Alternative Fall Break

This Fall semester, the CCE offered two trips for students.

ASHEVILLE, NC

The group partnered with a variety of community partners such as the Asheville Poverty Initiative, Manna Food Bank, and Homeward Bound to learn how the issues of food insecurity and homelessness affect communities in Asheville.

Participants learned about challenges that refugees face upon their arrival to the U.S., with a special emphasis on food insecurity. The group partnered with organizations Cafe 458, Atlanta Community Food Bank, and Project Open Hand who work with refugees and with food access.

ATLANTA, GA
**MLK Weekend**

![Image of a group of people at Martin Luther King Jr. National Historic Site]

**Atlanta, GA**

From January 13th - 16th, 19 students and 2 staff members will explore the impact that a legacy of service and community activism can have on a community. The group will seek opportunities to assist various community organizations in the Atlanta area.

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**Alternative Spring Break**

Spring Break applications are currently available on our website at [http://volunteer.cofc.edu/alternative-break/spring-break.php](http://volunteer.cofc.edu/alternative-break/spring-break.php).

The deadline to apply is January 18th, 2017.

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**Charlotte, NC**

For this trip we are partnering with Habitat for Humanity to gain a greater understanding of the housing crisis through participating in home construction as well as attending the organizations provided educational programming. This experience in will address the nation’s housing crisis through education, direct service, and reflection.
**Puerto Rico**

The objective of this AB experience is to become more educated about permaculture design through hands-on work, conceptual learning, and community service. Participants will engage in workshops and projects that range from urban food production and natural building to ecologically responsible water management and rainwater collection.

**Miami, FL**

This week-long Alternative Break experience provides participants with a window into the world of human trafficking and sex exploitation. Participants will attend several education sessions and trainings on how to identify and interact with victims of human trafficking.

This weeklong experiential learning opportunity offers students the chance to examine Earth Literacy through spirituality, sustainability, and community. On this trip, students will delve into environmental issues through engaging in organic gardening, conservation projects, and eco-construction projects.

**Washburn, TN**
This semester was another busy one for the Bonner Leaders! Each Bonner Leader completed approximately 150 hours of service to 13 Charleston area nonprofit community partners, totaling over 3,900 hours of service. Apart from their individual service, they all got a chance to serve together partnering with the Children's Museum of the Lowcountry for the annual FAM JAM held in Marion Square. The Bonners participated in stickering, face painting, and helped participants and their family engage in PLAY.

To close out the semester we welcomed three new sophomores into the Bonner Leader Program at our annual holiday party. Overall it was an eventful and productive semester and we are looking forward all the things to come in Spring 2017!

The first year and sophomore Bonners went on their alternative fall break service trip to New York City to partner and serve with the Metropolitan Council on Jewish Poverty. Our service focused on food access and SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) outreach, education, and surveying Met Council clients.
Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week is a national week of awareness organized by the National Coalition for the Homeless and the National Student Campaign against Hunger and Homelessness.

This year, the Center for Civic Engagement in partnership with other campus and community-based organizations collaborated to create a series of events for students; faculty; staff; and community members to take part in that intend to bring attention to the plight of those experiencing homelessness and food insecurity.

It is our hope that these events foster a greater understanding of the issues of hunger and homelessness and inspire others to take action and stand in solidarity in order to build a more socially sustainable future.
MLK Day

“Everyone can be great because everybody can serve.” Observing the Martin Luther King, Jr. federal holiday through service is a way to begin each year with a commitment to making your community a better place. Join us in service as we are offering two volunteer opportunities during MLK weekend!

LOWCOUNTRY FOOD BANK

Saturday, January 14th, we will be volunteering at the Lowcountry Food Bank from 9am-12pm.

Monday, January 16th, we will be volunteering with Lowcountry Street Grocery helping paint their containers and establish community gardens. The time for this event is still to be determined.
Recurring Service

This Fall, the Center for Civic Engagement has continued its partnerships with the Lowcountry Food Bank, Keep Charleston Beautiful, Neighborhood House, and Charleston Farmer's Market.

The Lowcountry Food Bank helps feed over 200,000 individuals and families annually in 10 coastal South Carolina counties. This Recurring Service opportunity has volunteers helping food bank workers pack, clean and sort food products, to get ready for distribution.

Keep Charleston Beautiful works to preserve the natural beauty of Charleston and its surrounding areas, by picking up human made waste.

Neighborhood House works with the homeless, hungry and others in need of assistance. They have partnered with Fields to Families and the Charleston Farmer’s Market in Marion Square, to bring food to those in need.
Volunteer Corps

Volunteer Corps is a student organization run through the Center for Civic Engagement. Volunteer Corps offers members the opportunity to take part in multiple community service projects each month. This semester, Volunteer Corps participated in the Walk To End Alzheimer's, the Ronald McDonald Walk, a Halloween Carnival held on campus at the College of Charleston, and volunteered for multiple other organizations throughout the semester with community partners.

We would like to introduce Volunteer Corps' new President, Abby Foss. Abby has been in the Volunteer Corps since her freshman year and her favorite service events are Pet Helpers and the Walk to End Alzheimer’s.

We would also like to introduce Volunteer Corps' new Vice President, Brianna Heupel. Bri is a Biology Major with an Environmental and Sustainable Studies minor. This is her second year in the Volunteer Corps. Bri's favorite events have been Dance Marathon and S.C.O.R.E.
Thank you to all of our volunteers!

Come see us in the spring!