SERVICE ADVOCATES

FEINSTEIN ENRICHING AMERICA

2017-2018

OFFICE OF COMMUNITY SERVICE

What is a Service Advocate?

The Service Advocates program offers outstanding students the opportunity to participate in a yearlong civic engagement and service program, providing them with the knowledge, skills and experiences necessary to become active leaders.

Service Advocates participate in regular training, direct service and reflection activities. They practice valuable leadership in the Aquidneck Island community, endeavor to promote a positive culture of service, and increase volunteerism at local nonprofits.

Students in the program perform approximately 100 hours of direct community service at their primary site. They also receive a stipend of $1,000 per year towards their education.

Ideal candidates for the Service Advocates program are dedicated, passionate and motivated students who are seeking to make positive changes across campus and in the community.

Community Partners 2017-2018

Newport Hospital
Lifespan. Delivering health with care.™

THE SALVATION ARMY ®

Child & Family
Caring for our Community since 1866.

Potter League
Enriching Lives

"The service advocates this year have been an amazing addition to our volunteer corp. They have walked patients, escorted visitors, assisted in the ED, provided wheelchair transport, helped with administrative tasks. Every hour they served helped with our mission of "delivering health with care".
–Lisa Coble, Director of Volunteers, Newport Hospital

Feinstein Enriching America

SERVICE ADVOCATES

Child & Family Advocates

Christina DeFalco
Viola Nakkazi
Olivia Alcott
Natalie Bell
Emily Whelan
Caroline Parks
Evelyn Alejandro

Newport Hospital

Mary McInerny
Jenna Boyle
Karolyne Stimpson
Kimberly Green
Sabrina Fabiano

Potter League for Animals

Maria Hendrickson
Megan Johnstone

Salvation Army

Krysta Tsangarides
Kali Major
Alexandra Harkness
Alexandra Whiting
Ryan Miech
Daniel Belloso
Alicia Cotoia
Te'Rell Knox
Rebecca Dopp

CHILD AND FAMILY

Christina DeFalco

Major: Nursing Major, Healthcare Administration Minor
Year of Graduation: 2020

Inspiration for Volunteering: I love working with children! Also, as of now I want to pursue a career in Pediatric Oncology, so the more exposure I get working with children, the more confident I will get in pursuing a career helping children.

Best memory: My most memorable experience happened the week of Valentine's Day. I was making cards with the children in the preschool room and before I left to come back to SRU, a little girl handed me a Valentine and said, "this is for you, and thank you for all you do with us".

Impact of Volunteering: I believe that my volunteering experience has positively influenced the patrons at Child and Family Services, specifically in the Sandpiper division. My purpose in the facility is not only to provide aid to the teachers and children, but also being a ray of hope for them. This organization relies on volunteers to help run and just by being there, I can tell that I am making a difference in my community.

Viola Nakkazi

Major: Psychology
Year of Graduation: 2019

Organizations: Service Advocate, Mercy In Motion, Big Brother Big Sister, Multicultural Student Organization (MSO).

Fun Facts:
I am bilingual and I love working with young kids

Best Memory:
My most memorable experience was hearing parents say how much their kids really enjoy being at the day care. Some kids do not want to leave when they are being picked up some days. I supervise little kids from infants to toddlers to make sure that every kid is happy and cared for.

What I've learned:
I have learned how to be more patient and aware of my surroundings because working with little kids, you have to keep repeating yourself over and over telling kids what to do and what not to do and also making sure that no one is biting or hitting someone at the time. My volunteering experience has had an influence on my community in many different ways. I have really enjoyed my service experience at Child and Family Services.

Olivia Alcott

Major: Elementary and Special Education
Graduation Year: 2020

Clubs:
Service Advocates, SRU Dance, Better Tomorrow, Multicultural Student organization, Navigator Leadership Development, and Mercy in Motion.

Why I volunteer:
I volunteer at Child and Family each week as part of the service advocate program. I love working with kids and helping at child and family. It is a rewarding way to work with young kids.

Favorite Memory:
My most memorable moment at child and family was "when I was holding one of the babies and I learned about his background how he is so young and he is already in foster care. It really puts your life in perspective when you see how much these babies have already gone through in the lives. Volunteering here, I feel that I am making an impact on the lives of some of the children in the Newport area even if it is in a small way."

