

HUSV 1101: Social Change & Human Services

Students' Service-Learning Reflections



Our Community Partners



Pine Street Inn
Ending Homelessness



Student Testimonies:

“Before this experience, I didn't realize how isolating it would be to not speak the language of the place you are living. I have gained an understanding of how hard it must be to move to a new country that has a completely different language and culture. Many of the participants moved to the United States to create a better life for their families. Speaking with the participants at LBFE, I have learned how much work it must take to adjust to a new culture, especially when you don't have a community there.”

- Student serving with Little Brothers - Friends of the Elderly

“Personally, I have really enjoyed my experience with the organization both inside and outside of the classroom. From the kids to the group that I volunteer with, everyone I have met through this experience has been so incredibly kind, welcoming, and supportive. I have been so fortunate to have created real connections with such a beautiful, diverse group of people. It is because of these connections that I get so excited to go volunteer, and it is also the reason why I want to continue with the organization beyond this semester of service learning.”

- Student serving with Peace Through Play

“During the experience, I learned a lot about empathy and patience, but mostly grew an incredibly deep respect for the trainees that we worked with.”

- Student serving with Pine Street Inn



Student Testimonies:

"I've found the experience to be really rewarding, partly because it's an opportunity to channel the fourth grader "within me." During this time, I've developed strong bonds with a couple of the kids, especially those who seem to feel lonely or unpopular in general. I'm really glad I was able to make some of them feel more connected. Overall, I learned that I enjoy hanging out with children, and I'm pretty good at acting like a child myself."

- Student at Peace Through Play

"Regarding the lessons learned from the service learning organization, I understood the importance of having online accessibility for people of all ages. In-person relationships are key, but the COVID-19 pandemic demonstrated how essential digital communication really is. Whether used for connecting with loved ones, seeking professional medical help, or looking up new information, it is necessary for all generations to have reliable internet access to complete their daily tasks. LBFE's Digital Dividends program serves to bridge the digital divide between old and current generations by providing tech access and training."

- Student serving with Little Brothers - Friends of the Elderly



Student Testimonies:

“The population that the organization is mainly serving is the epitome of a community. They are come together and work to getter to provide a safe and productive space for these children. I learned that the need for the services that Peace Through Play is providing is vital. It may not seem like it at times, but the lessons we teach each week really do stick with the kids and make an impact on their everyday lives.”

- Student at Peace Through Play

“We spend every session engaging with residents in fun activities and games (they love Bingo so much that one of the residents made her own cards! and is always so proud to share them). It's been a great experience for me to spend time with other, mostly Spanish-speaking adults and feeling closer to my own culture and grandparents. I think there's a real need for programs like this, and it's been a great feeling when we walk into the lobby and see so many residents eagerly waiting for us to arrive and have new people to talk to. I almost wish we could come more often.”

- Student serving with Little Brothers - Friends of the Elderly

Student Testimonies:

“This experience has helped guide me toward a career in early education and ultimately helped me decide on my co-op for next semester. The kids are great and every visit made my day.”

- Student at Peace Through Play

“Service learning has been a mind and life changing experience and has allowed me to think of other volunteer opportunities similar to this in the future.”

- Student at Castle Square Tenants Org

“During this time I met so many wonderful individuals with various levels of reading and writing comprehension, all of them were so kind and welcome. They genuinely wanted to have fun with you. Additionally, I always had constant support from the other workers and volunteers there, who made sure I never felt overwhelmed at any given point in time. Going through this process I previously had fears with public speaking but in the low-stress and welcoming environment, I learned that I am a lot more capable of assuming a role of leadership and adapting to any unexpected problems that arise. I also learned that being able to connect with individuals that you are helping is a learned skill that I am still developing.”

- Student at House of Possibilities

