

A group of students wearing maroon t-shirts with a white tiger logo are working on landscaping along the base of a brick building. They are pulling weeds and clearing a path. In the background, there is a parking lot with a silver SUV and a line of trees under a clear sky.

University of South Carolina

2014-2015

Community Service

Annual Report

**Leadership and
Service Center**

University of South Carolina Student Life



UNIVERSITY OF
SOUTH CAROLINA

Organized service efforts at the University of South Carolina began in 1989 with the establishment of the Office of Community Service. These efforts are now led by the Leadership and Service Center, part of the Department of Student Life.

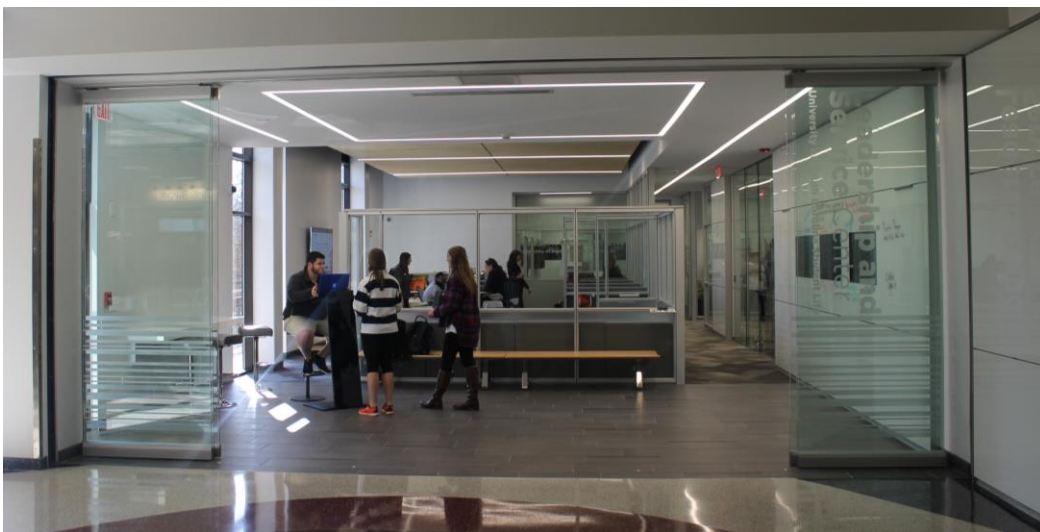
What do we Do?

The Mission of the Leadership and Service Center

The Leadership and Service Center is a premier space on campus offering a unique and collaborative environment for students to explore their own leadership development. Our mission is to provide opportunities that will enhance the college experience, aid students in self-exploration, and prepare them to be leaders after graduation. Through tailored one-on-one coaching, innovative workshops and programs, and limitless opportunities, we aim to help students:

- Connect to campus and community organizations, activities, and resources.
- Cultivate meaningful experiences, develop a sense of purpose, and identify their passion.
- Articulate the skills and competencies developed through their involvement.
- Become responsible and engaged citizens in their local, national, and global communities.

We maintain a supportive environment which encourages each and every student's ability to turn ideas into action.



The new Leadership and Service Center, located in the Russell House University Union, opened in February 2015.

Measuring Success

The Community Service Annual Report not only represents community service initiatives from the LSC, but it embodies community service from across campus. We collect self-reported data from students, organizations, departments, colleges, and programs to represent USC's commitment to service. During 2014-2015, USC volunteers were involved in hands-on community service, philanthropic fundraising, community-based research, service-learning and advocacy initiatives.

26,584 USC VOLUNTEERS

240,672.70 SERVICE HOURS

\$1,543.099.22 IN DONATIONS

TOTAL IMPACT:

\$6,491,329.93*

*Estimate based on 2015 value of volunteer time in South Carolina at \$21.14 per hour (www.independentsector.org/volunteer_time?s=volunteer%20time), as determined by the Independent Sector. Report statistics based on voluntary submissions from USC campus partners for the period of July 1, 2014-June 30, 2015. For more information on how to contribute to future reports, contact the Leadership and Service Center at (803) 777-3197 or lsc@sc.edu.

