Students, faculty and staff at Saint Louis University shared nearly 500,000 hours of their time last year to help the community. In every area, SLU is reaching out in record numbers, and volunteerism is at an all-time high.

According to a new University report, nearly 9,000 members of the SLU community contributed 489,505 services hours in 2001. That's up from 439,000 hours the prior year.

University volunteers assisted nearly 3,000 churches and social service agencies, up from 1,300 the previous year. Student fund raising for charitable organizations also increased dramatically, from just more than $30,000 in 2000 to nearly $90,000 last year.

Outreach plays a pivotal role in the educational experience at SLU. Students serve in local soup kitchens. They tutor at workshops on literacy and help at-risk youth and their families in the neighborhoods near SLU. They also provide free medical services and legal assistance to those who need it.

"Besides gaining valuable experience, our students see the reality of our world, and it moves many of them to change it," said University President Lawrence Biondi, S.J.

The report, “Beyond the Classroom: Service for Others,” was compiled and published by the University’s Center for Leadership and Community Service (CLCS) and Office of Institutional Study. For more information about community service programs at Saint Louis University, call CLCS at (314) 977-2805.

Fr. Reinert Joins Stars on St. Louis Walk of Fame

The St. Louis Walk of Fame organization recently honored Paul C. Reinert, S.J., Saint Louis University’s chancellor emeritus and past president who died July 22, 2001, at the age of 90. Reinert and four other “stars” were inducted in May during the 14th annual St. Louis Walk of Fame ceremony held outside of Blueberry Hill in the University City Loop.

Reinert’s vision, however, extended beyond the University's boundaries. He played a key role in the revitalization of Midtown St. Louis. Several U.S. presidents called upon him for his insight and expertise. As his national reputation grew, his fellow educators called him more frequently for guidance. He served on nearly every important educational organization in the country.

Other “stars” honored this year include actress Marsha Mason, cartoonist and Pulitzer Prize winner Mike Peters, former football Cardinal Dan Dierdorf and famed fighter Archie Moore.
FROM THE PRESIDENT

PARTNERING FOR BETTER EDUCATION

One of the most important factors in the success of any person’s life is access to education. But this can be a challenge for the child who attends an inadequate school. Lack of access to a sound early education is one of the more frustrating roadblocks to success that I see in our city.

At Saint Louis University, we earmark more scholarships for minority students than for any other group. We provide tutoring and other services to increase the chances of success for these students. We have a commitment to diversity. But it is not enough. We need to reach students earlier.

It will take partnerships between parents, teachers, schools, businesses, volunteers, government and foundations to truly make a difference in our local schools.

Saint Louis University’s School of Public Service and the Center for Leadership and Community Service have been making a difference for many years. SLU students have been tutoring St. Louis public school students through the America Reads program for six years. Because of that involvement, SLU has received a $20,000 grant to provide additional help to preschool-age children through the Jumpstart program, an initiative of AmeriCorps.

Businesses partnerships make a difference as well. The Coca-Cola Foundation has partnered with SLU, Harris-Stowe College and the St. Louis public school system in an effort called Project Team. This collaborative effort aims to keep high school students enrolled in school and to provide them with the skills necessary to pursue post-secondary education. Coca-Cola has contributed more than $420,000 during the past three years to support various SLU programs to help keep neighborhood kids in school.

SLU dedicates itself to developing women and men for others. Our approach requires a commitment to improving the world through education and applying that education to transforming society in the spirit of the Gospels. I ask you to join us in this quest for better early education for the children of our city. For true change to occur, every citizen must take up this cause.

Lawrence Biondi, S.J.
SLU President

ORGAN DONORS HONORED: Donor families remember their loved ones at the 18th annual candlelight march held April 24 at Saint Louis University. Candles were lit to remember and pay tribute to donors at the event, which also featured food and entertainment.

U.S. REP SPEAKS AT EVENT

Funds Help African-American Scholars

Congressman Jessie Jackson Jr. was the featured speaker during an annual spring event that raises funds for SLU scholarships that assist African-American students. SLU’s Black Alumni Association and Negro Labor Council sponsored the event, which supports the University’s Calloway scholarships.

The Illinois congressman and son of the noted civil rights leader spoke about his work in the movement and his role in the House of Representatives. Jackson was elected in 1995 and is the 91st African-American elected to Congress. Last year, he wrote the book “A More Perfect Union.”

The Calloway scholarship fund provides 25 annual scholarships — each valued at $10,700 — to incoming African-American freshmen who exhibit outstanding academic achievement and co-curricular involvement. Students who earn the scholarship must maintain a 3.0 cumulative GPA at SLU to renew the scholarship each year.

The scholarship honors the accomplishments of Ernest A. Calloway Jr., who served as an associate professor of urban affairs at SLU for 11 years. He also was president of the St. Louis NAACP and Negro Labor Council.

“The University established the scholarship to recognize Earnest Calloway’s hope for a better world,” said Dr. Charles Murphy, disabilities coordinator and president of the Black Alumni Association. “The scholarship supports the University’s mission to transform students into women and men for others.”

