

SOURCE Champion of the Month
September 2017



Megan Barrett

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Staff

“Any community involvement makes an impact – even planting trees for a day!”

What do you do as your community engagement activity?

Social Justice Task Force and SOURCE’s Tri-School Days of Service

How much time do you spend on service per week/month?

5 hours per week

How did you begin to work with your community-based organization (CBO)?

I work with SOURCE staff members, Keilah and Shane on the Social Justice Task Force. As the Chair of the Diversity and Inclusion Committee at JHU School of Nursing (SON) I had an interest in increasing programming opportunities for students related to Social Justice- Keilah and I brainstormed and we developed a programming model for SON students and we are currently implementing.

What do you enjoy about or gain through community service?

The best part of our collaboration is seeing results – We are in the beginning stages of implementation, but our collaboration has yielded incredible ideas – I am really feeling a great momentum!

How do you find time for service in your busy schedule?

The project that I have been working on with SOURCE is really a passion – I wish that I could work on this social justice orientation all day – but it does fit well into my job. The students at the SON have been asking for more programming that teaches them about the social determinants of health and how to combat health disparities in their practice.

Besides finding the time, what barriers related to your service have you had to overcome?

Luckily none.

How has your training in Hopkins influenced the way you approach service?

Working with SOURCE has taught me the importance of strong partnerships with colleagues and the community.

What advice do you have for prospective students who are interested in community service?

SOURCE is a great way to get involved – no matter what area of service you are interested in, there is an opportunity for you. As far as SON students, I hope that many jump on board this fall during Baltimore week to begin their involvement in social justice work.

What would you say to someone who is unsure of the impact his/her service would have on a community?

Any community involvement makes an impact – even planting trees for a day! My work with SOURCE in the last year will allow students to learn the challenges that they will face in practice and provide them with tools as they enter into their nursing career.

What is the community service accomplishment that has affected you and/or your community the most?

As we are just in the execution stage of our programming, I hope that the SON students and community are receptive to our model of programming and we create a variety of opportunities for students to engage with community partners at the same time.

Final Comments My experience with SOURCE could not be any more positive! Working with Keilah and Shane on the Social Justice Taskforce and on our SON programming has reenergized me – We have been able to streamline and organize ideas that I have wanted to implement for a long time. I am so thankful for their collaboration and the true teamwork that we have put into this experience. I am looking forward to see what comes in the future!



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