

SERVICE - LEARNING **CONNECTIONS**



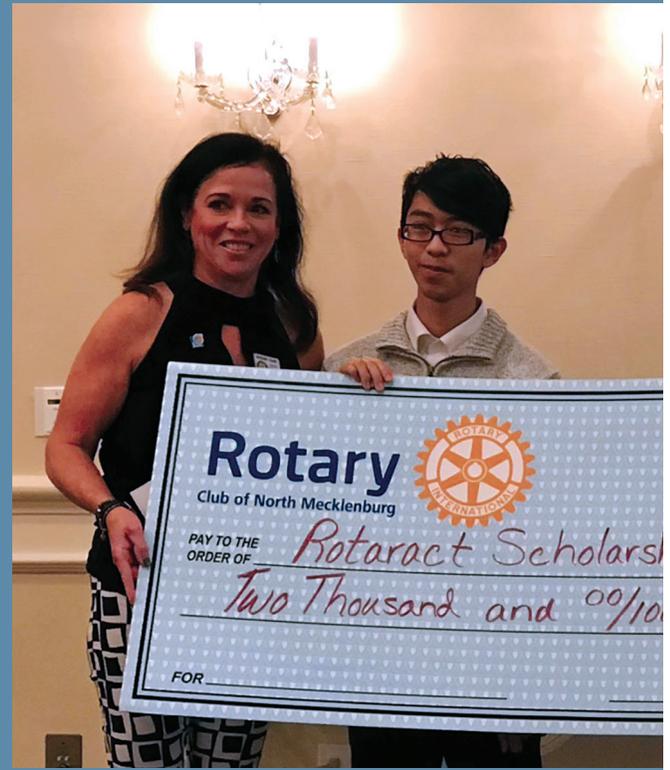
FALL 2018

ROTARACT

The Levine Campus Rotaract Club focused on building new membership and coming together as a team. To kick off the year, members held their first service project with our long-standing partner, the Matthews HELP Center. Following the project, members got together to do team-building activities. The group also concentrated a large portion of their semester on hosting on-campus projects. This is a great way for our middle college program members to stay more involved.

This semester, two projects quickly became the group favorite. Members made mini octopus stuffed animals and baby blankets for premature babies at local hospitals. Students also hosted a project for fellow students to join supporting Promising Pages. In addition to cleaning books and making bookmarks, the group enjoyed making bookworms for children to read to. These little worms are made from clothespins and help students practice reading aloud. Members are looking forward to having another semester to devote to service and plan to focus their attention on raising hunger awareness within their community.

— **Lindsey Graves, Coordinator Harper & Levine**



The Merancas Campus Rotaract had a busy semester planning a variety of service projects and recruiting new members to the club. The club hosted fundraisers to support on-campus service projects, such as homeless kits that were donated to the Men's Shelter, as part of Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week, and Spread the Love, where 250 peanut butter and jelly sandwiches were made and given to Urban Ministry to help feed our hungry neighbors.

Two lucky Rotaract members were honored with a scholarship from Mecklenburg North Rotary chapter and were invited to learn and speak at the Rotary meeting about what Rotaract means to them. This scholarship money was awarded to these students based on their service to the community and their commitment to the Merancas Rotaract Club. This organization hopes to keep efforts moving in the spring semester with more service experiences for the entire campus, such as the Family Fun Day at Merancas Campus.

— **Jenn Marts, Director**



The Rotaract Club at Cato has been busy this year hosting several events on campus. Most notably, they hosted tables for voter registration, made sandwiches for the homeless and brought the campus together to make Halloween cards for the children at Levine Children’s Hospital. They also worked with First Year Experience and the Career Center to ramp up their own personal résumés and to build up their professional portfolios. They are excited to begin their Prom Donation Drive to benefit local high school students this coming spring and are eager to recruit an even bigger body of members on campus!

- Lauren Estes, Coordinator Cato & Harris

Central Campus Rotaract Club had a busy semester with service to the community, networking with Rotarians at many Rotary meetings, and connecting with other Rotaractors at other colleges and universities. The Rotaract Executive Team and their members attended multiple Charlotte Uptown Rotary meetings where they were able to meet influential Charlotteans and develop connections, gain internship experiences, and meet new mentors.