Major: Early Childhood Education
Graduation Year: 2019

Why I Volunteer:
This was my second year of being a service advocate and it was just as fun as the first! I am fortunate enough to be a part of the Sandpipers family at Child and Family services. Every week I would spend many hours volunteering at Child and Family in the preschool room. Outside of being a service advocate, I also work at Child and Family, so when I'm not volunteering there, I'm working. Child and Family has helped me grow so much in these past two years not only as an educator but as a person. On my worst days I'd come to child and family and my kids would just brighten my day by showering me with hugs and laughs. I I am going to miss Child and Family but I'm hoping this isn't the end! I Being a Service Advocate has been so much fun these past two years so I highly recommend singing up if you have the availability to do it.

Natalie Bell

Emily Whelan

Major: English Communications
Minor: Philosophy
Year of Graduation: 2020

Clubs/Organizations:
Newport Community Symphonic Band, Mercy in Motion, Service Advocates, Orientation Leader, & Bible Study

Fun Fact:
I volunteer at Child and Family each week as part of the Service Advocate program. I love working and being a role model to younger kids.

Favorite Memory:
My favorite part of volunteering at Child and Family was watching the babies progress and grow over the course of 8 months.

Caroline Parks

Major: Social Work
Year of Graduation: 2020

Inspiration for Volunteering:
I love children and helping others so Child and Family seemed like the perfect fit for me! In the future I am hoping to work with children in foster care and at adoption agencies. It is a great experience getting to work with kids each week.

Best memory:
My best experience at Child and Family was during the fall semester of 2017. In the yearlings room I was working in each week, there was a child who was very behind the other children. While the other kids could pull themselves up, crawl, and walk, this child could not. Each time I was there, the teachers in the room and I would try to help the boy gain the strength he needed to begin crawling, walking, etc. Whether it was playing with toys he had to push or holding his hands to walk, we tried a variety of different things. After a few weeks, the child was up and walking around; it was amazing to see all his growth and process throughout the semester.

Evelyn Alejandro

Major: Sociology and Anthropology/ Global Studies
Year of Graduation: Class of 2021

Clubs/Organizations: Dialogue, Multicultural Student Organization, Alliance, Seahawk Radio, Protect Our Wildlife, Hydroponics, S.O.A.R, Navigator Leadership Program, and the Service Advocate Program.

Fun Fact: I like the ocean

Motivation to do Service:
I chose my location because I prefer working with children rather than adults.

Best Memory: As I walk into the room full of familiar children, two of them run to me for a hug. The teacher hands me a bottle to make the ache of hunger disappear, and their wailing fades. Soon after, their laughter brightens my day and a smile takes over my face. The teacher's amount of care for the small bodies humble me and show me that humanity still exists. The parents come in one by one and pick up their child showing longing for their presence. The teacher shows a sigh of relief and gratitude for my service.

"All that will matter to us someday is what we did while we were here to help those who needed us."
– Alan Shawn Feinstien

NEWPORT HOSPITAL

Mary McInerny

Major: Nursing
Year of Graduation 2020

Clubs/Organizations:
Navigator Program, SNO, MSO, Symphonic Band, Jazz Band, Sigma Phi Sigma, SRU Dance

My Favorite Memory:
The most memorable experience I have had so far was helping a patient who normally did not get to walk, walk around the ICU. They were telling me how they felt that being able to keep moving would help speed up their recovery. I really enjoyed talking to them and felt as if I was making a difference in their healthcare.

Why I volunteer:
I feel as though the nurses always are happy when I come in to either walk patients or assist in the Emergency Room. I am able to save time for them and help patients as well.

Major: Nursing
Year of Graduation: 2019

Clubs/Organizations:
Student Nursing Organization (Student Nurse Mentoring Chair), Salve Regina Community Service Advocates, Sigma Phi Sigma

Best memory:
While I was a transport aide, a man came in early from his appointment to chat with the women at the front desk. He knew them but not myself. He shared some parts about his life including where he was from and some of the things he valued before he became injured and began rehab. It was nice to learn about the people in the community.

