



Community Service Office

Gephardt Institute for Public Service

The Community Service Office serves as a catalyst for students to connect with, build, and sustain meaningful service initiatives in partnership with the St. Louis community.

We organize community service initiatives that are reliable, long-lasting, and make substantive impact on the St. Louis community.

- **Service First**, a WU tradition since 1999 involving over 1000 freshmen and transfer students to brighten, clean, and decorate 12 St. Louis Public Schools on the Saturday of Labor Day Weekend each year.
- **Each One Teach One**, WU's tutoring initiative dedicated to connecting WU students with urban youth in St. Louis city and University City. Over 150 tutors volunteer weekly, Sunday through Thursday, through EOTO: Jump Start at the elementary and middle school level, and EOTO: College Bound at the high school level.
- **Leadership Through Service in St. Louis (LTS)**, a four-day pre-orientation program for 90 incoming freshmen to examine and serve the "real" St. Louis, provide over 1000 hours of community service, and acclimate to college life.
- **University-Wide Blood Drives** featuring 12 locations spanning all four WU campuses in partnership with our two area blood banks. In the inaugural year of this model, WU students, staff, and faculty donated over 1800 units of blood during four single-day drives, tripling the amount donated the prior year.
- **Wellston Summer School**, an intensive five-week program for a small cohort of high school juniors and seniors, aiming to advance their preparation for higher education and their exposure to college life.

We inspire students to establish and deepen a personal commitment to community engagement and social justice.

- **Community Service Fair** at the conclusion of Service First, featuring all student-led service groups and providing new undergraduates an easy opportunity to get involved.
- **Social Change Grants** totaling \$26,000 are available annually through a competitive process to five students to develop and implement innovative community projects in the spirit of social entrepreneurship.
- **Gerry and Bob Virgil Ethic of Service Award**, an annual award recognizing a select group of WU community members who exemplify a character of service and giving to the St. Louis region.

More on the other side...

We communicate opportunities for involvement with student-led service initiatives and in response to voiced community needs.

- **Online database of St. Louis non-profit agencies** that students, staff, faculty, and community members can search for updated and comprehensive information.
- **Comprehensive resources online** about and for student-led community service organizations.
- **Community Service Connection**, an email newsletter that reaches nearly 4000 students, staff, and faculty to communicate opportunities for involvement on campus and in the St. Louis region.
- **Public Service Fair** and **Faces of Hope**, two annual University-wide initiatives of the Gephardt Institute that showcase opportunities for involvement and celebrate civic engagement and community service.

We engage students in the process of creating community partnerships that are sustainable, effective, and of mutual benefit.

- **Community Service Leadership Project**, an initiative to strengthen the quality and impact of student-led community service efforts through networking, collaboration, and training.
- **Community Service Mentors** in Residential Colleges to assist students in making meaningful connections with community service opportunities.
- **Student group advising, support, and consultation** in the design and implementation of projects that serve the common good.

We facilitate collaboration among individuals and organizations with a common vision.

- **Graduate & Professional Student Steering Committee** to enhance the quality, availability, and access to community service programs and information across the University.
- **Service Trip Coordinating Council**, supporting the development and implementation of quality service trips during spring break and other student vacations. We provide training, support, and opportunities for dialogue to an average of 12 trips and over 200 students each year.
- **Disaster relief and response** empowering the University community to respond in a timely, meaningful, and collaborative way to needs created by disasters.
- **Formal and informal networks** of people with talent, passion, and vision to affect positive community change.

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Visit us for comprehensive information about community service groups, St. Louis non-profit agencies, project planning resources, and more!