Neighborhood helping neighbor has become an American tradition

President Jimmy Carter put the national seal of approval on public service by building houses for Habitat for Humanity. President George Bush encouraged Americans to become "1,000 points of light," declaring "From tradition in America, any definition of a successful life must include service." President Bill Clinton, who spent last Thanksgiving serving dinners in a Washington, D.C., soup kitchen, turned the spotlight on volunteerism with his national service program, AmeriCorps. Americans have a responsibility to rise as far as their talents and determination can take them and to give something back, Clinton said in his 1995 State of the Union address.

1994 survey of Campus Compact schools
- Student volunteer hours rose 35 percent, from 17 to 23 million.
- The average number of campus volunteers rose 11 percent.
- Courses linking service with the curriculum were offered at 81 percent of schools. Service was linked with academic credit at 59 percent of schools.
- About 1,135 students per school were involved in service efforts.
- On average, schools offered 25.5 courses that integrate service into coursework.
- On average, 24 percent of a campus' faculty (29 percent at Western Michigan University) were involved in service efforts.
- Service programs drew on university funds 92 percent of the time.

Campuses are volunteer gold mines
Volunteerism may be down somewhat nationally, but America's altruistic army continues marching forward, and college campuses have become a recruitment gold mine for community service agencies. A generation that was previously labeled apathetic and self-interested is responding to the despair it sees all around, a March 1994 Rolling Stone article reported. According to an October 1993 News and World Report survey, the primary reasons for the philanthropy sweeping America's campuses are a greater need to feel connected to others, a revival of religious and ethical concerns, and a disposal of the excesses of the 1980s.

Many students are getting a chance to participate in volunteer activities because of a national coalition of college and university presidents, Campus Compact: The Project for Public and Community Service. Founded in 1985, Campus Compact promotes civic responsibility by involving students in public service. The organization currently boasts a national membership of 477 higher education institutions, including Western Michigan University.

Giving reaps many benefits
Those institutions and their students are discovering the numerous benefits that can result from involving altruism in higher education.

WMU and twenty-five other colleges and universities belonging to Michigan Campus Compact (MCC) have even established an Office of Student Volunteer Services. The offices help increase student involvement in community service and enhance curricula by providing options for experiential learning through community service.

"WMU has an extraordinary program," Jeannie Gray, MCC assistant director, says. "I see it as being incredibly student driven, which is crucial in a grass roots organization. Terri Benton (WMU's Student Volunteer Services director) has done a fabulous job in looking outside of traditional sources for funding and in forming community-university partnerships. And that's what will make it last when all the federal money goes away."

"Good" examples everywhere
Juggling studies, jobs, and families, members of the University community still find time to make a positive difference in the world. Together, their volunteer activities help others, strengthen communities, enhance learning, increase student career opportunities, and allow WMU to do much more than it could otherwise do.

Those activities are so numerous that wherever you look you might find representative examples such as:

- Students like Scott Johnson of Detroit, who spent last summer in Zimbabwe helping build a school annex with Operation Crossroads, or Anne Simmons of Grand Rapids, who has logged nearly 300 volunteer hours in hand rehabilitation and hospital service.
- Departments like Construction Engineering, Materials Engineering, and Industrial Design, which for three years in a row saw students spend their spring break in Florida framing houses for victims of Hurricane Andrew.
- Student organizations like Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority, whose six-year commitment to Kalamazoo's north side kids has resulted in a $4,250 MCC Venture Grant to fund the "At-Risk Kids" plan for school children.
- Educators like Dr. Paul Yelisma, associate professor of communication, who has integrated community service learning into his group problem solving class, developing projects such as those that sent a brick-making machine to Nicaragua and built a barrier-free deck for a paraplegic.
- Alumni like Patricia Muth, B.S. '83, of Grand Rapids, who has consistently supported WMU through her seventeen-year membership on the WMU Alumni Association Board of Directors, of which she is a past president, and her current membership on the WMU Foundation.
- Staff members like Jeffrey Stone, academic support coordinator, who has added a service component to athletic scholarships and Jane Kramer, Weekend College and Special Programs director, who, along with sociology professor and husband Dr. Ronald Kramer, has been teaching a course that helps freshmen get used to University life.
- Faculty and staff organizations like the Administrative Professional Association and Clerical/Technical Organization, which coordinated a drive to collect clothing and other items for the Kalamazoo Domestic Assault Shelter.
Volunteer legislative advocates play crucial role in supporting more equitable funding for WMU

Among Western Michigan University’s numerous volunteers are seventy-three alumni and friends who have joined its Legislative Advocates Network. The network, an began in late January in cooperation with the WMU Alumni Association, seeks more equitable state funding for the University.

