

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND VOLUNTEERISM OFFICE

Annual Report
2017 - 2018

Eastern Illinois University



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MISSION STATEMENT

Eastern Illinois University's Civic Engagement and Volunteerism Office (CEVO) is dedicated to cultivating citizens of character and integrity. We do this by offering EIU students purposeful opportunities and resources to compliment the academic experience.

By participating in these programs and services, students are challenged to explore their leadership potential through student-centered programming, service, and experiential opportunities. Our programs and activities support Eastern's mission of enhancing the learning, educational growth, and development of students.

YEAR IN REVIEW

WHAT WE ACCOMPLISHED IN THE PAST YEAR:

- over \$5,500 in donations
- 75 agency partners
- 130,000 volunteer hours completed by EIU students
- 350 different programs
- 22 agencies at Volunteer Fair
- 50+ Service to Go Requests

96%

of the volunteers that volunteered through Civic Engagement and Volunteerism believed that they made an impact in their local community.

96%

of volunteers said they had an enriching volunteer experience through the Civic Engagement and Volunteerism Office.

100%

of volunteers reported feeling as if they made more of an impact after their volunteer experience than they originally thought they would.

ONE VOLUNTEER'S EXPERIENCE:

"As an education major, I would also like to gain teaching skills and the various skills I will need for working with children, lesson planning, encouraging volunteering and collaborative group work, and building those one-on-one connections with students. Most importantly, I am motivated by the idea that this work can be fun, hands-on, and applicable to my major."



SIGNATURE SERVICE DAYS

JUMPSTART

18 projects,
1200 students

Jumpstart is a partnership between the offices of Civic Engagement and Volunteerism and New Student and Family Programs. It is part of the Prowl activities planned for freshmen and transfer students on the Saturday during move-in weekend in August each year. This service day cultivates interest in a great variety of service opportunities throughout the year.

PANTHERS AND FAMILIES IN ACTION

This service day happens in conjunction with Family Weekend activities. We offer our students and their families both an off campus direct service opportunity and an on campus indirect service project. This allows out students and their families to give back together!

MLK JR. DAY OF SERVICE

7+ projects,
150+ volunteers

EIU's Annual MLK Jr. Day of Service is truly "a day on and not a day off" every January. The annual event honors Dr. King's legacy and is an opportunity for Americans to renew their own personal vows of citizenship through the service of others.

PANTHER SERVICE DAY

11 sites,
300 + volunteers

EIU is proud to host Panther Service Day each April. This annual day of volunteering and service began in 2003. Panther Service Day has evolved into a large-scale event allowing EIU students, staff, alumni, and community members to work side-by-side through volunteerism and service in Charleston and the surrounding areas.

"This is important because it gives us college kids great opportunities to help out our community, meet new people, and grow into ourselves." -STUDENT VOLUNTEER

WEEKLY SERVICE PROGRAMS

Each week, EIU students have an opportunity to volunteer at 13 different service programs.

YOUTH

PLAY

PLAY stands for Partnership through Lifelong Active Youth. Through this program, volunteers help at a variety of after-school programs. The programs include homework help, social development, and physical activity. PLAY currently features 5 different programs working across all of Coles County and serving youth in PreK-8th grade.



YOUNG ATHLETES

Young athletes is a partnership with special olympics where volunteers help kids 2-7 to learn to play sports. The kids work on building sports skills like running, kicking, and striking.



HUNGER

FOOD PANTRY

EIU Volunteers coordinate one night each week at the local Charleston Food Pantry. Volunteers get a chance to help serve our local community by helping organize and distribute food to local food pantry clients. Over the past year on Thursdays alone, we supported over 842 families which totaled over 2,230 people.

STANDING STONE RE-STOCK

Standing Stone is a community resource that offers a thrift store and a food pantry for local families. We help support them by unloading the truck and stocking the food pantry twice a month with student volunteers.

MOBILE FOOD PANTRIES

Through a partnership with the Eastern Illinois Food Bank, once a month our EIU students support a mobile food pantry with 20-30 volunteers. During a 3 hour time frame, we unload the food, set up the pop up pantry, and then on average serve over 130 families with much needed food.

NEWMAN FOOD

The Newman Food Pantry was created to support anyone from the EIU community that has a Panther Card. Individuals are allowed to visit the pantry once a week for any support they need.

WEEKLY SERVICE PROGRAMS

BABY BOOMERS

LIFE'S JOURNEY

Each week we send our EIU students to a local nursing home to interact with seniors with dementia or Alzheimer's. While there, together they complete an activity that is appropriate for the seniors based on where they are in the aging process.

BOOK DELIVERY

In a partnership with the Charleston Public Library, our EIU students deliver books once a month to local seniors who are shut ins, or who do not have the ability to visit the library on their own.

NATURE

DOUGLAS HART

Volunteers work to help with conservation efforts at a local nature center. The Douglas-Hart Nature Center consists of 65 acres of native Illinois habitat including prairie, woodland, and wetland.

FIT-2-SERVE

This local not for profit works to be a catalyst for a stronger community. Our EIU students love going and working in their huge community garden. The produce grown there is donated to families in need, and food pantries.

