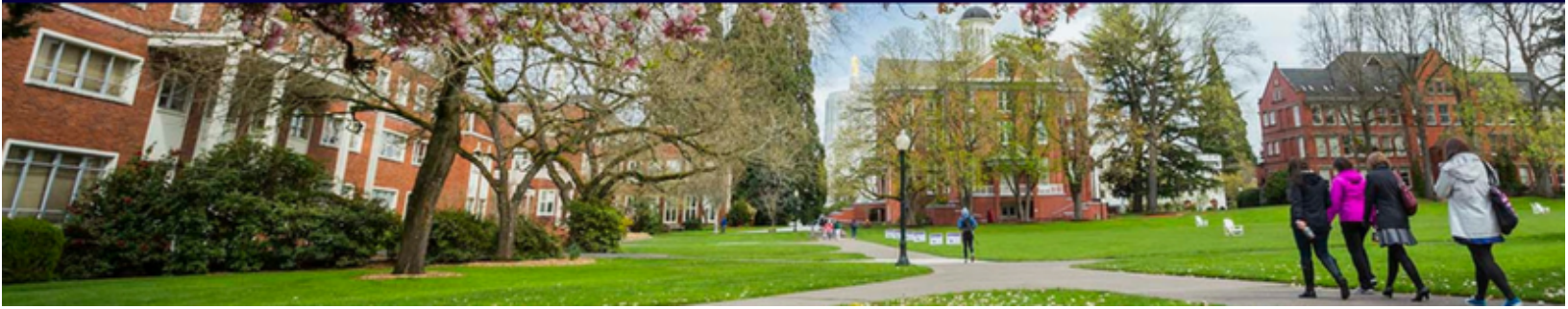


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Community Service Idea Bank

Serving our communities is an effort taught by the Lord Christ in whom we ought to emulate in every action done by our chapters. Doing so can oftentimes be difficult and was even emphasized by Him who we truly serve. Below is a list of community service ideas that can be done in communities around campus to make known our faith.

Serving Our Elders

1. Friend a Senior

Work with a local senior center/local Oriental Orthodox Church in assisting the elderly in living facilities/at home in daily living activities and giving them company. Entertaining them with board games, approved Christian songs, daily Biblical readings, saints stories, delivering groceries, medications, chores, friendly conversation etc. are all great ways to help those with difficulties living by themselves. Checking up on them via phone call or in-person visit during the holidays or periodically allows them to still feel cared about.

2. Nursing home / Hospice

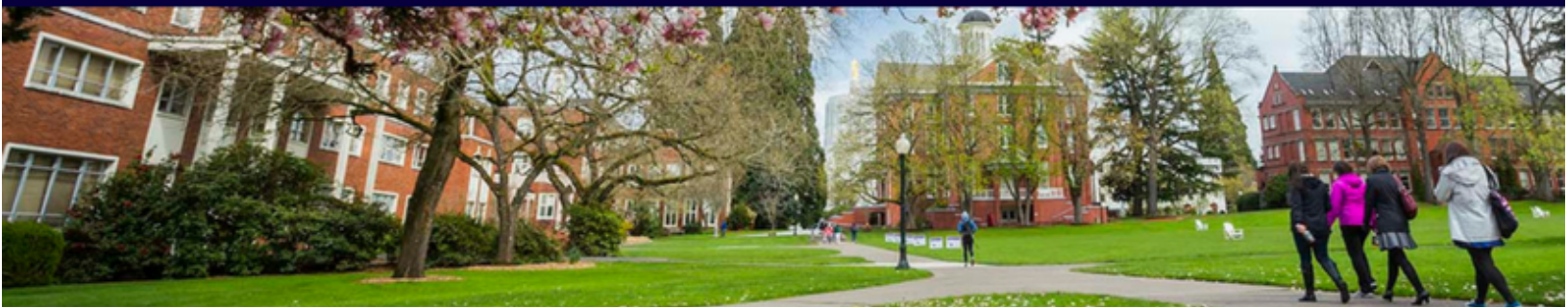
Similar to “Friend a Senior”, work with a nursing home in your local area to assist in any way possible. Assisting in daily needs, entertainment, board games, approved Christian songs, daily Biblical readings, saints stories, and friendly conversation are all great ways to work with these facilities.

3. Senior Citizen Field Trip

With the arrangement and approval of your clergy advisor, try to take someone elderly to a place of their choosing such as a mall or a park. The clergy advisor is usually aware of individuals in church who no one asks about. Maybe open the Bible, sing a song, go shopping with them, or just be an enlightening presence in their lives.

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Medical Care

1. Medical Housekeeping

While this may require approval, working with medical facilities to deliver materials that they may need and/or working in them to restock supplies they may need is a small yet great way to serve those who are ill.

2. Host a Blood Drive

Coordinate with organizations such as OneBlood to host blood drives, preferably at your local Oriental Orthodox Church. If not possible, host the blood drive in a popular area in your community and have a table set up outside the bus to make donors aware of the purpose of our organization and the premise of our faith.

Reaching Students

1. Athletic Event Volunteering

Although this may require much planning, this is an excellent way to publicize the existence of OCCM on campus and the Oriental Orthodox Church in general. You can host your own athletic event or collaborate with other organizations to volunteer at an already established athletic event such as running marathons for a Christian cause. Handing out water, shirts, etc are usually what is requested at events such as this.

