

# Service

The Center for Service, Spirituality and Social Justice (CSSS) offers numerous options for community engagement, ranging from one-day projects to weeklong service trips. Community service offers the chance to jump start your path to engaged citizenship and learn more about the Carlisle community.



## TOP FIVE REASONS TO DO SERVICE

- Develop leadership skills
- Raise awareness about community needs
- Connect with the wider community
- Learn about yourself, others and the world
- Make connections and build bonds among people in the Dickinson and greater Carlisle communities

## COMMSERV

Interested in committing to a weekly service program in the community? Check out one of CommServ's 12 programs. Time commitments vary depending on the program. ACT 153 background checks are required for all CommServ volunteer programs. If one of these programs interests you, contact the office to complete an interest form.

- America Reads (reading and mentoring kindergarten students)
- American Sign Language (learning and teaching sign language to preschoolers)
- ArtWorks! (art enrichment for middle-school students)
- Big Little (one-on-one mentoring of elementary students in the school)
- CARES (mentoring elementary students)
- Carlisle Tutoring (one-on-one tutoring)

- Dickinson Friends (one-on-one mentorship with special-needs youth)
- DreamCatchers (mentoring immigrant middle-school students)
- ESL (English classes for adult immigrants)
- Habitat for Humanity (building homes in low-income areas)
- Prison Inmate Tutoring (tutoring inmates for the GED test)
- Senior Companions (friendship with senior-care-facility adults)

*"It was humbling to see the ways in which the ESL tutors helped our students, from the little things like a grocery list to the big things like a citizenship test."*

–Stephanie Mazur '17  
ESL Program Coordinator



## JUSTICE IS SERVED

Created in 2015-16 to combine the First Year Experience and Day of Service programs for a wider reach, Justice is Served seeks to provide single-day service projects to the campus community and raise awareness of the deeper social issues that create many of these problems.

The program represents a flexible space where the student coordinators can explore the social justice issues that they feel are important through community service and education.

The events are intended to be inclusive of all those who wish to take part. For example, the Hunger Banquet, which highlighted the disparity in food access within and across communities, was attended by over 70 people from the campus and Carlisle community.

### Examples of Past Projects

- Packing food with Stop Hunger Now
- Photo project highlighting the journey of refugees
- Hunger Banquet highlighting the disparity in food access
- Volunteer days with Salvation Army, the Furry Friends Network, and Project SHARE

*"Working in the Justice Is Served Program, I have learned a lot about the needs of the community and problems that the world is currently facing. It has also given me a deeper love of volunteering that I know will continue throughout my life."*

– Macey Cohen '17

## MONTGOMERY SERVICE LEADERS

The John Montgomery Service Leaders program is a distinctive program for students committed to making significant contributions as members of the Dickinson and Carlisle communities. Col. John Montgomery was one of the college's three founders and a U.S. congressman. A significant military, government and community leader, Montgomery was a strong advocate for connecting community and college when Dickinson was formed in 1783.

Today students live out Montgomery's vision by linking the three hallmarks of this program—community engagement, leadership and awareness, and academic connections. These hallmarks provide opportunities to become engaged citizens, equipping students to be lifelong learners and leaders in Carlisle and beyond.

- **Community Engagement** – Work 6-10 hours a week with a community partner in a developmental process as a volunteer, project assistant and project coordinator.
- **Leadership and Awareness** – Participate in ongoing leadership development that includes using reflection, seeing community needs, applying for grants and deepening personal growth.
- **Academic Connections** – Make intentional connections between a class and service work with a special project and brief paper. Earn an internship transcript notation for the capstone project.



With the potential to last two-and-a-half years, this program enables you to make deep connections between your class work and the Carlisle community.

### Possible Service Placements

Alliance for Aquatic Resource Monitoring (ALLARM), Carlisle Arts Learning Center (CALC), Carlisle CARES (homeless shelter), Central PA Conservancy (CPC), Cumberland County Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), Employment Skills Center (ESL Program), Project S.H.A.R.E., Salvation Army, United Way, YMCA, YWCA and others.

## SERVICE TRIPS

Service trips provide the opportunity to learn about a community by serving the community. Students are then encouraged to return to Carlisle and volunteer here. Trips range from a weekend to two weeks.

### Service trips offer these opportunities for service:

- **Urban Revitalization** – Cleaning abandoned lots, serving in soup kitchens or painting community spaces is necessary to make areas of a community safer and healthier for everyone.
- **Disaster Relief** – After a disaster strikes, the camera crews and reporters leave the area within weeks of the occurrence, but the community needs and rebuilding continue for years.
- **Interfaith Service** – Service can promote dialogue between people from a variety of different religious backgrounds.
- **Poverty and Inequality** – Poverty touches every community and affects people of all ages. Inequalities in food, housing and job security vary greatly. Projects may include building houses or schools, teaching afterschool programs and working at soup kitchens.

