



*The Faith-Justice Institute  
Service-Learning Program  
Student Perspectives*

“Service-Learning engages you in an outside-the-classroom hands-on experience. Incorporating my service experiences into classroom discussions was one of my favorite parts of the class. It was unique and enhanced my learning experience by a tremendous amount. I would definitely encourage every SJU student to take a service-learning course during their college career. I never really did service before service-learning but I can truthfully say it opened my eyes to a new perspective of learning. Learning from experience enriches students outside the standard classroom material.” -Alyssa B., 2021

“Service-Learning courses incorporate real world issues into the classroom. They bring forth important discussions on race, poverty, and injustices, which students may not have been given the platform to discuss before. We learn mind opening concepts and challenge our own beliefs. Service-Learning courses ensure students address today's issues in the world around us... The material has real world application that makes students want to change the world and make it better.” - Rose M., 2021

“Service has given me a new perspective on the greater Philadelphia area. The biggest thing I learned through service-learning is that, no matter where someone is from or where they are in life, everyone can connect and form relationships. The teens I served with are from Camden and grew up in a very different environment than I did, but we still had conversations about tv shows we watch, food we like, and even things like religion and global warming. They have changed the way I feel when I meet someone new and made me realize how similar we are all on the most basic level. The same things keep us all going, and these are the places you need to reach to make connection with others and form true bonds and friendships.

All freshman should take a service-learning course or try service while at Saint Joe's. I think this program is so beneficial and gives students the opportunity to dig deeper and learn about social justice issues that are relevant. The class was interesting and had to do with things that are actually happening today...” – Brianna M., 2021

“My Freshman Service-Learning experience has been a huge influential part of my freshman year. It has helped me to learn how to best assist others, as well as grow in my knowledge of myself.” – Yvonne M., 2021

“This year I had the opportunity to be a service-learning student through my English 101 and 102 classes. All year long I was able to attend Mercy Neighborhood Ministries and work with their adult day program where I was able to meet and form relationships with the adults and staff there. Through my service-learning experience I was able to grow as a person with many valuable lessons both through my service site and the many discussions with our Service Scholars during class. The most valuable lesson that I learned was the idea of having an intentional conversation. This is the idea that instead of just having a surface level conversation with people you truly make the effort each and every time to have a meaningful conversation where you actually get to know the person you are talking with. I would 100% recommend that any person take a service-learning class not only because of the amazing service you do for the whole year but because of the amazing relationships you end the year with, true relationships with both the people at your service site but also with your fellow classmates.” -Rachel M. 2021

“Service-Learning gave me the opportunity to interact with people I would have never otherwise had the chance to meet. Through making these meaningful connections and building a bond with people at my site, my mind was opened to see past societies’ stereotypes and into the true injustice they experience. It gave me the opportunity to first and foremost see people as people, regardless of their background or the label society has given them. Service-Learning gave me an opportunity each and every week not only to help better another person’s life, but to have my life transformed in the process from the lessons I learned from the wonderful people I got the opportunity to serve not only for but also with. I feel like every freshman should have this opportunity to be welcomed with open arms into a community of people dedicated to social justice, and I am forever grateful for the community my Service-Learning class built and the friendships, experiences, and people I was able to encounter because of this life changing opportunity.” – Kelsey M., 2021

“Service-Learning taught me essential lessons about the injustices people face on a day-to-day basis. I learned how to act more intentionally towards others, keeping in mind that every person is unique and carries with them a human dignity that demands to be acknowledged... Service-Learning goes deeper than the surface, immersing its students to not only learn the material but live it too. It provides the student with a greater knowledge of the important matters surrounding us every day. Incoming students should enroll in a service-learning course because it challenges you to not overlook faults within our society, but instead teaches you how one step towards the right direction can change the course of our future. It can be one itch of goodness that burns inside of you, which changes this world. Tend to that itch and be that change!” – CC, 2021

“...One time, I was assigned to tutor Shirley in math. She was having a hard time doing double digit math, and that comes to me in the snap of a finger, but for her, it was really difficult. I learned that you should always treat people equally, with respect, and to never make fun of somebody, even if they are not as strong in a particular area than you are.”

