

Student Reflection–

I knew that my service learning assignment would be rewarding, but I did not realize the extent to which it would bring me joy.... my experience with service learning has further cemented deep questions I have about life, oppression, and the extent to which our society allows oppression and inequality to remain so rampant under the guise of freedom. In some ways I realized that the greatest strength I have is my ability to question the system and keep questioning it as long as I live and not accept at face value the package someone is offered as to the dignity and respect they receive...I will continue to search and challenge myself to further humanity.

(excerpt from student reflection paper Spring 2002)



Service Learning @ UNT



SERVICE-LEARNING UNIVERSITY of NORTH TEXAS

www.cps.unt.edu/sl

For more information please contact

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"If you want to lift yourself up, lift someone else up."
— Booker T. Washington



Service-Learning is a teaching method that ties academic learning to meaningful service. It is an opportunity for students to be involved in the world outside of UNT, to provide a service to the community and to have an opportunity to reflect on that experience. Through well-planned Service-Learning activities, students can expect to experience personal growth, a deepened feeling of civic responsibility, and a clearer understanding of academic information.

Who benefits?

STUDENTS

- applying skills and knowledge to increase the relevance of course curriculum
 - participating in activities that accommodate different learning styles
 - gaining a sense of self-efficacy, analytical skills, and social development
 - increasing feeling of civic responsibility
- “It brings books to life and life to books”

FACULTY

- interacting frequently with students due to greater emphasis on student-centered teaching
 - gaining a new perspective on learning and an increased understanding of the learning process
 - connecting with the community and becoming more aware of current societal issues as they relate to academic areas of interest
 - identifying areas for research and publication related to current trends and issues
- “It changes faculty role from the expert on top to the expert on tap”

COMMUNITY

- developing positive relationship with the university (potential promoters, funders, volunteers)
 - building awareness of community issues, agencies and constituents
 - contributing to the educational process
 - providing short and long term solutions to pressing community needs
- “It shifts from community as laboratory



Service-Learning At UNT

Students in **Minority Aging** course deepen their learning as they are trained as Benefits Counselors and give their time to help senior citizens find resources on issues such as will, insurance, transportation and legal issues.

Students in **Story-telling** class read books to children in after-school programs, day care centers and low-income schools. A partnership with the Velma E. Schmidt program in the College of Education makes it possible for each child to receive the gift of a book.

English and Technical Writing students apply learned skills by assisting local non-profits and campus programs in creating publicity materials. *This brochure is a result of such a program.

Journalism class takes on non-profit agency as a client to help raise money, attract volunteers and to call attention to their programs.

Students in **Instrument Repair** class refurbish donated instruments for use by children in low income apartment complex.

Recreation Studies students design, implement and evaluate a recreation program evaluation for nonprofits in the DFW metroplex.

Students in **Social Work** courses work with city officials and local service providers to conduct “point-in-time” homeless count for Denton County.

About the Center...

Housed in the School of Community Service, the Service-Learning office is available to students and faculty across the campus. In addition to knowledgeable staff, the center contains a library of books, journals, compact discs, cassette tapes and up-to-date articles.

UNT's **Service-Learning Office** can help...

- Create Service-Learning projects
- Find special topics for research
- Seek publicity for community contributions
- Match with the right community partners
- Keep up to date on funding opportunities
- Evaluate projects
- Set up International Service-Learning placements
- Locate publication opportunities
- Train community partners
- Monitor student placements
- Recognize and reward students
- Connect students to community service internships
- Secure other available resources appropriate to SL needs