Under the leadership of Keith A. Pretty, vice president for external affairs and general counsel, advocates have become involved in the legislative appropriation process again this year. “This is a critical period in determining the future state funding for WMU, and there is no better time than now for legislators to hear from their constituents about what an excellent, highly respected educational institution WMU is and how crucial funding equity is to Western Michigan.” Pretty says.

“Through our alumni chapters, we’ve been taking our message around the state to our parents, donors, and friends in an effort to generate a ground swell of support so that legislators hear our message loud and clear.”

The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching has designated WMU as Michigan’s only public Doctoral University, placing it fourth behind the University of Michigan, Michigan State University and Wayne State Universities. Yet, state appropriations have been less for WMU than for some other institutions that the foundation ranks below WMU.

Advocates hope to turn the situation around by reminding state legislators that despite its fourth-place Carnegie ranking, WMU ranks low in the amount of income it receives. They note that WMU is tenth among Michigan’s fifteen public universities when its relatively low state appropriation per student is combined with income from the relatively low tuition it charges.

“While the appropriation increase we received for this year has put us on the road to equity, our historical underfunding continues. It is possible to be corrected in one year.” President Donald W. H舣sc-ince says. “It may take three, four, or five years to bring our budget in line with the work that we do. We have to keep telling our story to the people in Lansing. We are unique in the state of Michigan.”

Persons wishing to become involved in the network may call (616) 387-8970 or write to Legislative Advocates, WMU, Kalamazoo, MI 49008.

President Donald W. H舣sc-ince adds, “It is critical that we continue to generate a ground swell of support for WMU.”

Two Kalamazoo philanthropists were honored during a recent fund-raising ceremony for the Edwin and Mary Meader Rare Book Room at WMU Library on April 4.

The book room was named for the Meaders in recognition of their generous support of Western Michigan University in the areas of libraries, performing arts, and intellectual inquiry. The Meaders are emeriti directors of the WMU Foundation and members of the President’s Circle.

An English language version of this document also is available.
Student spirit of volunteerism has far-reaching benefits

Hands-on public service augments class learning

If you ask Terri M. Benton, director of Student Volunteer Services, which community service has a place in higher education, she'll answer with her favorite aphorism: "Tell me and I forget, teach me and I remember, involve me and I learn." One study conducted by University of Michigan Professor Greg Markus reported in the Detroit News showed "college students earned better grades and attended class more regularly when the course included a community service requirement." Such studies help explain why many WMU faculty members have incorporated a service learning component into their curricula. "My students are going to be social workers; they're going to spend their life teaching to help people," Volunteer gives them a good start in this," says Dr. Donald P. Cooney, associate professor of social work. Two of his classes, Community Organization in Urban Areas and Social Change and Community Analysis, require that students be part of an original service project. In giving something back to the community," Cooney says, "they'll profit because of the interaction with the community and the real-life, hands-on experience." Volunteering is great way to explore career options

Nearly every academic department at WMU is linked in some way to volunteerism. For instance, education, mathematics, chemistry, and psychology majors have been recruited to mentor high school kids, while the occupational therapy program requires at least forty hours of service contact with handicapped individuals or mental health clients." "We know when we involve students in service learning, there's a direct correlation to their success in the work place," Benton explains. "We know when a student finds something they're passionate about that they've chosen isn't right for them, the success they'll have later in choosing what they want to commit to as a profession is greater." Administrative units such as the Sindeehc Health Center also provide ways students can explore careers, reports Christine G. Zimmer, director of the Office of Health Promotion and Education. "Volunteer opportunities involve a variety of credit and noncredit options, including blood pressure screening, cholesterol education, and sexual health peer education," Zimmer says, noting service experiences often lead to graduate school or job placement. "The volunteer opportunities we provide are designed to be an extension of professional development that enhances classroom learning. They allow students to try their wings in a professional field for which they're preparing." Other career-minded students often find relevant work during the campuswide annual Volunteer Opportunities Fair. Through the fair, workshops, and the monthly Service Opportunities Bulletin, WMU's Student Volunteer Services provides information and referral services to students interested in volunteering. Staff members use a catalog listing 250 service agencies and 400 job descriptions to help match students with a service experience relevant to their academic and personal interests, such as:

- Fashion merchandising—Kalamazoo Jr. League’s "Clothes Encounters" second-hand store.
- Dietetics—Kalamazoo Gospel Mission soup kitchen.
- Pre-law—Kalamazoo County Juvenile Court.
- Women's Studies—YWCA's Domestic Assault Program.