-Nicholas P., 2021

“Service-Learning was an incredible experience to be a part of in my Freshman year at Saint Joseph's. It provided valuable insight and relations with the community around me and taught me even more about the true spirit of this university considering they have a program of this magnitude. I was given true life experience and an entirely new and moral way of seeing the world around me and living my everyday life to the fullest. I would highly recommend this style of course to any incoming freshman because of not only what the students provide the community but also due to what the experience gave me. Being fully embraced by the community from the very beginning of freshman year got rid of any nerves regarding college and allowed me to grow closer to the university in general.” - Connor H., 2021

“For service-learning, I attend the Covenant House in Philadelphia which serves runaway, homeless and trafficked youth once a week on Tuesday nights. Each week my fellow service partners and I host game nights and talent shows for the residents, all while getting to know them better. Residents enjoy playing their favorite card game, "Spades," and singing, dancing, and rapping during the talent show. I enjoy the talent show the most because I get to see each resident express themselves through their talent and just enjoy the time with one another. Throughout my time at Covenant House, I have been taken out of my comfort zone and learned how that it's okay to be uncomfortable in any situation because some of the greatest lessons can come from those experiences. My service-learning course incorporates each student's experience into class, and my professor focuses on making connections between the books we read, our service and current events through service discussions each month. Incoming first-year students should enroll in a Freshman Service-Learning course because it allows students to make broader connections between class, service real-world events and important discussion topics..”

- Elaina W., 2021

“...Every Monday I attend a Men's shelter in the city of Philadelphia....This experience has taught me a better respect for people experiencing homelessness, and showed me everything I can do to help those in need. Rather than just seeing it, I experienced it with the men and was there to talk with and help serve them. We learned and discussed many topics such as charity and justice, race and service, and educational inequality within class and everyone was able to share opinions and experience. This allowed us to learn about everyone's site rather than just our own, and grow more knowledge about ways to participate in service. I am now leaving this year hoping to continue my service in my hometown in every way possible. I have established a whole new, greater idea about service and it has inspired me. I believe all freshman should experience a service-learning course, especially since many probably don't even know the need in the world. Expand your horizons, and join service learning!” -Haley R., 2021

“During my freshman year service-learning experience I was placed at Visitation BVM in north Philly. In class I was able to learn and discuss topics that are troubling the world around us. Being able to attend a service site on a weekly basis allowed for me to not only get connected with the students I was working with but also the staff members too. My service-learning classes have honestly let my peers and me an opportunity to sit around in an open forum and debrief about things that we find to be alarming in our sites. When we sit and discuss during our many service discussion, we can gain a greater understanding of how to best be an ally with the people in our surrounding communities. Not merely understanding the things that are happening but also trying to address the root of where the problem lies.” – Gabrielle S. 2021

“I learned a lot about education through my service-learning experience. At Visitation BVM I have watched kids grow into amazing loving students. I have used my service as a firsthand experience when discussing education, race, and poverty issues. I seriously suggest doing a service-learning course, it has changed my life and perspective on this world for the better. I feel like I have made an impact on the kids’ lives and they have certainly impacted mine.”  
-Casey C. 2021

“I have learned the importance of being grateful for my years of education that I have been lucky enough to have. I do not think of service as another class, rather an opportunity to learn outside of the classroom. Freshmen should enroll in a service-learning course because it is a great way to learn more about yourself, and how you can assist those who may need it. Also, it is a great way to make new friends. Personally, my service has helped me to think of the many things in my life as blessings. I love service, and am so happy that I was enrolled in a service-learning course. It is something that I will remember forever, and it has provided me with countless life lessons!”  
-Kristen D. 2021

“Service-Learning has been an eye opening experience. As a timid freshman I made the decision to sign up for this class to gain a new perspective on life. I did not know much about the service-learning program, but I knew I wanted a different experience. Going to Visitation B.V.M. school in North Philadelphia has allowed me to form new relationships with members of the Philadelphia community, become an advocate for the voiceless, and discover the true passion that lies within me. Incoming Freshman who are looking for something more than just a typical education should undeniably try service-learning. These classes will broaden one's horizons and leave them with lasting memories.” Colleen K., 2021