Central also hosted a variety of service events, including book sorting at Promising Pages, multiple food sorting service events at Second Harvest Food Bank, support of all Food Lion Feeds Collegiate Challenge programs, and stocking the Free Store at Crisis Assistance Ministry. Central Rotaract partnered with other clubs and organizations to promote service to the community and get more students mobilized to serve our neighbors.

Central Rotaract also hosted a variety of fundraisers on-campus and at Rotary Meetings where students also presented on their experiences within Rotaract and the impact they are hoping to make on the campus community.

— Jenn Marts, Director





In an effort to highlight the connection between the lessons of our past and the challenges of our future, North Carolina's 2018 Campus Compact CSNAP (Citizenship, Service, Networking, and Partnerships) Conference focused on **"The Power of Youth Civic Courage: From the Civil Rights Movement to Today."**

"Central Piedmont was able to take 10 civically engaged students, and even had two win awards at the event!"

names. Some options included: "Leadership with a Side of Salsa," "Overcoming Implicit Bias," and "Volunteerism not Voluntourism."

In each of those sessions, students from other colleges would teach each other about what service looks like on their campus. They also spoke about the different ways they go about getting their student

The conference was held November 10 at Fayetteville State University and brought together students from colleges all over North Carolina. The purpose of the conference was to share the ways in which students are involved in their communities through higher education. While the focus was on the students, and the roles that they can play as change agents in society today, CSNAP did speak on the work that had been done before. The first session of the day was a panel, 75% of the participants were in school during the civil rights era and could talk about now compared to then.

bodies involved in the things going on around their campuses. Leslie Garvin, the executive director of Campus Compact, attended the session, "Theater of the Oppressed," and did it again for the whole group because of the interaction it allowed the students. Students were allowed a creative way to explore the complexity of collaborating to solve social problems.

Afterward, the conference broke into different sessions, the majority of which were student led. One of the things to look forward to the most in CSNAP is the prioritization of the student's agency in the learning process. Students pick what sessions they attend based on the

Central Piedmont student **Jacob Hedge** was one of the 2018 Community Impact winners for his outstanding leadership and innovative approaches in his civic engagement efforts. Jacob attends Merancas Campus and is the SGA Senate Chair. Through his involvement on campus he was able to get students free weekly access to the local recreation center and gym with Huntersville Parks and Recreation.

– **Kevin Chege, Coordinator Central**

Student Reflection



My name is Ngoc (pronounced knock) and I currently work at the Cato Campus Food Pantry in conjunction with Central Piedmont's Service-Learning Center and Federal Work-Study Program. I am a nontraditional student in the final year of earning my A.A.S. degree in the College's Advertising + Graphic Design program.

Service-Learning and the Federal Work-Study Program have been a tremendous help to me in balancing my school and work schedule; and more importantly, they have shown me firsthand what community service and helping others looks like.

Having an emergency food pantry on campus is one of the best ways to show students and staff you care about them and you are committed to helping them in times of need. Any Central Piedmont student or staff member can come into our food pantries, fill out a simple form, and take home a two-day supply of groceries for their household.

If they need more help, we can refer them to other larger food pantries through Loaves and Fishes and they can get a seven-day supply of food, including fresh produce, meats, and dairy. I also walk students through completing a benefits screening with Single Stop to see if they are able to receive assistance with other needs they may have.

Besides working in the food pantry, I also assist other student volunteer organizations. This past fall, I worked with the Cato Rotaract Club to register students to vote in elections and made 100 sandwiches for our hungry neighbors with Urban Ministry. I also am able to use my skills and what I am learning in my courses to design marketing and advertising for the Cato Food Pantry and our partners. I have enjoyed working with Lauren Estes, Service-Learning coordinator for the Cato Campus, and serving as the Federal Work Study Food Pantry coordinator.

— Ngoc Lee



LOAVES & FISHES
Groceries for Neighbors in Need

Loaves & Fishes provides nutritionally balanced groceries to families and individuals experiencing a short-term crisis through a network of food pantries in Mecklenburg Co.

National Hunger & Homelessness Awareness Week is held each year the week before Thanksgiving. This is a time for us all to think about what we are thankful for, a perfect time to share our compassion with our neighbors who are experiencing hunger and homelessness, and work toward a world where no one has to experience hunger and homelessness.

