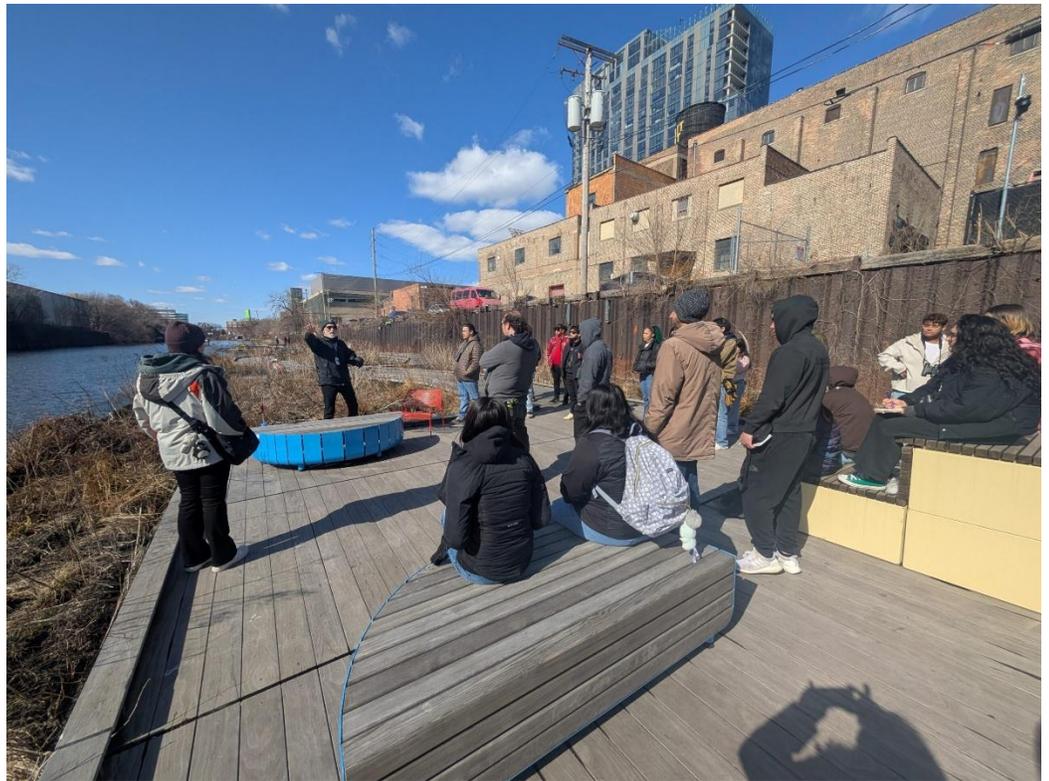


# WRIGHT COLLEGE COMMUNITY PARTNER LIST

**Merry Mayer**

**Service-Learning  
Coordinator**

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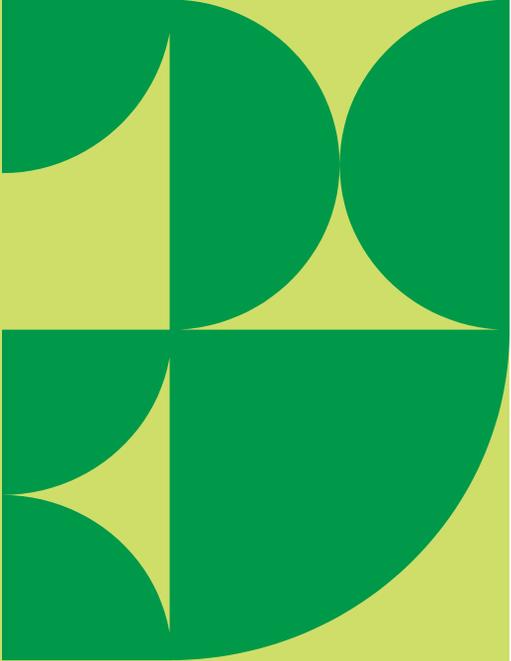


2025 - 2026

Incorporating service-learning assignments into your class allows students to:

- Learn valuable skills that help them shine on transfer and scholarship applications.
- Meet helpful contacts in organizations around Chicago and even around the world.
- Help make the world a better place.





