



At the Community Service Office of Lehigh University, our mission is to further develop our students, faculty and staff as active citizens who value and contribute to their community by responding to community needs through meaningful action.

Our Lehigh community engages in community services of countless forms, and we aim to ensure this service is effective and beneficial to both the community and our volunteers through our five guiding principles:

- As the Community Service Office is a strong partner in the educational mission of Lehigh University, we are intentional about providing students with significant experiential learning opportunities in the community. Through these powerful experiences, students will hone essential life skills as outlined by the Five Foundations for Student Success and will feel more empowered to create positive social change at the local, national, and global level.
- Service is most effective when it responds to the needs of the community. We achieve this objective by listening to the community voice. Open and positive communication and interaction with the community provides the basis to perform the services our community needs most.
- The process of developing active citizens encompasses three stages: exposure, understanding and action. Exposure introduces volunteers to community, understanding occurs when an individual begins to understand the community's needs and the root causes behind them, and action manifests itself when an individual recognizes the community as a priority in their values and life choices. We are committed to providing the developmental opportunities and experiences for students, faculty and staff to advance through these stages.
- Orientation, evaluation and reflection are crucial parts of community service. Orientation introduces volunteers to a site and educates them about the causes on which they will be working. Reflection allows volunteers to look back on, think critically about, and learn from their service experience. Evaluation provides the opportunity for our organization to improve based upon the feedback of our volunteers and agencies.
- Building and developing a positive relationship with the South Bethlehem community through service is one of our primary objectives. Lehigh is privileged to be a part of a community rich in history and culture, and we hope to continue to foster strong relationships with community organizations and members.