

## **Community Service Program Overview**

### **Class of 2010**

#### **What is the graduation requirement?**

Before the beginning of senior year, a student must have completed a total of at least 100 hours (50 of which are in direct contact with disadvantaged people), or a senior culminating project (see explanation below.)

Students must complete the green “Community Service Form” and submit it to the Community Service Office, after they have completed their service with the organization. If they are serving there for an extended period of time, they should submit a different form at the beginning of each new semester. Sometimes teachers or club moderators incorporate community service into their classes or events. Those hours count toward the students’ community service requirement.

#### **Where can Mercy students do their service?**

Students must provide service which meets the following requirements:

- Service is voluntary;
- Service is offered in a federally recognized non-profit organization (“501c3”);
- Service is with an organization whose mission is dedicated to serving disadvantaged people; and
- Student volunteers in direct contact with the disadvantaged people.

Students are given a list of dozens of sites for Mercy service hours which have been pre-approved by the community service office. This list is also available on the community service link to Mercy’s web-page, and hard copies are available through the community service office. We encourage students to volunteer in direct contact with disadvantaged people at one of these pre-approved sites.

Students wishing to serve in an organization which does not appear on the list of pre-approved sites are strongly encouraged to seek approval from the community service coordinator prior to beginning service there. Service will be accepted to meet the graduation requirement if and only if it meets the above-listed criteria.

#### **Senior Culminating Project**

During their junior year, students are given the option of beginning to plan their “senior culminating project.” They will meet individually and in groups with faculty and staff members as they develop their ideas. This project calls upon upper-classwomen to tap into their interests and talents, and create projects that has realizable goals and serves disadvantaged people. Examples include: offering a cooking class to low-income senior citizens, teaching inner-city children how to ride bikes, making a play with disabled people, etc. Students may work individually, in pairs or in small groups.

Senior culminating project expectations:

- Involvement of at least 14 hours in direct contact with people;
- Completion during the summer between junior and senior years, or during the first semester senior year; and
- A presentation of the project at an assembly early in the second semester of their senior year.