2. Tutoring Local Children/University Students

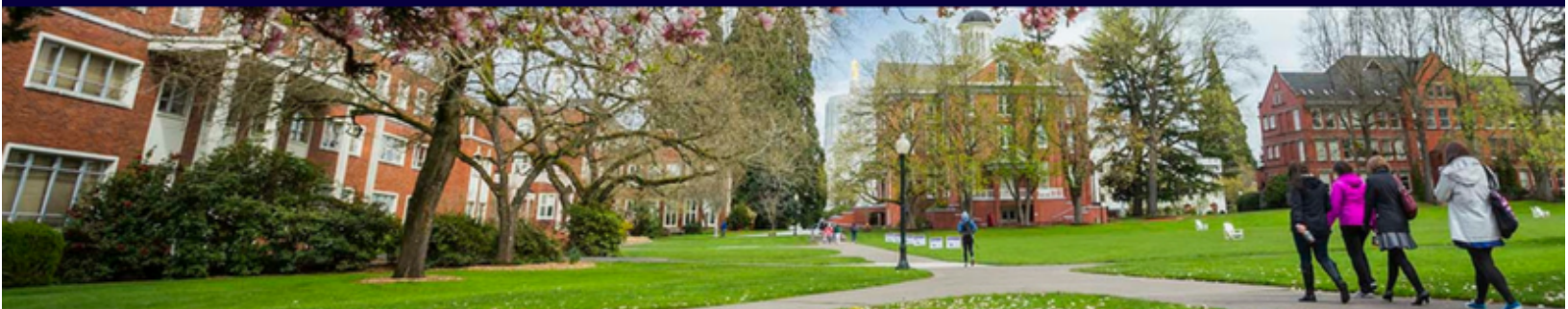
Collaborate with local schools and even your campus to capitalize on your educational talents. It does not have to be complicated subjects, yet work according to your capabilities in helping those who may not be able to afford hiring a tutor. Establish a system in working with students and create a personal relationship with them to expose them to the faith.

3. Bake Sale

Adhering to both Diocese and OCCM rules and regulations, hand out complimentary baked

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goods, meals (Chick-fil-A sandwiches), and other types of food, drink (hot drinks during holidays) with a donation box available to the consumer's discretion. Have pamphlets and goodies available, invite them to your next meeting to make them aware of our organization.

4. Book Drive / TB Allocation

As University students, textbooks are often used semesterly. Consider organizing a system where textbooks can be donated and reallocated across your university.

Children in Need

1. Orphanage, Special Needs, Foster Care Facilities Volunteering

Consider engaging the kids in activities, board games, songs, or stories. In foster care facilities and orphanages, many of them are in need of school supplies, pull-ups, tutoring/mentoring, coloring activities, being read to, and other forms of playing with the young children. Additionally, facilities have mentioned that a parents night out has allowed for an opportunity to bring these kids to church. This provides an excellent opportunity to expose children to the Oriental Orthodox faith with Bible lessons and entertainment. Be sure to work with your local facilities for what they may allow.

2. Activities for Children in Hospitals

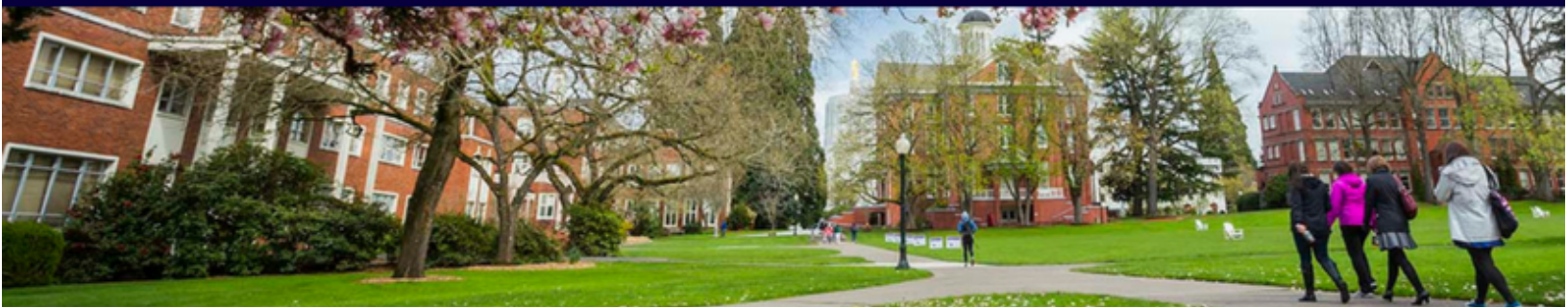
While this may require approval, create smaller groups in your chapter to visit children in hospitals and provide activities for them to make kids be kids once again. Activities such as songs, board games, reading to them, taking them for a walk, carrying them (if allowed), praying with them, wearing a costume (superheroes, Santa, or whatever requested), and other forms of entertainment are beautiful ways to put a smile on their faces.

3. Buddy Program with Special Needs

Various organizations specialize in working with individuals with Down Syndrome, Autism, etc. and are tasked with developing cooking skills, exercising, tutoring, speech therapy, literacy,

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certifications, etc. with individuals of all ages. More importantly, personal relationships have greater value than achieving a goal. These types of individuals are very much often neglected so let us serve our brothers and sisters in any way we can in allowing them to live their lives with greater ease.

Feeding the Hungry

1. Assist Food Bank/Food Truck Company

Work with a local food bank/nonprofit organization to provide fresh meals to those in need of a meal in your local community. This will be incredibly rewarding during the holiday season such as Thanksgiving or Christmas time.

2. Homeless Outreach

Working with your chapter and assistance from your local Oriental Orthodox Church, help the homeless by providing meals, clothes, hygiene materials, verses, crosses, blankets, whatever you can come up with, etc. to better alleviate some of the needs of the homeless in your community. Utilize this as an opportunity to possibly pray, read the Bible with them, and expose them to the faith. Be creative!

