

## **What is Service Learning?**

Service learning enables students to apply course concepts to a real life experience that meets a community need and to reflect upon all aspects. Course objectives and student community work are fundamentally integrated throughout the semester. The basic aim of service learning is two-fold: first, that students' service will heighten the understanding of central academic themes, goals, or subject matter in their courses; second, that the academic course content will facilitate students' ability to reflect in deep. In service learning students learn how to apply ideas, theories, and models to social issues in a practical context while gaining insights from practitioners in community-based organizations.

Students participate in direct service to their community within an academic experience, at Villa students enroll in a service learning course.

## **Is Service Learning a requirement for students at Villa Maria College?**

Yes, service learning is mandatory and all hours must be completed before a student may graduate from Villa Maria College.

## **When should a student enroll in a service learning course?**

Students may begin service learning during their first semester at Villa if enrolled in a service learning course. It is recommended that students meet with their Academic Advisor to explore service learning courses and the most appropriate semesters to enroll in them.

## **Are students able to participate in a Service Learning experience over the summer or semester break?**

Yes. This arrangement must be approved by the professor of the course students will be enrolled in the next semester.

## **Is there a fee for Service Learning?**

No, except for transportation costs and appropriate clothing.

## **Do the community agencies have requirements for student volunteers?**

Yes. Students are to adhere to the requirements set forth by the agency including number of hours required by the agency and/or perhaps a NYS background check.

## **What are the benefits of Service Learning?**

## Villa Maria College Service Learning Q and A

There are many benefits to students on many levels; helps you clarify a career choice, develop self-efficacy, research skills, collaboration, and gain a sense of fulfillment and accomplishment.