Student Volunteers Give Back

During the 2015-16 school year student volunteers at the Leahy Health and Family Center spent nearly 2,000 hours helping the community of Lackawanna County. Students distributed food, school supplies and toiletries, having collected these resources through drives by Residence Life, HPO and University community donations. The interpreters assisted in physical therapy, counseling and medical clinics as they bridged the language barrier. Trained scribes aided the volunteer professional staff in entering information into patients’ medical records. The office volunteers helped with everything from patient phone calls and filing paperwork to appointment setup.

The 2016-2017 Leahy Student Organization committee members, from left: David Veliz, Alexander Haber, Haleigh McBride, Bileen Fresno, president Theresa Webster, Catherine Murray, Dipam Sham and Nicholas D’Alonzo.

Leahy Student Organization Executive Committee Plans Fall Events

The 2016-17 Leahy Student Organization Executive Committee has been actively working on achieving organization status as a recognition of the extensive dedication of the volunteers. They are currently preparing for three fundraisers: a pasta dinner with the help of La Trattoria restaurant, a fashion show, which has become a favorite of University students, and a breakfast with Santa for the community. Donations are accepted.

Food Pantry Supports Local Community

The Alice V. Leahy food pantry located in the Leahy Community Health and Family Center, is a source of nonperishable food items for individuals in the Scranton area who are in need of assistance. The pantry is supported by University of Scranton student volunteers who help prepare bags, stock/organize the pantries and coordinate food drives. Currently, at the beginning of the 2016-2017 school year, the food pantry has 50 volunteers. Last year our volunteers served more than 750 hours of service during both semesters.

The student volunteer experience in the food pantry aligns with the Jesuit mission of being “men and women for and with others” and also allows the students to become integrated with the Scranton community. The ability to engage with the locals of the Scranton area and experiencing the flip side of what most students are used to is PCPS “call to care.”

The food pantry is fortunate to partner with The Harry & Jeanette Weinberg Food Bank and Lackawanna County’s GATE. The Alice V. Leahy food pantry also receives the support and regular contributors from University clubs and departments such as the Health Professionals Organization, Residence Life, Staff Senate, Facilities, Counseling Honor Society, University of Scranton faculty, staff and students, as well as St. Gregory’s Parish, Clarks Summit.

Throughout the year, donation boxes can be found on the first and second floors of Loyola Science Center. Our students serve an international Scranton community with a shared mission to promote self-sufficiency among low-income and vulnerable populations by confronting food insecurity.