During the event, the University also presented a distinguished service award to Henry Givens Jr., president of Harris-Stowe State College. A native of St. Louis and SLU alumnus, Givens has been president of the college since it became a state institution in 1979. Under his leadership Harris-Stowe expanded its mission. Givens has received more than 100 awards and recognitions during his illustrious educational career.
SLU RELAY FOR LIFE HONORS CANCER SURVIVORS

SLU hosted one of the city's largest philanthropy efforts in May. The first Relay For Life, sponsored by the American Cancer Society and SLU’s Center for Leadership and Community Service (CLCS), included teams of SLU students and employees who walked around the Hermann Stadium for a 13-hour fund raiser. The SLU community joined hundreds of families, friends and company sponsored teams that raised $55,000 to support research in finding a cure for cancer.

“The Relay For Life is really about honoring survivors,” said Corey Worth, the event coordinator. “It is moving and powerful as so many of us have been touched by cancer either personally or through loved ones. Our SLU event is significant because it serves as a showcase for the other communities doing relays throughout the summer.”

SLU EARNED STATE’S TOP HONOR FOR SERVICE EVENT

FIFTH ANNUAL ‘SLU MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY’ SCHEDULED FOR SATURDAY, OCT. 26

The fourth annual “SLU Make a Difference Day” — held this past October — has earned Missouri’s highest award for the national community service event.

A representative for Missouri Lt. Gov. Joe Maxwell presented the award April 25 during the Student Leadership and Service Awards Banquet in the banquet room of St. Francis Xavier College Church. SLU’s event was chosen out of 163 Missouri entries.

“Saint Louis University is at the forefront of service to the community,” Maxwell said. “The Make a Difference Day Award is just one more acknowledgment of the great things you do. In the great spirit of neighbor helping neighbor, the students, faculty and staff of Saint Louis University are recognized leaders.”

SLU’s 2001 event was co-sponsored by KMOX Radio and kicked off with a challenge from Brenda Warner of the Kurt & Brenda Warner – First Things First Foundation. Approximately 1,200 SLU volunteers dispersed after the kickoff to more than 50 locations in the community to do good works. The event also kicked off an entire year of community service commitments for SLU.

“It doesn’t surprise me that we were voted best service event this year,” said Bernie Schaefer, director of SLU’s Center for Leadership and Community Service. “Make a Difference Day has become the marquee service event of the year here at SLU. We are definitely one of the most exciting places to be on this national day of service.”

Schaefer credits the national service fraternity Alpha Phi Omega (APO), co-sponsor of the event, as well as other student groups, with recruiting volunteers and engendering enthusiasm.

“APO takes the lead, but students of all interests participate in this event,” said Schaefer. “The community service team and members of the division of student development all jump in and do an excellent job.”

SLU Vice President of Student Development Kathy Humphrey and her twin sons joined a “SLU Make a Difference Day” group of volunteers at the national pilot program the Saint Louis University Campus Kitchen last fall.

“SLU Make a Difference Day is at the heart of the mission of our institution,” Humphrey said. “Creating men and women for others is a journey, and this day sets the tone for our students, faculty and staff to engage with the community and to reflect on the difference our service makes for others as well as ourselves.”

This year’s event is scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 26. If you would like to join the SLU community as a volunteer or sponsor, please call 977-2805.
Center Focuses on Family Counseling

In St. Louis, many families who need counseling can’t afford the help. Saint Louis University’s Family Development Center brings together these families with graduate students seeking professional experience.

Located at 3740 Lindell Blvd., the center is an extension of the department of counseling and family therapy in the School of Public Service. The center got its start in 1993 thanks to a grant from the Danforth Foundation.

The center’s goal is to assist individuals, couples and families without health care. Based on the family’s need, the center charges a nominal fee for its services. “No one is turned away for finances,” said Mary Schmelter, the center’s director. “Because the center was founded to assist graduate students pursuing their master’s and doctorate degrees in counseling, we need clients just as much as they need us to assist them.”

The center provides an on-campus site for graduate training. Previously, graduate students in the program completed their practicum at Cardinal Glennon Hospital or other locations throughout the community. Students often approach their counseling efforts as a team. “This allows families to benefit not just from the knowledge of one counselor but of an entire group,” Schmelter said.

Originally the center assisted residents in the Blumeyer Village Public Housing Development, the Midwest’s largest public housing facility. When students became aware of the abundant need for affordable counseling, they decided to expand.

“It’s a really visible sign to the community that SLU is helping out those in need in St. Louis,” Schmelter said.

In addition to its counseling services, the Family Development Center organizes the Pack ‘Em Back to School program, which provides children in need with backpacks full of school supplies and clothes.

Anyone interested in sponsoring a child, can contact Schmelter at (314) 977-2505.

Send comments or suggestions regarding this newsletter or SLU’s community relationships to Kathryn Hundman at (314) 977-7413 or e-mail: hundmank@slu.edu

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