The Office of Community Impact fosters transformative learning experiences for PSU students to engage in active citizenship, explore their sense of purpose, and grow into conscious leaders who cultivate love and connection throughout our local and global communities.
*Ut Prosim, That I May Serve* is not simply Plymouth State University’s institutional motto, but rather it is a commitment embodied by the students who engage through the Office of Community Impact (OCI). We remain dedicated to working alongside our non-profit and community-based partners in co-creating a more loving and equitable world. We have always valued the importance of human connection, and yet, we encountered our need for one another this past semester in ways we never have before. The COVID-19 pandemic brought heartbreaking loss of human life, and our university transitioned to full remote learning just after spring break. While we all collectively protected our communities by staying home, we continued to reach out to one another via Zoom calls. During this time period, we learned just how interconnected humanity really is, and how much we need each other. The OCI responded by supporting our partners, Speare Memorial Hospital and the Central NH Public Health Network by running our local personal protective equipment (PPE) donation drive; each day recognizing more and more that service truly is love in action.

The COVID-19 pandemic amplified social and racial disparities and injustice, further illuminating just how much more work we have yet to do together. As we grieve and reflect on the significant loss that we experienced throughout this time period, we also find hope in the displays of community caring reflected in volunteerism and social activism. Our students join so many throughout the world in carrying this light of hope by contributing their voices to the Black Lives Matter Movement, speaking out about climate change, and advancing social and environmental justice. It remains my honor to work alongside our student volunteers, our Student Impact Ambassadors, our community partners, and colleagues, especially our Assistant Director at the OCI, Casey Krafton. We are all on this journey together in cultivating more love in the world.

With gratitude,

Jessica A. Orf Dutille, EdD

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**Student Impact Ambassadors**

- Molly Cassidy  
  Class of 2020
- Shannon Meighan  
  Class of 2020
- Tam “Tallie” Phan  
  Class of 2021
- Oliver Banks  
  Class of 2023
- Maria Costella  
  Class of 2023
- Makayla Adam  
  Class of 2021
Co-Curricular Pathways

The Community Impact Pathway offers students a guided journey through community engaged learning experiences intentionally designed to develop PSU’s four Habits of Mind and eight NACE (National Association of College and Employers) competencies. This tiered programmatic approach to co-curricular engagement supports students from exposure to service oriented activities, up through engagement in social action programs, and ultimately to a culminating leadership experience. To complete this pathway, students must engage in and reflect on five experiences at the Basecamp Member Level, two experiences at the Climbing Volunteer Level, and one experience at the Summiting Conscientious Citizen Level. Students who complete the Community Impact Pathway receive recognition on their co-curricular transcript and are honored through the Office of Community Impact upon graduation.

Student Competencies

The Office of Community Impact mapped its Community Engagement and Active Citizenship competencies to NACE (National Association of Colleges and Employers) Competencies* and to PSU’s Habits of Mind (HoM), establishing shared language across the university.
**Programming Components**

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

Participate in opportunities on campus and with local & global partners.

- **Day of Service**: campus wide opportunity for students, faculty, staff, and alumni to engage in state wide service projects.
- **Angel Tree Project**: annual project that provides gifts to local children for the holidays.
- **Service Trips**: international and domestic service trips focused on community identified projects. A learning experience of a lifetime through social and cultural connections.

Student organizations that have a community focus:
- PSU Volunteers, Student Support Foundation, Alternative Spring Break, International Service Trip

**SERVICE LEARNING**

Bridge the connection between your classroom experience and your community engagement.

Visit us if you have a course that requires engagement with off campus partners, and we can help connect you.

**Student & Faculty Supports:**
- Reflective practices
- Assessment tools
- Course consultations
- Partner connections

**OFF CAMPUS WORK STUDY**

Use your work study award to work at local non-profits.

**Current partners include:**
- CADY
- Campus Ministry
- Campus Caring Coalition
- Campion Recreational Department
- Flip N Furniture
- Grafton Regional Development Corp
- Plymouth Recreational Department
- Ladders
- PBTY
- Pease Public Library
- Pemi Valley Habitat
- Pemi Youth Center
- Russell Elementary
- Whole Village

**LEADERSHIP**

We offer leadership development and opportunities for students who are interested in making a positive impact in the broader community.

