

CHCA Intersession 2024

May 20-30, 2024

Course Name: **Serve Cincinnati: Homeless Coalition**

Instructor(s):

Course Type: **Local Day (Greater Cinti Area)**

Service Hours: **35**

Maximum enrollment: **20**

Minimum enrollment: **7**

Cost: \$400

Overview: Students will be engaged in community-based activities and volunteering at local homeless shelters, soup kitchens, and other agencies that provide services to people experiencing homelessness and living in poverty.

- Course Goals:**
- To provide students with a combined experience of meaningful service and education to motivate them to become active citizens in the fight to end poverty and homelessness.
 - To immerse students in an urban environment in which they can engage in community-based activities, and volunteer at local homeless shelters, soup kitchens, and other agencies that provide services to people in the community experiencing homelessness and poverty.

Reading Component: Sections of *Understanding Poverty* by Ruby Payne

Writing Component: Students will journal daily and will complete the immersion with an overall reflection of their experience.

Description:

The Greater Cincinnati Homeless Coalition coordinates service opportunities while educating and immersing groups in an urban environment. The Homeless Coalition arranges for service opportunities at many of its 65+ member agencies. Days during CUE are spent engaged in community-based activities and volunteering at local homeless shelters, soup kitchens, and other agencies that provide services to people experiencing homelessness and living in poverty. The Homeless Coalition provides various educational activities so participants can learn about the root causes of homelessness and poverty. All participants will have the opportunity to hear from speakers, participate in team-building activities, and reflect on how they can get involved in dispelling myths and creating empathy rather than apathy. Daily meaningful experiences help participants understand advocacy to promote systemic change.

SERVICE

Groups will serve at agencies and organizations in urban Cincinnati that deal with poverty and homeless issues directly and indirectly. Through service work, participants have personal experiences with issues and gain knowledge. Each agency has something different in store. Not all groups will work with each agency. Each agency provides an explanation of the services they offer and the population they serve as well as a brief orientation and training on the service work.

Service opportunities include:

- Preparing and serving meals
- Housing Rehab
- Shelter Service

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- Food Pantry
- Clothing Pantry
- Urban Daycare
- Cleaning/ Organizing
- Urban Garden And more!

Examples of organizations we serve with:

- Over-the-Rhine Community Housing
- Our Daily Bread
- Contact Center
- Catholic Worker House
- Shelterhouse
- Caracole
- Intercommunity Justice and Peace Center
- Interfaith Worker's Center
- Peaslee Neighborhood Center
- St. Anthony Center
- Mary Magdalen House
- Tender Mercies

EDUCATION:

Participants will take part in activities with partner organizations and staff members that teach them about focus issues. In addition, each group will participate in reflection exercises and discuss service, education, experiences, and observations among peers. The focus will be on drawing connections and learning. Below is an overview of some of the activities your group will be participating in. Most activities will be within walking distance.

Orientation: Orientation provides a background of Over-the-Rhine to help the group get situated in Cincinnati. It also sets up the rest of the experience and provides safety guidelines.

Speaker's Bureau: The Speaker's Bureau is made up of people who are, or have, experienced homelessness in the past. They share their experiences to help others understand the realities of homelessness. With all of the stereotypes and myths that perpetuate our society, the speaker's story helps to personalize the issue and the facts and statistics presented help to create compassion and understanding.

Streetvibes Shadow Activity: Participants work with a Street Paper distributor who will share their own experience and train the participants on panhandling laws and paper guidelines.

Walking Tours: Walking tours will give participants background about the area as it focuses on issues that relate to homelessness and poverty.

Urban Hike: This experience gives participants an opportunity to visit the University of Cincinnati and see Over-the-Rhine from a different perspective.

Media Checklist: By using newspaper articles and movies we will explore how our culture views homelessness, panhandling, gentrification, and other social issues. We will use the Homeless Coalition's Media Checklist to evaluate and discuss popular media.

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Neighborhood Photographic Assessment: Using the Tactics of Gentrification, developed by the Homeless Coalition, participants seek out evidence of gentrification in Over-the-Rhine and document and discuss their findings.

This course is well suited to:

All students who are open to learning about their Cincinnati community from the perspective of those experiencing poverty and homelessness, and the perspective of those who have dedicated their lives to making Cincinnati more just. Participants will be expected to walk and stand for long periods of time.

Cost: \$400

Additional costs:

Students will need a packed, portable lunch daily.

Other Information:

This course will meet non-regular school hours one day, starting late and staying at the center for Community dinner. Please do not sign up for this course if you cannot participate in this one evening meal. Families may need to provide return transportation from GCHC Community dinner in the evening.