misericordia, and Sacred Heart Orphanage**

In Spring 2018, the Offices of Global Learning and Service Learning developed a Study Away program along the US/Mexico Border in Laredo, TX with a goal of fostering intercultural competencies and a better understanding of migration in the USA and throughout the world. Students enrolled in the course for the Spring semester and participated in the experience to Laredo over Spring Break. Dr. Berry created a Government and Foreign Affairs course called "The Border" which examined the complex relationship between the two countries.

### **Would you recommend this program to other students?**

• *YES! The class was one of my favorite courses I've taken at Walsh. The trip covered a variety of issues and allowed the students to feel as though they were a part of something greater...*

• *Most definitely. I learned so much and met new incredible people and expanded my horizons and became passionate about something I may never have been exposed to.*

• *Absolutely! It pushed me out of my comfort zone and I learned so much about the border and the complexity of it. It is such a relevant topic and I believe more people need to go to truly understand immigration and our relationship with Mexico.*

• *Yes, yes, yes. Being informed about immigration issues is so important for students to become the global-minded citizens this world needs.*

*"This trip has enabled me to grow in my citizenship skills, encouraging me to be actively involved in political and social areas of change. Experiencing the unique culture of the people residing in the towns in between Mexico and the heart of the US also helped me grow in my cultural awareness. Finally, meeting the real faces of people struggling for immigrant justice helped me grow in empathy for my fellow citizens of the human country-- undocumented or not."*

-Student



Pictured right: a group of students learning about the inner-workings of the Holding Institute Community Center

# Service Learning Students

**609 Walsh University undergraduate students** were enrolled in Service Learning courses in 2017-2018

These students dedicated **over 10,000 hours** of service to local community partners through Service Learning courses.

*(These hours do not include co-curricular activities or programs hosted by other Walsh University Offices.)*

## Student Spotlight: Morgan Rowan, Class of 2021

Major: **Psychology**

Hometown: **Columbus, Ohio**

Service Learning Involvement:

- **US/Mexico Border Program**
- **Peace Corps Prep**
- **MLK Day of Service**

Morgan Rowan isn't the type of student who hesitates, especially when it comes to serving others. In her first month at Walsh, she committed to spending her Spring Break in Laredo, learning and serving through the Border Program. Morgan also served on MLK Day and is an active member of the Peace Corps Prep program. Her drive to be a leader in service comes from values instilled in her by her parents and inspired by her faith. The social justice issue she's most concerned about is food insecurity "because food is a center of our cultures, relationships, and health. Every person deserves access to nutritious foods to fuel healthful and successful lifestyles."



*"My favorite service project at Walsh last year was taking a class about the realities of immigration and its connection to the political, social, and economic relationship between Mexico and the United States. Educating myself about this important topic was service in itself; but the most impactful part of the course was traveling to Laredo Texas, and experiencing the unique blended culture and social concerns of this special community situated on the frontlines of immigration conflicts at the U.S.-Mexican Border. From visiting women's shelters, connecting with a youth-led immigrant alliance, and trying local foods, it was so meaningful to interact with leaders passionate about caring for the needs of their community."*

*-Morgan Rowan '21*

# Service Learning Faculty

## Veteran Service Learning Faculty Member of the Year: Mary Giffin

**SL Courses Taught: ENG 102, ENG 200, ENG 316**

As she retires, we'd like to acknowledge Dr. Mary Giffin for her dedication to Service Learning at Walsh University. Dr. Giffin is a SL champion who has taught a total of **64 Service Learning course sections since 2006**. She creatively integrated service into her Drama, Literature, and Writing courses to enrich her students' learning experience. Thank you, Dr. Giffin!

## Rookie Service Learning Faculty Member of the Year: Joe Lupica

**SL Course Taught: CHEM 450**

Dr. Joe Lupica taught his first SL course, Environmental Chemistry, this Spring. He met with Canton Health Department & Access Health Stark County to find speakers and a service site, then collaborated with Access Health to create a project that enhanced his course content. He and his students presented to community health workers and to Canton residents about risks of, symptoms of, and solutions to lead poisoning in homes. Dr. Lupica embraced the challenges and opportunities that experiential learning provided and, as a result, got positive feedback both from his students and from the community.

### Student Feedback:

*"The best environmental science class I've taken at Walsh, definitely should be offered at least once a year."*

*"Awesome course to take if you are a chem/bio major. Use what you love to help out the local community and learn hands-on skills in the lab on your way."*

### How did SL enhance your course(s)?

Dr. Giffin: *"It was a joy when students got excited about their research paper topics because they had become genuinely curious about what they were experiencing....It was wonderful to see them developing confidence in themselves as learners and writers and as people who could make a difference in their community."*

Dr. Lupica: *"SL enhanced the course by giving our students an opportunity to interact with the Canton residents who are in need. In addition, it gave the students an opportunity to work outside of their comfort zone."*

### What advice would you give SL Faculty?

Dr. Giffin: *"Be ready to adapt and be flexible with the needs of the community partner."*

Dr. Lupica: *"Try it. You'll like it."*



# Community Partners

*The following nonprofits represent a sample of the 50 community organizations which partnered with Service Learning classes in the 2017-2018 academic year.*