- Community Impact Ambassadors
- Workshop Experiences
- Student Professional Development Modules
- Community Impact Pathway

"SOMETIMES THE BRAVEST AND MOST IMPORTANT THING YOU CAN DO IS JUST SHOW UP."

- BRENE BROWN
The Office of Community Impact engaged 348 students in 385 service placements throughout the broader region during AY2019-20. These experiences resulted in a total 3,991 total service hours, with an economic benefit of $101,491 (based on current volunteer rate of $25.43/hour).

All partners that responded to the spring 2020 survey either agreed or strongly agreed that PSU students had a positive impact on their organization and that their partnership with PSU helps achieve their organizational mission.

All students who took the Office of Community Impact spring 2020 survey either agreed or strongly agreed that their service work was meaningful, positively impacted the organizations they worked with, and gave them opportunities to develop important leadership competencies.
PSU was selected to receive the 2020 Carnegie Community Engagement.

PSU was selected as one of only 119 U.S. colleges and universities to receive the Carnegie Foundation Carnegie Community Engagement Classification, an elective designation that honors institutional commitment to community engagement. The Carnegie Community Engagement Classification is the leading framework for institutional assessment and recognition of community engagement in U.S. higher education. The OCI was proud to take a lead role in submitting the institution’s application for this designation.

“Thank you OCI! I give you all of the credit for my happiness on campus.”
–Student Survey Spring 2020

“It is a privilege to work with PSU faculty, staff, and students. The staff, especially of the OCI, care deeply about the students and the quality of their work study experience. The faculty are creative and flexible in supporting students to have meaningful work experiences. And the students are eager to learn new skills and do a good job.”
–Partner Survey Spring 2020

“The connection with the Office of Community Impact has been such a great experience. They are all so helpful and willing to serve the community and the students. I have learned so many leadership skills from them.”
–Student Survey Spring 2019
The Office of Community Impact hosted the Panther Days’ Service Project on Friday, August 23rd in collaboration with the Town of Plymouth. First year students embodied the institutional motto, Ut Prosim, “That I May Serve,” by revitalizing Main Street and Green Street through painting, cleaning, and weeding projects.
Project Linus

Blankets were made for Project Linus, a non-profit organization that will distribute these blankets to children and youth being supported by social service agencies, hospitals, and shelters.
The OCI welcomed campus and community members for a Open House event on February 26th to make blankets for Project Linus.
**CADY Mini Golf Tournament**

On September 15th, CADY (Communities for Alcohol & Drug Free Youth) hosted its annual Mini Golf Tournament. The Office of Community Impact and PSU Volunteers were delighted to support this great event that raises funds for youth prevention programming.
**Governor’s Cup: FIRST Robotics**

PSU hosted the Governor’s Cup robotics competition on September 28th, and the Office of Community Impact was pleased to facilitate a service experience for high school participants. Students engaged in making dog chew toys for local shelters.

I was given an amazing opportunity this past weekend to help facilitate an activity at a FIRST Robotics competition that we (Plymouth State) hosted in ALLWell North. Having been part of a team in high school (4925 represent!) I leapt at the opportunity to be at another competition. In this activity, staff, student, and attendee alike worked together to make dog toys that will be donated to local shelters. I learned about this opportunity via an email from the Office of Community Impact, the same office that organizes Social Action Trips, Empty Bowls, and other exciting happenings. I love their office because they constantly find volunteering opportunities for folks around Plymouth, and for me, there’s really no better way to spend my free time than by giving it to something bigger than myself.

View 1 comment
Homecoming & Family Celebration Day of Service

The OCI was pleased to engage students, alumni, and parents in projects with local partners in celebration of Homecoming. One group engaged in a Habitat for Humanity build in Plymouth, and the other group helped to clean up the Pemi River in collaboration with Friends of the Pemi.
Impact Ambassadors spent the afternoon on October 24th helping to cleanup the Plymouth Skateboard Park.
The Empty Bowls Project is an international project that fights hunger and promotes art on a community level. Student volunteers were invited to make bowls at the ceramics studio on campus, and on November 13th the event was held in the Hartman Union Building.

