

Center for Community Engagement and Social Change

End of Year Report

The Center for Community Engagement and Social Change (CCE), an integral part of the Center for Career, Life, and Community Engagement, is located in the Seeley G. Mudd Library. The CCE office sits next to an old Oak tree that has served as a source of inspiration and creative thinking for the change makers in the CCE. The Oak tree is a symbol of strength, morale, resistance, and knowledge. The Oak tree is a powerful life-affirming symbol that serves many purposes and supports a complex ecosystem. One might say that the mission of the CCE is well aligned with the oak tree.

Summary of Accomplishments

The mission of the CCE is to encourage advocacy, service, and learning on the Lawrence campus, connecting Lawrentians to needs in the surrounding community and creating an environment of mutual learning and growth, while providing service to local organizations and individuals. Working collaboratively with the community, the CCE aims to create civically-minded students by building relationships, establishing partnerships and providing meaningful service. The CCE accomplishes this mission by:

- Serving as an entry point to the volunteer needs of the Fox Cities and providing service to and learning from the community
- Developing and sustaining programs that address systemic issues
- Supporting the professional development and leadership needs of service-minded student leaders

In the 2018-19 academic year, 782 Lawrentians contributed a total of 6,659 hours of service to the Fox Cities Community and beyond and engaged 221 student organizations and community partners, creating an economic impact of \$150,165.86. Lawrentians volunteered primarily for causes supporting Children & Youth, Education, Animals, Arts & Culture, Homeless & Housing, Poverty & Basic Needs, Food Insecurity and Older Adults.

In addition, 75% of the graduating seniors completing a “cap and gown” survey indicated that they volunteered during their time at Lawrence. Over 70% of senior students indicated that their volunteer experience enhanced their connection to the community, while over 50% of senior students indicated the experience: 1.) helped them develop transferable skills (e.g. communication, project management, appreciation for diversity, etc.) 2). helped them develop a new awareness regarding community issues, 3.) motivated them to be an active citizen in the community and 4). contributed positively to the quality of their academic experience.

In addition, the CCE evolved this year and focused on the following 2018-19 department objectives:

Objectives:	Outcomes:
<p>Sustain CCE programs specific to first-year students</p>	<p>New this year, all first-year students attended Welcome Week's "Into the Streets" event, connecting CORE groups to volunteer opportunities in the Fox Cities community. 396 students volunteered 1,371 hours at 17 unique service projects.</p> <p>The Viking Ambassadors in Service and Engagement (VASE) Program was piloted to connect groups of first-year students to a 6-8 week facilitated service-learning opportunities.</p> <p>Thirty-three (33) first-year students engaged in 5 programs.</p>
<p>Increase number of students engaged in ongoing (vs. one-time) service commitments</p>	<p>Ethical volunteer training was created and endorsed by LUCC to ensure that LU student organizations and students receiving financial support from LU for service projects see the long-term impact of their service. Implementation will begin Fall 2019.</p> <p>Following first-year initiatives, a targeted email was sent to participants encouraging their ongoing involvement in service.</p> <p>Saturdays of Service (SOS) was removed from programming.</p> <p>Moving forward, memorandums of agreement (MOAs) with key community partners are needed to ensure ongoing service from LU through student turn over.</p>
<p>Continue to develop and strategize deep community partnerships that match the strengths and/or interests of the Lawrence community through the Service Corps model</p>	<p>New relationships were explored with Artists Building Bridges in Appleton (ABBA), Habitat ReStore West and the Building for the Arts.</p> <p>After a 6-year focus on elder rights and care and advocacy through a Service Corps position, that position will be put on hold due to increased student interest in animal welfare.</p> <p>Due to student interest and the hope of supporting career communities, future reorganization around health and differing abilities may be considered.</p>
<p>Streamline community partners within 6 focus areas</p>	<p>Each Service Corps area (6) now support two community agencies and one student organization.</p>
<p>Streamline advisement, training, and support provided to student service organization leaders so they</p>	<p>Student organizations are now required to attend a Service 101 training and an ethical volunteer training before they are officially approved by LUCC.</p>