Leadership and Service Center Initiatives

The Leadership and Service Center (LSC) provides resources to help students, faculty and staff become connected to the community. Our leadership coaches are available to help place volunteers at more than 100 non-profit agencies in the Columbia area, and the LSC's website (www.sa.sc.edu/leadershipandservice) highlights upcoming service opportunities throughout the city. Those interested in volunteering are encouraged to subscribe to the Serve Carolina listserv, which distributes a bi-weekly email newsletter, by visiting the LSC's website. The following are major service initiatives of the LSC:

Alternative Breaks

The Alternative Breaks program consists of substance-free, community service-learning trips during the university's fall, winter and spring breaks. AB participants travel locally and nationally in teams to different cities, engage in active service and have the opportunity to gain new perspectives on social issues while meeting community needs and learning about and building upon community assets. The 2014-2015 Alternative Break trips took 110 students and staff on 10 different trips to 10 different cities, completing 3,920 hours of service.

The Alternative Break program also continued their participation in the Southeastern Conference (SEC) Compact with other SEC schools at Habitat for Humanity in Marion County, AL. The Compact is a student-led agreement where each SEC school involved agrees to send a spring trip to one organization for service.

FALL BREAK TRIPS (Wednesday, October 22nd - Saturday, October 25th, 2014)

Spartanburg, SC - *Christmas in Action*

John's Island, SC - *Sea Island Habitat for Humanity*

WINTER BREAK TRIPS (Monday, December 15th - Saturday, December 20th, 2014)

Kissimmee, FL - *Give Kids the World*

Pittsboro, NC - *Carolina Tiger Rescue*

SPRING BREAK TRIPS (Saturday March 7th - Saturday March 14th, 2015)

Marion County, AL - *Habitat for Humanity (SEC Compact Trip)*

West Palm Beach, FL - *C.R.O.S. Ministries*

Nashville, TN - *Martha O'Bryan Center*

Merritt Island, FL - *Sam's House*

Durham, NC - *Play Works*

Charlotte, NC - *LGBT Advocacy and Awareness through several organizations in Charlotte*

Cocky's Creations

Cocky's Creations, a signature annual Homecoming event, invites student organizations who wish to participate for Homecoming points or just for fun to build creations out of cans of food on Greene Street. This year's theme was "Under the Carolina Big Top" and 19 teams of students built creations centered on the theme and the spirit of being a Carolina Gamecock. After the creations were completed, the 10,766 pounds of canned food was donated to Harvest Hope Food Bank.

Carolina Cares

This year's program celebrated the 45th year of the Carolina Cares Donation Drive and the 60th Anniversary of the Tree Lighting Ceremony. The donation drive, a partnership with Carolina Service Council, collected stuffed stockings for the Salvation Army, food donations for Families Helping Families, and signed cards for military members through the Red Cross Holiday Mail for Heroes initiative.

During the month-long donation drive, 620 stockings were collected for the Salvation Army, 23 meal boxes were donated to Families Helping Families, and 1402 Holiday Mail for Heroes cards were signed.

Community Service Ambassadors

Six undergraduate students were selected to serve as Community Service Ambassadors during the 2014-2015 academic year. Community Service Ambassadors support the mission of the Leadership and Service Center through placement at select nonprofit organizations in Columbia, where they completed a total of 754 hours of direct service over the course of the academic year. In addition, they participated in social justice issues discussions throughout the year, making their experiences even more impactful for themselves, and the organizations they served.

Community Service Opportunity Fair

The Community Service Opportunity Fair is an annual event held during the beginning of the fall semester. During the fair, students, faculty and staff connected with 38 community agencies and student service organizations to learn more about volunteer, internship and networking opportunities.

Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week

National Hunger and Homelessness Week is a week devoted to raising awareness of the issues of hunger and homelessness. Organizations and individuals on the USC Hunger & Homelessness Week Student Planning Committee hosted a week of awareness panels, donation drives and service projects in hopes to impact hunger and homelessness on campus and in Columbia. Events included:

- National Screening of documentary "Storied Streets"
- Oxfam Hunger Banquet with Carolina Service Council
- Impact Weekly Service Trip: Lexington Interfaith Community Services
- No Kid Hungry fundraisers benefiting Palmetto Place Children's Shelter
- Heyward E. McDonald Lecture Series on Peace and Justice: Maria Foscarnis, National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty – hosted by Presbyterian Student Association

- Hunger and Homelessness Panel and Roundtable Discussion by Carolina Homelessness Outreach & No Kid Hungry
- Cold Season Supply Drive for Columbia Family Shelter, by Student United Way

Impact Weekly Service Trips

Impact Weekly Service Trips give students the opportunity to fit service into their weekly schedules by providing transportation to and from various service sites throughout the week. Impact leaders are responsible for leading one of the trips to the same agency each week. This program has seen a large increase in scope and size since Fall 2012, adding student leadership opportunities via an expanded Impact leader group and community service van driver position(s).

A total of 160 projects were held at 10 unique community agencies over the course of the year.

Collectively, 709 students served 2,127 hours through these weekly opportunities, a 46% growth in both participation and number of service opportunities compared to last year.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Days of Service and Event Series

The MLK Days of Service celebrate the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. through two days of service. During the 2015 Days of Service, 362 students, faculty and staff volunteered for 1,602 hours at 26 sites. The Leadership and Service Center's second annual MLK Food Drive was the most successful to date, giving faculty and staff the opportunity to donate canned goods to the Gamecock Pantry, USC's student-driven emergency food resource for students. Thirty-five faculty and staff members, representing twenty-five departments, donated a total of 2,240 items to the Gamecock Pantry.



The MLK Event Series this year consisted of two main events:

- "Building our Beloved Community: What's Next?" in partnership with the USC Chapter of the NAACP.
- Diversity Dialogue hosted by the Office of Multicultural Student Affairs. Topic: MLK and COINTELPRO

Service Saturdays

Service Saturday is USC's signature monthly service event during which we provide transportation for up to 200 students to various agencies in the community to serve. This year, a total of 798 students participated in 3,192 hours of service at 63 service sites.

Select Academic Programs and Student Organizations

African American Professors Program – Community Service Committee

The 2014-2015 AAPP Community Service Committee is a group of professors at the University of South Carolina that focused on reaching middle and high school youth in Columbia, through



partnerships with Communities in Schools of the Midlands, St. Andrews Middle School and Columbia High School. They were part of “Bully Prevention Month” in December 2014, through which they worked with parents, teachers, and professionals, to encourage youth at St. Andrews Middle to continue to read, speak publicly, and build self-esteem when it comes to bullying. In the spring 2015, they served as panelists at a special event at Columbia High School, where the focus was college readiness, career choices, and proper use of social media. In both schools, this partnership has proven successful for 2014-2015, and they look forward to continue their great work in the upcoming year.

Campus Recreation – Facilities Staff

During the holiday season, the facilities staff for Campus Recreation donated Welcome Baskets comprised of basic necessities (clothing essentials, bath and bed items, personal items, and school supplies), to Epworth Children's Home. The majority of children arrive at Epworth with nothing but the clothes they are wearing. These particular items serve the purpose of providing children with the essentials when they first arrive, and until they can be taken shopping. This assists in adding a level of dignity to what is always a traumatic transition.

Capstone Scholars Program

The Capstone Scholars Program highly encourages their scholars to engage in community service, as service is one of the pillars of their program. Scholars had the opportunity to serve once a month in small scale service projects at the following organizations this past year: Harvest Hope Food Bank, City Roots, Habitat for Humanity ReStore, and St. Lawrence Place. They also have partnerships with AC Moore Elementary School and Hand Middle School to provide 1:1 mentoring to their students. Capstone Scholars had the opportunity to participate in service-learning sections of U101, of which the Capstone program offered six last fall. This program also offered two study abroad trips focused on service: International Healthcare: Service-Learning in Nicaragua and Eco-Savvy Service-Learning in Iceland. Through service, Capstone scholars are able to live up to our motto "Dream big, impact the community, leave a legacy!"