3. Collect Shelter Needs

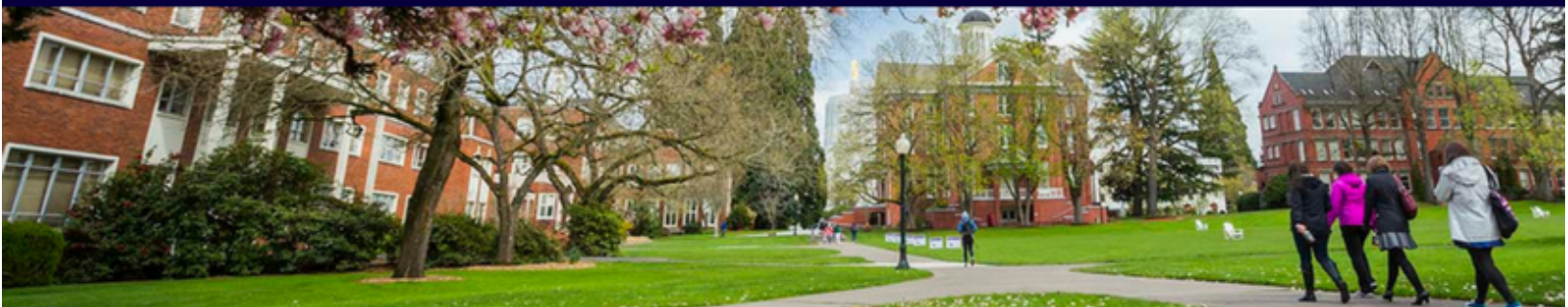
Oftentimes, shelters are in need of garments, toiletries, beddings, pillows, seasonal wear, and hygienic items. Call your local homeless shelter and cater to their specific needs. This can be in the form of collecting at once (in the form of a drive) and delivering or going together as a group with each member's individual donations.

4. Making Blankets

There are many organizations that choose to focus solely on blanket and clothing collection drives for those in need. Small blankets for babies or even larger ones can be handmade in many different ways and can offer a creative outlet for your club to serve.

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Being a Light in the Community

1. Community Clean-Up

Get together with the members of your chapter and clean various areas of your community. While uncomfortable, this is a marvelous opportunity to show your community that organizations such as OCCM serve not only our campus but our communities. In doing so, seeing larger groups of people volunteering, people will inquire about our organization and our faith.

2. Letters to Seniors / Military Veterans

Write mass letters to someone elderly or veterans and develop a personal relationship with them. Go beyond the generic, "I care about you" card. Make it in a manner in which you can make their day and possibly go out of your way to serve them and/or their families!

3. Work with Nonprofits on Renovations

The presence of various organizations that renovate underserved, run-down schools/buildings are plentiful and they are in much need of volunteers. This is a beautiful way to make our organization's presence known throughout the community, especially with big projects such as these!

4. Reading Sessions at Local Library/Shelter

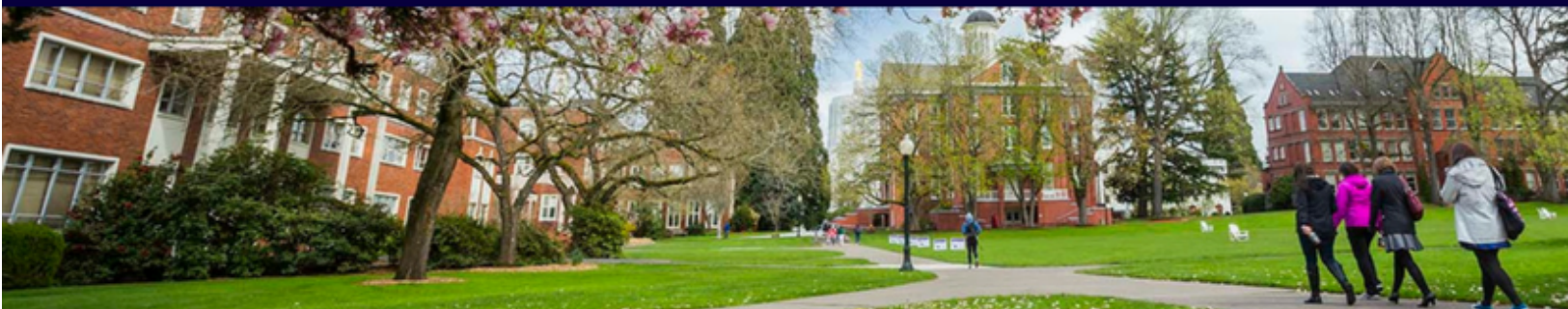
Local libraries/shelters are always in need of people to read to the young children. Grab an appropriate book or something of spiritual benefit even that may be of interest to the young children (Bible stories). What is more important is that you develop personal relationships with the individuals you read to in order for them to trust you as a friend.

4. Cleaning a Church

The Lord asks us that our charitable deeds be done in secret so that our Father in Heaven may reward us openly. Service is not only in Sunday School but in tidying the house of the Lord. We

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wish for our own homes to be as neat as possible, so how much more should our Heavenly Father's house be spotless! Grab a few members and possibly vacuum the church, clean the bathrooms, and organize the commonly used areas.

5. Teach Class/Book Club at Community Center

Each member has a God-given talent, use it! Maybe it is the ability to play an instrument, solve certain problems, cook, sing, etc. Whatever it may be, community centers are a great way to teach those who may struggle in various areas of their lives. Additionally, starting a book club with the approved books of OCCM can be an effective way to introduce non-Christians to the Orthodox faith.

Holiday Themed

1. Holiday Drives

Collecting food, clothing, toys, stuffed animals, books, bedding and linens, candles, working appliances, furniture, household items, and even money to donate to charitable organizations are fine examples to make holidays more comfortable for the less fortunate. Be creative in what you can collect and expand beyond just food and toys!

