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

COMMESERV

Interested in connecting to a weekly service program in the community? Check out one of CommServ’s programs. Time commitments vary depending on the program. ACT 153 background checks are required for all CommServ volunteers. Programs can be found here. If you are interested in contacting the office to complete an interest form, contact the office at the following:

• America Reads (reading and mentoring kindergarten students)
• American Sign Language (teaching and signing language to people who are deaf)
• ArtWorks! (art enrichment for middle-school students)
• Big Little (one-on-one mentoring of elementary students)
• CARES (mentoring immigrant middle-school students)
• Dickinson Friends (one-on-one mentoring with special needs youth)
• DreamCatchers (mentoring immigrant middle-school students)
• ESL (English classes for adult learners)
• 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.

Examples of Past Projects

• Packing food with Stop Hunger Now
• Photo project highlighting the journey of refugees
• Hamburger Banquet highlighting the issue of food access
• Volunteer days with Salvation Army, the Curley Friends Network, and Project SHARE

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.

JUS IT E SERV ED

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 impact many of these communities.

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

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

“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.”

– Macay Cotten, ’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 taking 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 10-12 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 intensity reflection, seeing community needs, applying for grants and deepening personal growth.
• Academic Connections – Make intentional connections between a class and the community as part of a special project and brief paper. Earn an internship transcript notation for the capstone project.

STUDENTS IN SERVICE:

In 2015-16, Dickinson students contributed over 3,000 hours in the community.

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 homes 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.

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 beautiful ways.”

– Ben DiFranco, ’18

Cameron and Washington, D.C.
CSSS supports students in exploring:

What do I believe? Discover and explore your values and beliefs.

How do I articulate what I believe? Learn how to share beliefs and thoughts with people of other beliefs.

What do I believe?

Beliefs and Big Questions

Are you wondering how you can feel a deeper and more meaningful “some- thing” in life? Our director offers one-on-one and group spiritual direction. If you are interested in learning more, email HughesD@Dickinson.edu.

INTERFAITH SERVICE TRIP

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

A diverse group of students travel to Philadelphia to work with homeless- ness and poverty through community organizations. The group participates in Shabbat service, Philadelphia temple, worship, and visits a mosque. During the days of the trip, students perform hands-on service in the Philadelphia area, while dialogue on interfaith issues occurs in accordance with your own values and beliefs.

Spiritual Direction

Are you looking for a companion on your spiritual journey? Is your soul hungry for a deeper and more meaningful “some- thing” in life? Our director offers one-on-one and group spiritual direction. If you are interested in learning more, email HughesD@Dickinson.edu.

Additional past office programming has included:

• Around the World: A Festival of Cultures and Religions
• Explore Religions @ Dickinson: An Inter- faith Service Exchange
• Training for Student Leaders of Religious Groups
• Multi-Faith Interactions Workshop
• WilMoo Interfaith and Holocaust Museum Visit to Baltimore, D.C.
• Breaking Bread with Professor Aziz Sufi
• Stop Hunger Now - Meal packaging event
• Women’s Interfaith Group
• Tabernacle of Praise
• Religious Life Photo Contest
• Brownies
• Interfaith Torah Night
• Faith and lecture series

Student involvement on campus:

• Buchanan Mediation Class
• Dickinson Christian Fellowship
• Fellowship of Christian Athletes
• Martin Student Association (MSA)
• Volunteers (student group)
• Newman Club (Catholic students)
• Pre-Prep (students exploring Christian vocations)

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 foster robust conversations about politics, service, economics and social justice issues utilizing our faculty and commu- nity expertise.

CONTACT US:
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Spirituality

Social Justice