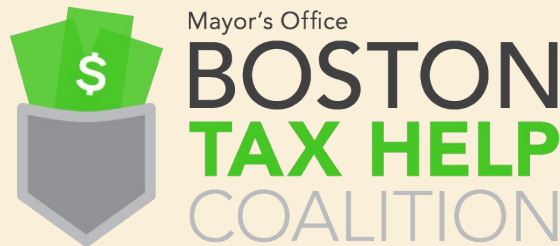


HUSV 1101: Social Change and Human Services

Service-Learning Reflections

How has service-learning impacted my previous thinking and what can I take away from these experiences?







Student Testimonies:

“Young POC having powerful leaders that look like them to look up to is so important for the idea of empowerment. At 826, each month we celebrate a new ethnic group, racial group, or community with pictures and descriptions on the wall that the kids get to read. Seeing how excited they get to see these role models has helped me visualize how important representation really is.”

Student serving with 826 Boston

“I believe that the diverse group of individuals I interacted with throughout this placement expanded my understanding of the value of people's experiences, knowledge, and background that they brought into our class, and how they can contribute to the structural barriers that have prevented them from accessing technology or gaining technological literacy in the past. This experience taught me the importance of creating a welcoming and safe environment to allow anyone to learn, regardless of age, race, experience, or other outstanding factors.”

Student serving with Little Brothers- Friends of the Elderly





Student Testimonies:

"When I would go alone to my service learning, I was often the only white female in the room. However, I was welcomed so openly by every student and I got to learn so much about their culture and how they express themselves just by having a simple conversation with them. It was also refreshing to see that not one student was "left out" due to their race or culture. The group was so diverse yet all the students seemed to get along despite their different backgrounds...they welcomed me with open arms."

Student serving with YMCA Roxbury

"I think there is a common stereotype that people living in lower-income communities are less motivated and have less drive in life. Many ignorant people wholeheartedly believe that people living in poorer communities are automatically less likely to want to learn. Although I am aware enough to know this is not true for all, I cannot deny that part of me has internalized this message. Seeing these kids work so hard on the squash court and in the classroom definitely challenged these internalized beliefs and was very inspiring to see."

Student serving with Squashbusters

"I never considered the elderly a potentially vulnerable population until working with FriendshipWorks. And while the elderly might be a vulnerable population for multiple reasons, I think people underestimate the detrimental impacts that loneliness has on this population."

Student serving with Friendship Works



Student Testimonies:

“From my service learning experience, I feel that I have grown in regards to my awareness of generational gaps and relationships, and of technological privilege. Observing the demographics at the community center at which I volunteered at has also made me more aware of how race relates to/plays a factor in these areas as well. I would say that having this real-life experience has made these issues become more personal and tangible, which has increased my desire to fuel positive change.”

Student serving with LBFE

“It has been such a privilege becoming a consistent volunteer at this organization. I have developed bonds with the other volunteers and workers and come to understand the best way I could serve the team. Everyone has been so welcoming and it feel so special to be a part of something and to be able to contribute to a larger mission.”

Student serving with Community Servings

“Financial inequity is extremely linked to racism and specific cultural experiences, so I am interested about the services that serve these marginalized populations to help resolve these discrepancies”

- Student serving with Boston Tax Help Coalition



Student Testimonies:

“Castle Square serves a diverse group of students who come from very different walks of life and experiences. It was really beautiful to see the students not treat each other differently because they weren’t the same race, religion, etc. as the other. I have definitely learned the importance of children learning in diverse spaces. It opens their eyes to people who aren’t like them and teaches them to treat everyone in the same way.”

Student serving with Castle Square Tenants Organization

“Some of the most impactful experiences during my service-learning are the times when the residents shared their life stories. It was interesting to learn about all the different challenges and successes each resident had experienced. They all had different paths that led them to Boston Health Care for the Homeless Program.”

Student serving with BHCHP

“A meaningful experience I have had with an individual I have escorted before; as we waited for our after-appointment pick-up, we shared favorite TV shows (Monk and Bones), desserts (ice cream and lava cake), seasons (summer and fall), and many laughs about the day. I realized how powerful rapport was and what listening to understand meant to the other person.”

Student serving with Friendship Works

“One big takeaway that grew my racial and cultural competence is the fact that kids are capable of achieving anything but some of the time there are racial or cultural barriers that can hold them back. Just giving them a safe space to express themselves, make mistakes, and learn can have a huge positive impact on not only their school work but their social presence as well.”

Student serving with 826 Boston