Service-Learning is hosting the 4th annual week of educational programming that will allow our campus communities to come together around the topics of hunger and homelessness and to spur conversations about how each of

us can serve as a catalyst for making our local communities free of hunger and homelessness.

Each of our campuses put together a week of service and civic engagement events to connect and engage the students, staff, and faculty. Our team made sure the planned activities supported the goals of the week and brought awareness to their individual campuses.

The Levine Campus hosted the annual SNAP Challenge. The SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) Challenge requires individuals to live on \$5 per day for food and drink for at least five days. →

→ This budget is a realistic estimate of what a single individual receives in SNAP benefits.

Students, staff, and faculty shared their experiences, what they ate throughout the week, and how they felt throughout the challenge. Several participants stated having a harder time focusing during classes because they were fairly hungry for most of the week. One student stated, “it is a great reminder that being able to just go buy food whenever you want is a privilege we don’t really focus on.”

Students at Levine wrapped up Hunger and Homelessness week by bagging 400lbs. of rice to donate to Loaves & Fishes. The large quantities of rice got bagged into single, family-sized servings to make it easier to give out at smaller food pantries, including the pantries operating on each Central Piedmont campus.

Students in the Harper Campus Student Activities Board made more than 10 fleece scarves to donate to Crisis Assistance Ministry. They also hosted a winter coat and school uniform drive on campus. All items were delivered to Crisis Assistance.

The **Harris Hunger Games** is a canned food drive that is in its 5th year – and this year the teams at the Harris Campus collected and donated more than 10,000 items! From clothing for Crisis Assistance Ministry, to school supplies for schools impacted by recent hurricanes on North Carolina’s coast, to a truckload of food donations benefiting our very own food pantry, the Harris Hunger Games helped many! Baking & Pastry Arts joined in and made a meal for more than 200 homeless people benefiting the Men’s Shelter of Charlotte.

At the **Cato Campus**, students and staff worked together to make more than 100 sandwiches and used donations collected from the campus community to build more than 50 homeless care packages all benefiting Urban Ministry. Students in class took time to watch documentary films about hunger and to discuss some of the systems in place that make it difficult for some families, even here in Charlotte, to have enough to eat. Offering support in the community, serving in meaningful ways, and reflecting on the

role that each of us play in the future of ending hunger and homelessness in our city is of utmost importance.

Central Piedmont Central Campus hosted some exciting civic engagement opportunities for students, staff, and faculty as well. Central Piedmont’s Chef John LaTour, led a Lunch and Learn event focused on eliminating food waste and cooking with items easily found in the on-campus pantries. Americans waste tons of food every single day, and Chef LaTour discussed what folks can do to lessen their food waste. Chef also demonstrated (and provided lunch) how to cook an easy and inexpensive soup and no-bake cookie option.

Student Government Association, Phi Theta Kappa, and Rotaract members attended the OxFam Hunger Banquet during Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week. This is an event that bring statistics about poverty to life. Participants randomly select tickets matching real people who are high-, middle-, or low-income earners, demonstrating that where you end up is all in the luck of the draw. These events help increase our power to respond to global crises, highlight issues of injustice, and change the laws that keep people trapped in poverty.

Students at Central Campus also participated in a conversation about issues within hunger and homelessness that are currently facing the Charlotte community and the efforts local non-profits are offering to assist neighbors in need. Students also participated in a hands-on service event at Second Harvest Food Bank, helping pack items and sort products in the warehouse.

The **Merancas Campus Rotaract** led students in creating Kindness Kits for the homeless during the Student Life Fall Fest. More than 100 kits with socks and personal hygiene items were donated to the Men’s Shelter of Charlotte after the service project was completed. The Student Government Association and Rotaract Club worked together to make sandwiches with the Spread the Love program that were donated to our hungry neighbors at Urban Ministry while they watched “A Place at the Table” and discussed food insecurity in America.

– **Service-Learning Team**

Food Lion Feeds Collegiate Challenge

This year, I served as the student ambassador for Central Piedmont during the first annual Food Lion Feeds Collegiate Challenge. This challenge was put together by Food Lion grocery stores and North Carolina Campus Compact, as part of their efforts to end hunger nationwide.

There were a total of 17 colleges and universities throughout North Carolina competing against each other for the opportunity to win up to \$20,000 for their school's emergency food pantry. This prize was money divided into two separate portions: \$10,000 for programming initiatives and \$10,000 for the food drive donation competition.