In total 125 bowls given out and the event raised a total of $2,200 for Student Support Foundation in partnership with Residential Life and Dining Services and the PSU Ceramics Department.
The Office of Community Impact facilitated the Angel Tree Project, which engaged over \textbf{181 donors} and over \textbf{120 volunteer hours} were contributed in AY2019/20. As a result, we supported our community partners to provide \textbf{321 local children} with gifts for the holidays.

Our partners this year are the 12 following sites: Ashland Elementary School, Plymouth Elementary School, Becket Family Services, Voices Against Violence, Circle program, Tri-County Head Start, and Spaulding Youth Center.

Molly Cassidy, an OCI Student Impact Ambassador facilitated this program for the second year in a row. Her dedication to this and other projects earned her the Campus Compact Newman Civic Fellowship for AY2019/20.

“Helping out with the Angel Tree Project has been the most meaningful part of my PSU experience. Every year, I look forward to seeing the excitement on the faces of both the participants who bring in gifts and the community partners who deliver the presents. It makes all the hard work worth it .”

-Molly Cassidy ‘20
The Office of Community Impact was pleased to collaborate with the Bridge House Shelter of Plymouth to host community dinners on a monthly basis.

Students prepared and shared dinner with Bridge House residents.
"Tre Maison Dasan" Film Screening and Panel Discussion

“If They Had Known” Film Screening and Panel Discussion

Other campus events

**Tre Maison Dasan**

**Film Screening & Panel Discussion**
Hosted by Dr. Kathryn Elvey

A collaboration between the Family Connections Center of NHDOCC, NHCHC & Plymouth State University Office of Community Impact.

Come to an evening of educational opportunities! Please arrive early to view 3D murals created by 13 children at the Children of Incarcerated Parents (CIP) summer camp program before the screening of the movie Tre Maison Dasan. In addition, participants will get to view the NH Chronicle - The Family Connections Center, a resource for families with incarcerated parents. The event will conclude in a panel discussion with two children who have experienced parental incarceration.

Wednesday, February 5th
6:00pm
Merrill Place Conference Center

For more information contact Kathryn Elvey at khevey@plymouth.edu
Social Action Trips

Service trips expose students to complex social and cultural issues through direct service, group discussion, and reflection. These trips immerse students in diverse communities to learn from those around them as they learn about themselves.

Our goal is to provide financially accessible opportunities for students to explore the world through meaningful service opportunities.

Gita Nagari Eco Farm in Port Royale, Pennsylvania.
Coordinator: Molly Cassidy
Advisor: George Matthews
11 participants | 440 volunteer hours

Participants worked on food sustainability and security while experiencing sustainable living in action. Throughout the week they spent time working with cows and training oxen, while learning about Gita Nagari’s principles of compassion, environmental justice, and animal welfare.

This year our service trips engaged a total of 40 total participants (including faculty, staff, students) & 1600 total volunteer hours.
REACH in Roanoke, Virginia

**Coordinators:** Sally Cederberg and Tylor Austin  
**Advisor:** Mark Casale and Shaylah Kelley  
**13 participants | 520 volunteer hours**

Participants spent their week with REACH (Real Experiences Affecting Change), a community organization facilitating experiences for students in the Roanoke area. Throughout the week PSU students connected with local non-profit organizations and focused on community transformation through service, relationships, communication, and education.

SBP in Columbia, South Carolina

**Coordinators:** Klyde Carmello-Canabano and Shannon Meighan  
**Advisor:** Suzanne Gallaugher  
**16 participants | 640 volunteer hours**

Participants worked with SBP, a national organization working on hurricane relief efforts with a focus on five interventions; Rebuilding, Sharing, Preparing, Advising, and Advocating for disaster recovery. Since 2006, SPB has directly rebuilt homes for more than 1,888 families all over the country.
Student Support Foundation

Student Support Foundation (SSF) was excited to become recognized as a student organization this past spring, although they’ve been a strong presence on-campus since 2005. SSF is run by the student board and strives to create a culture of philanthropy on-campus. They manage the on-campus food pantry, Swipe It Forward, and emergency financial grants for students.