“...I love going to service and I love my service site because I have learned so many things about myself and about the people that I have been working with. They have opened my eyes to the injustices and inequality in our society and now I just want to help them. I think the fact that we got to do service and then have time to discuss and reflect in school is honestly so cool that this is offered as a class!! I highly recommend to all students because I only had a positive experience.”- Elizabeth D. 2021

“One of the most influential lessons I've learned while at my service site was how to truly care and feel sympathy for others. I always thought I was good at being there for others especially in their time of need, but service at Hope Works has shown me how to show compassion and take care of those who truly need help. I feel as if without the lessons I've learned from service-learning I truly wouldn't be who I am currently, and as cliché as this may sound I am truly happy being here at SJU.” -Jacob F., 2021

“My service location is Saint John's Hospice. The most important lesson I have learned is service through presence...The fact that we are there goes a long way to them.” -Olivia S. 2021

“I went to both Puentes de Salud and Hopeworks this year, and I learned many different things from both sites. I feel as if my service-learning experiences and reflections throughout class created a whole experience. I enjoyed truly immersing myself in the community of Philadelphia and contributing to people in need.” -Elena C., 2021

“I learned that I, as well as students at SJU are very privileged to be getting an education from a very prestigious university like SJU. Service-Learning courses open your eyes to the world around you and gives you an opportunity to give back to the community.” – A.T., 2021

“I have learned to care for one another more, and to also look past the flaws that someone may seem to have. It has really enlightened my view of people in the city of Philadelphia and helped me enlighten my judgement.” Greg F., 2021

“Taking a Freshman Service-Learning course immediately immersed me into the values of Saint Joseph's University. Through this course, I was able to form a bond with not only my fellow classmates, but also the residents at my service site. Going to service every week was such a positive addition to my week, and being able to reflect upon my experiences during class made the experience so much more meaningful. I would definitely recommend this experience to every freshman!” -Ashley M., 2021

“Taking a service-learning course was the best decision I made going into my freshman year. I have learned so much about myself through doing service and how important it is to be with and for others. I recommend any first-year students to enroll in a Freshman Service-Learning course because it is an amazing way to learn in and out of the classroom while learning more about yourself at the same time. You form relationships with your service group, your classmates, your professor and your site in ways that don't happen if you exclusively do weekly service. Having it be part of your curriculum is very unique and overall an incredible experience.”

– Shea C. , 2020

“I believe that a Freshman Service-Learning course intertwines education and service in the best way possible. People learn better when seeing, hearing, feeling and doing. By immersing ourselves in a service experience, we begin to understand so much more than by just what we read. It has instilled in me- for the first time in my life- a profound sense of gratitude and responsibility. By taking a service-learning course freshman year, it helps students get involved in service early in their college career and helps to foster and create a love for service.” - Molly W., 2020

“Most influential lesson I learned about in service-learning was undoubtedly about privilege. This service-learning class integrating our service experiences into every paper, assignment and discussion point...It is a tremendous opportunity to partake in a course that encapsulates everything SJU is about. Through service-learning you encounter our Jesuit values, serve in a productive fashion, build long lasting relationship with you professor, classmates and people at your service site while also growing in ways more than simply academically.” -Brendan F., 2020

“...My service-learning course treats service as another text because we would talk about our experiences and share our stories daily throughout the semester. It was so nice to hear about everyone’s experience and connections that they made or are currently making at their service site. Incoming first year students should enroll in a Freshman Service-Learning course because it really does change your look at many things for the better It helps you experience things you may not always encounter throughout your life. By putting yourself out there and doing this course it will truly inspire you in so many ways and have an impact on you. The connections that you make will stay with you for life. This course has been one of the most influential parts of my freshman year and I’m so grateful to of had this opportunity. The course helped me reflect daily on what I was learning and getting from my service site – I really appreciate the opportunity I was given my First year at Saint-Josephs University.”  
– Kristen V., 2020

“Service-Learning was a great experience. It was a good way to get out of the classroom and take on a whole new learning experience. It is a year-long class so you become very close with your entire class, which is a good way to make friends coming in as a freshman.”  
-Daniel M., 2020

