

VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS & SERVICE LEARNING



**ANNUAL REPORT
2021-2022**



Sacred Heart UNIVERSITY

VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS & SERVICE LEARNING

ANNUAL REPORT 2022

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

As we celebrate the beginning of summer, we pause to reflect on the successes and collaborations of this past academic year.

Early in the fall semester, we welcomed Colin Petramale to the VP&SL team as the new Coordinator for Community Partnerships, Faith and Justice! Colin manages the first year Pioneer Service Grant program, in addition to building and maintaining the relationships with our off-campus community partners.

We strengthened the commitment to our partners by on boarding with GivePulse, our community engagement tracking software. Nonprofit organizations receive free access through their affiliation with SHU, allowing them to publicize partnership opportunities; SHU students, staff and faculty can connect with these partners by searching and signing up for upcoming activities. It's a win-win situation!

We were also excited to reengage with off-campus and in-person student programming, sending student volunteers, work study employees, and service-learners back out into the community after a year and a half. Collectively, members of the SHU community provided over 115,505 hours of community engagement work for the 2021-2022 academic year!

Finally, we look forward to returning to our global programming this coming year, offering students the opportunity to engage with our global partners in South and Central America through our spring break global service-learning programs. We also anticipate expanding our reach to include a Greece program in May 2023!

Our role in living out and promoting the mission of the university begins with our students. We hope that you will enjoy reading the following report to learn about the programs and activities we offer and how they continue to impact our communities both on and off campus. When your schedule permits, we hope you will stop by our office or reach out and connect with us!

Sincerely,

Annie Wendel, Director

Arlete Perez Paez, Program & Office Manager

Colin Petramale, Coordinator for Community Partnerships, Faith & Justice



PIONEER SERVICE GRANT – The Pioneer Service Grant is a service-based grant available for first-year applicants. Recipients of the grant have demonstrated a passion for serving others prior to their arrival at Sacred Heart and desire to continue these service efforts during their time at SHU. Grant holders are required to fulfill at least 30 hours of community engagement activity over the course of the academic year. This program is structured to engage students in community-based efforts within the Greater Bridgeport Community.

353
STUDENTS

6,626
HOURS LOGGED

AN AVERAGE OF **12**
WEEKLY OPPORTUNITIES

COMMUNITY SCHOLARS – The Community Scholars Grant is another service/financial aid-based grant available to rising upperclassmen and requires the completion of 100 hours of community work. Recipients are selected based on their previous commitment to service and demonstrate a desire to pursue long-lasting dedication to volunteering.

640
HOURS LOGGED

COMMUNITY-BASED WORK STUDY – Students employed in one of our community-based work-study positions have the opportunity to help and engage with our neighbors within the Bridgeport Community. Our Pioneers assist at various organizations such as Nourish Bridgeport and LifeBridge, as well as tutoring students in Bridgeport Public Schools. The VP&SL Office continues to support the implementation of the “America Reads, America Counts” federal grant by facilitating volunteer and work-study sites at Bridgeport Public School and after school sites. Mentoring opportunities include weekly programming with elementary, middle, and high school students.

10,867
HOURS LOGGED

\$141,271
IN EMPLOYMENT FUNDS

MENTORING PROGRAMS

ACADEMIC MENTORING PROGRAM – VP&SL celebrated the completion of its twentieth year of implementing the Academic Mentoring Program (AMP) at John Winthrop School. The program is financed by the Jones-Zimmermann Foundation, which aids in allocating funds for various trips and activities. The VP&SL Office successfully applied for and received \$45,000 from the Marie and John Zimmerman fund for the 2021-2022 academic year. SHU students and their mentees successfully transitioned back to in-person mentoring amidst the previous year's virtual-only mentoring due to COVID-19 protocols. The year was completed with 19 Sacred Heart University mentors working with 31 John Winthrop students in grades 6-8. Mentors provided John Winthrop students with academic and social support. Both SHU students and their mentees enjoyed various hands-on enrichment activities, as well as guest visits from several of SHU's Athletic groups. The men's football team, women's soccer, and men's basketball teams hosted sports clinics for AMP mentees.

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I WENT INTO THE ACADEMIC MENTORING PROGRAM WITH AN OPEN MIND AND EAGER HEART TO POSITIVELY IMPACT THE STUDENTS INVOLVED. AFTER THREE YEARS IN THE PROGRAM, I CAME OUT INSPIRED, MOTIVATED AND GRATEFUL FOR EVERY PERSON TO THE MENTORS AND LEADERS. I WILL HOLD ONTO EVERY MEMORY AND EXPERIENCE I HAVE WITH MY MENTEES WITH HOPES TO SHARE WHAT THEY TAUGHT ME WITH OTHERS.

SOPHIE LATTANZIO - CLASS OF 2022

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CARDINAL SHEHAN CENTER – The VP&SL Office expanded its existing partnership with the Cardinal Shehan Center of Bridgeport to include a new after school mentoring program for 4th and 5th grade female students. SHU student mentors met weekly with BPS elementary students, engaging in academic support, as well as enrichment activities designed to foster healthy relationships, positive body image, and mindfulness.