$12,600 in emergency financial grants distributed to 59 students.

1,153 meals distributed through Swipe It Forward.

Established 3 new food resource locations: HUB, Boyd Hall, HHP
PSU Volunteers

PSU Volunteers is a social action student organization focused on making a difference in our surrounding communities. This year more than 20 new members signed up and participated in volunteer projects. The highlights of AY2019-20
• Bake sale to raise $327 for United Way of Greater Nashua’s United We Sleep 2019.
• Volunteered with the American Red Cross and on-campus blood drives.
• Decorated Main Street for the holidays with the Plymouth NH Rotary Club.

United We Sleep 2019

Download the event packet for more information, click HERE
The Office of Community Impact partnered with the American Red Cross to host 2 blood drives in AY2019-20.

February 18, 2020
15 volunteers
(21 volunteer hours)
50 blood donations

October 10, 2019
8 volunteers
(9 volunteer hours)
46 blood donations
**Give it Forward** is an annual initiative that collects items donated by students during move out and disperses them to our on-campus student organization, Student Support Foundation, and local community agencies. Due to COVID-19 impacting the move out process, we were unable to host our traditional “Give it Forward” program. We are grateful for our friends in Physical Plant for helping put together a quick food donation collection during move out, which helped us collect some donations for our campus food pantry.

This initiative prompted parents of PSU students to send up some care packages to PSU during the COVID-19 stay at home orders, to share with students who were residing on campus. We are incredibly grateful for everything that was sent up, and it helped us to keep SSF’s Food Shelf in Merrill Place stocked with lots of great treats and necessary supplies.
PSU transitioned to remote learning just after spring break due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Office of Community Impact engaged volunteers in collecting PPE items for Speare Memorial Hospital and the Central NH Public Health Network.

While we collectively mourned the significant loss of life and adjusted to a new way of being, the OCI continued to engage students online through Zoom and social media programs and posts including our weekly Partner Spotlights, Let’s Talk Tuesday, Social Action Toolkit, Friday’s on the Farm, and Virtual Volunteerism programs.
DONATION DROP-OFF INFORMATION

Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 1-5 p.m.

ALLWell North Parking Garage,
32 North River Street, Holderness, NH
Additionally, we were pleased to partner with our colleague Dr. Katie Gaebel from the Career Development Office to host a workshop for graduating seniors.

From Volunteerism to Professionalism

Translating your volunteer experiences into employment assets.

Calling all seniors who engage with the Office of Community Impact!

You’re invited to a Zoom session to discuss the next leg of your journey. Please join Casey, Jess, and our dear friend Katie Gaebel from the Career Development Office to learn how to translate your community engagement to your professional profiles and materials. Bring a resume, and/or cover letter if you have it, but please know that it’s not required. We look forward to dreaming, planning, and celebrating with you!

Time: Wednesday, April 22nd at 2pm.

Please RSVP using the link in the description.
The Office of Community Impact is pleased to collaborate with faculty members in supporting high impact community engaged learning that advances integrated cluster projects and positively benefits our broader community.

Resources and tools are available on the OCI website in support of high quality service learning experiences that integrate best practices in partner development, reciprocity, and reflection.

Service Learning Spotlight

The OCI was pleased to collaborate with Professors, Jenn Kastick and Dr. Khánh Lại and their Intro to Social Work students in supporting service learning placements with local non-profit organizations. We were also happy to partner with Dr. Kimberly Livingstone in presenting our service workshop in her Tackling a Wicked Problem class.
Many thanks to our colleagues in Social Work!
Off-Campus Federal Work Study

Students have the opportunity to use their work study financial aid packages to work at local nonprofit organizations. This experience provides our students with direct learning from our community partners. This past year the program engaged 97 student placements at 11 locations, completing approximately 9,000 hours during AY2019/20.

Students spend their time supporting our local agencies and learning from them in areas including client management, youth development, social services, event management, community education, and many other valuable learning opportunities.

