The Service for Social Action Center (SSAC), part of Campus Ministry, coordinates the extracurricular and course-based service activities of members of the Wheeling Jesuit University (WJU) community. Students have the opportunity to truly become “men and women in service and among others” through the partnerships of our student clubs, service programs, and academic courses with organizations in Wheeling, Appalachia, and across the country.

Throughout the year, the SSAC identifies service projects, tracks participation, and provides support with spiritual reflection and skill development for individual clubs, residence halls, sports teams, and programs including the Pedro Arrupe, S.J., Service Scholarship Program, the Mother Jones House, and First Year Seminar.

Make-A-Difference Day
Make-A-Difference Day, held during Orientation Week, is an annual event for all WJU First Year students. They participate in service with a local agency for approximately three hours on that day as part of their First Year Seminar course.

Arrupe Program
The selected four-year Arrupe Scholars complete 66 hours of service per year, primarily at one site in the Wheeling area. Students engage in monthly reflection activities regarding their service work, community building activities, and a yearly service immersion experience.

Student Clubs
All student clubs participate in at least one service project each year. Some clubs, like Circle K, JAPOT, Students for Life, and Student Sustainability Club, have service and social justice as their primary focus. The SSAC assists organizations when scheduling service and related activities.

Alternative Breaks
As part of the university’s mission of “Life, Leadership, Service,” WJU has made a commitment to help the people of New Orleans rebuild after the devastation following the failure of the levee system during hurricane Katrina.

HESS
The HESS Mentoring program stands for “Help Enrich Someone special.” Founded by the local Hess and Hogan families, the HESS program brings local six through eight graders to campus to work with our student Mentors. The program focuses on helping to enrich both the mind and body of those involved and has become a staple program at WJU.

Service Learning
Service courses at WJU offer opportunities to apply academic concepts and skills to community-based service projects. Students reflect on how the service relates to the area of study and their moral and civic responsibilities.
SSAC Mission
To offer and support service experiences, scholarships, international service, community living opportunities, service learning courses, and spiritual reflection exercises that meet the interests and needs of the Wheeling Jesuit University community.

To offer faculty, staff, and administration opportunities to integrate community service into their lives and work through Wheeling Jesuit University programs.

To develop and organize these activities in collaboration with our community partners to ensure that the service contributes substantially to the social and economic growth of the regions in which they are located.

Other Service Events
Special Olympics
American Red Cross Blood Drives
Neighborhood Cleanups
Light the Night Walk
Youth Prison Ministry
Christmas Giving Tree Project
Disc Dance
Super Sunday
Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week

And many more!

“Today’s world stands in great need of witnesses... It’s not so much about speaking, but rather speaking with our whole lives.”
-Pope Francis