### Past Service Trips

Philadelphia; Washington, D.C.; Detroit; New Orleans; Alabama; South Carolina; Georgia; Arizona/New Mexico; Belize; Ecuador; Cameroon; and Haiti.

### STUDENTS IN SERVICE:

- In 2015-16, Dickinson students contributed over 50,000 hours in the community.
- More than half of all Dickinson students engage in some form of community service each year through student groups, internships and college programs.

*"The service trips that Dickinson provides put you in situations that push your comfort zone, but that's when genuine growth and understanding of the importance of service can happen in a beautiful way."*

–Ben DiNardo '18  
Cameroon and Washington, D.C.





# Spirituality

## CSSS supports students in exploring:

**What do I believe?** Discover and explore your values and beliefs. Find a space for safe questioning and exploration.

**How do I articulate what I believe?** Learn how to share beliefs and live in respect and understanding with people of other beliefs.

**How do I live out my beliefs?** Build the capacity to act in accordance with your own values and beliefs.

## LOCAL FAITH COMMUNITIES

The Office actively works with local faith community leaders to increase the variety of religious life resources available to Dickinson students.

Carlisle offers many faith communities within walking distance of the Dickinson. Students are encouraged to worship with a local congregation to continue to grow in their faith and met local faith leaders. For a full listing of these faith communities, please contact the Office or visit our website for locations and worship times.

## “WHAT MATTERS MOST” DINNERS

Based on the book *Last Lecture* by Randy Pausch, these conversations

give students the opportunity to hear what matters most to their faculty and staff. The themes of these dinners have focused on religious beliefs, the importance of diversity, facing cancer, life-long career development and other topics of personal importance to the guest speakers.

## BELIEFS AND BIG QUESTIONS

This initiative aims to open space for discussion around the big questions about belief. It has taken two forms. Stickers are passed out at a barbecue with “big questions” to get students to explore deep topics. The office also hosts dinners that give a small group of students of all religious and nonreligious backgrounds the opportunity to talk about their thoughts and values.

## INTERFAITH SERVICE TRIP

The Interfaith Service Trip helps students to give back to the community while delving deeper into topics of personal value and interfaith cooperation. Students are encouraged to seek religious understanding beyond just tolerating another faith tradition by seeking connections and appreciation for each other’s traditions.

A diverse group of students travel to Philadelphia to work with homelessness and poverty through community organizations. The group participates in Shabbat service, Protestant worship, and visits a mosque. During the daytimes, students perform hands-on service in the Philadelphia area, while dialoguing on interfaith issues in the evenings.

## SPIRITUAL DIRECTION

Are you wondering how you can feel more connected to the Holy One? Are you looking for a companion on your spiritual journey? Is your soul hungry for a deeper and more meaningful “something” in life? Our director offers one on one and group spiritual direction. If you are interested in knowing more, email [hughesdo@dickinson.edu](mailto:hughesdo@dickinson.edu).



## Additional past office programming has included:

- Around the World: A Festival of Cultures and Religions
- Explore Religions @ Dickinson: An Interfaith Service Exchange
- Trainings for Student Leaders of Religious Groups
- Mindful Meditation Workshop
- MLK Memorial and Holocaust Museum Bus Trip to Washington, D.C.
- Breaking Bread with Professor Pulcini Dinner
- Stop Hunger Now – Meal packaging event
- Women’s Interfaith Group
- Taste of the Holidays
- Religious Life Photo Contest
- Retreats
- Interfaith Trivia Night
- Faith and Lecture series

## Student involvement on campus:

- Buddhism meditation classes
- Dickinson Christian Fellowship
- Fellowship of Christian Athletes
- Muslim Student Association (MSA)
- Hillel (Jewish student group)
- Newman Club (Catholic students)
- Pre-Sem (students exploring Christian vocations)

# Social Justice

**Social justice is defined as “promoting a just society by challenging injustice and valuing diversity.”** It exists when

“all people share a common humanity and therefore have a right to equitable treatment, support for their human rights, and a fair allocation of community resources.” In conditions of social justice, people are “not be discriminated against, nor their welfare and well-being constrained or prejudiced on the basis of gender, sexuality, religion, political affiliations, age, race, belief, disability, location, social class, socioeconomic circumstances, or other characteristic of background or group membership” (Toowoomba Catholic Education, 2006). CSSS not only seeks to expose students not only to the opportunities for service and experiencing differences in faith but we also encourage our students to understand what it means to challenge injustice, support human rights and work to bring about a just society.

We accomplish this through a lecture series, guest speakers, forums, and conversations with our community partners about the issues they seek to address. We hope to have robust conversations about religion, politics, service, economics and social justice issues utilizing our faculty and community expertise.

## CONTACT US:

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