<p>can best support volunteer group members</p>	<p>A group of Residence Life Assistants (RLAs) were responsible for providing service and social responsibility programming for students.</p> <p>Fifteen all hall programs were created by RLA's and advised by the CCE.</p> <p>Future efforts will focus on the creation of a curriculum for CCE staff and possible student organization leaders based on the Bonner Foundation and Stanford's Principles of Ethical and Effective Leadership.</p>
<p>Create image/branding of CCE</p>	<p>The CCE newly reported to the Center for Career, Life, and Community Engagement this year and changed names from the Volunteer and Community Service Center (VCSC) to the Center for Community Engagement and Social Change (CCE). Therefore, new marketing materials and branding were needed. The VCSC history as a student founded organization pre-2007 was created, a new website was finished, new CCE and Service Corps logos were created, an OGSMI for the year was approved, and volunteer stories via a "Volunteer of Note" series were shared widely across campus.</p>
<p>Customize volunteer opportunities for each career community</p>	<p>All CCE sponsored and LUCC sponsored volunteer opportunities were aligned with a career community and promoted accordingly.</p>
<p>Continue efforts to integrate CCE within the CLC</p>	<p>While the reporting structure has changed and joint meetings have started, the CCE and the CLC have just started to identify ways to integrate via mission/vision as well as programmatically.</p>

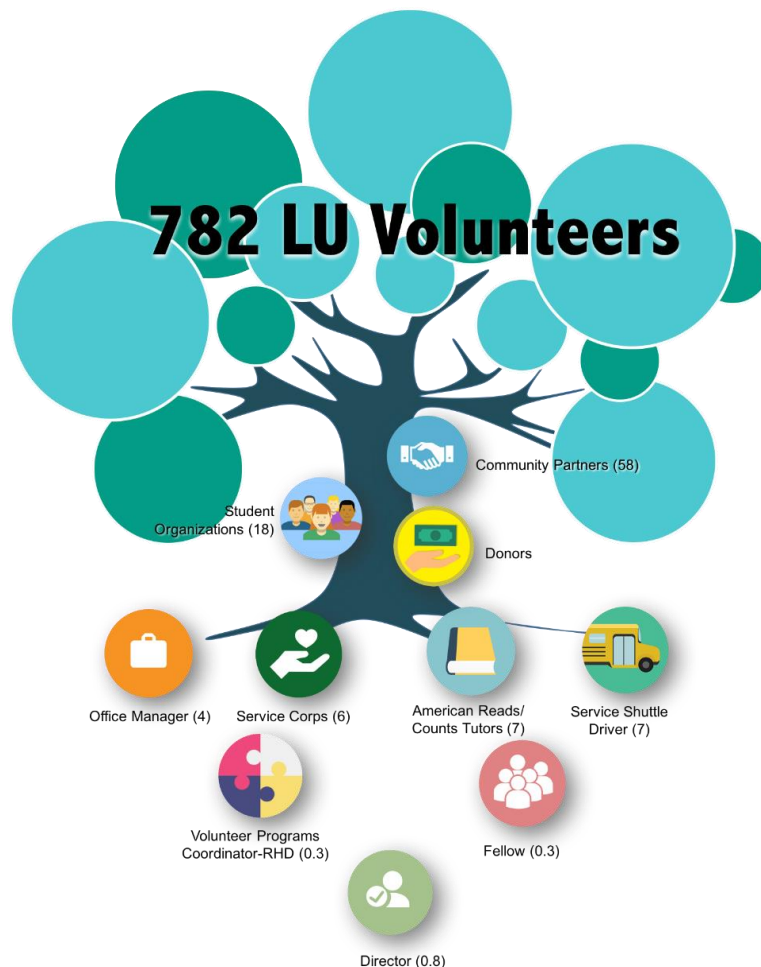
Meet Our Team

In keeping with the tradition of its founding as a student-led initiative, the CCE hired 24 student employees to lead programs addressing education equality, fair housing and hunger, environmental sustainability, child advocacy, arts programming and accessibility, youth development and empowerment, and elder loneliness. In addition, the CCE supported service-minded student organizations by providing advisement, promotional support, volunteer recruitment, financial support, and Give Pulse administration privileges.

As you can see below, the CCE has a unique team comprised of staff, volunteers, funders, and community partners and collaborators. The roots of the tree lay the foundation and create opportunities and growth for others to serve.

Student volunteers that step up as leaders and organize around social change, community agencies that serve as thought partners and provide meaningful service opportunities, and financial contributors that step forward add to that foundation and provide support to the trunk.

Lastly, the individual students that connect their purpose and skills to a need in the community are the branches that continue to grow and eventually turn into leaves or seeds that replant and spread a philanthropic and civically-minded mindset in their communities.



