

# 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)

### How We Work With New Students

The Office of Service-Learning and Volunteer Programs promotes community-engaged learning experiences and builds mutually beneficial partnerships with the community. We empower students to be active citizens locally, nationally and globally. We can 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 community.

The Resource Pantry eliminates barriers to degree completion for students with financial need. We provide access to resources and assist students in achieving independence and long-term stability.

#### Fast Facts

- 1) Students engaged in more than 700,000 hours of service-learning through class assignments, student organizations and athletics last year.
- 2) Last year, we sponsored eight alternative break trips in the U.S. and across the globe. The issues we addressed included affordable housing, child and maternal healthcare, advocacy for women's rights and sustainable food resources.
- 3) We provide access to basic necessities at no cost for students with financial need in the Resource Pantry. About 300 students have shopped in the pantry since it opened, and we've provided about 7,600 pounds of food.

#### Key Takeaways

Students can stop by our office to learn about volunteer opportunities and to shop in the Resource Pantry. If students are given the opportunity to volunteer for a course assignment, they should contact the organization they are interested in several weeks before the assignment is due. Students should be patient with organizations and communicate by phone for the best results.

- How can students find volunteer opportunities in the local community?
  - Our volunteer directory is one of the easiest ways to find volunteer opportunities. They can also subscribe to our weekly newsletter and visit our homepage for more information.
- How can students get involved in the Alternative Break Program?
  - Preparing to attend an alternative break is a yearlong process, so students should plan accordingly. Students can begin by applying online via RamConnect. Once they interview and are selected for a trip, they'll attend pre-break educational and social meetings throughout the spring semester.
- Who is eligible to use the WCU Resource Pantry?
  - All students enrolled in classes at West Chester and experiencing financial hardship are welcome to use the pantry—they do not need to bring proof of need or make an appointment. Students can walk in anytime during our hours and there is no limit to what you can shop for.

#### Acronyms & Definitions

OSLVP - Office of Service-Learning & Volunteer Programs

ARYM - America Reads Youth Mentoring Program

#### Who to Know

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