Last academic year, 32,369 University of South Carolina volunteers contributed 266,676 hours of service and $1,205,475 in donations to a variety of causes in the surrounding community, across the country and around the world. Gamecocks are passionate about giving back, and many opportunities are available throughout the year for students to come together and make a difference for those in need. Located on the second floor of the Russell House University Union across from Einstein Bros. Bagels, the newly renovated Leadership and Service Center is the first stop any student should make when looking for service opportunities.

Awareness and celebration events

Held annually, Carolina Cares, Hunger and Homelessness Week and MLK Days of Service offer a variety of service and philanthropic opportunities focused during specific times of the year.

Impact Weekly

UofSC students can participate in service projects every day of the week! Impact Weekly service activities occur daily during listed hours, and transportation to area agencies is provided for students by the Leadership and Service Center. The types of service span a wide variety of populations and causes in order to appeal to all students. Students can sign up online to participate just once or can keep signing up to attend each week.

Service Saturdays

Held on select Saturdays during the year, Service Saturdays are great one-time service opportunities for students to do on their own or with a group of friends. Students can register in advance and just show up the morning of the event. Transportation and lunch are provided.

Alternative break trips

Students also can use their time off from school to give back on an alternative break trip. These trips are offered during fall, winter and spring break and are a great way to travel to new places and make friends. Each trip requires an application and a fee to cover transportation, meals and lodging.

Two students, two paths to service

Eric Bethea, a junior economics major from Acworth, Ga., has participated in many of the service opportunities offered by the Leadership and Service Center over the past three years. He has gained a lot from engaging in service at UofSC.

“You get a bunch of people together who you wouldn’t normally see, and you already have a commonality [among] you because you’re going to do service.”

Eliza Binney, a junior public health major from Marlboro, N.Y., jumped right into service as a student after participating in an alternative break her freshman year. She is now the director of alternative breaks and has been on three trips. Since she is an out-of-state student, she said fall break was too short for her to fly home to New York.

“I saw a flyer for an [alternative break] trip to Charleston to work with Habitat for Humanity,” Binney said. “[I] went on the trip, and it was fantastic. You get to spend time with a lot of cool people, and you learn a lot. It’s amazing how I have been able to take those experiences and translate them into what I’m doing in class.”

Binney and Bethea both offered the same advice for students looking to get involved in service — go visit the Leadership and Service Center!

“Just walk in there. Everyone is so friendly,” Binney shared. “[The leadership coaches] really care about students.”

Bethea shared why it is important to give back to others in the community and what motivates him to serve in multiple ways — he serves to improve the lives of others.

“If it just takes something small to make someone’s day better or someone’s life better, why not?” he said.

If your student is looking to make a positive impact and learn more about societal issues, encourage him/her to pursue a service opportunity. Students can stop by the Russell House to talk to a leadership coach or visit the Leadership and Service Center website at www.sa.sc.edu/leadershipandservice.
Dear friends:

Welcome to the new members of the Carolina family whose students are joining us for their first semester on campus. We also must prepare to say farewell to many soon-to-be graduates who will be joining the large community of University of South Carolina alumni. Whether you are a family member of a brand new UofSC student or a parent of an upperclassman, we hope you take great pride in being part of the Gamecock family!

In this issue of Carolina Ties, you will find information about the many ways students, faculty and staff serve others and give back to the community. The university is proud to produce community-minded citizens who are aware of global issues and value and respect all people. We ask for your assistance in engaging your student in the conversation beginning with the question, “how are you giving back?” Through this publication, you can offer suggestions to your student about how to connect with the community and get involved.

The brand new Leadership and Service Center now will be the hub of service on our campus. We proudly opened the doors to this new space earlier in the semester and are excited to see how students will combine leadership and service to make a positive impact on our campus and the world. As you can see throughout this publication, there are many ways that your student can choose to get involved and give back. If your student is interested in other service opportunities that are not included in these pages, encourage him/her to talk to the staff in the Leadership and Service Center, located in the Russell House University Union.

We hope that you will be able to join us September 25-27 for another unforgettable Parents Weekend. Additional information will be available in the coming months, but you can see initial details online at www.sa.sc.edu/parents. We love to welcome families back for their second, third and fourth (or more!) Parents Weekends! Registration is required to participate in Parents Weekend events.

Stay informed and in touch with Carolina by joining our dues-free Parents Association. Every parent or family member who attended orientation since May 2014 with their student was automatically signed up to receive monthly e-newsletters, but if you would like to add additional family members, you can sign up online at www.sa.sc.edu/parents.

We encourage you to stay in touch. Remember that we are always just a phone call or email away. Our staff is happy to help with anything you may need.