Impact on Community:
The nurses in the emergency department are always thankful for the help, especially since they are an overworked population. The patients appreciate extra help as well from someone who is able to provide one on one time with them.

Fun Fact:
Thank you so much for all that you have done for me for these past two years. Today, I was offered a position as a Student Nurse Intern at Newport Hospital on a medical-surgical unit. My resume was pushed through faster because of my Service Advocate work at the hospital. Not only that, but I am also waiting to hear about the same position in the Emergency Department. Again, thank you, for the chance to serve, thrive, and learn who I am as a person.

Jenna Boyle

Karolyne Stimpson

Major: Biology
Year of Graduation: 2019

Clubs/Organizations: Service Advocate, Pell Honors

Motivation: I've always wanted to explore the hospital atmosphere as well as to learn more about patient needs and how to best attend to them. Therefore, I decided to take part in this program as a Newport Hospital volunteer where I am able to assist patients around the hospital by bringing them to a destination or simply by comforting them and assisting any other needs that I am able to attend to.

Most memorable experience: Since I volunteer the same day and time every week, I am able to make connections with the patients I come across and help on a weekly basis. With that being said, there is one woman that I see every week, I grab her a wheel chair and bring her to her destination. One Wednesday, I was assisting another patient at the time this woman usually comes in, so one of the other volunteers brought her to her destination. She was asking the volunteer all about me and remembered my name from the very first time I introduced myself! It struck me that she remembered my name, who I was, and was interested in how I was doing despite her daily health struggles. This severely touched my heart.

Majors: Health Care Administration and Business Administration
Year of Graduation:2019
Clubs/ Organizations: Service Advocate, CAB

Inspiration to volunteer:
As a Healthcare administration major, I have a keen interest and passion for the healthcare field. The opportunity was presented to volunteer in the development office of Newport Hospital and I knew I needed to take advantage of it. Healthcare is an essential need in the community and being able to help our local facility is a great opportunity.

Best Memory:
One of the tasks I am regularly assigned in the development office is to make phone calls to the local community members. These calls are mainly to ask for donations and are often not welcomed by the receiver. However, recently I have been making calls to individuals who have already donated and thanking them. The people who answered my calls were so happy and grateful that I called to thank them. I ended up having conversations with several members of the community and they ended up making my day.

Kimberly Green

Majors: Biology; Chemistry & Spanish
Year of Graduation: 2019

Clubs/ Organizations:
CAB, Service Advocate, SRyou Planning Committee

Inspiration to Volunteer:
It's my aspiration to be an Orthopedist, so the hospital is a place in which I enjoy being.

Best Memory:
I met an amazingly positive older woman who had just lost one of her toes. She was still so positive and uplifting in spirit, and was so impressed and thankful for my volunteering!

My site has been very appreciative of my help. I know that for every hour I am there, I am able to ease a nurse's or other worker's job. Keeping the hospital running smoothly and helping in any way is definitely helpful for the people of Newport who seek help from the Newport Hospital.

Sabrina Fabiano

The service advocates this year have been an amazing addition to our volunteer corp. They have walked patients, escorted visitors, assisted in the ED, provided wheelchair transport, helped with administrative tasks. Every hour they served helped with our mission of "delivering health with care". This is a wonderful service to the community!"

-Lisa Coble, Newport Hospital, Director of Volunteers

THE POTTER LEAGUE

Maria Hendrickson

Majors: Administration of Justice & Political Science
Year of Graduation: 2019

Fun Fact:
I kissed the Stanley Cup

Inspiration to Volunteer:
Back home I have my little bear: a three year old, three legged, rescue Newfoundland dog that's the love my life. That experience has impacted me so I was inspired to work at the Potter League so I could help others find their little bear.

Influence on Community:
My volunteering experience influenced my site with my ability to adapt to many different tasks and responsibilities I hold while volunteering there. It has influenced the Salve and Newport community by recruiting other members to volunteer their time there/support events put on by the Potter League. It influences many to prefer adopting not shopping.

