The USF Health Service Corps: Students Learning and Serving the Community Together... and Having Fun, Too!

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What is the USF Health Service Corps?

• The Service Corps is an interdisciplinary service-learning program that enables students from all USF Health educational programs (Medicine, Nursing, Public Health, Physical Therapy and Pharmacy) to participate together in health-related service activities.

• The USF Health Service Corps serves as a clearinghouse for short and long-term community service activities that students can participate in, on a voluntary basis, or as a service learning project to fill an academic course requirement.

• The USF Health Service Corps provides students with a wide variety of fun and meaningful volunteer opportunities, including:
  • Health fairs and screening events;
  • Special events for special populations (senior citizens, children, cancer patients and individuals with disabilities);
  • Fundraising events to benefit non-profit health organizations;
  • Collections of goods (food, books, clothing, toys, hygiene items);
  • Blood drives and events to increase awareness about bone marrow and organ donor registries;
  • Teaching and mentoring youth;
  • Camps for kids and adults with special health care needs; and
  • Community safety awareness events.
What are some benefits to students who participate in the USF Health Service Corps? Students are able to:

- Meet and learn from students in other USF Health programs
- Gain great work experience through service
- Meet and network with future employers
- Explore possibilities for longer term internships, field experiences & special projects
- Learn about new career opportunities
- Mentor college undergraduates and high school students
- Build an impressive resume
- Make a positive difference in the community
- Bring a smile to the face of a child, senior citizen or patient
- Volunteer as little or as much as they wish
- Relax and have fun!
How does it work?

How can students get involved?

- Community partners contact the USF Health Service Corps Coordinator (Mrs. Ellen Kent) with requests for student volunteers for specific events. Students and faculty are always welcome to suggest new service initiatives.

- The Coordinator checks with students from various academic programs to ensure that students can attend the service events and asks clinical faculty to serve as clinical supervisors for health fairs.

- The Coordinator meets with a student advisory committee each semester to discuss upcoming service events and their feasibility. Advisory committee members can sign up to serve as a liaison/leader for specific events.

- Students can find out about events and projects at the web site at [http://health.usf.edu/ahec/USFHealthServicesCorps/hsc.events.htm](http://health.usf.edu/ahec/USFHealthServicesCorps/hsc.events.htm) or the calendar at [http://my.calendars.net/servicecorps](http://my.calendars.net/servicecorps)

- Interested USF Health students can sign up with the liaisons/leaders for the different events and will receive an email from the Coordinator (Mrs. Kent) before the event with details and directions.
The USF Health Service Corps provides students with a wide variety of community service opportunities with a health focus.

World’s Largest Swim Lesson!

The F.A.I.R. - Family Abilities Information Rally Cross Disabilities Event

Special Olympics Health Promotion event

COPH and COM students cook up some fun for kids (and grownups too!) at a Shriners Hospital Party
The Service Corps enables USF Health students in clinical programs to contribute to health fairs for medically underserved communities.

Physical therapy students perform musculoskeletal assessments at a health fair for race track workers.

Medical and nursing students perform blood sugar and blood cholesterol screenings at a multicultural health fair.

Ruskin Health Fair and Family Fiesta.

Vision screening at Palmetto Bay Health Fiesta.
Students in non-clinical programs can also participate in these health fairs, through health education, interpreting, bike rodeos, sports and reading activities for youth.
Students can also volunteer at special health events on the USF campus.

Step Out Walk to Stop Diabetes

USF Human Resources Benefits Fair

USF Health students contribute to the College of Public Health’s annual free flu shot drive in both clinical and non-clinical roles.
The Service Corps offers many opportunities for USF Health students to lead special kid-friendly events!

USF Health students lead kids at the San José Mission in a fitness and fun day

USF Health students teach jump rope techniques to kids in the Farmworkers Self-Help Teen Dream Club

Students contribute to numerous health and safety education events with Safe Kids Tampa!
….and to also organize special events for adults and seniors!

Our annual Love a Senior Day at Weinberg Village

Our musical dessert party for the Hope Lodge residents

Our annual Halloween party at John Knox Village
In addition, the USF Health Service Corps provides USF Health students with many venues for teaching youth about health topics and health careers.

A public health student teaches middle school students about hand-washing and infection control.

Nursing students introduce high school students to nursing careers.

Medical students show youth how to check their blood pressure.

A public health student introduces youth to global health issues through puzzles.
The Service Corps also makes it easy for USF Health students to participate together in fun fundraising/awareness events with a health focus!