This was a great opportunity for Central Piedmont's campus communities to be more involved with agencies focused on ending hunger in the community and across our campuses.

We held several different events on different days to bring more awareness to this struggle that too many of us face on a day-to-day basis. One event, was an Oxfam Hunger Banquet where more than 20 students and faculty met together to conduct a simulation of what poverty looks like in North Carolina.

The Oxfam Hunger Banquet demonstrates access to food, possessions, and property through a simulation experience. Another Food Lion Feeds Challenge event was held with

Central Piedmont's Chef John LaTour, who hosted a how-to workshop on eliminating food waste. He also showed how to cook a quick and healthy meal with items found in Central Piedmont's emergency food pantries.



The other side of the competition was the "Souper Bowl Food Drive." All six campuses competed to help our hungry neighbors in the community through food drives and online donation campaigns. Central Piedmont collected a total of 21,848 pounds of food for this challenge, making our impact truly noteworthy.

Although CPCC did not take home the prize for either competition, we were proud of the contribution we made to the local community and want to congratulate North Carolina Central University for winning the programming portion of the competition and Elizabeth City State University for winning the Souper Bowl Food Drive.

We also want to extend a HUGE thank you to everyone who was gracious enough to donate items and funds to support our efforts in ending hunger on our campuses and in the local Charlotte community. We are incredibly proud of the work we did through the Food Lion Feeds Challenge and could not have done any of this without you!

— Ni'Chelle Heckman, Food Lion Feeds Student Ambassador & Jenn Marts, Director

DONATIONS

Cato		278 lbs.
Central		1652 lbs.
Harper		24 lbs.
Harris		1799 lbs.
Levine		199 lbs.
Merancas		67 lbs.
Online Giving		17,829 lbs.
Total:		21,848 lbs.

ALL ITEMS WERE DONATED TO SECOND HARVEST FOOD BANK, SUPPORTER OF FOOD LION FEEDS

Service In Action

**Ada Jenkins
Mac &
Cheese
Cook Off**



Service in Action events are individual service opportunities that span the fall and spring semesters. These events are planned by the Service-Learning team, are attended by Central Piedmont students, and have a staff member present to help facilitate the project. Fourteen service projects were scheduled for the fall 2018 semester and hundreds of students joined together to serve across the Charlotte community.

Students enjoy the diversity of options in the Service in Action calendar of events and they appreciate the ability to self-register on the Service-Learning website. Students meet new people, form new friendships, and truly learn

about issues that are facing their communities through the Service in Action program. Some of the service projects for the fall 2018 semester benefitted Friendship Trays, Creek ReLeaf, Isabella Santos 5K Run Kid Zone, Carolina Breast Friends, Children's Theater of Charlotte, and Carolinas Aviation Museum.

The annual Ada Jenkins Mac and Cheese Cook Off is always a student favorite since they serve (and eat) mac and cheese from more than 10 restaurants in an effort to help the Ada Jenkins Center with their annual fundraiser. Service in Action is a longstanding program in Service-Learning and continues to be popular and fun for all those who attend.

— Jenn Marts, Director



**Second
Harvest
Food Bank**

Student Leader Reflection



Serving as a Service in Action student leader this semester was a fun and eye-opening experience. I learned a lot from the service projects that I led, including all the hard work that is put into their services and everything that is taken care of behind the scenes.

I really enjoyed my time with the non-profits that I served in conjunction with other Central Piedmont students. I participated in five Service in Action projects during the fall semester, three of which I served as the student leader: the Isabella Santos 5k, Second Harvest Food Bank, and Promising Pages.

This experience has helped me learn and grow as a student leader. At the beginning of each project, I introduced myself to everyone that

came to the service event and hosted the reflection process at the end of the project. I also made sure to learn more about the agency our service benefitted prior to us being on-site, so I could share the impact the agency makes on the local community with those in attendance.

I enjoyed meeting other faculty and staff at the events and interacting with the folks that work at the non-profits. I would like to see more students participate in Service in Action events and serve as student leaders. This is another way a student can have more hands-on experiences with the world. I really enjoyed being chosen to be a SIA leader, and I can't wait to do it again.