Megan Johnstone

Major: Chemistry
Graduation Year: 2020

Impact from volunteering:
It has helped me a lot with time management. I am a science major so I have a very busy schedule and trying to fit in an extra 4-5 hours per week of community service has been a challenge but also very rewarding. Participating in Service Advocate has given me the opportunity to connect with many other people from the Newport community who also volunteer at the Potter League and has introduced me to other students at Salve who are interested in community service as well.

THE SALVATION ARMY

Krysta Tsangarides

Major: Administration of Justice & Environmental Justice
Year of Graduation : 2020

Clubs/Organizations:
Multicultural Student Organization, RA, Service Advocate, Save the Bay, &Navigator Leadership Development Program

Impact from Volunteering:
It encourages me to do better in class so that I can be more useful while serving in the community. Volunteering at the Salvation Army has inspired me to take Spanish next semester so I can better communicate with the patrons.

Fun Fact:
I have already been accepted for an internship which was largely due to the experience I have gained from being a service advocate!

Alexandra Harkness

Major: Philosophy
Year of Graduation: 2020

Clubs/Organizations:
Service Advocate, Service Plunge Facilitator, A Better Tomorrow Club, Multicultural Student Organization, Environmental Club, Mercy in Motion, Sigma Phi Sigma, Newport Community Band, Navigator Leadership Development Program, & Resident Advisory.

Impact from volunteering:
I have met all of my best friends through the Office of Community Service and have been given so many opportunities to volunteer with various organizations.

Fun Fact:
Whenever I feel stressed, I often participate in a community service opportunity to put my mind at ease

Kali Major

Major: Special and Elementary Education
Year of Graduation: 2020

Clubs/Organizations: Service Advocate, Navigator Leadership Development Program, Dialogue, Protect Our Wildlife, & Mercy in Motion

Motivation to Serve: I believe that poverty is a huge issue that a lot of society ignores and is important to make sure that everyone has access to food.

Best Memory: My most memorable experience at the Salvation Army was the big Thanksgiving dinner around Thanksgiving time. It was incredible to see how many volunteers were willing to come out and help serve and make food. Because of the amount of volunteers we had who were willing to help prep even the day before we were able to make a plethora of food so those who came were given a full course Thanksgiving meal, including dessert.

Major: Studio Art with a double concentration in Graphic Design and Illustration
Year of Graduation: 2021

Clubs/Organizations:
Dialogue, Service Advocate, Service Plunge, Church services, Art programs

Fun fact:
I collect vinyl, comic books, Legos, and old money

Impact from volunteering:
The Office of Community Service has allowed me to do good deeds and meet people with similar values as myself.

Ryan Miech

Alexandra Whiting

Major: Administration of Justice
Clubs/Organizations: ADJ Club, Student Host
Work Study: Safety and Security Dispatcher
Community Partner: Salvation Army

What does community service mean to you?:
To me, community service means helping people in any way that I can. I have been volunteering in my community since I was 14 years old and am really grateful that it is a part of my life. Community service has always been very important to me I am glad I was able to continue volunteering during my college career.

Daniel Belloso

Major: Nursing
Year: 2021

Clubs/Organizations:
Mercy Honor Society, Residence Advisory, and Service Advocate

Impact from volunteering:
I've learned to become more grounded and focused. Every single time I would procrastinate or would just be messing around you would correct me instantly. Kathleen was very helpful by ensuring I would be on top of my work. She always checked I was organized and doing what I was supposed to.

Has Community Service office supported you beyond community service?
Every aspect you could possibly imagine. So many breakdowns and meltdowns were prevented and replaced by hope. The Office also taught me to keep my priorities straight and pursue what I really want. But most importantly they taught me to always give my all at everything I do.

Alicia Cotoia

Major Biology and Minor: Chemistry
Year of Graduation:2019

Clubs/ Activities:
Peer Mentor, SRU Dance, POW

Fun Fact:
I'm left handed

Inspiration for Volunteering:
I love the feeling of giving back to others, knowing that my actions can help make someone's day a little better.

Best Memory:
Having someone come into the soup kitchen asking how themselves can get involved in what we were doing.

Impact on Community:
I know that my actions at the Salvation Army have lead to a rippling affect, where others ask how they can also get involved and help in any way they can.

