



COMMUNITY SERVICE

PRIMANNUM
HONOR SOCIETY





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STUDENTS HELPING STUDENTS

BY GRAHYA GUNTUR

Instead of lying in bed and watching Netflix for endless hours, graduate and undergraduate students on break could participate in a non-profit organization. This would allow students to optimize their time and help out another community or group of people who need it. A few worthy non-profit organizations are Teach for America, Khan Academy, Stand for Children and the George Lucas Educational Foundation.

Teach for America pushes for education equality. Graduate students who are not full time at the University of Maryland can participate in this organization for two years to serve and teach kids.



College students around the nation work at Teach for America to educate students in under-resourced areas.

Photo credit: magazine.gsu.edu

Khan Academy, which is quite popular among college students, is an organization that provides useful educational videos. Students can volunteer in this organization to create helpful videos that coincide with the classes here at the University of Maryland. Stand for Children ensures that children, regardless of their backgrounds, have access to a college education. Students can volunteer to influence education policy at the local and state level to implement more effective educational systems in the classroom. And lastly, the George Lucas Educational Foundation does research to create new ways of teaching children in schools from the elementary to the high school level. Students can help in the foundation’s research to provide an environment that encourages the learning process and makes children want to learn.

Overall, these non-profits allow students to help educate others while the students themselves take a break from their own education.

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VOLUNTEERING ON CAMPUS

BY ASHLEY CARTER

With over 40 student-run volunteer organizations at the University of Maryland the problem isn't how to volunteer, but where. Not only do these organizations have different levels of commitment, they also focus on different causes. Whether you're concerned about international problems, food insecurity or tutoring underprivileged students, there will be a club that fits your needs.

S.T.E.P.P: Students Towards Educational Progress and Philanthropy is a community service organization as well as a step team that incorporates volunteering through mentorship and support of non-profit programs. While Students Helping Honduras fundraises for a trip to Honduras, where the students help build schools.

If you are looking for a local endeavor, you can join a club such as Backpacks of Love, which raises money to fill backpacks with supplies for the kids at the Prince George's County Crisis Center. If none of these have sparked your interest, and you are looking for a more formal community service experience, you can join Alpha Phi Omega, a national service fraternity.

While there are a lot of service organizations on campus based off of national groups, many have been created by the students of College Park who are committed to servicing the community that they live in.



Alpha Phi Omega is a fraternity at UMD that is committed to community service.

Photo credit: <http://www.apo-em.org/>

GET INVOLVED!

Here are some helpful links if you are interested in service organizations at UMD:

S.T.E.P.P:

<http://wearesteppe.weebly.com/>

Students Helping Honduras:

<http://umdshh.webs.com/>

Backpacks of Love:

<http://backpacksofloveproject.weebly.com/about-us.html>

Alpha Phi Omega:

<http://www.apo-em.org/>



Students Helping Honduras visited Honduras and transformed part of the village (top) into a school for children (bottom).

Photo credit: <http://umdshh.webs.com/>

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SPOTLIGHT: KIM OSLIN

BY LIA COLLEN

Kim Oslin, a junior biochemistry major, is Primannum's VP of Volunteerism for this school year. Oslin hopes to share her passion for community service with students at the university.

Q: Why did you decide to run for VP of Volunteerism?

A: I find volunteering to be a very rewarding way to help my community and build relationships with people who share my interests. As the VP of Volunteerism, I am able to plan exciting and impactful volunteer events for a group that values hard work and service. I am very enthusiastic about volunteering and I hope to spread this enthusiasm to other members of Primannum.

Q: What are your responsibilities as VP of Volunteerism?

A: I lead a committee of seven Primannum members who work together to plan, organize and run volunteer events. We structure our events around a theme each month and try to provide at least two volunteer events per month we are in school. I am responsible for communication with off-campus partners for events.

Q: What community service work have you done in the past?

A: This semester I am volunteering at Washington Adventist Hospital on a heart and vascular nursing floor. My freshman year I spent my spring break volunteering with my honors program at the Karen Beasley Sea Turtle Rescue and Rehabilitation Center in Topsail, North Carolina. We helped care for the injured sea turtles, performing tasks such as bathing them, feeding them and cleaning their tanks.

My Grandma was a huge influence on my dedication to community service because she instilled the value of volunteer work in me and has continued to serve as the perfect example of how to have a local and global impact by volunteering. I have worked with my Grandma to package and deliver food to underprivileged people as part of a non-profit organization she established, sew pillowcases for kids with cancer, package bags of food for underprivileged elementary school students and make gift-filled Christmas shoeboxes for poor children abroad.

Q: What opportunities for volunteer work does Primannum offer?

