

West Chester University

## Service-Learning & Volunteer Programs

Commonwealth Hall, Lower Level • 610-436-3379 • [www.wcupa.edu/volunteer](http://www.wcupa.edu/volunteer)

## Resource Pantry

Commonwealth Hall, Lower Level • 610-436-2378 • [www.wcupa.edu/pantry](http://www.wcupa.edu/pantry)

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### How We Work With New Students

The Office of Service-Learning and Volunteer Programs promotes community-engaged learning experiences that address critical community needs by building mutually beneficial partnerships and empowering students to be active citizens locally, nationally and globally. We help new students identify nonprofit organizations to volunteer with as part of a service-learning course or if they are interested in getting more involved in the local community. The WCU Resource Pantry eliminates barriers to degree completion for students with financial need by providing access to resources while empowering them to learn independent living skills and achieve long-term stability. Any WCU student facing financial hardships can visit the Resource Pantry to shop for basic necessities at no cost.

#### Fast Facts

- 1) During the last academic year students engaged in more than 700,000 hours of service-learning through class assignments, student organizations, and athletics.
- 2) More than 90 students participated in eight Alternative Break trips last year, traveling across the U.S. and the globe to engage in meaningful service to address issues of affordable housing, child and maternal healthcare, advocacy for women's rights, sustainable food resources in urban communities, and more!
- 3) Last year, 40+ WCU students served as youth mentors in the America Reads Youth Mentoring Program. Youth mentors volunteer at one of six community organizations for 6-10 hours a week during the academic year impacting the lives of more than 400 at-risk, low-income children in Chester County.
- 4) Students can stop by our office in Commonwealth Hall (located through Student Health Services on the side of the building) to learn about volunteer opportunities and to shop in the Resource Pantry.
- 5) Over 350 students have shopped in the Resource Pantry, which amounts to 7,935 pounds of food.

#### Key Takeaways

Encourage your student to stop by the Resource Pantry for a tour and to learn more about our programs and services. Follow the pantry on social media if you want to learn more about our services or how to support our work. Our volunteer directory is one of the easiest ways to find volunteer opportunities! If your student needs to volunteer for a course assignment, they should contact the nonprofit organization several weeks prior to their assignment due date. Nonprofit organizations respond at varying rates to volunteer requests due to the nature of their work. Students should be patient, persistent, and call nonprofit organizations on the phone to most effectively communicate.

- How can students find volunteer opportunities in the local community?

- Students can subscribe to our weekly newsletter to receive the latest information about volunteer opportunities by visiting our [homepage](#). Students can also search for opportunities in our [volunteer directory](#) that can also be found on our homepage. Students can filter their search results based on interests and transportation so they can identify an opportunity that works best for them! If you want to learn more about a specific nonprofit organization, simply click “Read More” and you will find an entire profile about the nonprofit organization including what type of volunteer projects are available and who to contact.
- How can students get involved in the Alternative Break Program?
  - Students who would like to go on an [Alternative Break](#) trip can apply on RamConnect or visit our website for a direct link to the application. Applications are due October 15, 2018. After applying, students are invited to interview with a student trip leader to share their interest in specific trips. Students are selected to attend a specific trip and are notified in early November. This year-long program engages student participants in large-scale community events that bring together every Alternative Break team before and after their service trip. Additionally, their respective student trip leader will gather the team for regular trip-specific educational & social meetings as well as local service opportunities before and after their Alternative Break trip.
- Who is eligible to use the WCU Resource Pantry?
  - The Resource Pantry is open to ALL undergraduate and graduate students currently enrolled in classes at West Chester University. Students do not have to provide proof of financial aid in order to receive services. No appointment is necessary. Walk-ins are welcome any time during hours of operation. There are no limits on the amount or number of items students can take during each shopping trip.

## Acronyms & Definitions

- OSLVP = Office of Service-Learning & Volunteer Programs
- AB = Alternative Break

## Who to Know

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