

PRESS RELEASE

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FSU students make a difference in Tallahassee through service

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. Students at Florida State University are making a significant difference in the Tallahassee area through community service. According to recent statistics, over 270,000 hours of community service were completed by nearly 4,000 FSU students between May 2005 and April 2006. In 2005, the Independent Sector estimated the value of a volunteer hour at \$18.04, which gives nonprofit agencies and charitable organizations a tool to help quantify the contributions of volunteers. Based on this information, FSU students have contributed nearly \$5 million worth of time and effort to the Tallahassee community this past academic year.

The Center for Civic Education and Service at Florida State University engages its students, staff and faculty in community-based learning through service. For students, the Center serves as the campus clearinghouse for service opportunities in the Big Bend area and beyond. For faculty and staff, the Center assists with strategies to connect community service to classroom curriculum through its service learning program.

Florida State University recognizes the importance of community service within a liberal arts education and encourages its reporting on academic transcripts through the ServScript Program. Students who complete a minimum of 20 volunteer hours per semester, and meet other program guidelines and deadlines, can participate in the ServScript Program. It is through this program that the Center for Civic Education and Service quantifies how many volunteer hours are completed each semester. It is not known though, the total number of FSU students who volunteer or the number of service hours completed throughout the university, because the ServScript Program is a voluntary program, and not all students who volunteer also participate in the ServScript Program.

Recently, FSU students were asked why they serve. Lauren Woeber replied, "Through my college years, I have found that serving the community is not a chore, but a way to enrich my college experience in a prolific and creative way." Student Pamela Crosby stated, "If the good we do continues to grow and influence others, then our labors for what we may have once regarded as 'lost causes' can transform into catalysts for widespread change." These FSU students are both recipients of the Student Profiles of Service Award, one of the recognition awards presented to students each year for their personal example in commitment to service. Jillian White, FSU graduate student, explains "I can't imagine not serving. By serving with a variety of agencies in college, I learned about different social issues and how I could fit any degree into a service career. I love watching other people grow in service and passionately pursue a particular cause." Jillian is an alumna of the Service Scholar Program at FSU, a program that integrates direct service with scholarship and leadership to empower students to develop into life-long, active citizens.

For more information about the Center for Civic Education and Service, and the programs and services it offers, contact Lisa Brown, Program Assistant, at the Center for Civic Education and Service at 850-644-3342 or via email at lbrown@admin.fsu.edu.

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