Helping hands allow WMU to provide greater service

Student volunteerism is a tremendous resource for any university and WMU is no exception. Volunteerism is a mainstay of the Sindeehc Health Center, where more than 100 students annually donate their time and talents to promote healthy decision making among their peers. In the Office of Admissions and Orientation, Student Ambassadors volunteer their time calling and writing prospective students, helping visitors to students for an evening or a weekend, and serving on panels at area high schools, talking to students about college selection. "Student volunteerism is truly one of our major recruitment tools," Diane M. Ariza, associate director of admissions, explains. "A lot of our recruitment success depends on our Gold Guides who show the prospective students and their parents around the campus. Student volunteers also help WSU by improving 'town and gown' relations. Many projects sponsored by campus offices and groups positively impact the larger community. In the last year, for example, Residence Hall Life collected 506 pints of blood for the American Red Cross, participated in the Greater Kalamazoo United Way fund drive, and joined several other offices in put on the annual Senior Prom, which brings senior citizens to campus for a night of socializing and big hand dancing.

In October, hundreds of service-minded Broncos went "Into the Streets" as part of a national volunteer campaign. Past projects have included spending the day at an area nursing home socializing and playing games with residents. Those are also important goals for Student Volunteer Services, which is located in the Lee Honors College and is funded by WMU and Venture Grants from the Michigan Campus Compact. In addition to sponsoring the Volunteer Opportunities Fair, the service runs three other campuswide annual service events: Into the Streets, Service Week, and Alternative Spring Break. In 1994, 320 students participated in the fourth Into the Streets national community volunteer campaign. Teams of students were sent to ten area sites, helping do everything from remodeling a house and participating in a Ministry with Community fund raiser to putting up decorations for children's Halloween parties and doing fall cleanup work for senior citizens. Last March a record 1,000 students volunteered for Service Week, which for the first time coincided with Greek Week. Probably an athletic competition in the past, the Greek organizations earned half of their points by participating in a community service project. Perhaps one of the most impressive ongoing, community-oriented volunteer programs is Alternative Spring Break, where students forego their traditional school hiatus in favor of working on a service project. This spring seventy-one students participated in groups that dealt with rural poverty in Virginia, hunger and homelessness in Atlanta and Cincinnati, AIDS victims in New York City, a Cherokee Indian Nation Head Start program in Oklahoma, and injured birds on Florida's Gulf Island.

Break co-coordinator Rolland R. Elliott, a senior from Lapeer, says experience the opened students' eyes to community problems and made them feel that they can make a difference. "Alternative Spring Break teaches you a sense of community involvement that goes beyond what you learn in your books. It enables the students to look at problems and if not come up with solutions, at least understand that the problems are out there and need to be addressed," Elliott says. Also, community-based volunteerism often leads to a continued commitment to helping, such as when spring break participants helped pack up the AIDS Memorial Quilt that was on display at WMU this March.
Continued from page 3

We need to bring service back to our students for Spring Break. We can do this by sponsoring a Global Village work camp in Nicaragua, where ten to fifteen students can help people in need. We have received financial support from Habitat for Humanity International, and they have been very helpful. The students will be involved in activities that range from building homes to providing healthcare.

One on one really makes a difference for youths

Individuals make a difference in the lives of others. WMU students are pouring through their involvement with the Kalamazoo Kohls Children’s Hospital and the “Project Mentor.” Mentorships with WMU students have seen a significant increase this year. Having the opportunity to interact with these young people will provide a tremendous experience for WMU students and begin in working in the community.

Mentor Derrick L. Odum, B.S. ’97, M.A. ’99, feels that mentorship can be meaningful to the children they mentor as well. “It’s real and it’s personal,” he says. “It’s something that they can see and feel. It’s something that they can touch.”

The volunteer-related stories in this issue reflect the Westerner’s commitment to students from across the country to their alma maters. These stories have donated hundreds of hours of professional expertise, mentorship, and fundraising efforts.

When we nurture something along and watch it grow, we grow and improve as well.” Ethridge says about his leadership activities. “As we learn more about the inner workings of the University and share our expertise, we learn more about ourselves...in terms of alumni serving alumni, hundreds of other alumni are participating in their home towns at their time and talents. Much of this service is provided through the Alumni Association’s local chapters and numerous constituent chapters. The societies represent alumni with special interests and alumni scholar societies represent alumni with special interests and services for alumni sectors. The Western Alumni Association has for the last three years sponsored a Global Village work camp in Nicaragua, where ten to fifteen students can help people in need. The students will be involved in activities that range from building homes to providing healthcare.

