

SOURCE Champion of the Month  
February 2015



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*"Service to the community helps clarify "why" what I do is important."*

**What do you do as your community engagement activity?**

Faculty mentor for the Geriatric Interest Group and SON faculty leader for the Daniels' Scholars Interprofessional Program.

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

10 hours/month

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

Ten years ago I began the Geriatric Interest Group, an interprofessional group for students (nursing, public health, medicine) interested in learning about and providing service for older adults in the community. I began the Daniels' Scholars program, an interprofessional group of students (medicine, nursing, pharmacy), five years ago as a method for providing students across disciplines to learn with, from and about each other while providing services to older adults in the community.

**What do you enjoy about or gain through community service?**

The pleasure of watching students from different disciplines working together, helping older adults in the community and learning so much from them. For example, students provided and shared a Thanksgiving dinner with older adults at senior housing facility and this month they will

host a “senior prom”. Students and older adults alike find meaning and enjoyment in these experiences.

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

I make time because it is important and students enjoy it.

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

Finding time when students from different programs are available is a big challenge. Fundraising is another challenge, but the students are very good at that, and the institution is supportive.

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

Service to the community helps clarify “why” what I do is important.

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

“The more you give, the more you get.”

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

Speak to students who engage in community service and ask about the benefit to cost. They will explain.

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

Students in the Daniels’ Scholars Program (nursing, medicine, pharmacy) visit an older adult longitudinally over the course of a year. The older adult serves as a “health mentor” to the students and the students share their knowledge with the older adult. A strong bond is formed between all and the benefit is profound.

**Final Comments**

Join the Geriatric/Gerontology Interest Group [geriatricofficers@alive.johnshopkins.edu](mailto:geriatricofficers@alive.johnshopkins.edu) and learn about opportunities to work with other students and older adults in the Baltimore community.



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