**Here is what students have said about these projects:**

*“I was very excited to learn that everything that I was being taught and learned in theory could be implemented in the real world.”*

*“I appreciate the opportunity that was presented by the service-learning project. Classrooms teach a lot but hands on experiences are the best teachers and I wouldn’t trade my experience because of the many wonderful people I met.”*

*“The service helped me to understand better what I want to study. Service-learning hours also help you to see if that is what you want to study.”*



## Dunning Read Natural Area

*The Dunning Read Natural Area (DRNA) is approximately 21 acres of prairies, wetlands, and woodlands in the Dunning Community of northwest Chicago with approximately 0.8 miles of trails. The site is managed by the Chicago Park District and is under active restoration.*

*The Dunning Read Natural Area Park Advisory Council is a volunteer group that advocates for and supports the effective management of the DRNA. The organization's mission is to support the Chicago Park District in restoring and preserving the natural area to provide quality habitat for diverse native plants and wildlife, and opportunities for access, education, and recreation for the entire community.*

**Location:** 4050 North Oak Park Avenue, Chicago, IL 60634

For information: <https://dunningnatural.org/>



## **ONWARD NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE**

*“Our mission at Onward House is to open doors to improve lives and uplift communities through educational, economic, and support services.”*

Volunteers are needed to work in their food pantry during the week and farmers market on one Saturday a month. Also, they are in need of volunteers to pack food boxes for delivery, as well as assist in their classrooms.

Location: 5413 W. Diversey Ave., Chicago, IL 60639

For information: <https://onwardhouse.org/get-involved/volunteer/>

## **URBAN RIVERS CHICAGO**

*“Transforming urban waterways into wildlife sanctuaries, creating opportunities for people of all backgrounds to connect with nature in new and meaningful ways.”*

Volunteer opportunities include River Rangers (where they teach volunteers to kayak!) to remove trash from the river, monitor plant and wildlife health, and contribute to research. Additionally, they need volunteers who have the motivation to help and an expertise in an area like fundraising, web design, marketing, or community organization.

For information: <https://urbanrivers.org/volunteer>

## **NORTH KOREA FREEDOM COALITION**

*“The North Korea Freedom Coalition is a nonpartisan coalition founded in June, 2003 to work for the freedom, human rights, and dignity of the North Korea people.”*

They are interested in working with students to increase public awareness to the plight of the North Korean people, both inside and as they attempt to flee the country.

For information: <https://www.nkfreedom.org/>

## **CHICAGO CANINE RESCUE**

“Founded in 2001, CCR has helped connect thousands of homeless dogs with loving homes. To date, we have proudly saved the lives of more than 8,000 dogs and puppies. The dogs in our care come from open-intake shelters, rural rescue partners with limited resources, and families who can no longer care for them. Our team provides medical treatment, emotional and behavioral support, and thoughtful adoption services to every dog who comes through our doors.”

Location: 5272 N. Elston Ave., Chicago, IL 60630

They need volunteers to walk dogs and help in shelter.

For information: <https://chicagocaninerescue.org/volunteer/>

## **FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN**

*“Every year, millions of children die from preventable causes such as pneumonia, diarrhea, malaria and undernutrition. Hunger is still causing nearly half of deaths in children under 5 years old. From this data, we estimate at least 6,200 children die each day from causes related to undernutrition. This is heartbreaking.*

*Feed My Starving Children (FMSC) believes hope starts with food. As a Christian nonprofit, FMSC is dedicated to seeing every child whole in body and spirit. FMSC works with food distribution partners that stay with communities for the long haul, empowering them to move from relief to development.*

*FMSC meals are developed by food science and nutrition professionals to supplement nutritional needs and reduce problems with malnutrition. Nutrition allows children to grow, thrive and develop to their full potential.”*

For information: <https://www.fmsc.org/get-involved/volunteer/>

## **LINCOLN PARK COMMUNITY SERVICES**

*“LPCS serves adult individuals ages 18 and up from all across Chicago who are at-risk of or currently experiencing homelessness. We serve people of all backgrounds regardless of gender identity, sexual orientation, race or ethnicity.”*

Locations: 1521 N. Sedgwick, Chicago, IL 60610 and 600 W. Fullerton  
Chicago, IL 60614

For Information: <https://www.lpcschicago.org/get-involved>

## THE NIGHT MINISTRY

*“The Night Ministry is a Chicago-based organization whose mission is to provide human connection, housing support, and health care to those who are unhoused or experiencing poverty. With an open heart, we compassionately accept each individual as they are and work alongside them to advocate for their immediate physical, emotional, and social needs while affirming our shared humanity.”*