CCE Programs

Various services and signature programs were offered to ensure the mission had the furthest reach possible in the LU and Fox Cities community. This year, several programs were maintained with some slight program improvements. Other programs, like Viking Ambassadors in Service and Engagement – a program to support a cohort of first-year students around a social justice area of interest while removing known barriers to service engagement – were implemented.

Viking Ambassadors in Service and Engagement (VASE) aims to engage first year students in volunteering, making connections, and learning about issues in the Fox Valley community. Five programs engaged 33 first-year students in both learning (community speakers, article discussions, etc.) and providing service around: greater access to the arts, supporting fair housing and hunger, advocating and care for elders, protecting and sustaining the environment and allied healthcare.

VASE Requirements

Volunteers will...

...commit to volunteer 1-4 hours weekly for the duration of the 8 week program.

...attend a training/orientation session before serving and a recognition/celebration event at the end of the program.

...be present for all scheduled learning and service opportunities unless communicated with their program leader at least 48 hours in advance with a valid reason.



Service Corps is a civically minded program supporting student staff addressing social justice issues faced by the Fox Cities community. Those students partner with several community agencies near campus working to address these issues and offer strong volunteer opportunities for Lawrentians. Through the support of a peer network and as an advisor, the students commit to serving as agents of change for an entire academic year. Each Service Corps had some key successes this year!



- **Eighty-three (83) K-12 Appleton Area School District students requested tutoring services from the Volunteers in Tutoring at Lawrence (VITAL) program, while 101 Lawrentians expressed interested in tutoring. As a result, the program was able to match 41 tutees with tutors who served 355 hours.**
- Due to a disconnect in tutors' interests vs. tutee needs, the program will see many changes next year including: music and foreign language tutoring will not be offered, 9-12th grade students requesting STEM tutoring will no longer receive a 1:1 match but will hopefully receive group tutoring, and the program will be rebranded and called the Golden Apple Initiative.
- Several meetings with Fox Valley Literacy occurred to ensure we continue to promote volunteer needs with adult learners interested in Adult Basic Tutoring (ABE) and English Language Learning (ELL).



- Thirty-four (34) Lawrentians provided mentoring services to 34 K-6 grade youth identified as needing extra support at Edison Elementary School via the Lawrence Assistance Reaching Youth (LARY) program.
- Volunteer opportunities with Even Start Family Literacy were promoted to support their mission of preparing children ages birth to eight with the prerequisite education and literacy instruction to succeed in school, as well as improving adult literacy and parenting skills.
- **Overall, 51 volunteers served 441 hours to advocate and support youth.**



- **Nineteen (19) programs to support elders at Brewster Village, RSVP, and the Thompson Community Center were facilitated by Lawrentian volunteers.** Programs addressed: social isolation, arts/music/entertainment exposure, advocacy with staff and families, service opportunities, cultural awareness and nail care.
- Leaders of Building Intergenerational Relationships (BIR) led many programs and recruited volunteers from Brother to Brother, Chinese Student Association, Sinfonia and Delta Gamma.
- **Overall, 57 served 333 hours to support elder rights and care.**



- **Nine programs were offered by the CCE and included alumni and community speakers, nearly weekly volunteer opportunities at Riverview Gardens, pollution clean-ups, a pollinator project at Heckrodt Wetland Reserve, a service tri, and a Sustainable Menstruation Ball.**
- The Sustainable Lawrence University Garden (SLUG) and Environmental Club (new in 2018-19) were key leaders in creating opportunities and supporting volunteers.
- **Overall, 62 volunteers served 1,134 hours to support environment and sustainability needs.**



- Artists Building Bridges in Appleton (ABBA) continued to have CCE advisement and support and offered several programs and organized a weekly "Art Dump"; an email about everything related to arts engagement for the LU community.
- ABBA and CCE worked together to offer a residency to Harbor House domestic abuse services. Volunteers offered arts programming and reflection for five weeks to that week's residents and as a result powerful conversations and connections were made.
- Student leaders created a ½ day curriculum around Dr. Martin Luther King. **Fifty (50) volunteers and approximately 300 children at the Boys and Girls Club of Appleton and Menasha learned together through book reads, discussion, and a community art project.**
- **Overall, 23 volunteers served 127 hours to create greater access to the arts.**



- Formed a new relationship with Pillars (a new organization that merged 5 shelters) by serving as a volunteer and promoting volunteer needs to Lawrentians.
- **Recruited 35 volunteers to purchase, prepare, and serve 5 meals to approximately 375 individuals experiencing homelessness.**
- **Overall, 39 volunteers served 221 hours to address hunger and support fair housing.**

Service Shuttle, sponsored by the LUCC Committee on Community Service and Engagement (CCSE) and supported by the CCE, provides free transportation to volunteers looking to serve on Saturdays and Sundays. CCSE created this service in 2016 to address the top barrier to service engagement – transportation. The service was well utilized nearly every weekend of the entire 2018-19 academic year.



