

SOURCE Champion of the Month  
October 2013



**Drew White**  
School of Medicine  
2nd Year Medical Student

*“Community service has allowed a constant reaffirmation of why I entered the medical profession.”*

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

Esperanza Center ESL Volunteer Teacher and Clinic interpreter.

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

6 hours / week; ~30 hours / month.

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

I began work with the Esperanza Center after a visit to the clinic for Tuberculosis outreach with the tri-school organization *Bienestar*. Immediately after, I was impressed with the clinic services in addition to opportunities to engage the holistic health of immigrant populations through ESL lessons and conversation.

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

Community service has allowed a constant reaffirmation of why I entered the medical profession. With each service activity, I find deeper understanding of the complexities that contribute to health and wellbeing; with each person I meet through outreach, I gain unparalleled exposure to meaningful perspectives and life-changing, motivating, attitudes. Moreover, through solidarity with the community, I further realize my place in it.

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

I find time for service through a mix of balancing school work and understanding my limits. By being honest with my schedule and commitments, I am able to determine (at least most of the time) what is reasonable to maintain a constant level of outreach in the community.



increase in enthusiasm for embracing the fight for assured Latino health. Whether it's measured in the thousands of patients that have come to the Esperanza Center for primary care, or the creation of the *Centro para la Salud y Oportunidades de los Latinos* through Hopkins-Bayview, I feel lucky to be a part of the growing bond between Baltimore health providers and the Baltimore Latino community. Furthermore, work with *Bienestar* has solidified the role of Hopkins students in this evolution and needed provision of services; as I work to continue to ensure that our group's voice joins the conversation, I've come to rely and appreciate on my colleagues, mentors, and fellow volunteers that continue to fuel this change.

**Final Comments:**

Regardless of your background, current career hopes, or future plans- don't ever be hesitant to challenge your beliefs. Service, unlike any other activity, will push you, will redefine your comfort zones, and will force you to consider the multifaceted context in which our health relates to that of our neighbors. If you don't believe me, come out to a Day of Service, visit SOURCE to see what outreach in Baltimore has to offer, and most of all, step outside of yourself and into the lives of others. For as put by the late Dr. Albert Schweitzer, [although] "Life becomes harder for us when we live for others... it also becomes richer and happier."



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