

Community Engagement E-News

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

December 2018

Volume 15, Number 2



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"Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart."

-Elizabeth Andrew

Online Resources

[S-L Clearinghouse](#)
[CU Volunteer Database](#)
[Parkland College Service Learning Website](#)

Share Your S-L Stories

If you are involved in service-learning with Parkland students, please share your stories with the Parkland community by contacting [Whitney Carr](#)

Open House for Parkland's Center for Community Engagement (C134)

Yes, that's right! We're hosting an Open House for the new Center for Community Engagement, and we can't wait to show our new space off! Service-learning and community engagement are such important aspects of the Parkland experience, but until now, there has not been a space where students, faculty, and staff could connect in support of this important work. The goal of this new center is to be that *hub* of service-learning and community engagement, where all folks alike can connect with one another, and with our community partners.

Our Open House will take place January 9th, from 3-4pm in C134. Stop by, grab some coffee and cookies and learn about the work of our new Center! If you have any questions, please contact Parkland's AmeriCorps VISTA and Volunteer

Holiday Volunteering

Are you starting to get into the holiday spirit? Are you looking for ways to give back to your community? Just volunteer! Check out <https://cuvolunteer.org/> for updated volunteer opportunities with organizations right here in Champaign-Urbana. Whether you're looking for a way to give back during the holidays, or to start a new relationship with a community organization, CU Volunteer is a valuable resource.

If you want to volunteer, but are unsure of where to start looking, even with CU Volunteer, here are a few great holiday recommendations:

- Wesley Food Pantry
 - The two Wesley Food Pantries (Parkland and Campus) are always looking for volunteers to help in distributing food to families and individuals in need (more info below).
- Salvation Army
 - The Salvation Army is looking for bell ringers at their red kettles from November through Christmas Eve.
- Project READ
 - Help make a difference in an adult learner's life by spending one-on-one time with them as a tutor in reading, arithmetic, or English as a second language (more info below).
- Daily Bread Soup Kitchen
 - There's no better way to serve during the holidays than to volunteer with the soup kitchen, which provides hundreds of community members with warm meals every day.

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MLK Day of Service

Parkland College will be hosting a Day of Service on Martin Luther King Jr. Day, **January 21st**, from **10 am to 12 pm**. And we will, once again, partner with the Wesley Food Pantry to hold a rice and bean repack. The repack will provide the Wesley Food Pantry's Parkland location with rice and beans for 3-6 months! The location of the event is the **X-Wing Vending Lounge** (aka. The Old Cafeteria). Parkland students, faculty, staff, and their families, along with members of the community, are welcome to attend. If you're interested in attending, please contact Whitney Carr at wcarr@parkland.edu. If you are unable to attend, but are still interested in helping out, the Center for Community Engagement will be accepting financial contributions to help purchase the rice and beans. If you would like to donate, please contact Brian Nudelman at bnudelman@parkland.edu.

Upcoming Spring Volunteer Fair

Mark your calendars for our Spring Volunteer Fair, set for Wednesday, **January 29th**, from **10:30 am to 1:30 pm**, in the **College Center**. The Volunteer Fair is a great way to network, meet local nonprofit organizations, and become involved in local volunteer opportunities. We had a great turnout this semester, so we're excited to invite you to stop by the Fair, tell your friends about it, or maybe bring your class by to visit with community organizations. For more information, or for a list of participating organizations, please contact Whitney Carr at wcarr@parkland.edu or (217) 353-3302.

Wesley Food Pantry at Parkland College

The Wesley Food Pantry at Parkland is located in **Building M, Room 138** (near the Staerkel Planetarium). The pantry is open every **Wednesday from 11am to 1pm** and the **1st & 3rd Saturdays of the month, from 10am to noon**. Besides offering an incredible service for our students and community members, the pantry provides an excellent opportunity for service-learning on the Parkland campus. Check out [their website](#) for more information about the Wesley Food Pantry.

Please contact [Brian Nudelman](#) or [Whitney Carr](#) for information on starting a service-learning component with the Pantry.

Homework Club Field Trip to Parkland

We wanted to give a quick shout out to all of the Parkland folks who helped made the Homework Club's annual field trip to Parkland a success. Special thanks go to Dean Derrick Baker, along with Coach Figueroa and the Parkland Men's Basketball Team, along with Laurie Lobdell and the Veterinary Tech Department. Our Parkland tutors and Garden Hills students had a blast!