Martin Luther King Day: In 2003, the LUCC Standing Committee on Multicultural Affairs (currently the LUCC Committee on Diversity Affairs or CODA) passed legislation asking that LU release classes that day to celebrate the contributions of a man that was devoted to courage, truth, justice, compassion, dignity, humility, and service. The CCE, in partnership with the Committee on Community Service and Engagement (CCSE), provided 13 opportunities for students, staff and faculty to serve and learn together on this national day of service.

Martin Luther King Jr. Day

343

Volunteers

\$13,063

Total Economic Impact

5

Faculty Led Teach-Ins

**S
E
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V
E**



**L
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N**

5

Community Partners

579

Hours Served

84

People Learned About Global Hunger

CELEBRATE!

Special Thanks To: Faculty Members, CCE, CCSE, CLC, LUCC, Service RAs, LU Food Recovery Network, Celebrate Fox Cities

LUCC Student Organizations that provided year-long volunteer opportunities to campus acted as mini CCE's as they worked with community partners to recruit, retain and track/recognize their volunteer efforts in the community. Many of these organizations were advised by CCE staff and all of them received access to CCE resources including: GivePulse volunteer and event management system, supplies, financial support, Service 101 training, ethical volunteer training, CCE facility access, etc. Also, supported by the CCE were 9 Greek organizations, 9 Service and Social Responsibility RAs and leaders of the Committee on Community Service and Engagement (CCSE). These include:

Andy Reading Fund promotes the education of rural students in developing countries by providing educational books and one-on-one sponsorships.

Bomb Squad's goal is to educate, inspire and stimulate the minds of elementary school students by presenting exciting and interesting science demonstrations. To achieve this goal, the club presents shows on campus, at elementary schools and at other locations in the Fox Cities.

The mission of **BROTHER TO BROTHER**, A Men of Color Empowerment Organization, is to establish a multicultural brotherhood, cultivate leadership, and provide service and advocacy for our communities by establishing a safe space, dismantling preconceived notions and mobilizing our brothers to powerfully engage in the Lawrence Community. Our three pillars are brotherhood, leadership, and service.

Building Intergenerational Relationships (BIR) seeks to connect students with the elderly at Brewster Village and other local senior homes to build meaningful relationships through volunteering and community activism. Volunteering options range from providing complimentary makeovers to reading books to an elderly friend.

GlobeMed aims to strengthen the movement for global health equity by empowering students and communities to work together to improve the health of people around the world.

