



**COMMUNITY  
CAMPUS  
COALITION**

**2025**  
***Charles J. Ping Student Service Award***  
***Recipients***



## ***Charles J. Ping Student Service Award 2025***

The Charles J. Ping Award was established to recognize and honor undergraduate students' outstanding leadership and contributions to community service on their campus and within their community. This award is granted annually to undergraduates from Community Campus Coalition (formerly Ohio Campus Compact) member institutions that exhibit outstanding leadership in their community service endeavors both on their campus and within their community.

The award is named in honor of Charles J. Ping, who served as President of Ohio University from 1975 – 1994. An early supporter and Board Member of Ohio Campus Compact, Dr. Ping was a tireless advocate for campus-community partnerships and increased opportunities for students to become active and engaged citizens.

Students must be nominated by the president of their college or university and have met the following criteria:

- 1) Evidence of exemplary community service during the student's undergraduate years should reflect the student's efforts to meet needs in his or her community. The Ping Award recognizes student efforts, from individual commitment to service and community to the ability to create an organization and to involve others.
- 2) Although outstanding community service of any kind will qualify, Community Campus Coalition is especially interested in efforts that have connected service with academic study or designed programs with long-term community involvement.

Each year, Community Campus Coalition awards a \$250 Legacy Award to the top two nominees. This donation is made to a community-based nonprofit organization in the student's name.



Congratulations to the 2025 Charles J. Ping Student Service Award Winners. We applaud your outstanding leadership and many contributions to your campus and your community.

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\*Legacy Award Recipients

***Riley Anderson***  
***Ohio Northern University***



My love for serving the poor in the Dominican Republic began in June 2022 when I first attended a mission trip with my church's youth group. That experience ignited a passion for the people and the place, which only grew stronger when I returned in June 2024 with Northern Nursing Without Borders at Ohio Northern University. Leading up to the trip, I took the associated course, Global Medical Missions Experience, in the spring of 2024, which deepened my understanding of global healthcare challenges. This annual trip allows nursing and pharmacy students to work alongside licensed nurses and doctors to serve communities surrounding San Juan, Dominican Republic. The organization that makes this possible, Solid Rock International, has provided me with invaluable opportunities and lifelong friendships.

During my 2024 week-long trip with the nursing program, I was invited to return for an eight-week internship. With little hesitation, I flew home, put my summer plans aside, and returned two weeks later to fully devote my summer to missions. As an intern, I managed the guesthouse where teams of doctors and nurses stayed, organized schedules, and guided teams through their activities. I cooked for groups of up to 40 people, helped them settle in, and welcomed new arrivals by setting expectations for the week. Beyond logistical support, I also participated in Vacation Bible School, traveling to different villages to host a four-day program where we welcomed children and taught them about the gospel.

Spending two months fully immersed in the culture helped me develop conversational Spanish, allowing me to better connect with patients and community members. More than just language, my time there deepened my cultural awareness, giving me a greater understanding of both poverty and gratitude. I saw firsthand the challenges people face in accessing basic needs, yet I was also struck by their incredible sense of community and joy. The communities surrounding San Juan have very limited access to healthcare. Many residents cannot afford treatment, lack transportation, and must navigate a hospital system dominated by private practice. To address this, our team organized mobile medical clinics, traveling to some of the most rural areas near San Juan. These clinics provided free medical care and wellness checks, eliminating financial and transportation barriers for those in need.

My involvement with Northern Nursing Without Borders has extended beyond the course requirement. As an officer of the organization, I send out trip information on social media and encourage new students to get involved. In May 2025, I will return for 2.5 weeks to continue this work. Now back in Ohio, I have continued raising awareness and funds for the communities I served. In the fall, I hosted a bake sale fundraiser for Solid Rock International's Childhood Nutrition Program, which provides food to malnourished Dominican children. With 20 volunteers, we raised \$500. I plan to continue these efforts through future fundraisers and spreading awareness. This experience has shaped both my career and personal outlook, reinforcing my passion for service and global health.