Communities in Harmony

Communities in Harmony is an organization dedicated to bringing music into the lives of underserved youth in Columbia, SC. They share songs, dances, and musical games with St. Lawrence Place, JP Thomas Elementary, the Family Shelter, and TASC. The volunteers bond with one another during their planning periods, monthly meetings, and weekly volunteer sessions. This past year, Communities in Harmony served 140 youth in the Columbia community.

Continuing Education and Conferences

In 2014, for the seventh year, Carolina Gives Back was a part of the Carolina Master Scholars Adventures Series, a summer academic program for academically talented rising 6th-12th grade students at USC Columbia. A charity or nonprofit was designated for each week that an Adventure Series was held during the summer. On Sunday at check-in, each scholar was asked to bring item(s) or cash to donate to the charity. Throughout the week, University faculty and staff also contributed by dropping off donations. At the end of the week, our office collected all the donations and delivered them to the charity.

Engineers Without Borders

Engineers Without Borders (EWB) is an international service organization dedicated to engineering solutions locally and globally. In January 2015, the EWB chapter at USC traveled to La Victoria, Ecuador to assess the status of a pipeline designed, funded, and implemented by EWB-USC in May 2014. This project gave over 500 farmers access to water during the dry season. As part of the trip, EWB-USC evaluated the pipeline for long-term integrity, consulted on select repairs, and signed a final agreement with a community maintenance committee. This project demonstrates the ability of our students to develop a long-lasting and community-driven impact over 2500 miles away.

English Programs for Internationals

English Programs for Internationals (EPI) at USC aims to provide high-quality English language instruction and support to international students, in order to enable them to feel comfortable in their new environment and to succeed in U.S. universities and in their careers. EPI partners with departments on campus and with nonprofit organizations throughout Columbia to get their students involved and immersed on and off campus, and service plays a major role in their involvement. Over the last year, EPI students completed over 600 hours of service with organizations such as the Department of Juvenile Justice, Richland County Library, Salvation Army, Harvest Hope Food Bank, and the SC State Museum, among others.

Helping Hands at USC

Helping Hands is a student organization at Carolina that plans service projects and fundraising efforts for a variety of nonprofit agencies and causes on and off campus. Some of their service for 2014-2015 include volunteering with HarborChase Assisted Living & Nursing Home, the Columbia Buddy Walk, and several fundraisers through which they were able to donate food and money to the Gamecock Pantry and Harvest Hope Food Bank. They have



also coordinated a “Super Supper” for children at the Palmetto Place Children’s Shelter, providing them a full thanksgiving dinner through generous donations by members of the organization and an entire turkey donated from the owner of Uncle Maddio's Pizza. In addition, their members partnered with First Baptist Church, feeding close to 200 people in need in Columbia.

HRTM Planners

HRTM Planners Executive Board researches volunteer opportunities for local, charitable and fundraising events and advertises these opportunities to its members. Throughout the 2014-2015 school year, members gave their time to events such as the Carolina Sunshine Gala, Ronald McDonald House events, Greek Festival, local 5Ks and more, totaling 223 hours of service. In addition, they planned a fundraiser for a fellow HRTM student, to help her travel to the USIR Scottish Dance Competition. They raised \$1,300 for their fellow student through "The Ghillie Gathering", a night filled with Scottish music, performances, food and more. As students who love planning events and giving their talents back to the community, HTRM Planners sees 2014-2015 as their best year of volunteering.

Off-Campus Student Services

The USC Fire Department and Columbia Fire Department, in collaboration with USC Off-Campus Student Services Office, Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation, the Jeffrey Lee Williams Foundation, West Columbia fire department, Irmo fire department, Lexington fire department, and Batesburg-Leesville fire department conducted a carbon monoxide alarm and smoke alarm blitz in the Olympia Community. Olympia is a popular neighborhood for USC students to live off-campus and went to over 250 homes offering to install and educate residents about the importance of having life-saving detectors.

Project VIDA

Project VIDA is a student organization at the University of South Carolina in which students from a variety of backgrounds create presentations about healthy living for elementary, middle, and high school populations in underprivileged communities. Project VIDA is committed to educating youth in the Columbia community about healthy living through interactive and fun presentations. This past year, Project VIDA served 45 youth in the Columbia community.