SPECIAL NEEDS POPULATION

Charleston Transitional Facility (CTF)

CTF offers programming and support for adults with physical and developmental disabilities. Once a week they come to campus, have lunch with students in the Union, complete some type of physical activity, and then explore various departments on campus.

CAMP NEW HOPE

Camp New Hope provides camp and weekend respite activities for adults and children year round who have physical or developmental disabilities. We send our EIU students out multiple times a year to help with projects, fundraisers, and events!

ANIMALS

ANIMAL SHELTER

Currently we send student volunteers out to our local animal shelter twice a week to help keep the animals awaiting adoption socialized. This is one of our most popular volunteer opportunities!



SPECIAL INTEREST PROGRAMS

HUNGER ACTION CHALLENGE

Every November, EIU students, faculty, and staff work to raise awareness and funds for the local fight against hunger. Activities include education tables and direct service. Typically, over 500 lbs. of food is collected and over \$500 in donations is raised for local food pantries.

SUMMER MEAL

In partnership with the local Salvation Army, CEVO coordinates and provides a free lunch program every weekday during the summer for local youth. The program serves hundreds of meals each summer as CEVO provides a year round commitment to our local community.

ONE STOP COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS

This program helps families in our local area by providing items such as blankets, clothes, toys, food, household supplies, and more. Annually, this event serves 1000+ families and over 2,500 local children. CEVO coordinates the collecting of local fleece blankets for families. Annually, EIU students and staff collect and create over 1500 blankets.

GREEK WEEK: SERVICE EVENTS

For the second year, we hosted Panther Service Day during Greek Week to increase greek participation. Projects also include CANstruction which provided over 1000 lbs canned good items for our food pantries and a clothing drive for Standing Stone.

SERVICE TO GO

Student groups completed a number of indirect service projects to help local agencies. Students can request a service box complete with all supplies. Students are able to work with their hall floor, student organization, group or friends, or simply on their own to volunteer at any location and time.

“We actually bonded with students. I made new friends. I love working with people and today I got to do that.”

-STUDENT VOLUNTEER



CORE VALUES

Promoting these values is integral to our success in helping students take advantage of all that Eastern and our broader community has to offer.



A DIVERSE AND JUST SOCIETY

Civic Engagement and Volunteerism embraces diversity in all its forms including the multiple identities of ethnicity, race, gender identity, disability, sexual orientation, age, religion, and socio-economic status as well as every aspect of life that defines our humanity. Our commitments to a diverse and just society involves valuing, respecting and including all people and developing an environment where this is possible.

QUALITY SERVICE AND SUPPORT

Civic Engagement and Volunteerism demonstrates a consistent commitment to quality by exceeding community expectations in our programs, facilities, staff and services. Customer service is the cornerstone of this experience.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS AND ENGAGEMENT

Civic Engagement and Volunteerism staff is committed to building and creating opportunities for every student to interact with their community according to their interests, activities and curiosities -- be they intellectual, athletic, or just plain fun.

LEARNING AND RESPONSIBILITY

As educators, the Civic Engagement and Volunteerism staff is committed to providing learning opportunities and experiences that encourage student responsibility, accountability, personal growth and development.

“Today was important to me not only because I feel like I was able to help but also because I met a lot of my peers and cool new people.”

-STUDENT VOLUNTEER



COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

FOOD PANTRY

The EIU student volunteers completely run the Charleston Food Pantry every Thursday evening from 5:30-7:00. This allows our regular daily volunteers to have an evening off to spend with their families. The students are involved in every aspect of this task. They interact with the community, screen the clients for compliance standards, pack boxes of food, assist clients with questions, retrieve their orders and restock shelves. They are responsible for opening and closing the business on these evenings as well. This

includes janitorial duties and securing the building prior to closing for the evening. They are given a great deal of responsibility and trust to use this facility without supervision. It has been a great partnership between the community, the Charleston Food Pantry, the student volunteers, and the Civic Engagement and Volunteerism Office. We are grateful for the success that has been achieved, as well as the trust that has been earned from this positive community relationship.

**-TODD FOSTER
DIRECTOR OF
CHARLESTON FOOD PANTRY**



THE SALVATION ARMY

The EIU Volunteers have been a true blessing to us here at The Salvation Army, without them we would not be able to continue this program. We rely on them and their desire to educate at risk kids in our community. I appreciate that when EIU shows up I know that the kids are excited and happy to see such wonderful role models. The children look up to them and rely on them as well. Our kids have opened up to them. EIU Volunteers have made some lasting relationships with us and our kids.

**-MELINDA WILLENBORG
YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
COORDINATOR - THE
SALVATION ARMY**

AWARDS/HONORS

STAFF RECOGNITION/ASSOC. COMMITTEES SERVED ON/AWARDS

- Lead Institute for Civic Engagement with NASPA

- President Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll

- Staff members serve and work on local, regional, and national boards and committees as related to various non-profits and the service sector.



**“VOLUNTEERING WAS
IMPORTANT TO ME
BECAUSE I HAD THE
OPPORTUNITY
TO COMMIT
A SELFLESS
ACT.”**

-STUDENT VOLUNTEER



**Civic Engagement &
Volunteerism Office**

EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY™