***Marceana Black***  
***Bowling Green State***  
***University***



My name is Marceana Black. I am currently a Senior attending Bowling Green State University majoring in the Criminal Justice Program. Being nominated for the Charles J. Ping Student Service Award is an honor and a pleasure! During my time at Bowling Green State University, I've committed myself to both my academic excellence and impactful community service that aligns with my passion for Law Enforcement and public safety. For the past two and a half years, I had the privilege of working as a Cadet Intern for The Ohio State Highway Patrol (OSHP). A role that has shaped me profoundly and allowed me to directly contribute to community safety, growth, and education.

As a Cadet Intern I have received significant training and hands on experience related to Law Enforcement responsibilities. I have learned the fundamentals of the State Patrol, which has now created a path for me to easily transition into becoming a State Trooper. As part of my job at OSHP, I was responsible for a multitude of different things. I've completed countless road patrol shifts, assisted in crash investigations and fatal accidents. Delivering tragic news to grieving families and standing beside them in their most difficult moments has reinforced the humanity behind the badge. I've worked closely with the narcotics unit on gang sweeps, participated in OVI enforcement operations to remove impaired drivers from the roads, and taken part in high-speed pursuits. Every shift carries risk, but it also offers the opportunity to protect others and promote a safer Ohio.

Beyond fieldwork, I've played an active role in community outreach and recruitment, speaking at local events and school functions to inspire the next generation (especially young women and minorities) to see themselves in law enforcement. These moments not only reflect the service component of my academic training, but they also demonstrate my commitment to building trust between law enforcement and the communities we serve.

My drive to serve stems from my own story. Raised in poverty in inner-city Toledo by a single mother while dealing with an absent father that was substance dependent and incarcerated. Coming from a place of adversity, I faced countless barriers to success. Yet I refused to let my circumstances define me. Instead, I used them as fuel to rise above, not just for myself, but for those who share similar struggles. I want to be a living example that dreams are possible regardless of where you come from.

Balancing school, my internship, and community service has strengthened my resilience and fueled my desire to continue this work. After graduation, I plan to become a State Trooper and eventually specialize in Crime Scene Investigation and Forensics. My ultimate goal is to be a compassionate and effective leader who advocates for justice, equity, and meaningful community engagement. Through my service, I've grown personally and professionally. I've built real world skills, forged lasting connections, and most importantly, contributed to the safety and well-being of the people I've sworn to protect. This work is not just a steppingstone in my career; it's a lifelong mission for me.

By sharing my story and serving with heart, I hope to leave a lasting impact not only at BGSU but across Northwest Ohio. I want to inspire others to rise above adversity and serve their communities with strength, compassion, and purpose.

***Marissa H. Blanch***  
***Muskingum University***



For the past five years, I have been deeply involved and passionate about human trafficking and sexual violence awareness and prevention. Throughout the last two academic years, I have had the wonderful opportunity to work alongside Dr. Christi Scott Bartman, the founder of Eyes Up Appalachia, through my Walter Humanitarians Fellows Program at Muskingum University. Along with many other projects, I helped create and implement a social media takeover for our Be A Safe Person campaign, which inspired me to create the Be A Safe Sister, Brother, and Friend campaign. This initiative targets college students and specifically those in Greek life organizations. For this campaign, I created numerous flyers for the general campus community including, an overview of human trafficking, 'Sugaring/Sugar Dating' myths and truths, and the general services available to victims and survivors of sexual assault and human trafficking.

Each of the flyers included a QR Code that when scanned leads to a map of Ohio with each county's victim advocacy group and hotline. This ensures that during semester breaks and after graduation students from Ohio will know where they can go or call if they find themselves in an unsafe situation or relationship. Additionally, it provides off-campus service options for those who may not be comfortable disclosing to on-campus officials. The aim of the campaign was to provide simple and easy access to resources for a diverse population to lessen the disparity and inequality of access to support services and support systems among my peers. I am proud to announce that this project has stretched past Muskingum University and has been implemented at the University of Rio Grande and Baldwin Wallace University. I believe that it is vital for students to have a fun, yet safe experience during their time in college, and this campaign was created to allow students to learn how to do that by simply being a safe friend, knowing a safe friend, and working together to keep each other safe.

