

## Collaborations with Faculty & Staff

### ***Collaborations***

Campus Ministries seeks to partner with faculty and staff in proceeding together as a community of faith in service to those in need. Dedication to service, a concern for the common good, and a commitment to promoting justice have always been characteristic of the Society of Jesus. In serving the marginalized, the University community becomes leaven to transform the world and to live lives of holiness amidst the challenges of modern times.

Some opportunities to work together for the common good include serving as a *Service Trip Chaperone*, a *Christmas Breakfast Volunteer*, as an *End-of-the-Year Drive Volunteer*, and with the *Scranton Refugee Friendship Network*.

#### **1. *Service Trip Chaperone***

Faculty and staff members serve in a vital role as a chaperone on service trips. In their role as mentors, the chaperones deliberately and intentionally act as teachers, sponsors, and counselors – supporting students' commitment to faith in their service. Mentors can shape the students' transition into adulthood, especially in regard to developing a sense of efficacy and individuation, as well as a capacity for mature intimacy.

Two faculty or staff chaperones are recruited to attend each service trip and there is no cost to the employee. They play a pivotal role on these service experiences as they have the opportunity to model faith and spirituality. Employees of the University are encouraged to attend information sessions to learn about expectations of service trip chaperones, as well as trip locations, types of service activities, accommodations, and other information. Types of services can include:

- Serving in soup kitchens & food pantries
- Disaster relief
- Tutoring/mentoring children
- Refugee assistance
- Working with persons with disabilities and former gang members

Staff members can request [Mission and Community Service Leave](#) to serve as a Service Trip Chaperone. Contact [Amy Fotta](#) for more information.

#### **2. *Christmas Breakfast Volunteer***

The annual Community Christmas Day Breakfast, coordinated by Campus Ministries' Center for Service and Social Justice and sponsored by Aramark Food Services, is held on Christmas morning in the Fresh Food Company Dining Hall on the third floor of the DeNaples Center. This FREE breakfast is open to anyone, especially those who are alone on Christmas and want to spend the morning with some joyful companionship. More than 500 people attend this annual event. Doors open to the public at 8 a.m. from the Mulberry Street entrance and breakfast is served until 10:30 a.m.



CAMPUS MINISTRIES' CENTER  
FOR SERVICE & SOCIAL JUSTICE

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University of Scranton employees and their families are needed to volunteer for this event. Volunteers are asked to register on Royal Sync after Thanksgiving. Other ways to help include donating coats, jackets, sweatshirts, sneakers and winter boots in good condition, as well new toiletry samples. Donations are accepted from Nov 1 to Dec 25. Contact [Patricia Vaccaro](#) for more information.

### 3. *End-of-the-Year Drive Volunteer*

Items that students would normally discard at the end of the academic year are collected during the month of May for our annual End-of-the-Year Drive, which are then donated to agencies serving the marginalized or sold at a large rummage sale the first week of June. Proceeds from the sale offset costs for students wishing to go on a domestic service trip. A limited number of faculty and staff volunteers are needed to sort items for distribution to the agencies as well as organize the items for the rummage sale. Employee volunteers are also needed to set up for and be present at the rummage sale. Contact [Patricia Vaccaro](#) for more information.

Staff members can request [Mission and Community Service Leave](#) to assist with the End-of-the-Year Drive.

### 4. *Thanksgiving Feed-A-Family Program*

On the Sunday before Thanksgiving, students, staff and faculty will be needed to help package and distribute Thanksgiving meals to over 200 families at Valley View Terrace low-income housing development in Scranton. This compassion and selflessness reflects our Jesuit mission of "service of faith and the promotion of justice." Volunteers are needed for one of two shifts:

- Shift 1, 11 am-12 pm: packing bags with food for families.
- Shift 2, 12 pm-1:30 pm: distribution of packed bags to families and assisting families by carrying bag to their apartments. Contact [Patricia Vaccaro](#) for more information.

### 5. *Scranton Refugee Friendship Network*

Faculty and staff members have the opportunity to pair with refugee families to accompany and advocate for them with the goal of empowering refugees to transition to a new life in our region. Over a four-month period, in collaboration with Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Scranton, volunteers will serve as a resource, friend, and advocate for local refugees. Activities might include inviting refugees to University and community social events, helping them navigate COLTS bus transportation, serving as a conversation partner, helping them to read documents, accompanying them to appointments. Learn more about this accompaniment program and other efforts of [the University's Refugee Solidarity Initiative](#).

Prospective volunteers are asked to complete this [application](#) and submit to [Jennifer Schwartz](#), Department of Physical Therapy/SRFN Coordinator.