

## Christian Community Service Policy

Catholic High's commitment to Christian community service is giving witness to our faith and empowering our young women to let their light shine. Christian community service is a yearly commitment and a prerequisite for graduation. Through action and reflection, Christian community service provides opportunities to build discipleship within the Catholic High community, the Greater Baltimore community, and the world. In the words of St. Francis, "Preach the Gospel at all times and when necessary use words."

### Christian Community Service Requirements:

- Students are required to complete 30 service hours every year. A minimum of 15 hours is required by a determined semester deadline for each class.
  - First half of service hours (at least 15 service hours) is due near the end of second quarter. Each class is assigned a deadline for the first half of their service hours that falls near the end of the second quarter.
  - Final portion of service hours (at least 30 hours total for the entire school year) is due near the end of the fourth quarter. Each class is assigned a deadline for the final portion of their service hours that falls near the end of the fourth quarter.
- Students are encouraged to go above and beyond the annual requirement!
- The Office of Mission encourages students to use their interests and talents to provide help to those who are in need. To reflect this, students may serve in the settings listed below. A student who wishes to volunteer outside of these settings must first receive approval from Mrs. Baxter, Campus Minister.

The following are recommended settings to perform community service:

- Animal shelters
- Camps that are faith-based and/or service-based
- Emergency services (e.g. Red Cross, police, firefighters)
- Environmental organizations
- Food pantries
- Homeless shelters
- Hospitals
- Housing programs
- Meal programs
- Parish volunteer
- Pro-life pregnancy centers
- Retirement homes
- School-sponsored community service projects
- TCHS Institutional Advancement Office/events volunteer
- Tutoring program

***Please see the other side for more information about Guidelines, Recommendations, & Service Awards***

## **Guidelines:**

- Students may begin logging service hours for the 2018-2019 school year beginning May 2018. Any hours completed prior to this date will not be counted toward the student's 2018-2019 service requirement.
- Community Service hours do not rollover. Thirty community service hours are required each year.
- Students who do not complete the required number of hours, do not serve in settings that follow Catholic High guidelines, or do not hand in their service logs by the deadlines, receive a detention and are ineligible for extra-curricular activities and events at Catholic High. This includes, but is not limited to dances and participating in athletics. Repeated failure to meet service guidelines results in further consequences which are detailed in the Student Handbook.

## **Recommendations:**

- Begin community service over the summer. It is common for there to be volunteer training or an orientation at many sites, so setting up a site takes some time.
- Go beyond the requirement. Service hours are used to nominate students for many scholarships and awards.
- Christian Community Service should help someone or an organization in need; Christian community service is not the same as free labor.
- Contact a local, Catholic non-profit organization such as Catholic Charities, Catholic Relief Services or St. Vincent de Paul for some service locations and opportunities.
- It is important that with each activity the student writes a reflection (found on the back of the community service log form). Community service is not only an activity to be completed, but a means to meet Christ in the people who are being served.
- Consider working with one organization throughout the year. Building a relationship with a community is most rewarding for the student and helpful for the agency. Committing to one agency provides connections that are helpful in applying to colleges and jobs.
- We encourage students to wear their Catholic High uniforms or clothing with the TCHS logo on it in order to promote our school.
- Ask fellow students from your county where and how they serve for inspiration. You could arrange to serve together and car pool.
- We encourage students to "pay it forward." Look beyond yourself and recognize people and places that need your help. Lux Tua Luceat - Let your light shine!

## **The following Service Awards are given at the end of the school year to deserving Catholic High students:**

- Mother Generosa Award: 50-99 hours of service
- Saint Clare Award: 100-199 hours of service
- Saint Francis Award: 200 or more hours of service
- Canticle Award: Senior student with highest total number of hours over all four years.

**If you have any questions about Christian Community Service or service in these settings, please email Mrs. Baxter, Campus Minister at [mbaxter@thecatholichighschool.org](mailto:mbaxter@thecatholichighschool.org)**