South Carolina Honors College's Palmetto Place Partnership

The partnership between the South Carolina Honors College and Palmetto Place Children's Shelter just completed its third year. This partnership allows faculty, staff, and students to get involved at the shelter, whether that be through donations (monetary or in-kind) or volunteering. The Honors College funded nine different events for the children at Palmetto Place in the 2014-2015 school year. Those events included one Fall Festival, a trip to the South Carolina State Fair, two concerts with Communities in Harmony, one trip to Mad Platter, a Valentine's Day crafting event, ReDress to Impress, a tour of USC, and a tie dye event on the Horseshoe. For each event, the Honors College planned the event, provided necessary materials and food, and supplied volunteers to work the event.

Student Health Services - Campus Wellness

Wellness Ambassadors are university faculty or staff members with a commitment to health that serves as a champion for employee wellness. Wellness Ambassadors volunteer to assist in the promotion, implementation and coordination of wellness initiatives within their departments/offices and during campus based wellness events. They share information, engage friends and colleagues to participate in wellness programs and create momentum around leading a healthy lifestyle. 24 Wellness Ambassadors from across the USC system took the lead in several service projects, including the collection of over 500 pounds of food and supplies to Harvest Hope Food Bank and the Women's Shelter. In addition, they regularly assisted with the Farmer's Markets on campus, led yoga sessions, coordinated wellness workshops for their departments, and participated in events such as the USC Heart Walk, among many others. The Wellness Ambassadors served as models of wellness for their colleagues and their students, and the food and supply drive took their impact beyond the USC community. One of our Wellness Ambassadors collected 600 items within her department alone during the Food and Supply Drive in December 2014.

Students Helping Honduras at USC

Students Helping Honduras is an international non-profit whose mission is to end extreme poverty and violence in Honduras through education and youth empowerment. USC students fundraise throughout the semester to raise money in



order to build a school in one of the hundreds of rural villages in Honduras without an access to a safe education. During winter and spring breaks, USC students have the opportunity to travel to Honduras for an 8-day service trip to work alongside the locals and help build the school we spend the year raising money for. Students Helping Honduras provides hundreds of children with safe access to a school that would not receive an education otherwise.

Sustainable Carolina Garden Club at AC Moore Elementary

During the fall and spring semesters, five undergraduate students and one graduate student from Sustainable Carolina participated in a bi-weekly garden club at AC Moore Elementary School. The Garden Club's goal is to promote sustainability in younger generations through environmental and wellness education. There were 10 AC Moore students in the Garden Club, ages 5-10. In preparation for the spring Garden Club, Dr. Arlene Marturano, Dr. Christie Martin, and Dr. Bridget Miller provided a day-long training for the Sustainable Carolina students that included tips for lesson planning, successful approaches for teaching science topics, and ideas for engaging activities. The Sustainable Carolina students took turns planning the lesson each week, with topics including: insects and pollination, flowers, and fruits vs. vegetables.

Camp GLEA

Every June, the Carolina Community Farm & Garden hosts and sponsors Camp GLEA (Gardening and Literacy Education through the Arts), a children's summer program planned by the Farm Manager and Sustainable Carolina interns. Children attend the camp daily for two weeks, learning about the importance of local and healthy eating, physical activity and mindfulness, nature conservation, and historical and literary concepts through gardening workshops, writing activities, and field trips. This camp allows children from the inner city of Columbia to engage in activities which they may not have experienced otherwise. It also plants the seed of inspiration to pursue higher education by allowing them to experience a college campus and a residential learning programming at a very young age.

"To watch the minds and spirits of these children transform over the course of two weeks is a gift like no other," said Allie Mason, Farm Manager & Education Outreach Coordinator. It's a unique balance between individual camp activities; sharing circle begins the day, followed by a tag game of "spider in the web," then perhaps a hands on lesson in the garden pulling weeds, a painting class using natural materials extracted from plants, yoga practice, a group cooking class, finishing off with a garden-themed snack and phenology journal entries. This opportunity is currently open to a limited number of children from the Lorick Park Community Center in downtown Columbia, with hopes to one day expand to multiple communities over multiple summer camp sessions.

