

SOURCE Champion of the Month
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Nyadia Griffith

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Student, 2014 Summer Accelerated BSN

“Service helps me to feel more balanced and well rounded as a JHU nursing student.”

What do you do as your community engagement activity?

Soccer Without Borders - Baltimore

How much time do you spend on service per week/month? About 20 hrs/month

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

I partnered with SWB-Baltimore through my participation in the SOURCE Service Scholars program. I interviewed with Jill, the Executive Director of SWB – Baltimore and it was an instant connection. Jill is extremely passionate about SWB and is a living mission statement for the organization. She really loves the kids and works closely with **all** of the families. I was immediately drawn to her genuine sincerity. I wanted to join SWB and be in the position to inspire and educate others with similar enthusiasm.

What do you enjoy about or gain through community service?

Service fills a spiritual need of mine. I feel a sense of wholeness when I am able to engage with the community.

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

I arrived to Hopkins with just my dog, suitcase and a prayer. I didn't know how I was going to pay for tuition or housing...I just knew I belonged in Baltimore. I felt a sense of “purpose.” I am attending this prestigious school solely on the generous support of strangers, donors, faculty, other students...there were a lot of people who paid it forward so I could be here. I owe it to them to give back.

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

Finding reliable public transportation has been very challenging. The times quoted on the bus schedule are usually off by an hour or two. 😊

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

Hopkins has a huge influence in the community, both negative and positive. I try to keep that in mind when working with the Baltimore community.

How does your service shape your development as a health care professional?

Service helps me to feel more balanced and well rounded as a JHU nursing student.

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

Make time - there is always time. You found time to read this article...now find time to pay it forward!

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

Simply listening to someone is one of the hugest ways you can make an impact. You may not have time to physically do something, but you can find time to slow down, and listen to someone. Most times, people just want to be heard.

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

I have developed a great sense of pride for this city; I consistently look for ways to keep people involved. I love connecting students with the various service-learning opportunities. There are great things going on in this city. By providing awareness, I connect people to the existing service projects that will hopefully keep people here after graduation!

Final Comments:

SOURCE is the BEST way to find out how to get involved with the Baltimore community!

We are blessed to attend this world-renowned institution. There is more to Hopkins than academics. Hopkins has a history of giving—be part of the tradition. It'd be such a disservice if you leave this great community and don't find time to give back. Help shape the community by becoming a part of it.



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