2. Santa to Seniors/Christmas for Children

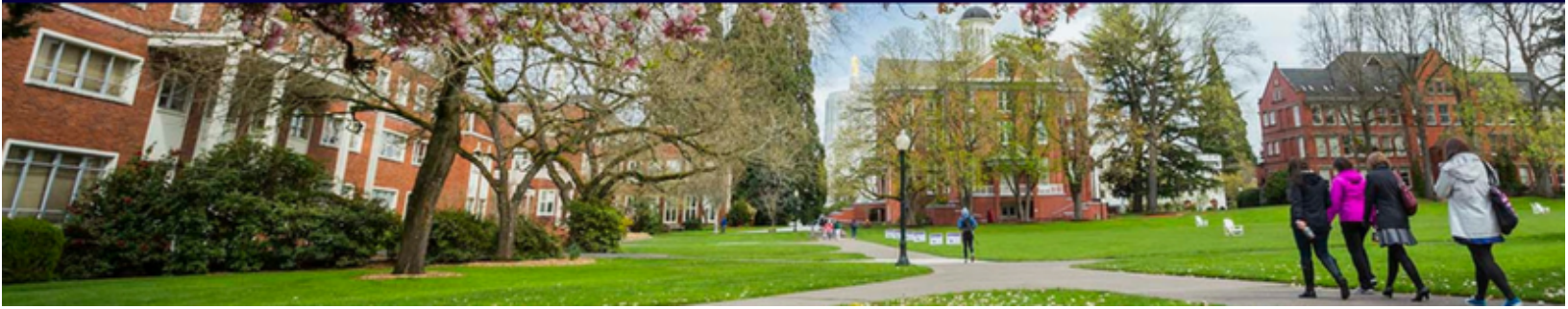
There are various ways including working with a local homeless shelter, foster care home, senior living facility, or even international organizations that specialize in evaluating what seniors/children may want for Christmas. Whether it is directly shopping with them or having it collected and delivered, holiday shopping for the less fortunate makes seasons such as this a bit more cheerful!

3. Holiday Activities

What better way to get together than during the holidays. Utilize such a gathering for the advancement of the Orthodox faith. While donation drives and letters may be helpful, things such as Christmas caroling, Easter Egg Hunts, bringing Santa to sick children, etc. are ways that allow

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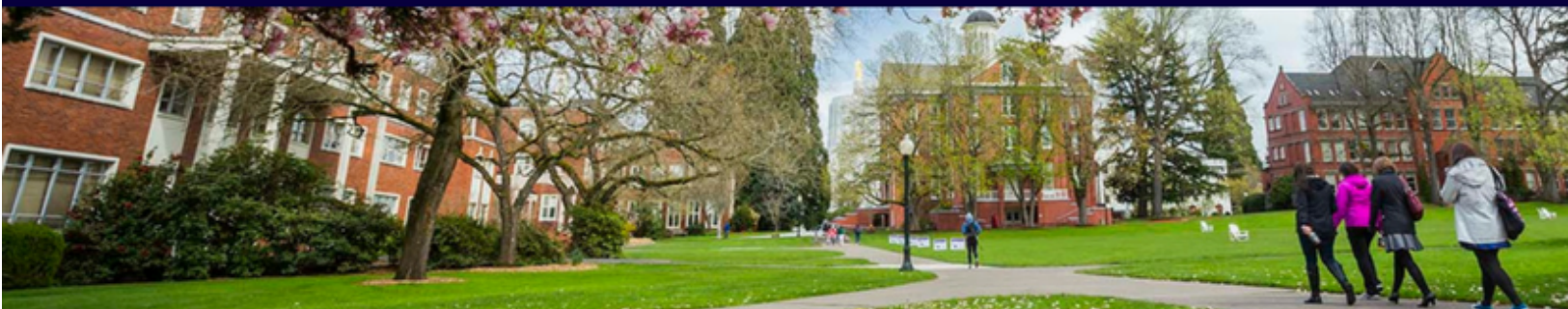


people to wonder who OCCM is as an organization. Think beyond these ideas and utilize the ingenuity of the holiday season to attract people to the Faith.

Logging of Events Completion: Please log events through the **OCCM App**, and send pictures to your region's Community Service RSL for proof of completion and extra points.

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Community Service – OCCM-Wide Event Idea Bank ('Second Chance' Initiative)

If you have other ideas outside of this list, please be sure to run them by your Regional Student Leader of the Community Service Committee.

Fall (Monetary Donations Drive):

- Instagram Fundraiser
- Bake Sale
- “Garage Sale” and other various donation events on campus
 - Hot chocolate with a donation box
- Loose Change Jar Collection at Meetings
- World’s Finest Chocolate Fundraiser
- Venmo @SUS-OCCM and indicate it is for the ‘Second Chance’ program

Spring (Clothings/Materials Drive):

- Clothing for children 10-15 years old
 - Short and long sleeve t-shirts
 - Shorts, pants, jeans
 - Socks and shoes
- Hygiene supplies
 - Toothbrushes and toothpaste
- Backpacks
- School supplies
 - Notebooks
 - Paper
 - Folders
 - Pens, pencils, erasers, highlighters, coloring utensils
- Medical supplies
 - Over-the-counter medication
 - Equipment (BP/HR machines, thermometers, braces, etc.)