Mothers Against Drunk Driving® (MADD) Walk

Healthy Fundraising Breakfast for the March of Dimes®

Braving the cold for the American Heart Walk®

American Cancer Society Relay for Life®
How does the USF Health Service Corps benefit the community?

• Community agencies benefit from, and appreciate, the large pool of student volunteers from the USF Health Service Corps.

• Citizens like to see USF Health students working together, which creates a more cohesive impression of USF Health to the community. This builds community confidence in USF Health!

• Annual reports can be downloaded from: http://health.usf.edu/ahec/USFHealthServicesCorps/Annual+Reports.htm. These reports document the extensive contributions of USF Health students to community service throughout the year. For example, between July 1, 2014 - June 30, 2015, USF Health students dedicated 29,645 hours of community service and provided free services to 23,957 community members!

• Numbers are impressive… but a picture says a thousand words! The USF Health Service Corps photo albums have been created to illustrate our Service Corps volunteers in action, truly ‘making life better’ in the community! (Photos can be accessed at: http://health.usf.edu/ahec/USFHealthServicesCorps/Photo+Gallery.htm).
Positive feedback from community leaders:

• “Without the USF Health Service Corps, Mobile Medical would be much less effective in our efforts to serve the community.”

• “This was wonderful. I was able to put the pictures up for the residents to see, and they thoroughly enjoyed every minute of it. Thank you so much for all the time you and the volunteers have put in with us here at Weinberg Village. Any time you need somewhere to go, we would love to have you back again at Weinberg Village!”

• “Thank you so much for the great volunteers for the Masquerade Ball!!! Also, thank you for the pictures. We truly appreciate all of your continued support!! Thanks again!!! (Director of Activities, John Knox Village)

• “I wanted to say a BIG THANK YOU for helping us last night! I am so impressed that you take the time out of your schedules to learn and to support us! We couldn’t have done it without you and I truly am thankful! “ (Safe Kids Tampa Coordinator)

• “Thanks for your support to our program. You and your volunteers group made the difference for our refugees.”

• “Thank you for inviting me to such an eye opening event yesterday and allowing Metropolitan Ministries to be one of the recipients of the generous food donation. I definitely look forward to partnering with you all very soon! Thank you USF for all of your support!”
Positive feedback from community members:

- “To all involved: The Flu Shot drive was SO well organized and efficient. I am very appreciative of the opportunity to get my shot at COPH. I also enjoyed the exhibits.”

- “I have been lucky enough to obtain a flu shot at USF during their free flu shot drive. What USF is doing for the community is outstanding”.

Positive feedback from USF Health faculty:

- “What a terrific day we had at Lazy Days RV Park's health fair today! Thank you to everyone who organized and coordinated the event and for the professionalism each student displayed in offering this health screening and education to the community.”

- “I was proud of all who attended. Thanks for the wonderful opportunity to showcase our students.”
Positive feedback from students:

• “I have quickly learned that even just one person can make a big difference … As a medical student, I feel an obligation to serve those who have been less privileged than I have been.”

• “I am so glad I was able to get involved yesterday. It was not only a meaningful service opportunity but also tons of fun! As an avid cyclist it was an extra bonus to talk with the kids about pedestrian and bicycle safety.

• “I had a great time with the ladies! Thanks for keeping us informed of these service events!”

• “I had a wonderful time last year getting involved with the community. It is a great way to stay grounded with all the school work. I look forward to some great health fairs this year.”

• “I had a great time. There were about thirty 11th graders and it was a lot of fun. My discussion was interactive, so it was refreshing to hear their points of views and their thoughts.”

• “Thank you for giving us such a nice opportunity to do something for our community. I enjoy it a lot.”

• “Thank you so much for providing us with such great opportunities to not only do community service but also learn from our local communities.”

• “I just wanted to say thank you for giving us USF students the opportunity to help out at Santa's Workshop. We had so much fun I can't even describe it to you! I know that personally I'm always so busy studying and worrying about school that I really feel that Saturday benefited me just as much as the kids!”
And finally, continuity!

- The Service Corps has been successfully providing health related service learning opportunities for USF students and meeting community needs since 2003.

- Each semester, the USF Health Service Corps Coordinator, Mrs. Kent, works closely with community partners and USF Health students, faculty and staff in planning, implementing and evaluating the USF Health Service Corps projects.

- Continuous efforts are made to provide service-learning events and projects which are meaningful, fun and valuable for the students, the university and the community.

- The Coordinator always welcomes suggestions for new service opportunities and can be easily reached at: ekent@health.usf.edu or (813) 974-6622 or Room 1058 of The WELL.