



## Saint Louis University

### 1818 Community Engagement Grant Award Winners 2024-2025 Cycle

*Projects list alphabetically by Project Title*



Project Title:	Campus and Community Partner(s):	Description:
Advocacy in Action: Winter Necessity Kits for the Magdala House Foundation	Magdala House Foundation, Department of Psychology's Social Justice Group (SJG)	This project, in partnership with Magdala House Foundation, will use grant funds to create "winter kits" with essentials like gloves, hats, socks, and toiletries for their clients. SJG will also host a coat drive at SLU, collecting gently used jackets for donation alongside the kits.
Alzheimer Awareness in All Ages	Alzheimer's Association, St. Louis Chapter, Memory and aging clinic, provided by the SLU Medical Family Therapy Program, SLU Department of Psychology, Sunrise Memory Care, Dementia Memory Care St Louis, Dementia Care Facility, Allegro in Richmond Heights, Alzheimer's & Dementia Care, Loyola Academy, SLUH, Cardinal Ritter College Prep	This project focuses on engaging Alzheimer's/dementia patients in nursing centers to reduce loneliness and on educating young students about neurodegenerative diseases. SLU students will connect with patients to enrich their lives, while also raising awareness and inspiring the next generation of scientists to explore these conditions.
Asylum Clinics	St. Francis Community Services Catholic Legal Assistance Ministry, Saint Louis University School of Law Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion; the Saint Louis University Spanish Department; Professor Pablo Seward Delaporte, The Immigrant Service Providers Network (ISPN), all immigrant service providers in the region	The Human Rights at Home Litigation Clinic at SLU Law and St. Francis Community Services will hold periodic asylum clinics to help local asylum seekers complete applications before their one-year deadline, offering free services, including application assistance, an asylum information session, and therapy.
Beyond the Page: Poetry Club for Kids	Saint Louis Poetry Center, PoeticUs, One World, Ferguson-Florissant School District	Poetic Us, a poetry club celebrating diverse voices, plans to organize poetry writing workshops for Halls Ferry Elementary

		students in the Ferguson-Florissant School District. Students will create personalized poetry notebooks, write their own poems, and share their work in a showcase. One World Magazine will also feature the project in their spring issue.
Bilingual Science Night at St. Cecilia School and Academy	St. Cecilia Elementary School, Latino Medical Student Association (LMSA), Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (ODEI), Dermatology Interest Group, Practical Anatomy and Surgical Education (PASE), the Center for Anatomical Science and Education (CASE), Stop the Bleed Campaign	Bilingual Science Night at St. Cecilia School and Academy is a community event designed to inspire Latinx students and families to explore STEM and healthcare careers. Featuring bilingual, hands-on activities in science and medicine—such as Stop the Bleed, Gun Safety, and Anatomy Lessons—the event promotes early STEM exposure and addresses educational disparities. Conducted in both English and Spanish, it fosters curiosity, confidence, and culturally competent education through collaboration with campus organizations and local partners.
Days for Girls: Empowering Menstruators in Juvenile Detention	SLU Billikens Against Cancer, LifeWise STL, Days for Girls, St. Louis County Family Court Family Juvenile Office	A 2019 study by Saint Louis University revealed that two-thirds of low-income women in St. Louis cannot afford menstrual hygiene products, with 46% forced to choose between food and period supplies. Days for Girls (DfG) SLU is partnering with the St. Louis County Family Court to address the menstrual health needs of adolescents in juvenile detention centers, where access to hygiene products is often severely limited. They will assemble and donate menstrual hygiene kits, providing practical support and empowerment to these individuals, while advocating for better menstrual health policies and raising awareness around menstrual equity.
Empowering Young Students with Python, AI, and Analytics	Al Manara Academy, College of Arts and Sciences, School of Science & Engineering, local schools in the Saint Louis Community	This hands-on program teaches students coding, AI applications, and game development using Python through interactive workshops and real-world projects. Emphasizing creativity, problem-solving, and critical thinking, the initiative makes coding accessible and enjoyable for students from diverse, predominantly immigrant backgrounds.

Exercise Driven Group Empowerment (EDGE)	Almost Home	The Exercise Driven Group Empowerment (EDGE) program supports the mental and physical well-being of young mothers facing homelessness by connecting SLU healthcare students with residents at Almost Home. EDGE offers weekly workout classes with childcare, monthly walk clubs, and seasonal wellness events, achieving over 90% attendance. The initiative also plans to include yoga, meditation, and mentorship opportunities for mothers interested in healthcare careers, advancing Almost Home's mission of empowerment.
Feeding Resilient Families	Crisis Nursery, Propel Kitchen, School of Social Work	"Feeding Resilient Families" is a School of Social Work initiative addressing food insecurity among families at risk for child abuse and neglect in St. Louis. Partnering with Crisis Nursery and Propel Kitchen, the program will provide 8 families with 2 nutritious, ready-to-heat dinners weekly for 5 weeks. Propel Kitchen, a Black and Brown-led nonprofit, will prepare meals, costing \$22 per meal for a family of four. Social work students at Crisis Nursery will lead the project, aiming to ease food insecurity stress, support family stability, and promote healthier lifestyles while strengthening local food enterprises.
Fostering Play: An Interprofessional Approach to Increase Access to Adapted Toys for Children with Disabilities	Capable Kids and Families Program at St. Louis Arc, SLU Occupational Science & Occupational Therapy, SLU Physical Therapy, SLU Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences, SLU Center for Additive Manufacturing	Play is a fundamental human right for all children and essential to the development of motor, social-emotional and cognitive skills. Children with disabilities have less access to toys to promote development than non-disabled peers. A common toy for children with disabilities is a switch operated toy. The 1818 Grant will fund a community training event led by SLU's Switched Adapted Toy Chapter, where PT, OT, and SLP students will teach participants how to convert standard toys into switch-adapted versions for children with disabilities. This initiative makes adaptive toys more affordable, benefiting local families and professionals.