The premise of the advocacy work that I have engaged in with Eyes Up Appalachia along with other university outreach initiatives is to encourage awareness of the many facets of sexual violence advocacy. This work is particularly important on college campuses due to the fear or stigmatization of disclosing to on-campus officials by providing resources throughout Ohio. In my final year at Muskingum University, I have worked to continue implementing on-campus awareness and prevention efforts on the various elements of sexual violence by starting a student-led organization called the Student Alliance to Prevent Sexual Violence (SAPSV). My organization works in tandem with various entities such as our Title IX coordinator, and community organizations to further break the stigmatization of utilizing resources as a victim or survivor and addresses cultural norms regarding relationships that tend to perpetuate violence. The club has sparked the interest of more students across campus in continuing these vital efforts for years to come. After graduation I plan to continue working on sexual violence awareness and prevention through community outreach programs.



***Adam Xavier Cassini***  
***University of Cincinnati***



On April 12th of 2024, I had the privilege of hosting University of Cincinnati Music Club's first annual Battle of the Bands. As a student who loves local art, especially in music, I felt like this part of the campus community was so welcoming, and something that I had never experienced before. I saw so many friends mesh incredibly well into this culture because of this inclusive aspect, learning from one another and the art around them. With our Battle of the Bands event, I wanted to foster that sentiment and in doing research, came across Girls Rock Cincinnati, a nonprofit whose mission is to fuel joy through arts and music for girls and gender-expansive youth. Through their educational camps, many local kids who would otherwise not have the opportunities to engage in a music education are given the opportunity to participate in that culture in a welcoming and inclusive environment.

This project also gave me the opportunity to build the relationship with the campus community. Many students, when discussing my project with me, respond about how positive their experience was. That is something I am proud of. My executive team and I were able to tackle so many problems and use our creative strengths to our advantage in the synthesizing of the event. I am so grateful to them, and the ways that their strengths complement my weakness. They trusted me with the project, and because of that, I could see that they believed in our goals, making our team and the organization as a whole stronger in the process. Since the event, UC Music Club has grown in attendance and retention. I believe that a new meaning and a greater mission has been attached to the organization for a lot of students, and I have been striving to help it live up to those expectations as much as I possibly can.

We were able to raise \$2,450 for Girls Rock Cincinnati, covering about half of their entire operating cost for their Spring Camp. Over the months I was able to see the difference that we were able to make for them, and it has only inspired me to work even harder at the next annual event. Introducing and showcasing local student-led creative acts who represent those same ideals was an absolute pleasure, and I am very much looking forward to doing it again.

***Eve Currens***  
***Kenyon College***



Dance is a powerful tool for connecting with ourselves and others. During my four years at Kenyon College, I have dedicated myself to creating space for people of many generations and backgrounds to come together, build relationships, and experience the joy of moving. I've expanded my experience with dance and strengthened the bond between Kenyon and surrounding communities by leading dance workshops for local schools and senior centers, teaching inclusive ballet classes, and using Labanotation as a tool to preserve and share history and culture through dance.

In my first year, I danced with local elementary-schoolers before a site-specific performance exploring the lifecycle of bees as part of the Fall Harvest Festival. I took Directed Teaching, a Community-Engaged Learning course where I led one-time and weekly creative-movement classes around the county. This course inspired me to co-found the Kenyon Ballet Company, where I strive to provide an inclusive space for anyone and everyone to find the joy, positivity, and community ballet has provided me. I teach beginning, intermediate-advanced, and open-level classes to students, faculty, staff, and others, forging a lasting and interconnected community with newcomers and seasoned dancers learning from each other and moving together.

