



2023 Fall Semester Service-Learning Opportunities

Service-learning has always been one of the developmental pillars of the Urban University (UU) youth leadership program. However, COVID abruptly halted our efforts and continued to delay being able to incorporate it back into our schedule. We are excited to announce the following service-learning opportunities for students, families, and mentors.

We believe that serving others is a part of servant leadership, and it is important to establish this habit early to give of ourselves without expecting anything in return. UU students are expected to participate in at least one service project each semester, however we realize this also provides opportunity to build commUUnity, and invite you to participate in as many as you are able and would enjoy.

Please RSVP by text or email for the following service-learning opportunities.

Spots for some projects are limited in number and some are defined with qualifications. Your immediate response is encouraged.

1) **Erie County Crop Walk – Sunday, September 24, 2023**

Location: Presque Isle State Park (meet at Beach One, Runner's Pavilion)

Event Time: 1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

This is a community-based walk held in cities across the U.S., and is hosted by [Church World Service](#) to support national and local efforts to alleviate hunger and poverty in Erie County. Individuals and families are invited to register at our [Urban University Team Page](#). You are also welcome to help us raise funds toward the fight against hunger. All proceeds remain here in Erie County. Walk distances are 1-6 miles and anything in between. Show your UU spirit, by coming in your Urban gear. If you are in need of some, let us know.

2) **Bingo at Soldiers & Sailors Home – Friday, September 29, 2023**

Location: Soldiers & Sailors Home – 560 East 3 St

Event Time: 8:40 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. (meet UU staff at the ECM)

Students and mentors are invited to join UU Staff to help facilitate Bingo. We will assist residents to and from the activity room, call the Bingo game, and engage with, and support any that need help with marking their cards.

Participant limit: 12, please RSVP ASAP

3) **DIY Christmas Ornaments – Friday, October 20, 2023**

Location: Erie City Mission Youth Classroom – 1017 French St

Event Time: 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Urban University is decorating a Christmas tree at the Soldiers & Sailors Home on Friday, December 1. Families are invited to participate in this ornament making workshop as Miss Tracey leads us in repurposing old CD's into unique and creative ornaments.

Pizza, refreshments, and Christmas music provided.

For set up and securing materials, please RSVP in advance.

4) **Erie City Mission Celebration of New Life – Thursday, October 26, 2023**

Location: Erie City Mission Dining Hall – 1017 French St

Event Times: See below*

This year the Erie City Mission will celebrate 112 years that God has allowed us to serve the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of men, women, youth, and families in Erie. UU students and mentors have the opportunity to set-up and serve our banquet guests during a reception of fellowship and hors d'oeuvres alongside the wait staff of Cali's West Catering.

Parents are welcome to attend and can visit the ECM website to purchase tickets.

Participant limit: 8 students/4 mentors, please RSVP ASAP

***Since this is a semi-formal event, please take note of the following prerequisites:**

Service Training and Set-Up - Wednesday, October 25, 4:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. at ECM

Reception Service - Thursday, October 26, 4:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. at ECM

Black pants and black or brown comfortable and clean shoes required; black Urban University high quality polo will be provided for each participant to keep.

5) **Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Outreach – Friday, November 10, 2023**

Location: Erie City Mission Youth Classroom – 1017 French St

Event Time: 5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

The mission of OCC is to demonstrate God's love in a tangible way by packing shoeboxes with small gifts for children in need around the world. Please join Kathy Schriefer, OCC's Regional Coordinator, to learn more about this amazing outreach and its impact across the globe, pack shoeboxes, participate in some contests, and build commUUnity. Families are invited to solicit and/or contribute shoe box items from this suggested list. [Shoebox gift suggestions](#)
Pizza, refreshments, Christmas music, and LOTS OF FUN provided.

For set-up and securing materials, please RSVP in advance.

6) **Christmas Tree Decorating at Soldiers & Sailors Home – Friday, December 1, 2023**

Location: Soldiers & Sailors Home – 560 East 3 St

Event Time: 4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. (meet UU staff at the ECM)

Students and mentors are invited to join UU Staff to bless the Soldiers & Sailors community for the Christmas season in decorating one of their many Christmas trees throughout their facility. The UU tree will have the "Shine" theme and will be decorated with the DIY CD ornaments made at the family workshop on October 20.

Participant limit: 12, please RSVP ASAP

To RSVP or if you have questions, please email or text Miss Rose at 814.572.2365 or rmcroce@eriecitymission.org

Again, we are encouraging UU student leaders, families, and mentors to take advantage of participating in as many of these service-learning opportunities as possible.