<p>Greenfire is a student-run organization that seeks to educate the Lawrence Community about sustainability, to advocate for environmental justice, and to promote environmental policy. Members plan collaborative activities, run campaigns, host speakers, and organize campus-wide events. Greenfire is nonpartisan and membership is open to everyone on the Lawrence campus.</p>
<p>The purpose of LARY (Lawrence Assistance Reaching Youth) is to provide mentorship to children in need of extra support at Edison Elementary School. LARY members fulfill this purpose by mentoring a child at Edison Elementary for two hours each week. This benefits the Lawrence community by providing opportunities for Lawrence students to mentor elementary-age children, gaining valuable experience and forming meaningful relationships.</p>
<p>The Lawrence University Food Recovery Network seeks to eliminate food waste on the Lawrence campus. We seek to develop and support a sustainable relationship between the campus and organizations in the Appleton community through regular food donations. As representatives of Lawrence, we are the connection between Bon Appetit and organizations who fight hunger in the Appleton area. We strive to prevent further food waste and promote awareness of sustainability issues in our food system.</p>
<p>KidsGive is a Lawrence University affiliated nonprofit organization whose mission is to educate students in the United States about Sierra Leonean life and culture, and promote informed giving while providing children in Sierra Leone with the opportunity to learn and become the next great leaders of their generation.</p>
<p>LU Vikes (new in 2018-19!) has a mission is to mentor, support and provide opportunities to underprivileged children in the Appleton community through athletics and general wellness.</p>
<p>The Lawrence Chapter of the American Medical Student Association (AMSA) serves to support undergraduate students interested in careers in medicine and health. The American Medical Student Association is committed to improving health care and healthcare delivery to all people; promoting active improvement in medical education; involving its members in the social, moral, and ethical obligations of the profession of medicine; assisting in the improvement and understanding of world health problems; contributing to the welfare of medical students, premedical students, interns, residents and post-MD/DO trainees; and advancing the profession of medicine. At Lawrence, AMSA strives to guide students on their path to post-graduate medical education and to serve the Lawrence and Appleton communities through service, education, and community involvement.</p>
<p>The Lawrence chapter of NAfME, National Association for Music Educators, promotes the philosophy of "Change the world; share music". We explore this mission and share our passion for music teaching and learning through interactive workshops, presentations by leading professionals in our field and experiential projects both on our campus and in the greater community.</p>
<p>People for Animal Welfare (PAW) is committed to providing animal welfare education and involvement opportunities for students locally through volunteering, fundraising and group activities.</p>
<p>Reaching Into Scholastic Excellence University Program (RiseUp) is a student-led volunteer organization dedicated to helping local first generation, low socioeconomic high school students from the Appleton community on their journey in applying and attending college. Its purpose is to provide the necessary academic and moral support for students who do not have the resources or encouragement to go to college, but have the desire and drive to do so. Its mission is to eliminate the socioeconomic barrier that segregates colleges and school systems everywhere. In addition, it will help lead to the success of first-generation college students and provide more diversity in schools. By creating a relationship between college and high school students, both Lawrence University and the Appleton community will be able to make a small difference in the lives of those students who need it.</p>

She's the First fights gender inequality through education. We support girls who will be first in their families to graduate from high school & train students everywhere to be global leaders.

Sustainable Lawrence University Garden (SLUG) grows fresh produce for the Lawrence community using sustainable agricultural methods in our garden, orchard, and apiary. SLUG actively educates and fosters dialogue within the Lawrence and Fox Cities community about sustainable agriculture in order to create a more just food system and a stronger community. SLUG welcomes any and all people regardless of gardening experience or involvement.

Volunteers in Tutoring at Lawrence (VITAL) program is a free service provided by Lawrence student volunteers for K-12 grade students in the Fox Valley area. The VITAL program matches K-12 grade students from Appleton schools with the greatest academic need to Lawrence student volunteer tutors. Individual and group tutors are required to meet with their tutees once a week for at least ½ hour to 1 hour at the Seeley G. Mudd Library at Lawrence University. Volunteer hours are submitted to the tutor's academic record and can fulfill various organization requirements. Through individual tutor-tutee relationships, VITAL is committed to encouraging all students to persevere in their studies and have confidence in their work. The VITAL program also greatly benefits participating tutors as they learn to express clearly and communicate effectively with their tutees.

The **Committee on Community Service and Engagement (CCSE)** is a LUCC committee focused to promote volunteerism on campus. CCSE works to facilitate collaboration and communication between LUCC, volunteer and community service center, and student groups focusing on volunteerism. CCSE encourages students to experience the unique relationship Lawrentians have with the Appleton community through volunteerism. CCSE works to address the concerns of the Lawrence community in areas of volunteerism and community service.

CCSE also oversees the Humanitarian Grant, a grant awarded to students or student-organizations focused on serving the on-campus community, the Appleton community, or the world at large.

LU Change Agents

The CCE is full of stories that demonstrate the impact civic engagement can have on both the community and the volunteer. Much like the Oak tree that sits outside of the CCE shedding its leaves and seeds, the CCE hopes to graduate students prepared for lives of civic engagement. Lawrentians are ready to use their knowledge and experiences to address complex social problems in their Life after Lawrence neighborhoods and communities.



Michaela Lynn Rabideau '19 found a few hours weekly every year during her time at Lawrence to care and advocate for animals at local no kill animal shelters. She served as President of People for Animal Welfare (PAW) for three years and led many others in the fight for animal rights. Her strong and determined leadership has allowed PAW to remain a strong organization and she provided many opportunities for her fellow students to serve through weekly service trips, fundraising efforts, and even through puppy yoga. She received the Lantern Community Service Award this year for her contributions.