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Community Service Resources by Area

“And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ.” (Colossians 3:23-24)

Florida

Orlando

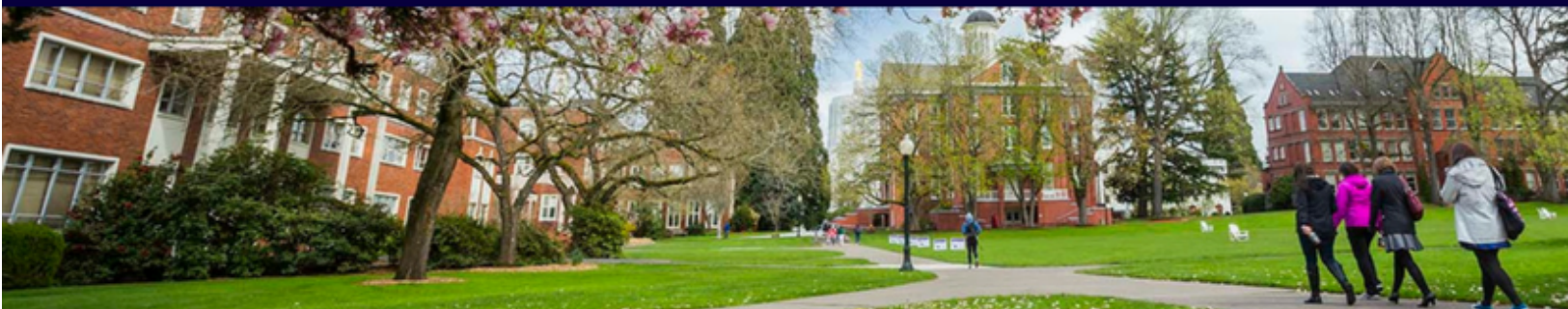
- Clean the World: <https://cleantheworldfoundation.org/volunteer/>
- Coalition for the Homeless of Central Florida:
https://volunteer.samaritan.com/custom/518/volunteer_home
- Community Food & Outreach Center: <https://rightservicefl.org/node/16130>
- Give Kids the World: <https://www.gktw.org/volunteer/>
- Habitat for Humanity of Greater Orlando and Osceola County:
<https://habitorlandoosceola.org/> Ronald McDonald House:
https://www.rmhccf.org/getinvolved/volunteer?gclid=Cj0KCCQjw6s2lBhCnARIsAP8RfAhbFhO6sIPqRqOS7vvkdbSs9PPIToxaSOjKs9mPQKtej94dqifzq2YaAjeAEALw_wcB
- Second Harvest Food Bank of Central Florida:
https://www.feedhopenow.org/site/SPageServer/?pagename=ways_involved_volunteer

Tampa

- American Red Cross:
<https://www.redcross.org/local/florida/central-florida/volunteer.html>
- Feeding Tampa Bay: <https://feedingtampabay.org/volunteer>
- Francis House: <https://stfrancishouse.org/get-involved/volunteer/>
- Habitat for Humanity of Hillsborough County:
<https://www.habitathillsborough.org/volunteer/>
- Meals on Wheels of Tampa: <https://mowtampa.org/volunteer/>

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- Ronald McDonald House: <https://rmhctampabay.org/get-involved/>

Tallahassee

- America's Second Harvest of the Big Bend: <https://fightinghunger.org/volunteer/>
- Big Bend Habitat for Humanity: <http://bigbendhabitat.org/volunteer/>
- Big Bend Homeless Coalition: <https://familypromisebigbend.org/volunteers-partners/>
- The Kearney Center: <https://kearneycenter.org/get-involved/>
- Lafayette Park Arts & Crafts
- Literacy Volunteers of Leon County Inc: <https://literacyvolunteersleon.org/for-tutors/>=[
- Ronald McDonald House: <https://rmhctallahassee.blog/>

Gainesville

- Girls Place, Inc: <http://girlsplace.net/volunteers/>
- Grace Marketplace: <https://www.gracemarketplace.org/volunteeratgrace>
- Keep Alachua County Beautiful: <https://www.kacb.org/>
- Project Downtown: <https://www.pdgainesville.com/get-involved>
- Rebuilding Together North Central Florida: <https://rebuildingtogetherncf.org/>
- Ronald McDonald House: <https://www.rmhcncf.org/volunteer/>
- St. Francis House: <https://sfhgnv.volunteermatrix.com/>

Georgia

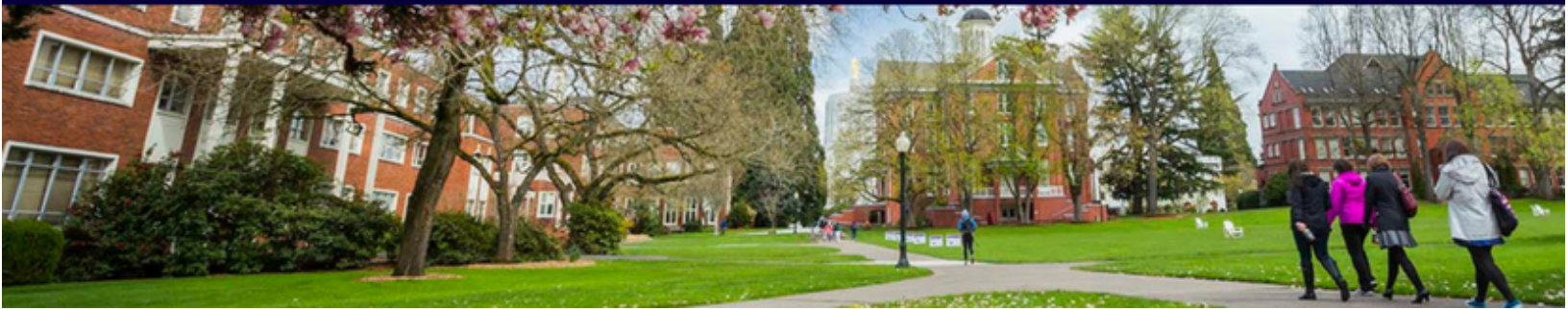
Athens

If you want to get connected to volunteer opportunities through your college, please visit <https://welcome.uga.edu/community-service.html>!