Sincerely,

Dennis A. Pruitt
Vice President for Student Affairs, Vice Provost and Dean of Students
How do you give back at UofSC?
Compiled by Luci Lucas
Reid Family Intern, Office of Parents Programs

With so many opportunities to serve, students can get involved in a variety of service-based activities during their time at UofSC. Here are some ways that a few students answered the question, “How do you give back at UofSC?”

**Alesia Henderson**
Senior exercise science major from Carlisle, S.C.
“I like to participate in as many Service Saturdays as I can. I feel that it builds character, and I’m actually doing something with the community.”

**Nick Tennison**
Junior psychology major from Hilton Head, S.C.
“Twice a month, I volunteer at Midtown Fellowship and watch kids while their parents are at the [worship] service.”

**Mariah Humphrey**
Sophomore biochemistry and molecular biology major from Charleston, S.C.
“I am a personal touch volunteer at Palmetto Health Baptist Hospital. I work in the Women’s Nesting Place, which is where mothers go right after they have their babies.”

**Adam Mayer**
Senior exercise science major from Avoca, Wis.
“I am a Service Saturday site leader. I love to give back and be a part of something bigger than myself. My favorite location is the Habitat for Humanity Restore. I haven’t missed one since coming to USC!”

**Sarah Ingraham**
Sophomore sociology and women’s and gender studies major from Suffield, Conn.
 “[My student organization] does a lot of fundraising events for Sexual Trauma Services of the Midlands.”

**Jonathan Whitley McClinton**
Senior theater major from Camden, S.C.
“I contribute to monthly food drives and help spread the word about them. I also volunteer at God’s Storehouse, which is a non-profit organization that provides food, clothing and household supplies to those in need.”

**Tamaragail Tarrant**
Junior biological sciences major from Simpsonville, S.C.
“I enjoy participating in Service Saturdays and giving back to Columbia. On campus, I am a peer leader and mentor through the Multicultural Assistance Peer Program, and I help [other] students.”

The Community Service Fair offers a chance for students to learn about service opportunities.
Carolina students have many opportunities to support philanthropic endeavors and raise money for a variety of causes. Two of the largest student philanthropies on campus are Colleges Against Cancer and Dance Marathon. Colleges Against Cancer helps fundraise for the American Cancer Society and hosts the annual Relay For Life event each April. Dance Marathon is an organization dedicated to fundraising for Palmetto Health Children’s Hospital, the local Children’s Miracle Network hospital. These two organizations have raised more than $880,000 combined in just the past two years alone. We interviewed student leaders from both organizations to give you an inside look at student philanthropy at Carolina. Colleges Against Cancer and Dance Marathon are just two of the many philanthropic organizations your student can get involved in at UofSC.

**Colleges Against Cancer**

Colleges Against Cancer hosts the annual Relay For Life event in the spring, which is one of many fundraisers that take place throughout the year for the American Cancer Society.

Victoria Valencia, a second-year nursing student from Mexico City, Mexico, serves as the co-chair for logistics and helps organize and implement Relay For Life. Valencia got involved with Relay For Life during her time in high school and knew she wanted to get more involved in college.

“The Relay For Life event is such a great opportunity to get involved as a student,” she said. “You have all sorts of people coming together to celebrate the lives of individuals who passed away from cancer, are currently fighting cancer and are survivors of cancer.”

Some of the programs that student fundraising helps support locally are the Hope Lodge in Charleston, S.C., and the Road to Recovery, a program that helps transport cancer patients to their medical facility.

“Hope Lodge is a residence in Charleston where cancer patients across the state can stay while they receive treatment at the Medical University of South Carolina,” Valencia said. “As a committee, we have visited the Hope Lodge and volunteered around the house. It was such an amazing experience to see how our fundraising is positively impacting the lives [of others].”

Garrett Lash is a first-year international business major from Redondo Beach, Calif. He serves Colleges Against Cancer as the team captain for the committee members. Lash helps motivate the committee members to reach their personal and team fundraising goals prior to the Relay For Life event.

“Relay is a way to connect with all the members of your community,” Lash shared. “We work with local businesses [for donations], reach out to community members and recruit survivors to attend our event.”

Valencia pinpointed the moment she realized how easy it could be to raise money for Relay For Life. She was surprised at how much money could be raised in a short amount of time.

“During one of our committee meetings, we were encouraged to email friends and family about Relay For Life and to ask for a donation,” she shared. “By the end of the meeting, which is only an hour, we had raised over $500. It was so cool to see how easy it was to raise money for such a great cause and that has really encouraged me to continue to send emails and post on social media.”

When it comes to getting involved on campus, Lash stressed the importance of getting involved early. As a first-year student, he found out about Relay For Life during the fall Student Organization Fair on Greene Street.

“I had participated in Relay For Life with my high school,” Lash said. “Once I saw there was an organization here at USC, I knew I had to get involved.”