I also studied Labanotation, a system for recording and analyzing movement. I researched and presented on collaborative notation at the International Council of Kinetography Laban (ICKL) 2023 in Seoul, helped organize ICKL 2025 in Columbus, and assisted with a staging from score of *Missa Brevis* – a historic work by José Limón – on Kenyon and OSU dancers, co-leading a series of outreach events to bring this masterpiece to the surrounding community, visiting schools (elementary-college), senior centers, libraries, and an art gallery, inviting participants to the final free performance. These have expanded connections within the local community and international dance and notation communities.

These experiences have culminated in my senior dance thesis. Growing up in the mountains of Western North Carolina, I encountered the community-building power of dance both in my studio and through seeing traditional Appalachian dance at local music and dance events. Reconnecting with those roots, I've notated a collection of Appalachian square dance figures to preserve them for the future. To embody the connection at the heart of these dances, I led a series of square dance workshops. People of all ages and backgrounds have resonated with these dances together, deepening bonds between the Kenyon and Knox County communities.

Additionally, my work in physics shares the same values of inclusivity and community-building that I foster through dance. From creating a scale-model of the solar-system as a public art installation on campus, working with local elementary-schoolers to learn about physics, developing and leading activities for a high-school science club, and establishing a group to promote gender equity in physics, I have striven to build communities where everyone feels welcome and empowered to contribute to science. I am grateful for the lasting communities I've helped create and grow in dance, physics, and beyond, and I hope to continue building and serving such communities in the future.



***Viola Day***  
***Denison University***



During my time at Denison I've had the opportunity to give back to my community in ways I didn't think possible. I serve as the Economic Equity and Affordable Housing Coordinator on the executive team of Denison's Community Service Association (DCSA). Part of the work I've been able to do in that role includes arranging regular opportunities for students to volunteer for our community partners which deal with housing issues, including periodic trips to Star House, a local drop-in center for homeless youth, and to Newark Homeless Outreach. In this role I've also led a week-long service trip in Florida for hurricane disaster relief.

I've also worked to establish a new sub-group of DCSA on campus called Feeding Hope, which is dedicated to preparing and serving meals to unhoused individuals. As the President and founder of Feeding Hope I've had the pleasure of collaborating with local non-profits to arrange our meal services. Additionally, I've been able to forge a long-term relationship between Denison and Sending Hope, a new upcoming local non-profit dedicated to empowering children to help their community by providing them opportunities to do so. This partnership started thanks to a community service event which I planned in conjunction with their executive director after we met while volunteering together. The event brought Denison students, Sending Hope's members, and the greater Granville community together. In their directors own words, "The event was a tremendous success, and it remains a key moment in our organization's history, providing a lasting foundation for our future work and establishing a strong ongoing relationship with Denison University."

This past summer I was able to leverage my experience in public service to secure an internship at United Way of Licking County. In addition to working on many other projects, I was able to assist in establishing an identity recovery program to fill a need in the community. I conducted much of the background research on how to obtain vital documents, met with the local nonprofit that was providing these services, and collaborated with the local health department and the local BMV to set up birth certificate services and driver license services. I also drafted the program's protocol, wrote the client intake form and designed the voucher that is being used. At the end of my internship, United Way offered me a part-time staff position which I happily accepted.

I've also had the privilege to serve as Denison's Pre-medical Association's volunteer coordinator this school year. In this role, I've partnered with Hospice of Central Ohio to host two new volunteer orientations on campus, planned several service events for members, and am working to establish a working relationship between the Association and several free clinics.

I can only hope that all the work I've done for my community has had a fraction of the impact that this service has had on me. I look forward to continuing to find new ways to help those around me and am grateful for all the opportunities I've received to serve.

***Tanya Pai Dhungat***  
***Youngstown State University***  
***Ping Legacy Award Recipient***



Community engagement has been integral to my journey at Youngstown State University, shaping my aspirations to become a physician serving Northeast Ohio. My passion for healthcare advocacy began in high school when I started volunteering with the nonprofit Sight for All United. Witnessing the impact of accessible healthcare inspired me to carry this commitment into college, where I revived Students for Sight, an organization dedicated to expanding healthcare accessibility on campus and in the broader community.

