



# Reflections Reflections

The Center for Service Learning's  
Semesterly Newsletter

keeping faculty and staff connected to  
academic and co-curricular community service

## Upcoming Service-Learning Events

The CETL **brown bag series on service learning** continues this spring, with a lunch noon-1pm on **Wednesday, March 18th**. Please RSVP to the announcements that Ellen Spake sends the week preceding to attend. These lunches offer an informal setting to discuss best practices in establishing and facilitating service-learning courses and an opportunity for faculty to hear from peers engaged in similar work.

The **Common Good Fair**, showcasing internships, year-of-service volunteer programs and non-profit career opportunities will be hosted by the Career Center on **March 19th** from 2-5pm.

**Global Youth Service Day** is **April 24-25th**. If you are interested in planning or facilitating service experiences contact Davis Parker at [davis.parker@rockhurst.edu](mailto:davis.parker@rockhurst.edu).

The **McMeel Institute**, a 3-day workshop where faculty work in-depth on the theory and practice of service-learning and integrate service-learning into one of their classes, will be held **May 20-22nd**. Stay tuned for more information and registration materials.

Rockhurst faculty members Zdenka Guadarrama, Annie Lee, Laura Salem, Rob Vigliotti and Mindy Walker recently were awarded a State Farm Youth Advisory Board grant to expand their efforts to host the **Hogan-Rockhurst Summer Interdisciplinary Institute**, in coordination with Bruce Hensel and other Hogan College Prep staff. They plan to integrate service-learning by both involving Rockhurst students as volunteers in setting up and running the Institute and incorporating service projects for participants from Hogan around the theme of 'greening' Hogan College Prep. The Institute will be held in late summer.

## Faculty & Staff Volunteer Opportunity

Take the **One-to-One Challenge!** With drop-out rates, crime, and poverty at unacceptably high levels and reading comprehension and academic achievement at similarly dangerous lows, the Upper Room/Swope Corridor Renaissance is calling on the Kansas City community in a dramatic expansion of its early childhood reading programs. Growing from serving 90 students at one site ten years ago to over 1,500 1st, 2nd, and 3rd graders at 15 locations in 2008, a new partnership with the Kansas City Missouri School District is sending an additional 1,000 children to The Upper Room's after-school program. A critical component to success in this Accelerated Reading program, as documented in a recent Johns Hopkins University evaluation of the program, is **one-on-one reading with volunteer tutors**. The One-to-One Challenge is asking you to contribute ONE hour, ONE day, ONCE per week at either their after-school program or summer academic camp. With 100% of previous participants, both children and parents, saying they enjoyed the program and planned to participate again this year and the addition of the KCMSD students, **your help is urgently needed to maintain the program's success**. To get involved, contact Colleen McEvoy, Volunteer Coordinator, at [mcevoy.colleen@gmail.com](mailto:mcevoy.colleen@gmail.com) or 913-339-8332. If you have questions you can also contact [Alicia Douglas](#), [Davis Parker](#), or [Julia Vargas](#) on campus.

## Featured Reflection Technique: *Dear Self*

Many service-learning programs that send participants out into communities to be students of lived experience find that expectations and preconceptions can sometimes clash with the realities that they face. Whether a student discovers that the homeless man they help feed has served in the armed forces or makes a personal connection with a child from a different background, these situations can be rich learning experiences. Often service-learning facilitators will help prepare students for such encounters by having them attempt to visualize their volunteering before leaving campus. One way to accomplish this is by having students write letters to themselves, asking them to describe what they might see when they first visit the community agency, what kind of people they will work with, how they might react, what are their anxieties and hopes... Then at the end of the course students re-read their letters and compare their attitudes before and after the project. Not only does this help students verbalize their thoughts and prepare for a successful and reflective service experience, but it involves students in an assessment of their own learning. Try it!