If your student is interested in learning more about Colleges Against Cancer and the Relay For Life event, he/she can visit [www.relayforlife.org/uscsc](http://www.relayforlife.org/uscsc) or follow the group on Twitter at @USCRelay4Life. Applications for the 2015-2016 committee will be available in mid- to late-April.
Dance Marathon

Throughout the school year, Dance Marathon hosts fundraisers and percent nights to raise money for the Palmetto Health Children’s Hospital. Dance Marathon works to get as close to their fundraising goal as possible prior to the Main Event. The Main Event is the day when students come together to celebrate with the children and families they are fundraising for, dance and raise awareness about Dance Marathon’s cause.

Leslie Knight, a fourth-year public relations major from Clover, S.C., currently serves as the executive director for Dance Marathon.

“Participating in Dance Marathon is such a unique experience,” Knight said. “We get to visit the Palmetto Health Children’s Hospital and see how the money we raise has impacted these children and their families. It is important to show our new members where the money goes so that they can realize the impact they will have and become committed to the cause.”

Abby Scott, a third-year public relations major from Statesville, N.C., serves as the public relations director for Dance Marathon. She shared that the Dance Marathon leadership team has made changes to the event to attract more students and raise more money.

“Traditionally, Dance Marathon has been a 24-hour event, but this year it was changed to 14 hours long,” she said. “[The change was made to] make it less intimidating and encourage more participants to join our cause.”

Both Knight and Scott got involved with Dance Marathon during their first year of college through their sororities. Once they had the initial experience with Dance Marathon, they knew they wanted to get more involved.

“There is a beauty in people coming together to fundraise with Dance Marathon,” Scott said. “It has been great seeing [everyone] grow from this experience together.”

The students who run Dance Marathon are diverse and come from diverse backgrounds. Meeting and working with a variety of people has been one of the greatest experiences of Knight’s undergraduate career. Knight’s involvement in Dance Marathon has helped her discover her future career goals.

“After graduation, I really want to work with a Children’s Miracle Network hospital in any capacity that I can,” she said. “I value all the hard work the individuals at these hospitals do, and to be a part of that would be such unique opportunity. I am excited for what the future has to hold.”

Parents and families who have students interested in getting involved with a philanthropic cause should encourage their students to get started as early as possible. Both Knight and Scott said that the sooner a student can get involved with the organization, the greater experience he/she will have. If your student has a question for the philanthropic organization he/she is interested in, encourage him/her to reach out to that organization.

To learn more about Dance Marathon and how to get involved with the organization, visit www.uscdm.org or follow Dance Marathon on Twitter at @USCDM. Students can apply this spring to serve for the 2015-2016 year.
Many students have participated in community service in the Columbia community, but how many can say that they have had the opportunity to serve abroad? Thanks to the Dobson Volunteer Service Program, an increasing amount of students are able to participate in service projects that go beyond the borders of the United States. The Dobson Program allows participants to engage in meaningful service projects and have the opportunity to make a positive impact in communities around the world.

Michael Anderson, a second-year student and Spanish major, got to spend a portion of his winter break in Honduras as part of the Dobson Program. Anderson is a member of the USC chapter of Students Helping Honduras. Locally, Students Helping Honduras fundraises to help build schools in impoverished regions of Honduras. Anderson went to Honduras last spring, and after spending one week there, he knew he needed to return.

“I decided that I wanted to return to Honduras but for two weeks this time,” Anderson stated. “I learned about the Dobson Volunteer Service Program and thought I would apply to help fund my second trip to Honduras.”

The purpose of the Dobson Program is to encourage the spiritual- and value development of participating students while providing assistance to individuals, families and communities in need. To apply, Anderson completed an application and demonstrated the potential positive effect the trip would have on his spiritual development and an element of humanitarian service. He also was asked to outline why he wanted to go on this trip and how the Dobson Program would help support him. After submitting his application, he gave a presentation to the Dobson board and was approved to receive funding to help pay for his service trip to Honduras.

“During my time in Honduras over winter break, 20 USC students, other chapters of Students Helping Honduras, locals and I broke ground on a new school,” Anderson said excitedly. “It was such a unique experience coming together with the locals, whose children will attend this school when it is completed, and being able to work together toward one common goal — to educate children.”

Even though Anderson was only there for two weeks, he said the group saw great progress.

“We broke ground with the locals during my first week back in Honduras. Seeing the progress we made in two short weeks was extraordinary.”

One memory from the trip that Anderson will remember is the spirit of the Honduran people.

“Everyone is friendly and just happy to be alive, even though they are living in poverty,” he said. “Here [in the U.S.], we are so privileged, but we are always rushing around and do not take time to truly reflect and be happy with our lives. Meeting the children in the community was really powerful — these are the future students of the school we were building.”