Off-Campus Federal Work Study Partners
Campus Caring Coalition, Campton Recreation Department, Campus Ministry, Flip’n Furniture, Grafton Regional Development Corp., Ladders, Pemi Baker Television, Pemi Youth Center, Plymouth Recreation Department, Russell Elementary School, Whole Village.
The Office of Community Impact empowers student leaders through student employment and program coordinator positions. This past academic year, seven Student Ambassadors worked for the office through student employment and internships. In addition, volunteer student leadership positions are available through social action student organizations such as PSU Volunteers, Student Support Foundation, and Service Trips.

These student leaders create a welcoming environment at PSU, where their peers gain a sense of belonging and come to understand how much they matter in our community.

“Why not help others? If you have the ability to do so, there are so many people out there who would appreciate it more than you know. Do all you can to better you as well as bettering others. In this world full of sadness and what seems to be hate, show a little love as it can go really far.”

-Riley Drew ‘20

“Connect your passion with real-world issues by engaging in your community. In addition to that, the more positivity you put out there the better for your wellbeing and the wellbeing of others.”

-Tallie Phan ‘20
Student Development Modules

The Community Engaged Learning Module helps to prepare students for their community engaged learning experiences. This online training lays the foundation for developing PSU’s four Habits of Mind that cultivate the NACE (National Association for Colleges and Employers).

Students can take these modules online by going to the OCI webpage.

“I am going to take the lessons of how to present yourself in positive way when in the community through my attitude, dress, body language, communication skills, and presence. I am going to become more mindful in my thoughts to keep them more positive, which I think in turn will make my internship a better experience.”

“My favorite aspect was gaining knowledge that I can use when describing myself to future employers as the job search comes closer.”

“I liked section four, because it pointed out the traits of a leader. This is important information to know, whether you are volunteering somewhere or just in a classroom. Anyone can be a leader, and knowing these traits will only help people become better at what they want to do.”

Student Voices
Workshops

The Office of Community Impact hosts workshops that provide students with safe and brave space to explore important topics and further develop as self-aware, civically engaged, and socially responsible active citizens. We were pleased to present the “Good Service Workshop” to a Tackling A Wicked Problem Class, a required course for all incoming first-years.

Ethical Engagement Workshop

Presented by: The Office of Community Impact

What Is Good Service?

The 3Rs

- Relationship
- Reflection
- Reciprocity
The Office of Community Impact leads PSU’s membership with Campus Compact, a national coalition of colleges and universities committed to the public purposes of higher education. This year, Molly Cassidy, Suzanne Gaulocher, Ph.D., and Project EXTRA of Laconia, NH, have been honored by Plymouth State University (PSU) with Campus Compact for New Hampshire’s (CCNH) annual Presidents’ Awards. The awardees were celebrated online earlier this month rather than with a traditional ceremony due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Molly Cassidy

Sociology major, was honored with the Presidents’ Leadership Award, which recognizes students or student groups who have made outstanding contributions to civic engagement. Cassidy is a student leader who has been involved in many service and community initiatives and she was recognized as a Newman Civic Fellow through Campus Compact in 2019. She has had a significant impact on PSU and the broader community through a variety of initiatives, including the Angel Tree Project, the Give It Forward Program, blood drives, Project Linus and the Bridge House Community Dinners program, as well as two social action service trips.
Each of this year’s awardees exemplifies Plymouth State University’s culture of service, and are leaders and role models for our community,”

Dr. Don Birx  
President  
Plymouth State University
2020-21 Newman Civic Fellowship Recipient:

Tallie (Tam) Phan

Tallie Phan is recognized for her meaningful contributions to her local and global communities. The yearlong fellowship provides honorees at Campus Compact member institutions with training and networking for personal, professional, and civic development.