Rebecca Dopp

Major: Elementary and Special Education
Year of Graduation: 2021

Clubs/Organizations: Service Advocate, Dialogue, ASL

Impact from volunteering:
I have made amazing friends and connections that I would not have if it weren't for the community service office.

Fun Fact:
The Community Service Office literally opened their doors to let me use their space to do homework and study. They are the reason why I've succeed this semester.

Opportunities & Achievements

Krysta Tsangarides recieved an AmeriCorps Summer Associate internship in Montana!

Krysta Tsangarides, Alley Harkness, & Daniel Belloso all became resident advisors for 2017-18!

Natalie Bell, Viola Nakkazi, & Christina DeFalco all became substitute teachers after their long-term service at Child & Family!

Kimberly Green received an internship with Newport Hospital's development office - the site of her service advocate position!

Daniel Belloso was invited to join Sigma Phi Sigma, the national mercy honor society founded by the Sister's of Mercy!

Service Advocates at Salvation Army have successfully run soup kitchens without the supervision of the Salvation Army staff!

Kali Major, Krysta Tsangarides, and Maria Hendrickson were accepted to be Nuala Pell Leadership student fellows!

Student Reviews

"I have grown close to Kelly and Kathleen as well as the several Americorps Vistas that have worked in the office during my time at Salve. They have supported me beyond community service by offering me different opportunities and also reaching out to me for different experiences to be a part of and they are definitely a big reason why I have stayed at Salve."

"They are really great with "bouncing ideas off of" when you have an idea of a project you wish to start. They are really supportive and help with whatever they can to, and ensure you succeed as a student both in and out of the classroom."

"It is always a great talking point, and honestly I wouldn't have met any of my friends if it weren't for the community service office."

"Participating with the Office of Community Service has definitely had a positive social impact on me. Not only have I made great friends through the service advocate program, but I have also made connections with various staff members at multiple sites I have volunteered at."

"After participating with the community service I decided to change my major from business to social work because I discovered I have a real passion for helping others and after going on service plunge and service plunge 2.0 I realized how many people there are that need help. I have also been able to get a lot of experience from being a service advocate at Child and Family. I hope to work with children in the future as a social worker and being a service advocate at Sandpipers has allowed me to gain a lot of experience working with children."

"Working with the Office of Community Service has allowed me to become more involved academically speaking. The office provides many opportunities to become involved in various activities here at Salve, including drives and marches. In working with Newport Hospital, the office has given me one of the best opportunities to experience the atmosphere in a hospital to give me a better understanding of what it would be like if I worked at one one day."

"Participating in Service Advocate has given me the opportunity to connect with many other people from the Newport community who also volunteer at the Potter League and has introduced me to other students at Salve who are interested in community service as well."

"I have learned many skills that will help me help others in the near future. For instance, I have obtained many skills that will help in school as well as my future career as a nurse."

"As a result of service advocates I have been able to form a strong relationship with the major gifts officer at Newport Hospital and she offered me an internship for next fall. I have accepted the offer and I will be doing my professional internship with her in the development office. This opportunity may not have happened if I had not participated in this program."

SERVICE ADVOCATE

BY THE NUMBERS:

The 2017-18 AmeriCorps VISTA conducted an end-of-year survey which yielded these results. Please note that two Service Advocates did not participate in the survey.

91% of Service Advocates responded to this survey. 9% did not respond.

87% of Service Advocates felt that their participation with the community service office increased their likelihood of them continuing their education at Salve Regina University.

87% of Service Advocates feel they made friends and were introduced to new people through their participation in the program.

78% of Service Advocates felt that the Office of Community Service has supported them beyond community service programs and opportunities.

48% of Service Advocates felt the Office of Community Service should keep doing what it's doing.

39% feel their position as a service advocate improved their time management skills.

30% of service advocates felt participating in the service advocate program enhanced their academic interests, experiences with their major, and general academic success.

30% felt that they had gained job experience because of their service.

26% felt that they had improved skills or discovered talents.

17% had received jobs or job offers because of their position as a Service Advocate, while 13% have received internships.

13% felt that the Office of Community Service should continue to provide recommendations and act as references for students.

13% explicitly stated they felt more connected to their community.

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