Start the Fall 2014 Year and Volunteer


Over 100 students volunteered to:

- maintain a community flower bed near the Willimantic Chamber of Commerce
- clearing brush around Willimantic’s Railroad Museum
- preparing and serving lunch at the Covenant Soup Kitchen,
- organizing and folding clothes with the Windham Area Interfaith Ministry (WAIM)
- and assisting at the Sweeney Elementary School field day

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Blood Drives at Eastern

October 6 and 7, 2014
December 1 and 2, 2014

Since 1993, Eastern has hosted numerous blood drives in the Student Center Betty Tipton Room. Through the tireless efforts of staff from Student Affairs, Campus Ministry and Eastern student volunteers, thousands of pints of blood have been collected.

The October and December drives generated 168 units and 170 units respectively.

Anyone who donates the “Gift of Life” saves three lives with every pint.

Walk for Warmth

November 23, 2014

Every year, members of Eastern Connecticut State University and the Windham community raise money for the Windham Area Interfaith Ministry Fuel Assistance program. There are so many who live in our neighborhood who cannot always make ends meet and this money greatly helps them to pay for fuel to heat their homes. The walk is approximately two miles forming a loop beginning at St. Joseph’s church through marked streets in Willimantic.
Relay for Life
October 18 and 19, 2015

Eastern and the Windham community participated in the American Cancer Society Relay for Life of Greater Windham County at the Eastern Athletic Complex. The annual relay is a rally by cancer survivors, caregivers, American Cancer Society staff and volunteers to raise funds, increase cancer awareness, honor those who have passed, celebrate with those who have survived, and to help put an end to the fight against this disease.

The Center for Community Engagement was joined by over 50 Eastern students who volunteered for the two-day event.

Ellen Gillette, an Eastern ITS staff member, is a two-time cancer survivor (pictured above with purple shirt). Almost nine years ago, Ellen was diagnosed with lymphoma and three and a half years ago with breast cancer. Her chemotherapy, radiation therapy and surgeries have made her cancer-free. “It takes a village to fight cancer. No one should fight this alone” says Ellen.

Pictured below walking with Ellen are Karyl Bulmer, Fiscal Affairs, and Brenda Whalen, ITS.
National Hunger & Homelessness Awareness Week
November 16-22, 2015

This week included many meaningful events to raise awareness of what’s it like to be hungry and homeless.

- On Nov. 16 in the Student Center Theatre, a documentary was presented entitled “Storied Streets – an intimate look into personal stories of Homelessness in America”.
- On Nov. 18-19, the Habitat for Humanity hosted their annual Shack-a-thon for Eastern students who spent the night in a cardboard box to feel what it’s like to be homeless.
- On Nov. 19, Rochelle Ripley from Hawking, Inc. gave a presentation on living on the Cheyenne River Indian Reservation and the poverty that exists there.
- On Nov. 20, Eastern hosted “Make the Movement – Zumba Class” in the Sports Center dance studio. Rather than charging admission, donations of toiletries or a new pair of socks were collected to give to the No Freeze Hospitality Center.
- To end the week, volunteers coordinated “Fill a Van” from Nov. 19-21. The van was located in the Student Center patio and all the food collected was donated to the Food Pantry.
**Fall Food Drives**
Nov. 1, 2, 8, 9, 15, 16, 22, 23, 2014

The Center for Community Engagement conducted eight food drives at several local supermarkets during the 4 weekends before Thanksgiving. In addition, there were several food collection sites on campus including the residence halls. A total of 3,000+ food items were collected through the efforts of the 61 volunteers who braved rain and cold to collect donated items. All food was donated to the Covenant Soup Kitchen to use in food baskets for their clients as well as the daily meals served.

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**Day of Giving**
November 26, 2014

Every year, Eastern celebrates Thanksgiving with residents of the Willimantic community on the Wednesday before the holiday. “This is our eighth Day of Giving. It is a community meal that is a great collaboration between many community partners and Eastern,” says Kimberly Silcox, Director of the Center for Community Engagement. Even though it snowed and rained this year, we fed 350 people with 25 student and staff volunteers. There was much warmth and comradery in Hurley Hall that day between the residents and Eastern volunteers.

Music was provided by students Max Robinson and Eva Alfonso. All the food was generously donated by Chartwells Dining Services. Many pairs of socks were also available for the residents. “We put all of the socks together and we’re giving them away to people who want new, warm socks,” said Jason Coombs, Director of Chartwells Dining Services and organizer of Chartwells Safety Shoe Program.

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Jumpstart is an AmeriCorps national early education program. Its mission is:

“Working towards the day that every child in America enters Kindergarten prepared to succeed.”

Jumpstart recruits college students to serve in preschools in low-income communities to help with improving the children’s language and literacy skills.

Currently, Eastern has 19 volunteers serving in Carelot in Chaplin, Little Lights Christian Learning Center in Willimantic, and the Windham-Willimantic Child Care and Family Center also in Willimantic.

http://www1.easternct.edu/cce/