Sam Taylor '19 volunteered over 150 hours to provide greater arts access to area youth and adults in transition and to mentor a child through the Lawrence Assistance Reaching Youth (LARY) program. Through his three-year employment with the Center for Community Engagement and Social Change and his leadership with Artists Building Bridges in Appleton (ABBA), he inspired others to serve. His family and LU community has made civic engagement a part of his priorities for a lifetime. He received the Lantern Community Service Award this year for his contributions.



Chris Toivonen '17 was an active volunteer during his time at Lawrence and, when reflecting on the role community engagement had on his experience, he shared, "The service work that I did with LU Rotaract played a big role in my personal reasons for going to medical school and is an important part of my application. The Center for Community Engagement and Social Change played an integral role in helping us start and sustain the club. It took a lot of hard work and effort on my part to make it this far but, you the CCE, played a very important role in helping me achieve my goal. I feel like I finally understand the saying "it takes a village to raise a child."

Following graduation, Chris chose to work and volunteer in the Fox Cities. This past year he volunteered 130 hours at Pillars Adults and Family Shelter and shared it was a big part of why he recently got accepted to medical school. In Fall, 2019 he'll be starting medical school at Creighton University.

Looking Ahead

Strengths * Challenges * Opportunities

Just like nature, the CCE must keep evolving and changing based on the surrounding environment. Looking ahead to the 2019-20 academic year (and beyond) there is much potential to continue supporting the mission of Lawrence University and the interests and needs of future students as well as the community we serve.

Strengths: The department is entering its 13th year and has **substantial community relationships** through a structure that has Service Corps students not only maintaining community relationships but that **leaves room to create new bridges** for blooming community

partnerships. **Strong student leadership** is supported by the **Director's background in student development, counseling and student supervision**. Students are being utilized at full capacity resulting in a **strong student learning experience**, an efficiently run department, and positive and consistent results. More than 50% of current students track their volunteer engagement (above the national average) **over 75% of graduates indicate that they volunteered during their time at Lawrence**. The center is **equipped with useful resources** such as the **GivePulse** software program, **WI Campus Compact membership, programmatic and financial support from CCSE** (Committee on Community Service and Engagement) and **a new connection with the CLC** (Center for Career, Life, and Community Engagement).

Challenges: The department is **running at full capacity**. Staffing decreased this year while funding for programs has remained pretty consistent. Data shows that when the office can secure additional staffing, there is an increase in number of volunteers/hours, community partnerships, student organization involvement and programming but **additional staffing has not been sustainable. This year the CCE saw a 4% increase in the number of students serving but a 6% decrease in total hours served**. While the Service Corps model seems to be working, it is still a new infrastructure that would benefit from additional support to fully develop. Some issue areas have strong, sustainable and collaborative programs while others are still developing. Also, there are **two social justice areas that are often requested that the CCE cannot fully address (differing abilities and health, and diversity and inclusion)**.

Opportunities: The CCE **now reports to the CLC** (Center for Career, Life, and Community Engagement) and there are **endless opportunities to collaborate with colleagues, provide more comprehensive services for students interested in experiential learning, help students connect their classroom learning with opportunities for hands on application and support students in professionalizing their experiences** in resumes/interviews, etc. Also, the **VASE program in its pilot phase was successful and was able to secure funding to expand the program**.

Next year, the CCE's goals will include:

1. **Further connect learning to service.** Continue to explore ways to further utilize civic reflection training and social justice education. Research curriculum and continue to integrate into staff training/meetings and volunteer orientation/support. Pilot Service 101 and Ethical volunteer training for LU student organizations and students receiving financial support from LU for service projects.
2. **Remove barriers for service.** Continue with the VASE program (which removes the barriers of transportation and fear of volunteering alone) and double the size of each program. Further diversity volunteer opportunities to ensure interested students can volunteer with a population that most interests them.

3. **Build capacity through technology.** Further utilize Give Pulse to track activity, offer a free service to the community, provide an extra tool (complete with impact reports) to student organization leader, and promote volunteer opportunities and educational workshops to the Lawrence community.
4. **Sustain long-term partnerships** by creating memorandums of agreement (MOAs) with key community partners to ensure ongoing service from LU despite student turn over.
5. **Continue efforts to integrate CCE with CLC.** Identify ways to further integrate via mission/vision as well as programmatically.