

**Community Engagement/Service-Learning Opportunities**  
**Examples of Organizations/Programs**

April 2024

*(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.

**Engagement Hubs:**

- [\*\*Gephardt Institute for Civic and Community Engagement\*\*](#)  
The Gephardt Institute fosters a vibrant culture of civic engagement throughout Washington University, realized by engaged citizens, scholarship, and partnerships that advance the collective good.
- [\*\*United Way Volunteer Center\*\*](#)  
United Way Volunteer Center is a St. Louis hub for community engagement activities that have been submitted from organizations, individuals, and partners across the region. Please consider utilizing this hub as a way to peruse specific volunteering events based on your interests, availability and current offerings!

**Student Groups:**

- [\*\*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).
- [\*\*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.
- [\*\*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.
- [\*\*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.

**Internal WUSM Partners:**

- [\*\*Pro Bono Clinic\*\*](#)  
Interprofessional, student-led clinic serving the St. Louis Community, providing interprofessional care to uninsured and underinsured residents.
- [\*\*Saturday Scholars Program\*\*](#)  
Through the WUSM Office of Diversity Programs, St. Louis area high school students will learn about human anatomy in both a lecture and lab environment while engaging with Washington University medical students.
- [\*\*WUSM's Office of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion\*\*](#)  
The Office of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion directly supports the School of Medicine's commitment to creating an environment that is diverse, inclusive, and nurturing of people from all backgrounds. Our listserv provides a convenient way to receive updates to engage in DEI initiatives. Emails are limited to two or three per month, depending on program offerings. Content includes training opportunities, "Perspectives/Dialogue" topics, speakers, presentations, and related programs.

## Community Partners:

- [Alive & Well Communities via the Regional Health Commission \(RHC\)](#)  
Alive & Well Communities recognize the impact of toxic stress and trauma on the health and well-being of our communities. Our communities are working to ask new questions, build common understanding, and create pathways to healing. While trauma does not discriminate and impacts all communities, our work centers on the impact of trauma of discrimination, which science increasingly shows has devastating health impacts. With knowledge, we seek to build the will to change and activate communities to heal.
- [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
- [The International Institute](#)  
Offers essential economic and cultural integration services, including English classes, employment, orientation, and citizenship preparation. We also host events and make presentations to build inclusive and mutually respectful relationships between foreign-born newcomers and all community members.
- [Mission: STL](#)  
We empower individuals for social and economic growth through relationships and opportunity. With relationship in hand, we have made a strategic set of programs available to the people we serve. These programs work together to address critical stages in the cycle of poverty, like high school graduation + recidivism. We walk alongside people as they work their way through our programs, empowering entire families to break the cycle of poverty.
- [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 Area Diaper Bank](#)  
St. Louis Area Diaper Bank's 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.
- [St. Patrick Center](#)  
Working collaboratively with individuals, businesses, government and other service providers, St. Patrick Center solves homelessness for individuals and families in the St. Louis region. People experiencing homelessness are our neighbors and deserve respect, care, and concern. By helping people improve their lives, we also enhance the neighborhoods where we live and work.
- [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.

Source: Kaytlin Reedy-Rogier, MSW, Director of Health Equity and Justice, Washington University School of Medicine

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