“Incoming first year students should enroll in a Freshman Service- Learning course because it will change your freshman year! Service based learning will give you a better understanding of social justice issues that affect the Philadelphia neighborhood you are lucky enough to now call home. Being able to establish strong relationships with community members will open your heart. Leaving SJU campus for 3 hours and going to communities that are struggling will make you think and strive for a change. While taking the texts learned in class and applying them to service and taking what you learned at service and applying it to the texts creates a unique conversation in the classroom. I truly cannot imagine my freshman year without service, it has become such a major part of my life. I know I will carry the lessons learned from service-learning and the relationships I have establish with me for the rest of my life!” -Eliza R., 2020

“Service-Learning is by far the greatest thing that I've done during my freshman year on Hawk Hill. I learned valuable lessons and broadened my horizons. I've realized the injustices that exist in our society and it has truly impacted my way of thinking. I am from a small town, a sheltered beach bubble. Service-Learning has changed how I see people and it puts a face to an issue. Freshman should enroll in a Service-Learning course because not only will they be helping the community, they'll be helping themselves.”

-Jeff H., 2020

“Incoming freshmen should absolutely take a service-learning class within their first year here at Saint Joe's. I highly advise it because it is fun to go to service to spend time with all different types of people and to get away from the responsibilities of college for a little while. But that certainly is not the only reason freshmen should take a course like this. Throughout the year, you learn more about yourself that you didn't know before and get to have unforgettable, life-changing experiences. Partaking in service also puts a face to the social issues and injustices that are frequently talked about but seldom experienced. It is very eye-opening and humbling to experience that everyone should be a part of at least once in their lives.”

-Brynn M., 2020

“Incoming first year students should enroll in a service-learning course because it is an opportunity for students to get out of their comfort zones and really experience all of what Philadelphia has to offer. For me this was a chance to make real connections with people through service while also growing personally and evolving my opinions and perceptions of the world.”

-Lauren T., 2020

“Freshman service-learning has allowed me to immerse myself in the community surrounding Saint Joseph's University...In my English service-learning course I have built great relationships with the children at the Gesu school in North Philly. These students have helped me recognize the privileges I have in my life. I am grateful for this experience and I think it is great that SJU provides courses like this.”

-Clare P., 2020

“The most influential lesson I have learned this year is that no matter what, you need to be appreciative of what you are given and to never take anything for granted. I felt that being able to learn in the classroom then go out and have real life experiences to come back to the classroom to talk about was remarkable. I highly recommend taking this course freshman year... I loved taking a service-learning class and it definitely made my freshman year of college one to remember!”

-Peyton D., 2020

“The most influential lesson I learned this year was going out of my comfort zone and reaching out to my new community at college. I never thought that service-learning would change my life as much as it has this past year in and outside the classroom. It is amazing that I can learn the issues of our society in which I never have thought about before in the classroom and then get to fully experience it for myself at service. I highly recommend taking a service-learning course for your freshman year, it will change your perspective for the better.”

-Brittany C., 2020

“Prior to SJU, I was ignorant to the injustices that surrounded campus and had no idea what it meant to live greater. Throughout the year however, I was presented with so many visual representations of what the *Magis* is and what it means to work with and for others. I formed such special relationships with the children at my service site that will never be able to replicated. Truthfully, I have never met such driven, strong, and passionate children, and I have learned so many lessons from them. Next year, I am returning to my service site... I am excited to spend weekly afternoons with the smiling faces of the children. In the time in between, I will miss them more than they will ever know. I have never been so proud to have participated in a service-learning course and I truly recommend it to every student at Saint Joes.”

-McKenna T., 2020

“Immersing myself at a North Philadelphia settlement house arguably made my freshman year. The Service-Learning Program provided me a way to hop right into service during my first year at Saint Joseph's and gave me the opportunity to spend my Wednesday afternoons at Lutheran Settlement House. Doing service every week is so important to understanding key Jesuit values like being Men and Women for and with others and striving for the more. You understand social justice in an easier, more personal way, standing in solidarity with those who are marginalized.”

-Mike T., 2020

“One of the most important lessons I learned from service-learning is don't judge a book by its cover. This is especially true with the residents at the Inglis House. I use the lessons and ideas I learn at service and relate them to the rest of my life. The lessons at service help me understand novels, but they also help me understand and develop my relationships outside the classroom. I think freshman should take a service-learning course because it helps students learn things they never will in the classroom. People can talk about various experiences they've had, but if students don't experience them they will never fully understand.”

