

## **Gwynedd-Mercy College Campus Ministry**

The role of Campus Ministry at Gwynedd-Mercy College is to support all members of the College community in their spiritual growth, enabling each of us to celebrate and live the Gospel message in the tradition of Catherine McAuley, foundress of the Sisters of Mercy.

The Campus Ministry team exercises its ministry in a variety of ways: through gathering the community for prayer; through community service, educational and social events; and through spiritual direction, retreats, and prayer groups.

In the Mercy tradition, and with a spirit of hospitality, the members of the ministry team seek to be an open and affirming presence for all, promoting the search for spiritual growth with an emphasis on service to society.

For more information, contact [Christine Eberle](#), Director of Campus Ministry, at 215-641-5590

<http://www.gmc.edu/students/campusministry/>

The Campus Ministry/Mercy Works Center is now located in Visitation House (the white house just past the tennis courts on Deer Path Lane, en route to Alexandria Hall).

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## **Gwynedd-Mercy College Mercy Works Program**

The Mercy Works program has been established within the Office of Campus Ministry to reflect and enhance our commitment to the Mercy tradition of service to society. Our goal is to connect the talents of GMC students with people in need in our wider community, as well as to offer students opportunities to reflect on their experience of service.

*"By her courageous, contagious love for the poor, Catherine McAuley connected the rich to the poor, the healthy to the sick, the educated and skilled to the uninstructed . . . to do the work of God on earth"* (Tender Courage). Through the Mercy Works program, Campus Ministry at GMC strives to be faithful to Catherine's legacy.

Specific Mercy Works projects are listed below. To find other volunteer opportunities near Gwynedd-Mercy College, you can view a map of our community partners (local non-profit

organizations), by clicking on our [Google Map](#), or search a database of non-profits throughout Montgomery County, PA by visiting the [Info Link PA](#) site.

*Current Mercy Work programs include:*

**Habitat for Humanity** Mercy Works sponsors several Saturday workdays each year for Gwynedd-Mercy College students to get involved with the Montgomery County chapter of Habitat for Humanity. Groups will depart from Visitation at 8 am and return around 4 pm. HFH workdays are known for being fulfilling and rewarding experiences, therefore volunteer spots are in high demand. Please sign up early! Stay tuned for dates.

**Manna on Main Street, Lansdale PA** Manna on Main is a local organization that serves poor and hungry residents in the area. Mercy Works volunteers are needed monthly to prepare meals at Visitation House and to serve them at Manna.

**Mercy Mentors** Students from Gwynedd-Mercy College spend time with children and adolescents residing at St. Mary's Villa for Children and Families in Ambler, to develop mentoring relationships during the school year. Training is provided in the September, but new members are always welcome. Students gather with the children in a group setting on Mondays and Thursdays after dinner; mentors are welcome either day or both. GMC students are asked to commit to this program for the entire school year in order to provide stable relationships for the children. For more information contact Tara White at [white.tara@gmc.edu](mailto:white.tara@gmc.edu).

**Hunger & Homelessness Awareness Week** This event in mid-November serves to raise awareness of the extent of homelessness, hunger, and poverty in our country.

**Mercy 4 Justice** Students and interested faculty/staff focus on a variety of justice issues, from Darfur to fair trade, environmental awareness and human trafficking.

**GMC Holiday Outreach** Students collect food and gifts for Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays for families who otherwise would not be able to celebrate the season. The Giving Tree, which encourages students, faculty and staff to provide gifts for participants in Mercy Neighborhood Ministries' programs in North Philadelphia, is located in St. Bernard's Lobby in late November; gifts must be returned in the first week of December.

**Alternative Spring Break** Each year, Mercy Works sponsors spring break service trips to various sites throughout the United States. In past years we have served in Arizona, Texas, and Ohio. **In 2009, 47 students traveled to sites in New Orleans LA, Savannah GA, Baltimore MD and the Bronx, NY.** Students were immersed in the life of a community and worked alongside its members in service. Participants also learned about the daily and long-term issues challenging the community, placing it in a position of need. Students paid only \$50 personally, but made a significant commitment to fund-raising. Applications for ASB 2010 will be available by early October, 2009. Any student or faculty/staff member who would like to find--or establish--a service opportunity should contact Betsy Stone Plummer, Mercy Works Program Administrator at 215-641-5592 (x592 on campus) or [plummer.b@gmc.edu](mailto:plummer.b@gmc.edu).

Catholic Network of Volunteer Service (CNVS), established in 1963, is a non-profit membership organization of 200 domestic and international volunteer and lay mission programs. Currently, more than 10,000 volunteers and lay missionaries serve in these programs throughout the U.S. and in 108 other countries.

CNVS publishes and distributes [RESPONSE](#), the most comprehensive handbook of lay mission volunteer opportunities. RESPONSE is distributed free of charge to persons interested in faith-based service and those who promote such service. To request hard copies of RESPONSE, you may call toll-free 1-800-543-5046 or e-mail [cnvsinfo@cnvs.org](mailto:cnvsinfo@cnvs.org)

We also provide our member programs with recruitment services, training and technical assistance resources including our [National Conference](#), [Formation Workshops](#), [Renewal Workshops](#), and our web based [Resource Library](#).

CNVS also administers the [AmeriCorps Education Awards program](#) for our member programs.

For more information on Catholic Network of Volunteer Services go to [www.cnvs.org/aboutus/index.php](http://www.cnvs.org/aboutus/index.php).

\*Copies of RESPONSE magazine is available at GMC Career Services.\*