As a freshman, I reestablished Students for Sight through the Sokolov Honors College, creating a space to support underinsured individuals in receiving eye care. Through fundraising and advocacy, we campaigned for the healthcare needs of the Youngstown community, educated students on vision impairments, and grew the organization to over 80 dedicated members.

The Clear Eyes on Campus initiative developed from my internship as a Zoldan Fellow, where I conceptualized a large-scale event offering free eye exams and glasses to students. Determined to make a lasting impact, I collaborated with campus organizations, healthcare professionals, and local donors to organize a large-scale event providing free eye exams and prescription glasses to students in need. Originally planned for fall 2024, the overwhelming demand led us to schedule a second event for spring 2025, with plans for future annual iterations. The event exceeded expectations: 49 students received comprehensive eye exams, 35 received prescription glasses, and six were diagnosed with conditions requiring further medical attention. Recognizing the ongoing need, we immediately began planning a second event for March 2025, aiming to establish it as a biannual initiative.

Following the event's success, I conducted research with Dr. Kayla Tucker, OD, analyzing demographic and financial data. Our findings revealed that many students faced financial barriers to eye care, leading to uncorrected vision problems. This underscored the need for affordable, accessible eye care and guided improvements for future events. Growing support from YSU donors has further strengthened the foundation for ongoing Clear Eyes on Campus events, ensuring sustained access to essential vision care for students.

To enhance our impact, I established a Vision Screener Training Program within Students for Sight. This program equips students with hands-on experience using a spot screener, enabling them to conduct vision screenings at campus and community events. These trained students will assist in conducting screenings at future events, including the Clear Eyes on Campus initiative and the Honors Symposium. This program not only provides invaluable experience for aspiring healthcare professionals but also ensures the sustainability of vision screenings on campus. Additionally, it fosters a more comfortable environment for students undergoing eye exams for the first time.

This experience has profoundly influenced my personal and professional growth. Witnessing how a simple eye exam can transform a student's ability to learn reinforced my passion for medicine and healthcare advocacy. Leading these initiatives has strengthened my skills in event planning, fundraising, and collaborating with healthcare providers. Most importantly, it reaffirmed my commitment to serving underserved populations, a mission I intend to carry forward in my medical career.

***Hannah Bryn Dodson***  
***Baldwin Wallace University***



When I first came to Baldwin Wallace, I made it a priority to be as involved in my community as possible. On the first day of my freshman year, I reached out to the Brain Center for Community Engagement and began the process of applying to be a student volunteer. I was appointed as the Student Director of Jackets Engaged where I spent two years dedicated to leading student-focused non-partisan civic change efforts that included voter registration drives, Community Conversations, Dinner and A Fight, and Deep Dive coalitions. The primary focus of my work was not just to get students involved, but to help them find their own individual passions that we could connect back to civic participation. Community Conversations allowed students to openly converse around a divisive issue from every single side to better understand major issues within our community while getting practice talking with people who you don't agree with. Dinner and A Fight is our once-a-semester event that teaches students and BW community members the art of disagreement over dinner and a discussion where six volunteers present their opinions on an issue and make a cogent argument about their own beliefs in relation towards a specific, hot-buzz topic. For students who were energized by the discussion and disagreement from Dinner and a Fight, I also put on Deep Dive Coalitions that were designed to look into a topic that could be put on as a Dinner and a Fight, and instead spread into a six-week long deep dive to help students have a stronger ability to converse, more importantly, become comfortable with being uncomfortable.

During my time as the Student Director of Jackets Engaged, I also served as the BW representative for the Campus Vote Project Democracy Fellowship, partnering with hundreds of students across the United States to gain access and support for non-partisan civic participation. I also was a member of the Brain Center's Fellowship, Brain Fellows, where I embarked on a project to encourage the BW administration to move classes asynchronously during presidential elections.