## A Busy Semester of Service

Fall 2008 saw great numbers of Rockhurst students, faculty, and staff involved in an array of community service and service-learning projects. Over **1450 students** spent at least **7,500 hours** this fall engaged in on- or off-campus volunteering. Calculated at Missouri's 2008 minimum wage (\$6.65/hr) this constitutes approximately **\$50,000 in volunteer labor** donated to organizations within the Greater Kansas City community. From the entire first-year class participating in the Finucane Service Project to the ten students who ran the RU College Bound tutoring program, the service of Rockhurst students has touched countless individuals on campus, in the neighborhood, and across the region.

And not just individuals—"We have really appreciated our relationship with Rockhurst University over the years and the many ways your office and many students and professors support Bridging The Gap's work" wrote Linda O'Brien, who coordinates the organization's volunteer environmental stewardship efforts. Indeed, this fall students in the Freshmen in Science seminar spent hours outdoors doing everything from removing invasive honeysuckle plants to collecting deer demographic data from hunters for the Missouri Department of Conservation. The past semester also saw the beginning of **Leftovers with Love**, an effort to use otherwise wasted food from Dining Services. Thanks to Andrea Essner ('10) and Mike Johnson, General Manager of Rockhurst Dining Services, with the support of Campus Ministry Rockhurst students have been re-preparing meals and delivering them to the St. James pantry and Holy Family House. Even at the end of the semester, after students left campus, a number of Rockhurst staff continued to contribute to a boxed **muffin mix drive** that collected in excess of 500 boxes for Seton Center's holiday grocery give-away.

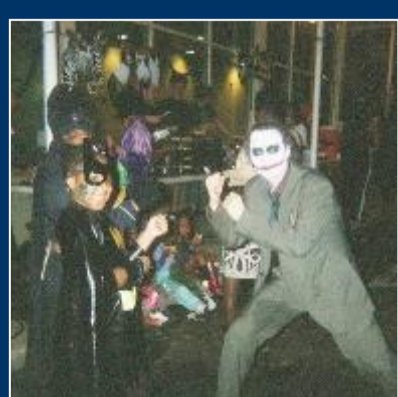
This spring **fourteen** Rockhurst faculty are teaching courses utilizing service-learning to engage students in applying their knowledge and skills to address community needs and, in turn, create a valuable learning experience.

Whether students get involved through the Center for Service Learning, Campus Ministry, the Community Center, the Admissions Office, student organizations, service-learning courses, or on their own, we are proud of the positive impact the Rockhurst community has in Kansas City.

## Call on the Center for Service Learning

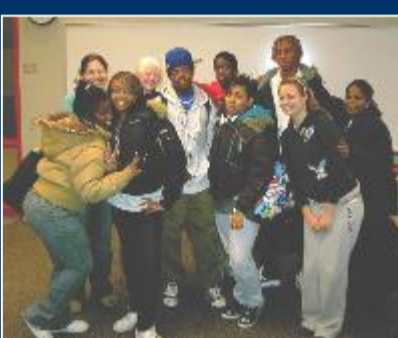
The Center for Service Learning is your on-campus resource for academic and co-curricular service. Every semester the Center works with faculty and staff across the university to promote and coordinate service-learning and community service.

Are you looking for community organization partners eager to take student volunteers as part of a course? Do you encounter students who want to be involved in real-world issues or are passionate about improving their community? Would you like to publish articles or present in a service-learning forum? Are you interested in integrating service-learning into your syllabi? Do you want to get involved in community service yourself? We would love to hear from you! Call x4545 or stop by Van Ackeren 208/210.



Batman and the Joker square off as Rockhurst students entertained hundreds of neighborhood families on Halloween at the Community Center's Safe Trick-or-Treat.

"Students in service-learning engage more passionately with social issues, perform research more seriously, and take greater ownership of their own learning."  
Dr. Daniel Martin, Associate Professor, English.



Rockhurst volunteers helped local high-school students plan for college and complete homework in the RU College Bound program.

Keep up-to-date with current volunteer needs:  
[Click here to access the "Of Service" bulletin.](#)

Help us keep track of students' volunteering:  
[Click here to print a Service Transcript form.](#)  
(.pdf)

Questions about volunteering or Service-Learning?

Contact Us:  
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[julia.vargas@rockhurst.edu](mailto:julia.vargas@rockhurst.edu)

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Or check out the Center's Website:  
[Center for Service Learning](#)