WMU senior LZ Granderson mentors four local high school students. "Many of the fifth-year WMU scholarship recipients are bright young people who would not have the opportunity to come to college but for the scholarship and the Western Michigan University Alumni Association. "They are valuable students who can assist with registering, finding housing, and helping English conversation skills.

Service is two-way street for WMU’s student-athletes

Student-athletes are in a special position to positively affect the community. In their spare time, their service provides a ready resource for out-of-class learning and for giving back to the community.

Here at WMU, student-athletes are truly involved in a variety of service activities. The WMU Bronco Squads help clinics for area youth. WMU's hockey team has been a part of the community for years. Their volunteer efforts have helped make WMU’s AIDS Memorial Quilt a success.

WMU’s basketball head has steered his team to a top 25 position with two primary academic goals for several years. Members of the football team have participated in "Bring Them Along" events to help local schools in learning about WMU. The WMU volleyball team has been a part of the community for years. Their volunteer efforts have helped make WMU’s AIDS Memorial Quilt a success.

WMU’s football team has been a part of the community for years. Their volunteer efforts have helped make WMU’s AIDS Memorial Quilt a success.

Grades, fund-raisers, donors, and friends extend WMU’s reach into communities

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Robert J. Anderson, BS '86, re- tire after 26 years as a high school chemistry teacher. The Board of Education awarded him the Superintendent's Citation of Honor in recognition of his career-long contribution to the New Haven Public Schools.

Tom Lutostanski, BS '80, MA '82, was recently appointed as the Emergency Management Coordinator for the City of Parchment. Tom will serve as the liaison to the local and regional emergency management agencies.

Dr. Richard J. Gibson, BA '83, recently graduated from a doctoral program in business administration at the University of Sarasota, MI.

Da N. A. Vaughn, BA '70, MA '71, was recently appointed as the Assistant Vice President for Institutional Advancement at the University of Detroit Mercy.

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Ran Bosov, BA '70, MA '72, was recently named the Executive Director of the University of Detroit Mercy Foundation.

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Three teachers at Niles North High School, Niles, Ill., a Chicago suburb, recently received the Western Michigan Universitygraf- ics program, will be held at the University of Detroit Mercy. The program was recently named director of the University of Detroit Mercy Foundation.

Kathleen M. Licari, BS '75, MS '84, has been appointed to the Library of Congress.

Marygrove College, MI.

Margrove College in Detroit, was recently promoted to program di- rector for the University of Detroit Mercy. The program was recently named director of the University of Detroit Mercy Foundation.

Tom Lutostanski, BS '80, MA '82, was recently appointed as the Emergency Management Coordinator for the City of Parchment. Tom will serve as the liaison to the local and regional emergency management agencies.

Lynn B. Slaughter, BA '80, has been appointed as the Athletic Director at the University of Detroit Mercy.

James H. Warren, BS '87, recently received the Outstanding Alumnus Award from the University of Detroit Mercy.

Richard C. Carlsson, BS '81, recently received a $25,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Arts to support the production of his new opera, "The Three Wives."
1990-1995

Josephine L. Arnold, MA, 90, has been the award of Senior Certified Director, having met the requirements and professional stan-

dards set by the Michigan Associa-
tion of Senior Centers. Arnold cre-
ates, implements, and supervises all areas of operation at the Port-
age Senior Center, Portage, MI.

Kathleen J. Croff, MA, 94, is a staff accountant at Geiger technic Inc., Kalamazoo, MI.

Kathleen D. Kline, MA, 94, was recently promoted to manager of the GPA farm, Jame
town MI.

Laurie A. Ouellette, MA, 95, is a teaching assistant at WMU and plans to graduate in May.

Linda J. Ayers, MA, 96, is a BSE student in the College of Business Administration, Michigan Tech.

Josephine Anaya, MA, 94, was hired as a middle school lan-
guage arts teacher for the

Laura M. Nolt, MA, 96, was recently hired as an officer on the police force,

Laura D. Wightman, MA, 96, was recently appointed to the posi-
tion of branch officer, First National Bank of Portage, Portage, MI.

Laurie A. Lock, MA, 94, was recently appointed to the position of branch officer, First National Bank of Portage, Portage, MI.

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