

Community Engagement E-News

Parkland College's Bimonthly E-Newsletter on All Things Service-Learning and Volunteerism

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"What is the essence of life? To serve others and do good."
–Aristotle

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Online Resources

[Parkland College Service Learning Website](#)

[CU Volunteer Database](#)

[Service Learning Clearinghouse](#)

Campus and Community Day of Service

Mark your calendars for the 6th Annual Campus and Community Day of Service, taking place on Saturday, April 14! This year, in conjunction with the University of Illinois, the goal is to package 151,000 meals for food banks and food pantries across Eastern Illinois. The event will take place from 9am-5pm at Memorial Stadium, along with other locations in our community. In addition, as an "Event Partner" for this event, we hope to have a *table reserved for Parkland students, faculty, and staff* at the Stadium!

Volunteer!

- A variety of volunteer shifts are available. Food packaging shifts last for 1½ hours, starting at 9:30am and ending at 1:30pm. Non-packaging and all day shifts are also available. For more information please visit the Campus and Community Day of Service website: <https://dayofservice.cuvolunteer.org/>

Donate!

- The U of I and Illini Fighting Hunger are currently fundraising to help cover the cost of ingredients for the meals, which comes to \$8,800. Find out more about donating here: <https://dayofservice.cuvolunteer.org/support>

If you are interested in volunteering at this event, please be sure to sign up for a shift in advance, as spots for each shift are limited!

Please contact dayofservice@cuvolunteer.org with any questions regarding the Day of Service.

Alternative Spring Break

Know any students interested in doing service over Spring Break? Thirteen Parkland students will get the chance to spend the week in Flint, Michigan working with Habitat for Humanity and St. Luke's, a local church.

Reservations will be made on a first come, first serve basis. To reserve a spot on the trip, students will need to place a non-refundable (unless trip is cancelled) deposit of \$25. That \$25 is the only cost to attend this trip.

The trip will leave from Parkland on March 18th, and return on the 22nd.

If you have any questions, please contact Josh Clark at jclark@parkland.edu, or give him a call at 353-2627.

Project READ

Project READ, the Wesley Food Pantry, and the Center for Community Engagement--all at Parkland College--have teamed up to provide free tutoring for adults in reading, basic math, or ESL services on Wednesdays from 12:00-2:00pm in the new *Parkland College Center for Community Engagement* (C-134).

Project READ provides training for all tutors with a combination of in-person and online training to prepare for their service. Training dates and times, plus registration forms may be found at <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0C49A5A728A6FF2-tutor>.

Please contact the Project READ office at ProjectREAD@parkland.edu or 217-353-2662 for more information. Project READ is funded by the Illinois State Library.

Please like the Project READ Facebook page! They post updates on training and tutor support here: <https://www.facebook.com/Project-READ-at-Parkland-College-Adult-Ed-512305432220950/>

Join the Garden Hills Homework Club!

For the past ten years, students and faculty of Parkland College have been working with 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders at an afterschool program called the Homework Club at Garden Hills Elementary. The Club, a partnership between Parkland College and Champaign Unit 4 Schools, meets two days a week (Mondays and Wednesdays), from 3:00-4:00pm. We are currently recruiting members of the Parkland community to volunteer one or two days a week throughout the spring semester. Volunteers provide not only academic support to the Garden Hills kids, but also serve as important role models to at-risk youth. As a result of the success of previous semesters, our primary goal this term is to increase the number of Parkland College students working with Garden Hills students.

For more information about potentially connecting your class or club with the Garden Hills Homework Club this semester, please contact Brian Nudelman at bnudelman@parkland.edu or Gabi Fisher at gfisher@parkland.edu.

Wesley Food Pantry at Parkland College

The Wesley Food Pantry at Parkland is located in M-138, near the Staerkel Planetarium, and is open every Wednesday from 11am-1pm and the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of each month from 10:00-Noon. Besides offering an incredible service for our students, the pantry provides an excellent opportunity for service-learning on the Parkland campus. Check out [their website](#) for more information about Wesley Food Pantry and volunteer opportunities with them.

Please contact [Brian Nudelman](#) or [Gabi Fisher](#) for information on starting a service-learning component with the pantry.