-James M., 2020

“The most influential lesson that I have learned this year through service-learning is the idea that we all grow from one another. No one is better than anyone and we all can make progress from one another. I loved service-learning and believe all students should experience it once in their four years at sju.”

-Hannah L., 2020



“Through my service-learning course, I have learned the importance of stepping out of my comfort zone in order to build relationships with people I would not have before. Now, this allows me to find the common ground between others and myself I would have never expected to find. These relationships have changed the lens I see the world through and I am forever grateful for these people and this entire experience.”

-Kourtney K., 2020

“Through my two service-learning classes I have learned many important and influential lessons about our society and myself. One lesson that stood out to me was the meaning of solidarity and how that relates to our service. Service-Learning courses go more in depth about the issues in our society that may go unnoticed and topics that we might not think about on a day to day basis. I believe all students should take at least one service-learning course during their time here at Saint Joes. This experience has been one of the most influential parts of my life and I would do it all over again in a heartbeat. The relationships and connections you make while out in service are irreplaceable and will last a life time.”

-Maria M., 2020

“Service-Learning is part of the existential SJU experience. I consider myself fortunate to have participated in the program and would highly recommend it to any incoming SJU student, you will not regret it!”

-Joe F., 2020

“I highly recommend taking a service-learning course your Freshman year. My service-learning course opened my eyes to social justice issues in the area as well as a new way to learn. I connected with so many great human beings as well as learned more about myself and future career paths. I had such a wonderful experience.”

-Katherine M., 2020

“Freshman should enroll into service-learning because it is a great way to get involve with the community around you, especially if you are someone like me who isn't from the Philadelphia area. Through this program, I have developed relationships with so many new people at my service site as well as in my classmates in my group. Overall, it was a wonderful experience and I recommend to all to try it at least once at Saint Joseph's University.”

-Jacklyn C., 2020

“I believe service-learning is one of the best courses. It allowed me to connect with the Philadelphia environment, while gaining diverse and impactful relationships.”

-Aliana C., 2020

“...For me, service-learning was a chance for me to explore different ways of life. The encounters I made with such amazing people shape the way I live life today. Service-Learning was one of the most rewarding experiences and certainly gave me a new outlook on life!”

-Kayla C., 2020

“Lutheran Settlement House allows the students to grow in a safe environment. Since the beginning of the year, I have seen them flourish into insightful young adults. My service partners and I serve as teachers to students at Lutheran Settlement House. Their learning goes far beyond the classroom because they attend the Lutheran Settlement House every day after school. Here they learn to cook, draw, paint, write and illustrate their ideas in ways that they may have never thought possible. The Service-Learning program has given me a weekly reality check regarding the harsh world that we live in. At Saint Joe's, we, as students, are contained inside this social and economic bubble. This program allows students to further their education outside of the classroom and helps them grow as individuals.”

-Olivia S., 2020

“My Freshman Service-Learning Experience was more than I could have imagined. I made my best friends on campus and had my eyes opened to communities and social problems that I didn't know existed. If anything, this experience taught me the importance of being for and with others and how important it is that we venture off of Hawk Hill - there are so many people and communities to help, and smiles to put on others faces. This course will help you create relationships that will last you a lifetime, and give you experiences that will resonate with you forever.”

-Gianna G., 2020

“Being in a service-learning class taught me the importance of responsibility. Taking three hours out of my week, on top of having work and an extremely demanding course-load, is not easy, but knowing that those hours were going to be spent giving back to the Philadelphian community made it worthwhile. Participating in the service-learning experience also helped me develop values such as empathy, patience, and justice. I definitely recommend service-learning to all incoming freshmen, since it definitely helps you grow as an individual.”

-Carolina G., 2020

“I absolutely loved my Service-Learning Experience! It was truly such a phenomenal way to connect myself with my new home and city! Service-Learning is so special and allows you the opportunity to see your world through someone else's eyes!”

-Paige K., 2020

“I truly can't say enough good things about this class. This whole service-learning experience has opened my eyes to the extreme injustices in this world. Not everyone is as fortunate as I am, and I want to help out where I can. The kids at my site put a name and face to the horrific statistics in the world. It made the injustices of the world seem real to me. You should enroll in a service-learning class if you want to make a difference in people's lives. One thing I learned is that just simply caring and listening to these kids will have a huge effect on them. Three hours has changed my life.”