Hope in the Ville Orchard	God's Helping Hand, Sumner High School, The Antioch Baptist Church, The College of Public Health and Social Justice, The Department of Nutrition and Dietetics at Saint Louis University (SLU)	The Hope in The Ville Orchard project will establish a diverse fruit orchard to complement an existing community garden, expanding access to fresh produce for local residents. Partnering with Antioch Baptist Church's food pantry services, the orchard will grow fruits like apples, peaches, pecans, and blackberries, providing a sustainable, long-term source of nutritious food. This initiative promotes food security, environmental stewardship, and community engagement, aiming to improve residents' health while strengthening connections to local food systems.
Loyola Labyrinth Project	Loyola Academy of St. Louis, Museum of Contemporary Religious Art (MOCRA), Lowry Hollow Gallery	The Loyola Labyrinth Project expands the successful "Art and Contemplation" program at Loyola Academy and SLU's Museum of Contemporary Religious Art (MOCRA). This new initiative introduces active experiential learning, including the use of a portable labyrinth at MOCRA to promote mindfulness through walking meditation. Middle school students will also participate in an art competition hosted by Lowry Hollow gallery, creating labyrinth-themed artwork. The program aims to enhance students' attention and mindfulness, with skills being assessed before and after their participation.
Promoting Healthy Nutrition Behaviors, Social Communication, and Mealtime Participation in a Montessori School Setting: A Holistic Approach to Mealtime Engagement	City Garden Montessori School	This project will pilot a mealtime social group for autistic preschool and kindergarten students and a parent support group at City Garden Montessori, focusing on improving mealtime participation and parent confidence. An interprofessional team from SLU's Nutrition, Speech-Language, and Occupational Therapy departments will lead weekly student sessions and monthly parent support groups, addressing nutrition, communication, and sensory regulation.
SLU Community Empowerment Day: Where Resources Meet Family, Food, and Fun	School of Education, St. Louis Housing Authority (SLHA)	Connects residents with essential resources in education, employment, and finances. Partnering with SLU student organizations and SLHA, the event will offer workshops, support services, and family-friendly activities to enhance community engagement and access to vital resources.

STL Youth Literacy Initiative by SLU BLSA	Saint Louis Public Schools Foundation, Peabody Elementary School, Saint Louis University School of Law, SLU Black Law Students Association	The Black Law Students Association at Saint Louis University School of Law recognizes that lower socioeconomic students often lack access to literacy resources, hindering their educational aspirations. Their STL Youth Literacy Initiative aims to foster a love for reading among elementary students by volunteering at Peabody Elementary School. In partnership with the Saint Louis Public Schools Foundation, they will provide new books and share their experiences as aspiring lawyers to empower students and encourage academic success.
The S.C.A.R.F. AED Education Initiative	The Ruth Lee Miller Heart Health Research Foundation, Delmar Divine, My Blooming Health	This project will collaborate with the Ruth Lee Miller Heart Health Research Foundation to educate the greater St. Louis community, particularly underserved and minority groups, about Sudden Cardiac Death, preventive measures, and AED usage. By empowering these communities with crucial life-saving skills, they aim to reduce health disparities and create advocates who can lead change in their own neighborhoods. This project also seeks to establish an initiative that organizations in need of an AED can apply for, ensuring sustainable access to these essential devices.
The Wrongful Conviction Review Collaborative	Midwest Innocence Project (MIP), Wrongful Conviction Review Internship in CCJ, LU law, SLU Forensic Science Program	This project aims to assist the Midwest Innocence Project (MIP) in reducing the backlog of 73 St. Louis-area cases awaiting review. Students will help organize case files, identify gaps in records, and request missing documents to ensure thorough reviews. By supporting the timely review of claims of actual innocence, this project aids individuals and families affected by miscarriages of justice, while also helping to restore community trust in the legal system.
Youth Medical Exposure Program	Ferguson-Florissant School District, SLU Pre-Med, Department of Internal Medicine DEI council	This project introduces middle school students interested in STEM to medical careers through a fun, hands-on after-school program. Sixty students selected by their teachers will participate in a free 5-hour session where they explore various body systems through engaging activities, like learning to suture skin lacerations. Sponsored by our Internal Medicine department DEI council, the program concludes with a

		graduation ceremony where students receive certificates, stethoscopes, and white coats, with parents, teachers, and school officials in attendance.
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