- Access Health Stark County
- Akron Canton Foodbank
- Canton City Schools
- Casa Misericordia
- Choices Academy
- Coming Together Stark County
- Domestic Violence Project
- Dorothy Day House
- En-RICH-Ment
- FinMango
- First Tee of Canton
- Habitat for Humanity
- Haven of Rest Ministries
- International Institute of Akron
- JRC Cares
- Kairos Prison Ministries
- Lighthouse Ministries
- Massillon Boys and Girls Club
- Massillon Museum
- Matthew 8:20
- Meals on Wheels
- North Canton Heritage Society
- North Canton YMCA
- OSU Extension-Master Gardeners Program
- Project Rebuild
- Refuge of Hope
- Sacred Heart Orphanage
- Shiloh Baptist After School Program
- Stark County Hunger Taskforce
- Stark County Library
- Stark Parks
- StarkFresh
- The Holding Institute Community Center
- The Salvation Army
- The Valentine Project
- TIQVAH
- United Way-VITA Project
- YWCA HeadStart

## Partner Spotlight: Lighthouse Ministries



Service Learning Involvement:

- Canton Immersion
- SOC 213
- ENG 200
- ENG 102

Lighthouse Ministries is an anchor in the Southeast Canton community and has been a steady Service Learning partner to Walsh for over a decade. Lighthouse has hosted hundreds of Service Learning students as volunteers in its after-school program and has created a Canton Immersion experience for the Leaders in Social Justice program. Through all of our collaborations, Lighthouse thoughtfully develops our students as individuals and professionals while also educating them about the community, social justice, and how to break the cycle of poverty.

*"Having Walsh students serve at the Lighthouse has been crucial to our after-school program's success...We appreciate the investment and intentionality Walsh places on SL. It's a win-win for everyone- the children, the students, the parents, the Lighthouse, Walsh, the Community; everyone!"*

*-Darin Nissley, Director*



Katelyn Hampu '21 serving at Lighthouse for ENG 102

# Service Learning Programs

**MLK Day of Service:** With Athletics, Campus Ministry, & Multicultural Affairs, SL led this day of service, for which over 300 students served at nonprofits & attended an evening reflection.

**Leaders in Social Justice:** SL supported 30 students in the Leaders program, a learning community which encourages community engagement and equips students to address social justice issues. This year, students participated in service, a Canton social justice tour, a Canton Immersion program, a leadership retreat, advocacy projects, a social justice teach-in, and a trip to DC.

**Urban Semester:** In collaboration with Baldwin Wallace University, 2 Walsh students participated in the Urban Semester, a study-away program through which they lived in community, interned at nonprofits, and studied Urban Studies and Social Justice during a semester in Cleveland.

**Peace Corps Prep:** Peace Corps Prep, an academic framework for students interested in the Peace Corps or international development work after graduation, grew significantly this year. Participants formed their own student group to discuss global topics and engage with like-minded individuals.

**Community Engagement Cooperative:** Facilitated by Service Learning, this Cooperative consists of offices which regularly interact with community partners. The group coordinates efforts related to our partners to provide better services for them and our students. It includes Service Learning, Campus Ministry, Career Readiness, Mission Implementation, Athletics, Civic Engagement, Museum Studies, Education, Social & Behavioral Health Sciences, and Alumni Affairs.

## Program Spotlight: Federal Work-Study Service Learning Program

This year, 7 students participated in the Federal Work Study Service Learning program, through which students earned financial aid by serving in the community.

The students matched with community partners based on their majors and interests and then spent up to 9 hours a week working with them. First year TJ Harrod, a Business major, worked with FinMango, a nonprofit addressing financial illiteracy. He taught students in local Canton Schools about financial literacy and how to be smart with their money. He helped develop the curriculum and programming to make them both informative and engaging. TJ also analyzed evaluations and created reports to show the success of programs implemented into schools.



TJ Harrod '21 onsite with FinMango

*"One takeaway is that children understand a lot more than sometimes we might think they do. You just have to find the right way to teach them the information. I chose to do this because I like volunteering and it's a passion of mine. Plus, I would rather make a difference than just get paid."*  
-TJ Harrod

*"Our organization benefits greatly from such insightful programs. Walsh students have a global outlook that many of their peers have not been able to attain, and they understand firsthand the needs of so many persons."*  
-Scott Glasgow, Exec Dir at FinMango

# The road ahead...

## What to look for in 2018-2019

In the year ahead, the Office of Service Learning will be working to *deepen connections*: to career outcomes, for our students, and with our community partners.

The Office of Service Learning will continue to strengthen its relationship and partnership with the Office of Career Readiness and Development under the Division of Experiential Education. We want to help students better understand not only the relationship between service learning and career, but also be able to articulate their experiences to future employers.

Additionally, we want to improve students' ability to reflect on and process their service learning so that they can further their knowledge of their academic content, of themselves, and of the community (its issues and its assets).

Finally, we want to continue fortifying our relationships with our nonprofit community partners so that our work will be mutually beneficial and a reflection of Walsh's mission to develop leaders in service to others.

In order to accomplish all of this in 2018-2019, Service Learning is welcoming two new members to the team: **Teresa Klimek, Service Learning Coordinator**, and **Dr. Henrique Alvim, Service Learning Faculty Fellow**. With their support, energy, and ideas, the Office of Service Learning has much to look forward to.