-Mackenzie G., 2019

“The service-learning program is a great program for your freshman year. It's allows you to meet new people and make connections. I love the connections we made to our in class discussions with the material and our service site. Project HOME's St. Columba allowed me to see and experience people who live a completely different life than myself. It also made me consider the social issues that we have, and the government implemented issues that are also there. I have gained so much knowledge and I would recommend to anyone in any major.” – Erin R, 2019

“At the begin of this journey, I was unsure how I would be able to handle leaving for roughly 4 hours a week when I had a ton of schoolwork. However, as the weeks went on, service began to grow as my favorite part of the week. It was my favorite out-of-the-classroom learning experience...I learned so much from service- more than I ever thought I would. I learned to disregard my initial judgments of people, and quiet the stereotypes that I came in with. I learned that it's not what people look like or how much money they have, it's how they treat and support one another. Service taught me to look at the person inside, because it's not what you have that defines you.” – Haley P. 2019

“Service-Learning connects the classroom to outside experiences. It's one thing to read about injustices, but it is another to see and interact with those who experience it. Service-Learning makes it more personal and real.” – Lauren H., 2019

“The most influential lesson I learned is to be grateful for the life you are given. The people at my service site were all in wheelchairs, so they faced the hardship of not being able to do the typical everyday things for themselves. After being at service for the year it makes me thankful for all the basic things I am able to do. Incoming first year students should enroll in a Freshman Service-Learning course because it gives you a different way to get involved. It also helps you to be able to see the community you are living in, in a different way.”  
– Sophie T., 2019

“The most influential lesson I learned at service-learning was how important it is to connect with people... For service we have discussions we must write, describing what we did at service each time we go. Incoming first year students should enroll in a Freshman Service-Learning course because from personal experience it has made me more aware of what some people in the world are going through. It is a great learning experience and...it is worth it to see that you are able to help people while being at service. I highly recommend it and I have learned so much from it.” – Casey S., 2019

“Service-Learning has been one of if not the best experience I have had at SJU thus far. Not only did it give me the opportunity to explore the area around our school a little bit more but also grow closer to the students in my service group and at my service site. It helped me make friendships to last a lifetime and memories that I would never have made at any other school.”  
– Anne M., 2019

“I think that service-learning has helped me become more outgoing. It has helped me to step out of my comfortable zone because I forced myself to go and start conversations with complete strangers. Due to the nature of Covenant House, that is the rotation of different residents, I wasn't able to just get comfortable with a few residents and talk to them the whole year. While I did get closer to certain residents over others, there was always different people coming and leaving from Covenant House, therefore every few weeks, I got to meet new people. Service has helped me learn that you can always find things in common with someone, no matter how different they seem from you. I was able to find something I had in common with everyone I talked to at Covenant House. This is an idea that I will carry with me for the rest of my life.”

– Katie B., 2019

“The most influential lesson I learned is how important it is to listen to the people you are volunteering for at service. Not only listen, but understand what they mean and respond with as much positivity as possible. It is crucial for the volunteers to do this so they can become as close to the residents as they possibly can. Incoming freshman should enroll in service-learning because of the lessons we gain and people we meet. Some of the people we meet end up becoming incredible friends that we will cherish for the rest of our lives. I highly recommend this program.”

– Ryan B., 2019

“Service-Learning taught me how to connect with people of completely different backgrounds from my own. I learned about many of the systemic flaws in American society, especially the education system. It was one of the most worthwhile experiences of my life and I'm very grateful having been given this opportunity.”

-William A., 2019

“This year at service-learning, my eyes were opened to my structural and social inequalities that exist right in our backyard. By visiting an all-male homeless shelter in Center City, Philadelphia I learned first-hand the issues and discrimination the men face. My eyes were opened in ways I never would have imagined without service-learning. I would suggest everyone to open themselves up to an experience that will truly change your time here at SJU and allow you to experience *The Magis* first hand!”