L.E.A.D – Learn. Evolve. Aspire. Dream. LEAD Mentoring is a weekly program designed to partner with students from Hall Neighborhood House to aid in college prep and career development. Sacred Heart students from a variety of academic disciplines work one-on-one with students to share their knowledge of the college process and professional etiquette. The program focuses on college preparation and activities, such as determining a major or career goal, resume building with the Career Center, student athletics, and the Theatre Arts Program.



COMMUNITY PARTNERS

BOOKS TO BASKETBALL	HOMES FOR THE BRAVE
BRIDGEPORT CARIBE YOUTH LEADERS	JOHN WINTHROP ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
BRIDGEPORT PUBLIC EDUCATION FUND, INC.	KIDS EMPOWERED BY YOUR SUPPORT (KEYS)
BRIDGEPORT RESCUE MISSION	LIFEBRIDGE
CARDINAL SHEHAN CENTER	LITERACY VOLUNTEERS OF AMERICA
CAREER RESOURCES	MCGIVNEY COMMUNITY CENTER
CAROLINE HOUSE	MERCY LEARNING CENTER
CENTRAL CONNECTICUT COAST YMCA	NOURISH BRIDGEPORT
CIRCLE OF FRIENDS	OPEN DOORS
CITY OF BRIDGEPORT LIGHTHOUSE PROGRAM	OPERATION HOPE
CONNECTICUT FOODSHARE	PARK CITY MAGNET SCHOOL
DISCOVERY MAGNET SCHOOL	SACRED HEART UNIVERSITY'S DISCOVERY SCIENCE CENTER
DOWNSIZE MANAGERS	SIMPLY SMILES
EASTON COMMUNITY CENTER	SAINT RAPHAEL ACADEMY
ENGIN	THE KENNEDY CENTER (MDAC)
FAMILY REENTRY	THE WORKPLACE
FOOD RESCUE US	THOMAS MERTON CENTER
GREEN VILLAGE INITIATIVE	UNESCO CENTER FOR GLOBAL FRIENDSHIP, INC.
HABITAT FOR HUMANITY OF COASTAL FAIRFIELD COUNTY	URBAN IMPACT
HALL NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE	WILBUR CROSS SCHOOL

COMMUNITY PARTNER HIGHLIGHTS

There are numerous exciting grassroots initiatives happening in our Bridgeport community in which many of our Pioneer students participate.

Books to Basketball provides tutoring in STEM subjects to middle school students while also playing basketball afterward. SHU students get the best of both worlds; they tutor the children then get to shoot some hoops with them!

nOURish Bridgeport addresses food insecurity in Bridgeport through its food pantry and food distribution programs. Our SHU students sort out food in their pantry and participate in the distributing food to the 1 in 4 Bridgeport residents who struggle with food insecurity.

St. Raphael's Academy is an elementary school that continues the mission of Catholic education in the Bridgeport diocese. SHU students help the children complete their homework.

CT Foodshare addresses food insecurity in Connecticut through researching its roots causes and providing nutritious food for the food insecure. SHU students help to sort food at their regional warehouse in Bridgeport.

EVENTS OF 2021-2022

SHU NATIONAL SUMMER SERVICE CHALLENGE (JUNE 1 - AUGUST 15, 2021)

The VP&SL Office completed the first annual SHU Summer Service Challenge. The program engaged over 200 students, faculty, staff, and alumni participants during 11 weeks (June 1-August 15, 2021) and logged over 2,400 hours of community work. This program was an important retention tool for incoming and current students to encourage participation in SHU programs during the summer months. The program also successfully engaged alumni and offered an opportunity to reconnect.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS PRE-FALL PROGRAM (AUGUST 2021)

The VP&SL office introduced 40 first-year students to campus and community initiatives through the Community Connections pre-fall program this past August. The week-long program engaged students in a variety of service projects focused on various social justice themes, including food insecurity, identity & privilege, educational disparities, and diversity, equity, and inclusion. Participants had the opportunity to reflect with one another at the end of each day, discussing these major issues and their personal responsibility as civically minded students. Student volunteers also served at various worksites throughout the City of Bridgeport, including Habitat for Humanity, Hall Neighborhood House, Green Village Initiative, and SHU's Discovery Science Center.

VOLUNTEER FAIR (SEPTEMBER 2022)

Attendees of VP&SL's annual Volunteer and Community-Based Work Study Fair had an opportunity to connect with over 30 local organizations and charitable partners from the Bridgeport area. The fair is one of the many opportunities available during SHU's 'First 50 Days' events, and its success continues to build long-term partnerships between Sacred Heart and the surrounding community.