I then transitioned to being the Student Director of the Student Resource Center (SRC) for my campus. The SRC was in charge of providing any non-academic related support to any member of the BW community through food accessibility, emergency grant funds, and access to the campus' Free Store. I set up Pop-Up Pantries twice a month throughout campus that allow students to get access to any food they might need. I also put together a cookbook for students that includes microwave-only meal prep and distributed food and hygiene survival-kits for students remaining on campus during school breaks. I also curated the Free Store, which allows students to shop around for any dorm/college-related item they might need and take it completely free of charge. Through these initiatives, I have been able to reach students right where they are and give them the tools they need to successfully navigate their time at BW no matter what their circumstances are.

***Mollie Elizabeth Duffy***  
***Miami University***



While I was never in the business school, attending Miami University gave me the opportunity to be an entrepreneur in a different sense as a champion for civic engagement. Starting as a Civic Engagement Fellow my freshman year, I learned how to get students curious and excited about voting. My first major pitch in this role was convincing my office to buy a Bill costume from Schoolhouse Rock to wear to all of our events. The second big pitch was the Democracy Bus.

Seeing transportation as a barrier for voting for many college students, I went to the M.I.A.M.I WOMEN Giving Circle to compete for grant money in a shark-tank style competition and received \$7,050 to pursue my vision to provide early voting transportation for all Miami students. I piloted the project during Fall 2023, being followed by a German documentary crew filming my work for an international audience. While successfully executing the project, an administrative issue voided all of the grant funding. Instead of abandoning the project, I modified it. Securing support from a voting rights non-profit and a local transportation company, we were able to provide shuttles to four local polling places on election day in March 2024. Adjusting the idea to accommodate for a budget  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the initial amount was challenging, but taught me the importance of innovation in public service. Now, the project will sustain itself every election after being adopted by the Wilks Institute for Leadership and Service.

The trailblazing in my story doesn't stop here. My sophomore year, I was committed to tackling the issue of registering unhoused voters in Oxford when I unintentionally landed myself recognition as the first student member of the Oxford League of Women Voters. From hosting multi-generational democracy events with 100+ attendees to registering over 500 voters in my lifetime, I'm so lucky to have laid the foundation for a relationship between community members and students.

This year, I stepped into the role of Secretary for Governmental Relations in our Associated Student Government. For the 2024 Presidential Election, I partnered with Interfaith America, All Voting is Local, and the League of Women Voters to bring my engagement ideas to life. From managing \$2,500 in grant funding to support 10 paid volunteers in 150 hours of voter registration and education, piloting our first ever team of election protection volunteers, and pitching and producing a 2-month long University communications campaign, I made it my mission to make voting accessible for all Miami students. Now, I'm leading my committee in conducting the first-ever university-wide data collection on student voting habits, aiming to provide our Board of Trustees and future Center for Civics, Culture, and Society with accurate insights.

As an out of state student, I was scared of never being able to make a home for myself in Ohio. However, my advocacy in Oxford has not only unlocked a lifelong passion for public service but also deepened my joy in immersing myself in unfamiliar spaces.

***Madi Eschenbach***  
***University of Akron***



While at the University of Akron, I became involved in community service. I participated in many drop-in and one-day service events, planned community service events, and became a regular volunteer at a few places.

During the Spring Semester of my first year, I was enrolled in a leadership course that required us to volunteer at a local non-profit twice during the semester. My group chose to work with the Ronald McDonald House Akron Chapter. Our class required us to visit our organizations three times: once for a tour and twice to volunteer. The first time I volunteered with my group at RMHC, we served dinner to the families staying at the house. I was grateful to see how serving a meal, asking about their day, or listening to the people who came to dinner tremendously impacted these families. I now volunteer bimonthly at the Ronald McDonald House.

My commitment to service does not stop when school ends. When I am at home on breaks, I do even more volunteer work than at school. During my breaks, I volunteer at Children's Hospital Pittsburgh, supporting the Child Life team and working directly with patients admitted to the inpatient units. In the summer of 2024, I volunteered over 200 hours in the NICU, PICU, transplant, and rehab units. During winter break for the 2024-2025 school year, I volunteered in the Rehab unit again for 10 hours per week. My role as a volunteer is to support patients and families by playing with kids, providing caregiver breaks, assisting during therapy sessions in Rehab, and cleaning toys.