- American Red Cross of Northeast Georgia: <https://www.redcross.org/local/georgia/about-us/locations/northeast-georgia.html>

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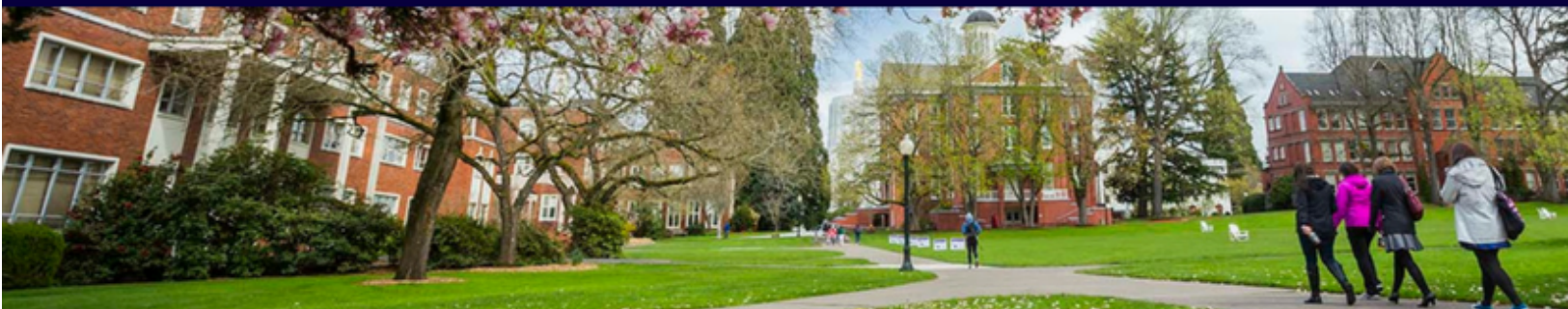
- Athens Area Homeless Shelter: <https://www.helpathenshomeless.org/volunteer>
- Gardening w/ Athens Community Council on Aging: <https://www.accaging.org/volunteer/>
- Backpack Buddies: <https://backpackbuddiesga.org/volunteer>
- Bigger Vision of Athens: <http://biggervisionofathens.org/volunteer> (Groups of up to 6)
- Habitat for Humanity: <https://www.athenshabitat.com/>
- Keep Athens Clark County Beautiful:
<https://www.accgov.com/179/Keep-Athens-Clarke-County-Beautiful-KACC>
- Special Olympics Georgia: <http://www.specialolympicsga.org/volunteer/volunteeropportunities/>
(This may be far from your campus.)

Atlanta

- American Red Cross (Greater Atlanta):
<https://www.redcross.org/local/georgia/about-us/locations/greater-atlanta.html>
- Habitat for Humanity: <https://atlantahabitat.org/volunteer/>
- Hands On Atlanta: <https://www.handsonatlanta.org>
- Atlanta Mission: <https://atlantamission.org/get-involved/volunteer/>
- Atlanta Community Food Bank: <https://www.acfb.org/volunteer/>
- United Way of Greater Atlanta: <https://service.unitedwayatlanta.org>
- Salvation Army of Atlanta: <http://salvationarmyusa.org/usn/volunteer>
- Open Hand Atlanta: <https://openhandatlanta.org/volunteer/>
- Meals on Wheels Atlanta: <https://www.mowatl.org/volunteer>
- Helping Mamas: <https://helpingmamas.org/volunteer/>
- Free Bikes 4 Kidz: <https://fb4katl.org/volunteer/>
- Books For Africa: <https://www.booksforafrica.org/getting-involved/volunteer.html>
- Ronald McDonald House: <https://armhc.org/volunteer/volunteering-at-our-houses/>
- Trees Atlanta: <https://www.treesatlanta.org/get-involved/>

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- Draw Change: <https://www.drawchange.org/donate>
- Girls on the Run Atlanta: <https://www.girlsontherunatlanta.org/volunteer>
- Hosea Helps: <https://4hosea.volunteermatrix.com>
- The Baby Pantry: <https://thebabypantry.org/get-involved/>

Tennessee

Nashville Campuses

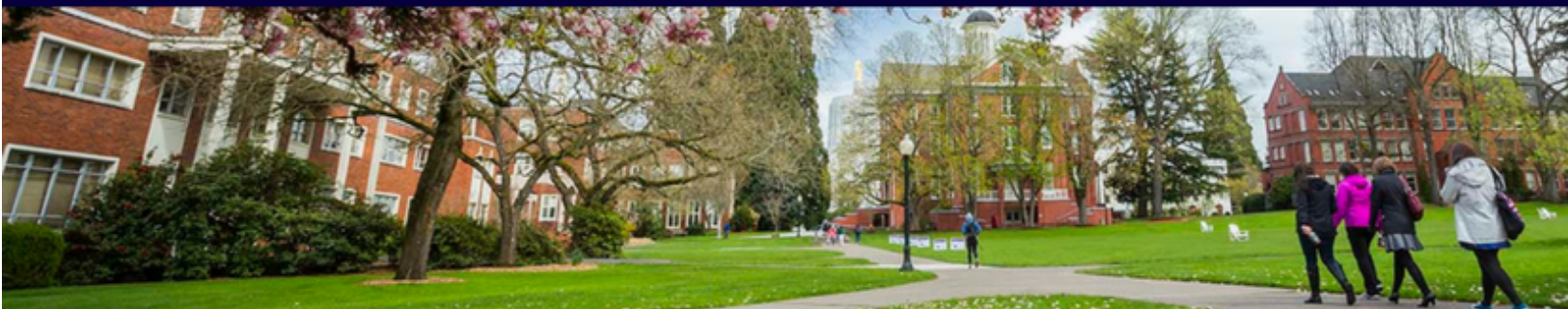
- Habitat for humanity of Greater Nashville: <https://www.habitatnashville.org/>
- Hands on Nashville: <https://www.hon.org/groups>
- Annual Hot Chocolate Run <https://hotchocolate15k.com/volunteer/>
- The Nashville Food Project: <https://www.thenashvillefoodproject.org/givetime>
- Girls on the Run Middle Tennessee
https://www.gotrmiddletn.org/volunteer#jumpto_group
- Second Harvest Food Bank:
<https://www.secondharvestmidtn.org/act/volunteer/group-request/>
- Salvation Army Nashville Area Command
<https://www.salvationarmynashville.org/volunteer>
- Thistle Farms <https://thistlefarms.org/pages/volunteering-fundraising>
- Special Olympics Tennessee
<https://www.specialolympicstn.org/get-involved/become-a-volunteer>
- Nashville Zoo <https://www.nashvillezoo.org/volunteer-at-the-zoo>
- St. Luke's Community House <https://www.stlch.org/getinvolved>
- Leukemia and Lymphoma Society: Light the Night <https://www.lls.org/volunteer>