“Tallie (Tam) Phan exemplifies a student leader who is making significant contributions to the development of her peers, and to our local and global communities. As a junior graphic design major and international student from Hanoi, Vietnam, Tallie serves as a Student Impact Ambassador with the Office of Community Impact where she dedicates her time to engaging her peers in community identified projects. Tallie also manages all graphic design and marketing materials for the Office of Community Impact programs. As the President of PSU Volunteers, Tallie embodies Ut Prosim, as she is continuously inspiring her peers to look at root causes of social issues and to widen their perspectives of the world. Tallie spends her time as a Plymouth State student ensuring her peers have intentionally designed and highly ethical service experiences.”

Dr. Don Birx
President
Plymouth State University
In the transition to remote learning and working, many seniors of the class of 2020 unfortunately missed out on their graduation ceremony. The Office of Community Impact took this opportunity to highlight seniors exemplifying leadership in community impact through a series of digital spotlight on our social media.

**Molly Cassidy**
Class of 2020

Student Impact Ambassador at the Office of Community Impact; Social Action Trips Participant (Pennsylvanial); Feminist Fact; PSU Hammocking Club; President’s Commission on the Status of Women.

“I’d love to give a shoutout to Jess and Casey in the Office of Community Impact. Thank you for giving meaning and positivity to my experience at PSU, really would not be the same person I am today without your love and support. Love ya’ll!"

**Anna Ouellette**
Class of 2020

Delta Zeta Sorority; Social Action Trips; Nicaragua Club

What’s your most memorable service experience?

“Participating in the Social Action Trip to Jamaica my junior year.”

**Riley Drew**
Class of 2020

Student Senate (Class rep., Secretary), Class Officer (Treasurer), Best Buddies (Secretary), Tau Omicron Sorority, Ultimate Frisbee; Panther for a Day; Admissions Rep., PeerPitch, McN (Secretary 2020-2021), Stamping out Segments, AOCB, Social Action Trips Participant.

“Why not help others? If you have the ability to do so, there are so many people all over who would appreciate it more than you know. Do all you can to better you as well as bettering others, in this world full of sadness and what seems to be hate, show a little love as it can go really far.”
Michaela Thomas
Class of 2020

Student Impact Ambassador at the Office of Community Impact; Social Action Trips Participant (Kauai).

"On the trip (Kauai) in particular, I saw the amazing impact we can have on a community through our connections. One of my favorite experiences in Kauai was meeting Donette, a 95-year-old resident. We spoke for hours about her life, greatest loves of her life, and her love of North Woods law. It’s these conversations that will keep me connected from afar and remind me of the lasting impacts of service!"

Nicole Marquis
Class of 2020

Dance Practicum Student, ASCD; President of Hammocking Club

What’s your most memorable service experience?
"I did my service trip to Perkasville, Alabama. I loved interacting with the locals and contributing to their community in a positive way."

"Happiness can be found even in the darkest of times, when we only remember to turn on the light."
-Albus Dumbledore

Klyde Canabano
Class of 2020

Community Advisor; Trip Coordinator for Social Action Trip

What’s your most memorable service experience?
"RSS trip March 2019; Hurricane Relief in North Carolina."

Favorite quote?
"If your absence brings you peace, you didn’t love them."
-Kim Carey

Shannon Meighan
Class of 2020

Student Impact Ambassador at the Office of Community Impact; Social Action Trips participant, Rugby club.

What’s your most memorable service experience?
"Too many wonderful experiences to choose my favorite. But my most recent spring break trip was awesome! Got to help so many people!"

"I want to give a shoutout to my family for all their support the past four years! Couldn’t have done it without them!"
Special Spotlight: Tylor Austin, UG 21’

Service is Love in Action Award

is presented to

Tylor Austin
Class of 2021
As the Office of Community Impact looks forward to a new academic year, we are excited to continue our collaboration in cultivating a caring and connected community with students, faculty, staff, and partners.

Below are goals for AY2020-21:

1. Continue to enhance the Community Impact Co-Curricular pathway experience
2. Focus on assessing program offerings in terms of the development of Habits of Mind and NACE (National Association for Colleges and Employers) Competencies
3. Expand student training to achieve reciprocity for community partners
4. Further develop a student leadership infrastructure that supports open labs at partner organizations
5. Enhance communication and promotional efforts to increase engagement and offerings

Love,
OCI Family.