While it may seem like a fun and easy volunteer position, it is much more than playing all day and cleaning toys. Many of the kids and families I work with are going through some of the worst moments in their lives. As someone who has been where they are, I know how difficult being in the hospital can be. While I cannot make every experience in the hospital sunshine and rainbows, my goal is to make their day a little brighter.

Volunteering at Children's is rewarding and has completely changed my life. Because of my experience, I decided to become a Child Life Specialist to continue serving these children and families for the rest of my life. Every patient I have worked with has taught me something new, and I have a jar of beads on my desk that represents every child I have worked with. My jar now has 109 beads. Every day I see my beads, I am reminded why I do what I do- to give back, help others, and change people's lives.

Service has not only taught me about the importance of community and giving back but has also changed my view of my role in the world. It improves the lives of those I serve.



***Lila Ferry***  
***Kent State University***



I began volunteering with Flashes Fighting Hunger in the second semester of my undergraduate program in Nutrition and Dietetics. I thought I would just volunteer occasionally to get a few hours, but after my first food pantry shift, I realized this is the kind of work I want to continue doing throughout the rest of my life. I quickly fell in love with serving my community and found the joy it brought the people I was serving was deeply fulfilling. I am currently studying to be a dietitian, and I intend to continue working in food security with that career, possibly at a larger food bank such as Akron Canton Regional Food Bank or Greater Cleveland Food Bank, to provide nutritious and enjoyable food and nutrition education to my community.

After a semester of consistent volunteering, I was asked to be a volunteer leader. In this position, I was responsible for helping the managers set up and clean up shifts, as well as guiding new volunteers through tasks. I began helping at cooking shifts, where we prepared an average of 60 hot meals for residents of Kentway Homes every other week, as well as continuing with the food pantry, where we serve between 150-200 families per week. During these shifts, many of the people we served expressed gratitude for the work we were doing, which only made me want to continue.

I soon found out that the previous Cooking Manager was graduating and her position would be open. In the summer of 2023, I was hired as the Cooking Manager and took on several responsibilities: kitchen and food safety, volunteer recruitment, retention, and supervision, data collection, inventory, menu planning, supervising food pantry shifts, food recovery shifts, and cooking shifts, and facilitating community outreach efforts at the Haymaker Farmers' Market. With the Haymaker Farmers' Market, I created recipe cards and free samples to give out, provided nutrition education through pamphlets and flyers, and provided information about how to access resources through Flashes Fighting Hunger and how to volunteer with our organization. I have built many new relationships in my time working and volunteering with Flashes Fighting Hunger that have made me a better person through gaining empathy for those facing food insecurity and in my ability to serve my community. I know many of our patrons personally and I hope they see me as a reliable and trustworthy community member to lean on, perhaps for help in accessing other community resources, or simply listening to their challenges and helping them find solutions.

My time working with Flashes Fighting Hunger has strengthened my love for working in my community, has made me a stronger leader and person, and has positively impacted the people I served. I plan to continue working in my community throughout my life; whether through a career or not, volunteering will always be part of my life.



***Jess Mitchell***  
***Ohio University***

***Ping Legacy Award Recipient***



Four years ago, I began volunteering at the Athens County Dog Shelter, dedicating over 400 volunteer hours. I then became a volunteer trainer, responsible for recruitment and training. My love for the shelter world quickly turned into a passion, driving me to create lasting and sustainable change. After serving as a summer shelter management intern and learning up-to-date practices, I pioneered the first mental enrichment program using formerly unusable donations to increase shelter residents' quality of life. This program significantly reduced shelter dog fear, anxiety, and stress, and was permanently adopted by the shelter due to its low-cost, waste reduction, and sustainability.

