



Donkeys posing behind a fence for an album photo at [Bethlehem Farm](#)

DON'T MISS OUT ON GREAT SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES AT LOYOLA!

By Roy Chan, aka RoyDaBoy

Origin Backstory

I wish I did more in high school to prepare myself for college. I rarely participated in community service because I used to be afraid of being outside my comfort zone. But I was completely blown away when I acquired the courage to step out of my comfort zone. Whether it was roasting a 30-lb slab of pork belly in the piping-hot oven at Soul Kitchen or simply cracking a joke during my time at Bethlehem Farm, I can confidently proclaim that the service opportunities at Loyola are worthwhile. So confident that I even brought someone I knew from Loyola, by the name of Amanda Cramer, to come serve with me and she, too, enjoyed the experience.

"I would encourage freshmen to find something they really enjoy or want to be a part of and look for ways to get involved with that because it will make their time at Loyola more enjoyable."

Amanda Cramer, First-year Liaison of the Commuter Student Organization (CSO)

I Smell Doubt

But I can already sense your doubt and lack of interest. You might be thinking, "What's the point?" or "Why should I?" Well first of all, it looks great on your resume—employers are more willing to hire people who volunteer serving their community. Second, it makes you stand out for scholarship opportunities because it demonstrates your leadership and capabilities beyond just having a 4.0 GPA. Lastly, but most importantly, you build connections with people at Loyola and the world. But then again, you might say, "But I'm not a talkative person" or "I would rather binge watch *Breaking Bad*." Then that's fantastic! You can do whatever your heart desires because I'm just a good ol' stranger and you don't have to heed my advice. But if you want a headstart in college, this is the way to go.

"Volunteering is not just about helping others you are also helping yourself to see other sides of the world that you may have never known."

Jeniece Rance, MOST Network AmeriCorps VISTA, Greyhounds Tutors Coordinator

So, How Should I Start?

If you have the time to engage in community service at Loyola, always take that chance. You can find various opportunities, including internships, and immersion trips, by visiting Loyola's Center for Community, Service, and Justice ([CCSJ](#)). CCSJ is the perfect start, especially when you're a first-year student and have absolutely no idea what to do during the weekends. You can always pop right into Cohn Hall, which is located under the Chapel next to the bridge, and inquire about all the exuberant adventures that Loyola has to offer. The people there are quite eager to provide a list of community services—food drives, tree planting, oyster harvesting, and so on—that you can join. Trust me! You'll be here for a swell time.



Donkeys staring down the cameraman

I highly recommend volunteering at the Keepers Food Drive, a weekly service opportunity where you set up tables and give away food such as bread, milk, and fruits. The people are very spirited and admire folks who take the time out of their day helping out their community—psst, they'll even encourage you to take some food home. Win-win situation.

"I personally love attending to [the Keepers Food Drive] because I feel so productive and my friend (Roy) is also with me there. The extra benefit is that we get free groceries!"

Ethan Beard, First-year volunteer at CCSJ

Even More Opportunities!

CCSJ also offers immersion trips during Spring Break. This year, they organized a trip to the Appalachian Mountains in West Virginia where we had the opportunity to repair people's homes at Bethlehem Farm. Additionally, we were assigned a collection of chores around the farm every morning and I was given the task of furiously hacking firewood into halves and quarters—it was . . . awesome. I'm glad I came to this trip because if I didn't, I certainly would've done nothing over Spring Break and crashed out. But this time, I did something productive and I felt accomplished because I met new people, especially Professor David Gordon from the department of philosophy at Loyola. A cool guy.



Me and my team working on setting the foundation of a wheelchair ramp during my time at Bethlehem Farm.

If you're still not convinced, I completely understand. Perhaps community service or traveling isn't on your to-do list. But if you have the leisure to do something unusual, then I encourage you to participate in something that seems unfamiliar because life's interesting that way . . . at least to me.

Serving is one of the most fulfilling things a person could do. When you serve, you feel closer to humanity, to your community, to yourself. When you serve others, it all makes sense."

Joshua Webb, Senior at Loyola who went to Bethlehem Farm