Cookeville Campus

- Upper Cumberland Habitat for humanity:

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<https://www.habitat.org/us-tn/cookeville/upper-cumberland-hfh>

- Hands on Nashville: <https://www.hon.org/groups>
- Second Harvest Food Bank: <https://www.secondharvestmidtn.org/act/volunteer/>
- Cookeville Rescue Mission <https://www.cookevillerescuemission.org/volunteer>

Texas

Texas A&M University: College Station/ Bryan Area

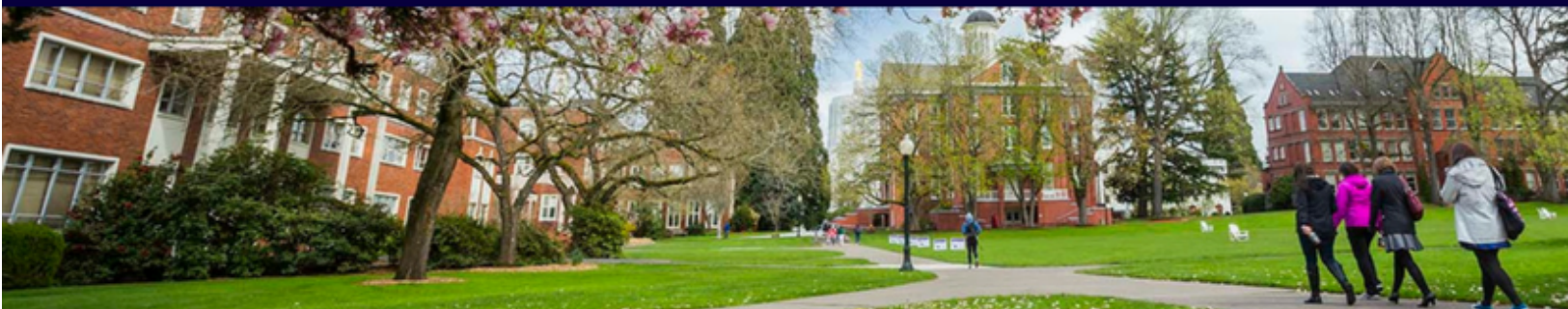
- Brazos Valley Food Bank: <https://www.bvfb.org/volunteer-opportunities>
- Build: <https://www.builtamu.com/volunteer>
- Habitat for Humanity: <https://habitatbcs.org/volunteer/>
- Host Blood Drive: you will need to get school approval and get in contact with local blood donation agencies such as: American Red Cross, Gulf Coast Regional blood center, etc.
- The Big Event (link sent through TAMU email in February/March)
- Twin City Mission: <https://www.twincitymission.org/>
- Walk to End Alzheimer Event:
http://act.alz.org/site/TR?sid=23941&type=fr_informational&pg=informational&fr_id=12663
- Aggieland Pregnancy Outreach: <https://pregnancyoutreach.org/volunteers/>
- General Volunteer opportunities (sign up for the weekly email!!!): <https://uwbv.org/volunteer>

University of Houston

- The Beacon: <https://www.beaconhomeless.org/volunteer>
- Habitat for Humanity: <https://www.houstonhabitat.org/volunteer/every-hand/>
- Host Blood Drive: you will need to get school approval and get in contact with local blood donation agencies such as American Red Cross, Gulf Coast Regional blood center, etc.

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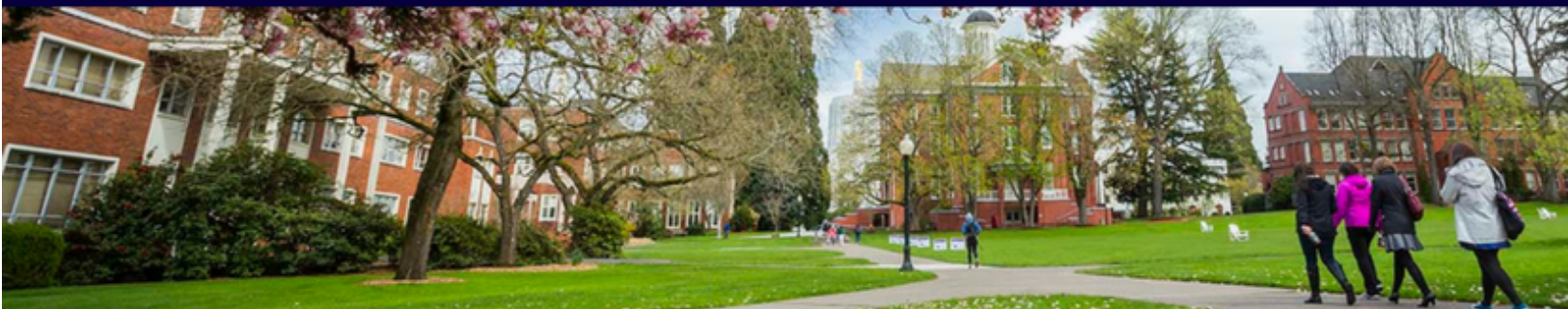
- Houston Food Bank:
<https://www.houstonfoodbank.org/ways-to-give/give-time/volunteerathfb/>
- Bread of Life: <https://volunteer.breadoflifeinc.org/need/>
- The Salvation Army: <http://salvationarmyhouston.org/volunteer/>
- Star of Hope Mission:
<https://volunteer.samaritan.com/recruiter/index.php?class=OppSearchResults&recruiterID=506&udf1162=Group%20Friendly&type=all>
- SBP Houston: <https://sbpusa.org/get-involved/volunteer>