For information: <https://thenightministry.org/>

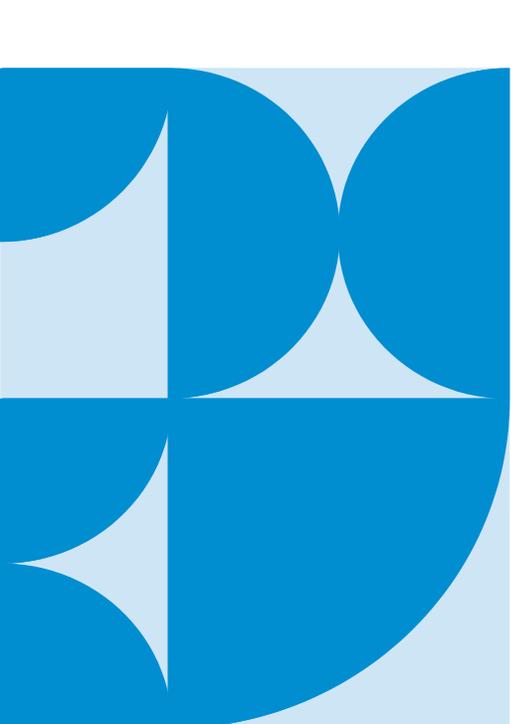
## CAMBODIAN ASSOCIATION OF ILLINOIS

*“The Cambodian Association of Illinois (CAI) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, comprehensive social service organization. It was founded in 1976 by a group of Cambodian refugee volunteers responding to the needs of Cambodians resettling in Chicago. CAI provides social services for approximately 5,000 Cambodians in Illinois (3,000 in the Chicago metropolitan area), most of whom are Cambodian refugees or the children of refugees. CAI is the only nonprofit in the Chicago metropolitan area which provides bilingual programming to address the interrelated social and economic needs of the Cambodian American population.”*

*“The National Cambodian Heritage Museum is a tribute to the rich heritage that dates back more than 4,000 years, and provides a permanent and secure home in Chicago for the culture that was almost lost during the Vietnam War and Cambodia’s own civil unrest.*

Location: 2831 West Lawrence Avenue - Chicago, IL 60625

For information: <https://cambodianassociation.org/>



## **Faculty -FAQ**

***Q: What are the components of a service learning course?***

**There are two required components:**

- 1. Service of some kind that is related to your course content; and**
- 2. Reflection on the service, which can be through a journal, writing assignment or presentation where the student connects classroom ideas to the experience she or he had in the community.**

***Q: Does the service-learning component have to be mandatory for all students?***

**No, you can choose to make it voluntary, either a substitute for a required project or paper or as an extra credit option.**

**Of course, it can be a required portion of the class as well.**

***Q: Are there different ways to structure a service-learning project?***

**Yes. You can choose to do a group project where students work together for one partner. These can be one day events where your class travels to the partner to help on a specific project (for example, working on forest restoration or helping pack food at a food bank). They could also be group project where students work over many days from the classroom (for example, students can work on designing an educational flyer on the importance of getting enough sleep).**



**Another option is to have students work individually for a community partner or partners. Students can sign up on their own time to serve onsite with the community partner (for example, we have had faculty in the past work with Wonder Works Children’s Museum in Oak Park as well as a variety of senior assisted living centers).**

***Q: Does the service component require a minimum number of hours?***

**No. Faculty can select what works best for their students and the community partner they choose to work with.**

***Q: How do I find a community partner?***

**Wright has a list of community partners under faculty resources tab. You can email them directly to see what their current needs are and let them know about your own expectations for your students’ learning.**

***Q: Do I have to choose one community partner to work with?***

**No. Depending on your course’s service learning SLOs, you can let your students choose their own (with your approval) or have a set list of ones you have already approved.**

***Q: Do I have to work with an outside community partner?***

**No. In addition to direct and indirect service learning, you can also design a service project that is focused on advocacy or research. See below for descriptions of the four types of service learning.**

**Additionally, you can work with Wright College as your partner. Is there a need at the college that your students could help with?**

- **Direct Service – What most people think of when they think of “service” or “volunteering”, involves person-to-person activities. Example: tutoring young children.**
- **Indirect Service – Activities where students do not interact directly with recipients. Examples: stocking a food pantry, creating a newsletter for a senior center, or cleaning up a playground.**
- **Advocacy- Activities to create awareness of a problem in the community. Examples: sponsoring a town meeting, designing posters, putting on a play that draws attention to the issue.**
- **Research – Activities in which students collect data or do research and report on information in the public interest. Example: completing an energy audit of your college and then suggesting ways to reduce energy usage.**  
**(Kaye, 2010)**

**Q: Are there any administrative details I need to be aware of in making my Wright course service learning?**

- **Please let Wright's Service-Learning Coordinator, Merry Mayer ([mmayer2@ccc.edu](mailto:mmayer2@ccc.edu)), know what course and section will include service learning and if it will be mandatory or voluntary.**
- **If your project is required of all students, please request that a "6" be added to your course's section code, this will designate it as a service-learning course.**
- **There are also pre- and post- service student surveys, as well as community partner surveys (if applicable) that will be provided to you by the service-learning coordinator.**
- **Near the end of the semester, if you wish, you may provide the names of those students who successfully completed the service learning project to Wright's service-learning coordinator, and students will then receive certificates of achievement.**