Although Anderson is back at USC and engaged in classes, he is not quite done with his commitment to the Dobson Program. Part of the requirement to receive funding for service trips is to conduct 10 presentations about the experience abroad and to share information on the Dobson Program. He has given presentations to friends, family, church members and other community members engaged in service.

His experience with the Dobson Volunteer Service Program provided valuable experience to prepare for his future endeavors — Anderson wants to become a Spanish medical interpreter. The Dobson Volunteer Service Program has helped him on this journey because he was able to work on his Spanish proficiency during his time in Honduras. He is going to return to Honduras for a third time this summer and will take courses to learn medical terminology in Spanish, live with a host family and volunteer in a medical clinic. Currently, Anderson volunteers with the Good Samaritan Clinic in West Columbia, which offers free medical and dental service for those in need and for Hispanic individuals with Spanish interpreters. His time at the Good Samaritan Clinic allows him to practice his Spanish medical terminology.

To learn more about the Dobson Volunteer Service Program and how your student can apply for funding, visit www.sa.sc.edu/dobson. If your student is interested in getting involved with Students Helping Honduras, visit http://ceciskids.org or follow the organization on Twitter @SHHarUSC.
For students looking for ways to apply what they are learning in the classroom to real life situations while serving the community, service-learning courses are a great option. Service-learning courses are similar to other classes in that time is spent in the classroom with a faculty member, but students also spend time at a community agency. Students are able to integrate their knowledge into their service experience and then reflect on the connection between their coursework and their service engagement. Each semester, professors offer service-learning courses in a variety of disciplines that engage students in service opportunities with a wide range of community partners.

Dr. Nate Carnes, associate professor in the College of Education, teaches a middle level teaching and management course that is set up as a service-learning class. Students learn teaching theories in the classroom and then apply them in their work with educational community agencies. Students can work in a tutoring center, traditional classrooms, enrichment centers, the Boys and Girls Club and a variety of other environments. He compares the need for service-learning in his field to medical professionals needing book knowledge and hands-on experience.

“With service-learning, the student has to learn some of the terminology, concepts and strategies of the profession and then be helpful in some way [in the community] while taking that knowledge with them,” he said.

Dr. Carnes enjoys seeing the “light-bulb moments” that students have when they are able to connect an experience in their service site with something he has reviewed with them in the classroom.

“I really like the excitement that comes from students,” he said. “Students will come in and say, ‘Oh! It was just like you said in class!’”

Dr. Mary Baskin Waters, adjunct faculty member in the College of Arts and Sciences, teaches Women in Society, a women’s and gender studies course. Through this course, students are placed in local organizations that work with gendered social issues such as domestic violence, sexual assault, homelessness and youth incarceration. Students are exposed to civic responsibility while researching the issues impacting their chosen partner site and completing a paper providing suggested solutions for these issues. She hopes that students will leave the course with a better understanding of a variety of social issues.

“I always hope my students will use this opportunity to develop a sense of community commitment and caring,” Waters said. “I hope the relationships they form through this community exposure will empower them to enter their chosen fields with a new understanding of the civic process.”

For a list of current service-learning courses and more information about service-learning, visit the Office of Student Engagement website at www.housing.sc.edu/studentengagement.
Resources
This issue of Carolina Ties focuses on serving others and giving back. Use these resources to help you learn more about the programs and services available for students.

Office of Parents Programs
Parents Assistance Line: 1-800-868-6752
scparents@sc.edu • www.sa.sc.edu/parents

Dobson Volunteer Service Program
803-777-6688 • www.sa.sc.edu/dobson

Leadership and Service Center
803-777-7130 • www.sa.sc.edu/leadershipandservice
• Alternative break trips
• Service Saturdays
• Impact Weekly
• Awareness and celebration events
• Leadership coaching to find a service opportunity

Student Engagement
803-777-1945 • www.housing.sc.edu/studentengagement

Fall 2015 Calendar

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August 14-15</td>
<td>Residence halls open</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 20</td>
<td>First day of fall semester classes</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 26</td>
<td>Last day to change/drop a course without a grade “W” being recorded</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 7</td>
<td>Labor Day (no classes - campus offices closed)</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 10</td>
<td>Last day to apply for December graduation</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 25-27</td>
<td>Parents Weekend</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 8</td>
<td>Last day to drop/withdraw from a course without a grade “WF” being recorded Midpoint in the spring semester</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 22-23</td>
<td>Fall break (no classes)</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 25-29</td>
<td>Thanksgiving break (no classes)</td>
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<td>December 4</td>
<td>Last day of classes</td>
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<td>December 5</td>
<td>Reading day (no classes)</td>
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<td>December 7-14</td>
<td>Fall semester final exams</td>
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<td>December 14</td>
<td>Commencement exercises</td>
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<td>December 15</td>
<td>Residence halls close at 10 a.m. for winter break</td>
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