University of Texas at Dallas, the University of Texas at Arlington, and the University of North Texas/DFW Area

- Baylor Scott and White:
<https://www.bswhealth.com/locations/mckinney/about/become-a-volunteer>
- Children's Health Hospital:
<https://www.childrens.com/get-involved/volunteer/join-a-group>
- Christ's Haven for Children: <https://christshaven.org/volunteer/>
- Dallas Life Foundation: <https://www.volgistics.com/od/74382>
- Feed my Starving Children: <https://www.fmssc.org/get-involved/volunteer>
- GRACE Grapevine: <https://www.gracegrapevine.org/get-involved/volunteer/>
- Habitat for Humanity: <https://dallasareahabitat.org/volunteer/>
- Host Blood Drive: you will need to get school approval and get in contact with local blood donation agencies such as American Red Cross, Gulf Coast Regional blood center, etc.
- Mission Arlington: <https://missionarlington.org/bring-your-team/>
- North Texas Food Bank: <https://www.ntfb.org/volunteer>
- Paws for Reflection Ranch: <https://www.pawsforreflectionranch.org/volunteer.html>

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- Rise Against Hunger: <https://www.riseagainsthunger.org/how-you-can-help/>
- Ronald McDonald House: <https://rmhdallas.org/group/>
- North Texas General Volunteering Opportunities:
<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/center-for-leadership-and-service/programs/volunteer-opportunities>
- General Monthly Volunteering Opportunities:
<https://unitedwaydallas.vomo.org/org/united-way-of-metropolitan-dallas>

University of Texas at Austin

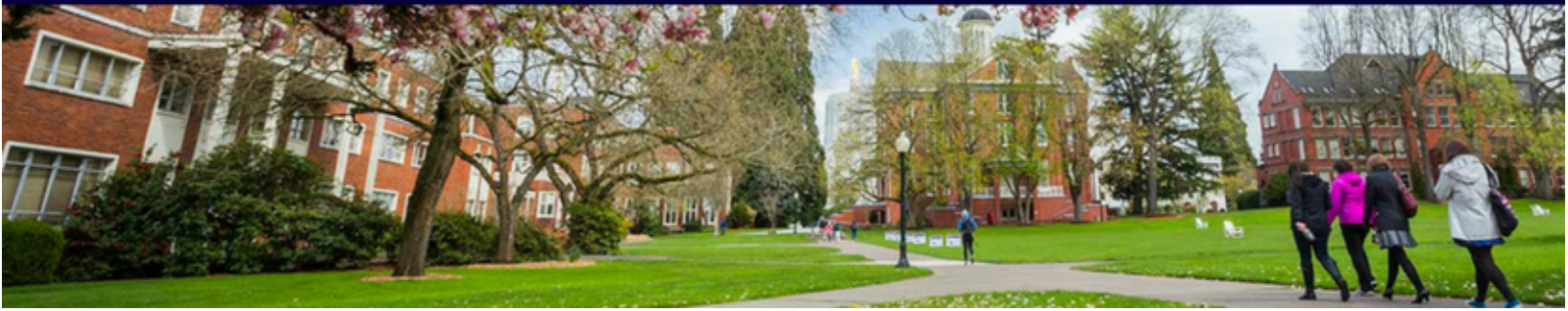
- Austin Diaper Bank: <https://www.austindiapers.org/volunteer.html>
- Austin Parks Foundation: <https://austinparks.org/volunteer-civic-groups/>
- BookSpring: <https://www.bookspring.org/get-involved/>
- Boys & Girls Club: <https://www.bgcaustin.org/get-involved/volunteer/>
- Caritas of Austin: <http://www.caritasofaustin.org/get-involved/volunteer/>
- Foundation Communities: <https://foundcom.org/get-involved/volunteer/>
- Habitat for Humanity: <https://www.austinhabitat.org/volunteer-groups>
- Host Blood Drive: you will need to get school approval and get in contact with local blood donation agencies such as American Red Cross, Gulf Coast Regional blood center, etc.
- General volunteering opportunities:
<https://utexas.givepulse.com/group/179-The-University-of-Texas-at-Austin>
<https://diversity.utexas.edu/communityengagement/student-engagement/volunteerut/>
<https://sites.utexas.edu/sonstudentservices/volunteer/>

UT San Antonio and University Incarnate Word

- Animal Defense League of Texas: <https://adltexas.org/volunteer/>
- Children's Hunger Fund: <https://childrenshungerfund.org/volunteer>
- General Volunteer Portal: <https://www.volunteersanantonio.org/>
- Habitat for Humanity San Antonio: <https://www.habitatsa.org/get-involved/>
- Haven for Hope: <https://www.havenforhope.org/give/volunteer/>

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- Meals on Wheels: <https://www.mowsatx.org/volunteer>
- Salvation Army: <https://salvationarmysanantonio.org/san-antonio/volunteer>
- San Antonio Food Bank: <https://safoodbank.org/ways-to-help/give-time/>
- San Antonio Humane Society: <https://sahumane.org/volunteer>
- San Antonio Youth Literacy: <http://sayl.org/volunteer-with-sayl/>