A: The volunteer events for each month are planned around a theme to ensure that we offer a wide range of activities throughout the year. This year we will have volunteer events related to education, breast cancer, poverty and hunger, animals and the environment. Events will range from donation drives to volunteering at non-profits to 5K's.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AT COLLEGE PARK

BY MIRISH SHAH

Are your classes already stressing you out? Do you feel like you need a break from the rigors of a strenuous college lifestyle? If so, then you should take advantage of the many volunteering opportunities right at your fingertips in the city of College Park. This is a great way to relieve the stress of classes, do something positive for your community and strengthen your resume.

The National Archives Building II for the federal government is located right here in College Park. There are two types of volunteer positions offered at the National Archives. Staff aides work behind the scenes, assisting with a variety of tasks including boxing and labeling documents, researching records and preparing descriptive lists. All volunteer positions are available during the normal workweek from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. If working as a staff aide isn't for you, you can also volunteer as a docent, giving tours. There are behind-the-scenes tours of the research facility for building visitors held between 10:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. and tours of the building specifically for new hires given bimonthly on Mondays. The National Archives is located at 8601 Adelphi Road.



The National Archives building located in College Park holds military records from the Vietnam War.

Photo credit: <http://www.archives.gov/dc-metro/college-park/>

Another great volunteer opportunity is with Meals on Wheels of the College Park Area. This program has existed since 1974 in College Park, providing three warm meals for seniors in the area for only \$5 a day. Volunteers can prepare and package meals. If you have a car and some free time during the week, you can volunteer with the program to personally deliver warm meals to seniors in our area, as well. The Meals on Wheel center is open Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and is located at 9601 Rhode Island Avenue.



At Meals on Wheels, warm meals are prepared and personally delivered to seniors by dedicated volunteers.

Photo credit: <http://mowcp.yolasite.com/>

If you are more of the adventurous type, you can volunteer with the College Park Volunteer Fire Department. The department is always recruiting new members to be firefighters, emergency medical technicians or administrative members. They even offer ride-alongs or overnight stays at the firehouse for those looking to sign up as volunteers. The Fire Department is located right off campus at 8115 Baltimore Avenue.

These are just a few of the volunteer opportunities in College Park. If you're looking for something to do off campus, volunteering is a great option to not only build community ties but also to build your resume.

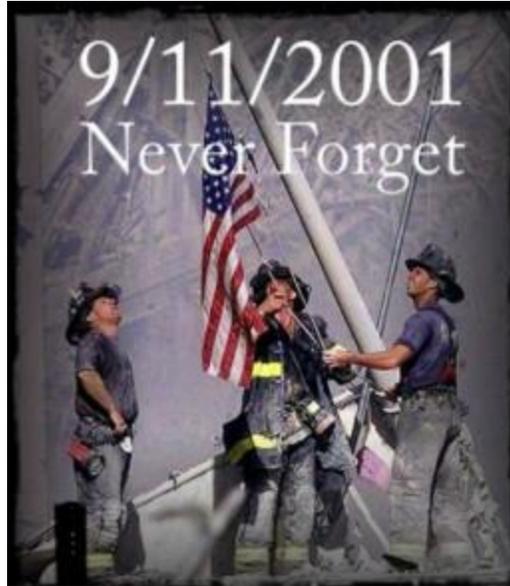
FIREFIGHTERS & THEIR SERVICE TO OUR COUNTRY

BY SANA HAIDER

Of the 2,977 victims killed in the 9/11 attacks, 411 were emergency workers in New York City who responded to the World Trade Center. As firefighters risk their lives to save those of others, we should take the time to understand their role in our communities.

A firefighter is a rescuer who is trained in firefighting to extinguish hazardous fires that threaten property, civilians or nature. They typically put out fires, but also rescue and care for the sick and injured. Additionally, they work to prevent future fires and investigate their sources.

In the event of an unexpected disaster, firefighters work even longer hours in order to keep the public safe and rescue victims. Most full-time first responders live and work in fire stations, and some must sacrifice their holidays and weekends. This is so that a full team is always present in case of a fire, as we know is possible at any time.



Firefighters played a major role in rescuing victims during the 9/11 attacks and will be remembered as heroes.

Photo credit: <http://ireport.cnn.com/>

On September 11, 2001, there were 75 firehouses in which at least one member was killed. The FDNY also lost its department chief, first deputy commissioner, one of its marshals and chaplains, along with other administrative or specialty personnel. The National September 11 Memorial Museum at the World Trade Center honors the victims of the attacks of September 11, 2001 and February 26, 1993, and all those who risked their lives to save others. Further, it recognizes the many that did survive and all those who demonstrated extraordinary compassion. We must recognize the heroes who are sometimes hidden in the background and do a lot to protect their communities at local, national and international levels.

2141 Tydings Hall University of Maryland
College Park, MD 20742

301-405-1692

primannumhonorsociety@gmail.com

The Primannum Honor Society is a University of Maryland Honor Society that represents two national honor societies, Alpha Lambda Delta and Phi Eta Sigma. Both of these national honor societies recognize academic excellence during a student's first year in college.