University Ambassadors

University Ambassadors are a student organization of 100 members who during the 14-15 academic year volunteered 8,832 hours to serve their University and to support the college decision making process of tens of thousands of prospective students and parents. They give campus tours, they cover the phones and front desk in the Visitor Center and they give tours for the growing number of special events hosts by the Office of Undergraduate Admissions to recruit undergraduate students. The Ambassadors also gave 307 people ghost tours during the fall semester and collected \$75 to support UNICEF. The Gamecock Pantry has been given nearly 500 cans in 2014-2015.

University Housing

Give It Up for Good is an annual program run by University Housing to divert material from the landfill, educate students about recycling and reuse, and make a positive impact on the Columbia community. Donations of clothing, household goods, furniture, appliances and food are collected in the residence halls and in Greek Village from students as they move out of the residence halls at the end of each semester. Food is donated directly to Harvest Hope, a local food bank. Other items are sold at a yard sale to benefit Habitat for Humanity. Since the beginning of the program in 2001, Housing has diverted over 300 tons of material from the landfill. In Fall 2014, the proceeds from the May 2014 yard sale were used to co-sponsor a Habitat house rehab. As part of the co-sponsorship, the university also provided a portion of the volunteer hours needed to complete the rehab over 8 weeks. The new owners of the house, had volunteered at the Give It Up for Good yard sale the previous year. The house was dedicated on December 6, 2014. In December 2014, Housing collected 2,811 lbs. of donations and at a yard sale on January 17 raised \$1,230.47 for Habitat for Humanity. The spring program ran from April 27 to May 12, and a total of 19.09 tons (38,180 lbs.) of donations were collected. Yard sales on May 22 and 23 raised \$13,933 for Habitat for Humanity. The money from the winter and spring sales will be put towards the co-sponsorship of a new Habitat house in Fall 2015.

Waverly After School Program

Waverly Afterschool Programs is a student organization whose mission is to enhance the lives and opportunities of children in the Columbia community, to serve as educational role models who provide a fun, safe, and caring experience, to develop the self-esteem and literacy skills of all children who participate, and to help children realize that they can overcome the challenges they may face in life to be successful. Waverly believes that all children need a safe place to go after school each day with caring, responsible adults and with programs that encourage both learning and personal growth. This past year, Waverly served 60 youth in the Columbia community.

Women's and Gender Studies

WGST 499 is the Capstone course for the Women's and Gender Studies (WGST) major. Each student in this course completed approximately 100 hours of service in an internship role at several nonprofit organizations in Columbia, including the Women's Well-Being Initiative (WWBI), Sexual Trauma Services of the Midlands and the Columbia Housing Authority. This course and service opportunities give students the chance to apply what they have learned throughout their major in a real world situation, through the projects they complete at each nonprofit, reflective journal pieces on specific themes (i.e. the mission of the organization, how the work in the organization is accomplished, what hierarchies exist in the decision-making aspect of the organization, etc.), and a civic exercise whereby they must educate the public in some way regarding the work that their organization is undertaking. Finally, they develop a poster, which they present at a biannual Drop-In hosted by WGST. These students have served as invaluable assets for their supervisors and the nonprofit organizations they served as a whole.

Thank you to the following individuals, departments and organizations whose service is reported in this year's Annual Report:

African American Professors Program

Belser Arboretum

Campus Recreation

Capstone Scholars Program

Coordinating Office for Community Engagement and Service (COCES)

Communities in Harmony

Continuing Education and Conferences

Dance Marathon

Department of Athletics

Division of Student Affairs and Academic Support

Engineers Without Borders

English Programs for Internationals

Helping Hands at USC

Honors College

HRTM Planners (Student Organization)

Intramural Sports Program

No Kid Hungry: USC Chapter

Off-Campus Student Services

Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life

Office of Student Engagement

Office of Student Media

Outdoor Recreation

Preston Residential College

Project VIDA

Sigma Alpha Epsilon

Student Health Services - Campus Wellness Ambassadors

Student Media

Students Helping Honduras at USC

Sustainable Carolina

University Ambassadors

University Housing

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