SHU SHARES CAMPAIGNS (OCTOBER 2021 & FEBRUARY 2022)

Now in its second year, VP&SL office continued its initiative with the SHU Shares Campaign after its initial launch in early 2021. SHU Shares was established to address and bring awareness to the food insecurity needs within our Sacred Heart University community. Working in collaboration with IT and Chartwells, the SHU Shares program raised nearly 2,500 swipes to be distributed to students in need of additional financial support. There were nearly 400 requests made by students to access this service over the course of the academic year.

THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE (NOVEMBER 2021)

In collaboration with Student Government, VP&SL hosted the annual Thanksgiving Food Drive, providing 500+ turkeys and nonperishable food items for the Bridgeport community members. Donations were distributed at St. Charles Parish on November 23, 2021, with assistance from SHU's Men's Lacrosse, Men's Wrestling, and Women's Field Hockey teams.

EVENTS OF 2021-2022

CONTINUED

ADOPT-A-FAMILY (DECEMBER 2021)

VP&SL's annual Adopt a Family campaign raised over \$2,000 for St. Charles Parish and the United Methodist Church in Bridgeport for gift cards and presents to 50 local families for the holidays. The campaign was supported by numerous campus offices, student clubs, organizations, teams, and individuals.

C.U.R.T.I.S WEEK (MARCH 2022)

C.U.R.T.I.S was held from March 8th-12th, 2021. The Offices of VP&SL and Campus Ministry hosted 17 student participants who were able to participate in service activities throughout the Greater Bridgeport community, as well as attend various interfaith celebrations and cultural dinners.

UKRAINE DONATION COLLECTION (MARCH 2022 - JUNE 2022)

Throughout the spring semester, the VP&SL Office assisted in the collection of donations to support Ukraine during the ongoing Russia-Ukraine War. Multiple shipping containers were delivered to Western Ukraine in early June. All donated items have been dispersed among shelters, clinics, and medical facilities in areas of need. The Ternopil Regional Hospital and the Ivano-Frankivisk Regional Hospital in western Ukraine shared messages of thanks with the Sacred Heart community.

CAMPUS COLLABORATIONS

The VP&SL Office engages in ongoing work to deepen relationships across campus, especially with departments and programs with shared interests.

VP&SL staff collaborated with the **School of Social Work** on a \$1.7 million grant for four years from the Health Resources & Services Administration to develop and expand field placements to build the behavioral health workforce with community-based partners in integrated, interdisciplinary behavioral and primary care settings.

In partnership with the **Center for Career Development, Campus Ministry and Catholic Studies**, VP&SL organized and participated in a colloquium panel discussion in April 2022 with the goal to provide students with information about postgraduate service opportunities.

The VP&SL Office, with support from **Information Technology**, is finishing the completion of onboarding the University to the new GivePulse software platform. This new unified data tracking system will be used across the university and allows users to connect students with community service opportunities and manages all engaged scholarship activity. It enables community organizations to partner with higher-ed institutions on curricular and co-curricular service activities, research, and projects advancing social good, and allows the institutions to assess and understand the direct impact they are having in the community.



SERVICE LEARNING COUNCIL

The Service Learning Council's purpose is to expand service-learning programming within curricular programs throughout all colleges and academic programs at the University. Its function is to provide the Office of Volunteer Programs & Service Learning with support in campus-wide service learning and community engagement initiatives. The Service Learning Council is comprised of faculty/staff from each of the University's colleges. Recommendations for membership are made by the chair or dean of each college.

ANNIE WENDEL, MA

Chair, Service Learning Council
Office of Volunteer Programs & Service Learning

MOLLY HIGBIE, MA

College of Health Professions,
Health Science

AMANDA MORAS, PhD

Associate Provost for Teaching & Learning,
College of Arts & Sciences

LINDA STRONG, EdD, RN

Davis & Henley College of Nursing

STEVEN MICHELS, PhD

College of Arts & Sciences, Political Science,
Institute for Public Policy & Civic Engagement

LESLIE YOUNGBLOOD, MSN, RN

St. Vincent's College

GERALD REID, PhD

College of Arts & Sciences, Sociology

EMILY BRYAN, PhD

College of Arts & Sciences, Catholic Studies,
Language & Literature, Honors Program

MARK CONGDON

School of Communication, Media & the Arts
Communication & Media Studies

SERVICE-LEARNING FACULTY FELLOWS COHORT & SL COURSE DESIGNATION

The VP&SL Office worked closely with IT and the Registrar's Office to finalize an official service-learning (SL) course designation in SPA; applications are open to all faculty and require approval by the Service Learning Council. There were four courses approved for Fall 2022 and applications for Spring 2023 courses are open. The VPS&L Office also hosted the first Service-Learning Faculty Fellows Program, a professional development cohort program during Spring 2022. Six faculty members across the university completed a newly created online module, as well as participated in virtual workshops to further than service-learning practice. Applications for the next cohort are now open and will engage another six faculty members in a year-long professional development opportunity.



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CONTACT INFORMATION

203-365-4710

volunteer_programs@sacredheart.edu

www.sacredheart.edu/volunteer

Main Academic Building,
Humanities Center, 109

[@shu_service](#)