– Cecily D., 2019

“Service-Learning is more than just a class and a few hours of helping another... It provides the opportunity for one to discover who he or she really is, while enriching the lives of others. During my time at the Inglis House's Adult Day Program, I have come to understand that being a volunteer of Inglis is not about 'helping those in need', but rather being with one another and forming relationships that a bidirectional. Inglis House is constantly working to better improve the opportunities for independence on behalf of the residents. It is truly an institution that strives for the future.”

-Julia D., 2019

“...Through service-learning you will find yourself learning more and more about not only the people at your service site but also yourself and the society that we are all a part of. These lessons go beyond the classroom and serve as a text that you will be able to reflect on, write about, and converse about within and outside of the classroom. If you enjoy to write, reflect, and learn, then service-learning is definately for you. You will learn a multitude of things that no standard classroom environment can teach you. With the information or lessons you are taught you will want to reflect on your past and your current being. In writing your thoughts you can bring service-learning beyond a single year course and look back at your thoughts that you applied to paper and relive this enlightening experience. Service-Learning can also serve as a break from the daily class, homework, and library sessions. I was able to take this break and rejuvenate myself and return to my daily school life...” -Matthew B., 2019

“Everyone should enroll in a Service-Learning course because it helped me learn a lot about myself. In high school my biggest worry was not having the newest designer thing. With the help of service-learning I now realize that there are kids who aren't even getting a proper education system. It completely changed my perspective towards life.”  
-Geina B., 2019

“I have learned a lot from service-learning and being empathic toward another person. I first learned about empathy in class during one of the discussions on injustices at our service site. It means reaching out to the person and bringing yourself to their level. In other words it refers to a person trying to better a person by living in solidarity with them. Definitely through my experiences at Lutheran Settlement House, I have learned so much from a diverse set of students that has made me a better person and a better informed individual of the injustices that are found in the Philadelphia area. I would never trade my experiences from this year for anything else and I can't thank SJU enough for the opportunity to both improve myself and improve the lives of the students I work with.”  
-Matt G., 2019

“The most influential lesson I learned through service-learning is to not judge a book by its cover. The course I take requires a lot of reflection. Just the same as you would reflect on a book and how it makes you feel, we reflect on every aspect of service-learning from education to homelessness. In reflecting we find issues that we have never been aware of before. Incoming first year students should enroll in a Freshman service-learning course because it will open their eyes to the reality of Philadelphia and how they can make a difference.” – Kristen M., 2019

“I think the most influential lesson I learned this year was we cannot judge a book by its cover...Service-Learning allows you to expand your writing and learn a whole new part of the world that you wouldn't learn in another English class. It allows you to learn about your surrounding community and is a big reason I am who I am. The way you spend your first year in college can shape you to who you become as a person as a whole. Service-Learning can help you in becoming an all-around educated and caring person. I strongly recommend taking a service-learning course!”  
-Patrick L., 2019

“I would highly encourage incoming first year students to enroll in a Freshman Service-Learning course because it brings to life our motto of the *Magis*. Serving with and for the greater good of others is essential in grasping the purpose of a Jesuit education and this course takes students beyond campus to experience it.”

-Lauren F., 2019

“Through service-learning, I have learned to have more of an open mind and to not judge others. I have learned so much about who I am and what I can do to make a difference in the world. I have become a much stronger person and I am not afraid to go outside of my comfort zone. I have formed relationships that I will cherish for a lifetime and service-learning has inspired me to continue helping others for the rest of my life. Service-Learning is a great way to understand the city of Philadelphia and meet some great people. I have become so close with my service-learning class and the people in my class. It is an experience that I will never forget and will cherish forever.”

-Carly C., 2019

“Through Service-Learning, I have been able to work with different populations in Philadelphia. I have learned about some of the inequalities that affect people in our community. It has been one of the best experiences I've had at Saint Joe's.”

- Keira M., 2019

“I would recommend a service-learning class to anyone that comes to Saint Joseph's University. I believe it is a very rewarding experience. This is a very unique program that SJU offers. It is a fantastic way for students to understand the social problems in modern society. Incoming freshman should most definitely enroll in a Service-Learning course.”

- Brianna C., 2019

“I think it's been crucial to understand the humanity of people of different backgrounds and to be able to connect with on different levels. It's important to enroll in a service-learning because it will be so eye-opening and personally rewarding in our understandings of ourselves and the society we are a part of.”

- Jack P., 2019