

SOURCE Champion of the Month
July 2014



Marie Diener-West, PhD

Bloomberg School of Public Health
Faculty (also Alumnus PhD 1984)

“Every hour of service is important and makes a contribution, either tangible or intangible.”

What do you do as your community engagement activity?

I participate in the Summer MPH Day of Service as well as the SOURCE Fall and Spring Tri-School Days of Service.

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

Each day is approximately 3-4 hours of service.

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

My first experience was with Habitat with Humanity in West Baltimore when my daughter and I volunteered with our church group about 10 years ago. I’ve been working with SOURCE as a group leader since the spring of 2006. I’ve had the opportunity to work with students and staff with a number of community-based organizations but probably most frequently with Civic Works. With Civic Works, we have worked to collect trash, weed, and plant to form new or renovate existing green space or gardens in the East Baltimore community. My specialty is weeding and these activities go on- rain or shine! Most recently, this past spring, our group helped paint rooms at Adelante Familia which is part of House of Ruth.

What do you enjoy about or gain through community service?

I really enjoy the ability to work with students in the East Baltimore community and to see, along with them, the neighborhood organizations such as Civic Works, Adelante Familia, and Amazing Grace Church that are trying to make a difference in the quality of life of community members. The opportunity to meet and work with dedicated community members is very inspiring.

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

I make sure to mark the Days of service on my calendar as soon as I hear about them.

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

JHSPH is a proponent of community-based service, education and research. Working within the context of the needs of the CBO or community is paramount.

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

Working within the community provides a much needed and broader perspective on life in the community that surrounds our School.

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

It is so easy to get involved, even for short periods of time.

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

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