– **Brandon Duran**

“It has been a busy year of service for our faculty and staff across each campus!”

EMPLOYEE

Service-Learning worked with ESS departments, campus committees, and Professional Development to sponsor each of the following service projects with our campus communities.

This year, **Levine Campus** participated in Employee Learning Days. Each day was developed and set up by Debbie Lord to support professional development across campuses. Learning day at Levine ended with a service project. Levine made blankets and stuffed octopi for babies in local Neonatal Intensive Care Units.

The Levine Campus ESS team kept it local at an organization based in Matthews, N.C., called Bright Blessings. Bright Blessings hosts baby showers, birthday parties, and provides care bags for children and mothers living in our area’s shelters. Even when the power went out, ESS members continued to package snack bags, make birthday cards, and wrap presents.

Harris Campus had another great semester for the Harris CARES project. This year, staff and faculty from across each department joined together to complete service at Crisis Assistance

Ministry and the Boys and Girls Club. Harris Campus always ends these days with a reflection and comradeship.

The **Harper Campus** ESS team helped out at CMPD Animal Care and Control with cleaning, dog walking, cat contact, and more. Harper also hosted its first Harper CARES project. A group of staff from across the departments at Harper came together to serve at Classroom Central, an organization dedicated to getting free school supplies into the hands of all teachers of CMS and surrounding counties.

The **Cato** ESS retreat also featured an opportunity for staff to do service. This group focused their efforts on projects they could do right from campus. They made tactile learning aids for children with special needs like stress balls and fidgets. Service-Learning loves having the opportunity to make new connections between our faculty, staff, and community. It is always a welcomed invitation for us to join together and be a part of professional development and team retreats.

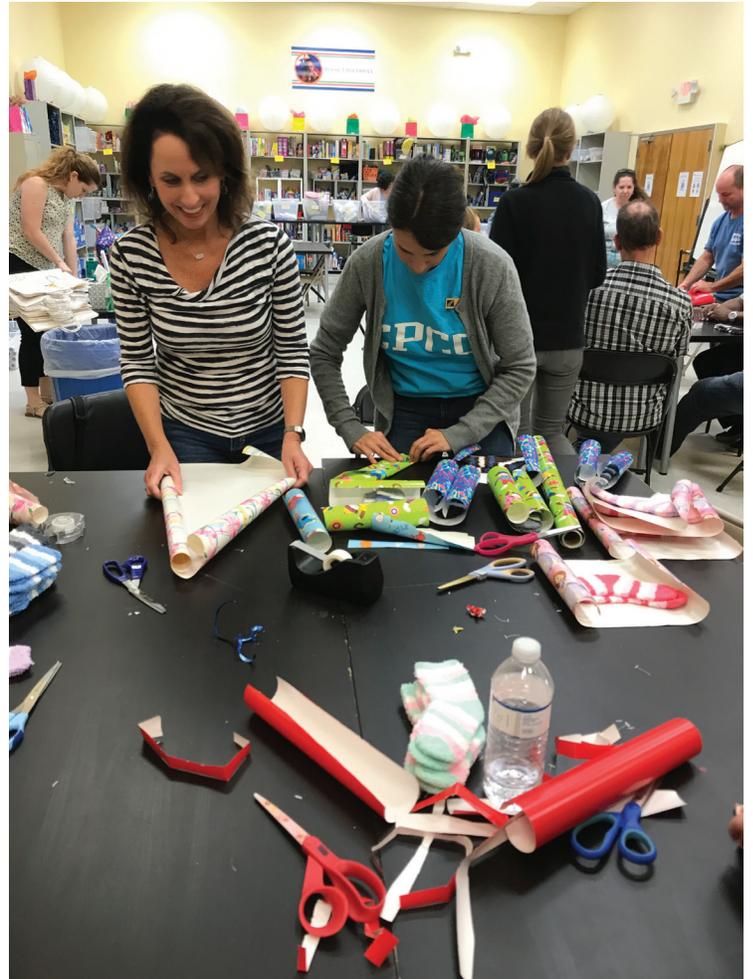
-Lindsey Graves, Coordinator Harper & Levine



≡ SERVICE



Levine Campus Employee Learning Day



Bright Blessings

**Harper Campus ESS Team Retreat
CMPD Animal Care & Control**

CONNECTIONS | FALL 2018

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