Community Engagement/Service-Learning Opportunities

Examples of Organizations/Programs

Sept 2022

(This is a small sample of all such outreach options).

Many of these St. Louis-area community opportunities mirror Health, Equity, and Justice content within the Gateway Curriculum at Washington University School of Medicine.

- **American Red Cross – Blood Drive**
  Helping coordinate volunteers, including signing in, organizing, etc.

- **CHOICES for Youth in Detention**
  CHOICES (Choosing Healthy Options In our Communities, Environment, and Schools) for Youth in Detention is an innovative outreach effort dedicated to improving the health and wellbeing of young teens at the St. Louis Juvenile Detention Center (JDC).

- **Culinary Medicine Program**
  Nutrition branch of the Health Outreach Programs (HOPs); medical students lead a course of five two-hour sessions, aimed at teaching St. Louis families the principles of health eating

- **Food Outreach**
  Food Outreach is the only St. Louis area organization whose mission is to provide nutritional support and enhance the life of men, women, and children living with HIV/AIDS or cancer. There are a variety of recurring and one-time special project volunteer opportunities to get involved.

- **Great Rivers Greenway**
  Help keep St. Louis’ rivers clean by removing trash and debris from our local natural environment

- **Invisible Hands**
  Invisible Hands is a nonprofit with thousands of young volunteers delivering food, medicine, and other essentials to those most in need, including the elderly, immunocompromised, people with disabilities, and people experiencing food insecurity.

- **LouHealth**
  A student advocacy group that amplifies on-going work of community organizations in helping to achieve health equity within the St. Louis region through structural initiatives. Specific opportunities include phone banking, writing an Op Ed, coordinating students for voting etc.

- **Operation Food Search**
  Operation Food Search distributes more than $31 million worth of food and necessities each year to 330 community partners in 27 Missouri and Illinois counties. Hunger is a serious problem in the bi-state region, but it is solvable.
• **Planned Parenthood of the St. Louis Region and Southwest Missouri**
  Planned Parenthood has been a leading provider, educator, and protector of reproductive health care in St. Louis and Southwest Missouri for 90 years. There are many ways to get involved as a volunteer.

• **St. Louis Diaper Banks’** mission is "building healthy communities by ending diaper need and period poverty through access, education, and advocacy. Medical student volunteers are needed to count, sort, and wrap diapers, fulfilling orders from the warehouse, and packing period supplies to get them out to community partners.

• **Saturday Scholars Program**
  Through the WUSM Office of Diversity Programs, students will get to engage in pipeline programming to provide a robust experience for interested individuals from high school in what it means to have a profession in the medical world.

• **Sun Protection Outreach Training (SPOTS)**
  Medical Student Dermatology Interest Group where volunteers teach middle/high school students about skin cancer prevention through one-hour, virtual teaching sessions.

• **Urban Harvest STL**
  Urban Harvest builds community around inclusive and resilient local food systems. Volunteers play an essential role in ensuring that our farms are healthy and thriving so we can meet our mission of growing fresh produce for those in our community who lack access to health options in their neighborhoods.

• **Vivent Health**
  Vivent Health seeks "to be a relentless champion for people affected by HIV and do all we can do to help them thrive, because every person has value and should be treated with respect". Vivent Missouri is seeking medical students to serve as warm, welcoming, outgoing reception/front desk volunteers. The front desk is often the first stop for clients to ask questions about the organization's services, sign up for free HIV/STI testing, to access case management, and more.

• **WashU Student Health Educators (WSHE)**
  WSHE is partnering with Kairos Academies, a public charter school in St. Louis in the Fall of 2022 to teach a four-week supplemental education program. The program will cover topics like mental health, substance abuse, healthy relationships, and healthy sexuality. Medical student volunteers will teach two 45-minute sessions on the same topic for one week. Volunteers create slide decks from the provided curriculum and teach students during their homeroom sessions.

• **WUSM Occupational Health – Vaccination Drives**
  Giving flu shots and covid vaccinations to WUSM faculty, staff & students on campus.

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*Source: Audrey Coolman, MPH, Health Equity & Justice Lead, Office of Education*