



# Finding Your Definition of Service

## By Caroline Drennen

Whether it's field experience in a classroom, advocating for food security, engaging with local businesses, and much more, you can find a service opportunity here at Loyola. Community service at Loyola University Maryland is one main factor that pushed me to commit to this school. Loyola offers several different programs, clubs, and other opportunities for their students to participate in a form of community service. One particular opportunity that students of Loyola love is the [pre-fall programs](#) offered to incoming freshmen. Pre-fall programs at Loyola give you the perfect option to learn what community service means to you, and making friends is a special bonus.

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### Experience Baltimore

One pre-fall program that always leaves students feeling fulfilled is the Center for Community, Service, and Justice ([CCSJ](#)) Experience Baltimore program. Experience Baltimore introduces you to the communities of Baltimore City. During this program, you will experience the life of Baltimore residents. You can build new relationships, both with others in the program as well as with citizens of Baltimore. You will dive into the history of Baltimore and the effects of redlining and racism on the city. You will understand how racism in the past shaped the way Baltimore is today. CCSJ Experience Baltimore is about going beyond campus and learning outside of the classrooms—learning about how history continues to impact the way we live today is a service in and of itself. Understanding a community rather than just ignoring or moving past it can contribute to the changing of how society cares for our communities.

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### Ignatius Scholars Program

Another pre-fall program that benefits both the students at Loyola, as well as the greater Baltimore community, is the Ignatius Scholars Program ([ISP](#)). This program is co-sponsored by [ALANA](#) (African, Latinx, Asian, and Native American Services) and the Office of Undergraduate Studies. This does require an application, and the outcomes of this program make it worth your while. ISP offers students who identify as first-generation college students, demonstrate strong financial need, or come from a diverse background opportunities to get acquainted with and serve the campus and Baltimore City. ISP is made up of classes on campus and community service in Baltimore. Students involved in ISP will arrive on



campus 10 days before the school semester begins, and they learn about the resources that Loyola provides as well as the community around campus.

For example, ISP works alongside Loyola organizations that help those who have previously been imprisoned find jobs, such as Second Chance. Being included as someone is choosing to turn their life around is a powerful thing. Loyola Maryland offers that chance for students, faculty, and everyone in between.



Humanities Building

## The Meaning of Community Service

Getting involved in a pre-fall program here at Loyola can give you the chance to discover what community service means to you. Community service does not hold one definition. Serving our communities means different things to different people. To me, community service is about expanding our knowledge of society. It means learning about those around you. It's about making a positive difference in someone else's life. To me, community service is not something that always needs to be organized and official. To me, community service can be an everyday act.

What does community service mean to you? Loyola University of Maryland wants to know and wants to help you figure that out.

***“Service is a relationship between equals: our service strengthens us as well as others. Fixing and helping are draining, and over time we may burn out, but service is renewing. When we serve, our work itself will renew us. In helping we may find a sense of satisfaction; in serving we find a sense of gratitude.”***

**Rachel Naomi Remen**