As President of Bobcats of the Shelter Dogs, the student organization partner to the Athens County Dog Shelter, I led campus's most active community service organization. Under my leadership, membership grew by 172% -- significantly increasing daily shelter volunteer capacity. I intentionally use my platform to inspire students to value community service and asset-based engagement, ensuring that all members--from those who volunteer multiple times a week to those who volunteer once a month--ethically engage with their communities and beyond. Through Bobcats of the Shelter Dogs' social media platforms, I facilitated educational outreach, including an influential pitbull destigmatization campaign that directly increased adoptions.

Beyond the shelter, I work with the Athens County Humane Society as a veterinary assistant and Director of Volunteer Training at the Spay Neuter Clinic, helping provide low-cost, high-quality care. As Director of Volunteer Training, I recruit and educate volunteers about the importance of spay neuter programs in curbing overpopulation. As a member of the ACHS Board of Directors' Spay Neuter Committee, I work on the business side to reduce the cost of community veterinary care.

My experiences with the shelter community have reshaped my outlook on life and priorities. Outside of my shelter work, I am the President of four student organizations, hold seven campus jobs, two off-campus jobs, and three ambassador positions. My life is a series of to-do lists, constantly fulfilling others' needs. However, none of that matters when I volunteer. The dogs greet me with unconditional love—they don't care about my titles or accomplishments. They simply appreciate my presence.

Fueled by this, I use my voice to give them a voice. I advocate for them to ensure they receive care. I leverage my skills to elevate animal welfare as an equally important cause, often overshadowed due to its perceived lack of a human benefit. I show people how animal welfare directly affects us, emphasizing the irreplaceable human-animal bond. No animal should be denied quality of life due to its past abuse or neglect.

My passion for this work will drive me forward in veterinary school. This fall, I will attend the Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine, where I plan to earn my Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine and become a shelter veterinarian. There, I can build on my passion and expand my impact, promote spay neuter initiatives, and improve the quality of shelter medicine on a larger scale.

***Elizabeth Patrick***  
***Defiance College***



Throughout my time here at Defiance College, I have participated in several community service opportunities that have shaped me into who I am today. I learned that no matter what is going on in your life, someone always has it worse than you. To succeed, you must give back to the community and help the people who most need it. Some community service events I have participated in include walking in the Defiance County Halloween parade, volunteering at the Susan G. Komen Race For The Cure, and the Henry County Special Olympics.

First, throughout my career, I have volunteered at several athletic events. One athletic event I participated in was running the scoreboard at the volleyball games. Along with running the scoreboard, I have volunteered to help in the concession stand at the college's basketball, football, and volleyball games. On a deeper level, I also have had the opportunity to run the concession stand at the Toledo Walleye hockey games and Toledo Mud Hens baseball games. Volunteering at these events made me realize that it is essential to serve the community by attending athletic events to support the athletes and all the hard work they put in to better themselves and their team and community.

Along with volunteering at different athletic events, I also have had the chance to further my experience related to my major in Early Childhood Education. I have had the opportunity to spend time in a 2nd-grade classroom at Bryan, Ohio, and a 5th-grade classroom at Fairview. Working with students made me realize that being a teacher was how I wanted to spend the rest of my life. Working with students, seeing the light bulb go off, and having a student finally understand a skill they had struggled with meant the world to me. Volunteering in a classroom setting allowed my mentor teacher to work with students and complete tasks she had wanted to finish. Overall, having the experience of volunteering in a classroom made me realize that education is the field for me and how I want to spend the rest of my life.

The various community service opportunities I have experienced have personally impacted the community and me. Helping people in need and seeing how much they appreciate it is so rewarding. Volunteering at the Susan G. Komen Race for The Cure and helping people who have or had breast cancer was an experience that I will remember for the rest of my life. Overall, I would not be the person I am today without the community service opportunities I have participated in throughout my career at Defiance College.



# COMMUNITY CAMPUS COALITION

Community Campus Coalition, or Triple C, was formed in 1992 to support the civic purposes of higher education.

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