



Service Opportunities

Service activities give OT students the opportunity to provide much needed assistance to a variety of individuals and organizations in the community. Through these experiences, students develop their professional communication, leadership, and advocacy skills, as well as gain an increased awareness of community needs and available resources for their future work as an occupational therapist.

- **OUT OF THE DARKNESS WALK:** Chatham's occupational therapy program sponsors the annual Out of the Darkness Walk. This walk supports the work of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention and occurs each spring.
- **ANDY WARHOL MUSEUM SENSORY FRIENDLY PROGRAM** is held during Autism Awareness and Acceptance Month. Students set up sensory friendly stations throughout the museum and walk around with the attendees.
- **BATCH-A-TOYS:** This foundation, created by former Pittsburgh Steeler Charlie Batch, has distributed more than 35,000 toys to children. OT students volunteer to prepare presents and pack the truck to be shipped and distributed.
- **NATIONAL BACKPACK AWARENESS DAY** is held at local Pittsburgh region schools where Chatham students present on backpack safety tips.
- **FALLS PREVENTION DAY** educates older adults about safety tips to help prevent falls.
- **HOMEWOOD SENIOR HEALTH FAIR:** Chatham students volunteered at the Homewood Senior Health Fair, providing tips to the residents for reducing the risk of a stroke.
- **STAND-UP FOR STAND DOWN** is a day-long veteran services fair, including free breakfast and lunch, along with access to 60 health and community service providers. Chatham OT students volunteer annually at this event.
- **HOMELESS CHILDREN'S EDUCATION FUND:** Chatham OT students participated in a performance art installation, supporting the Homeless Children's Education Fund.
- **GLOBAL LINKS:** Chatham OT students worked to repurpose gently used medical equipment at Global Links in Green Tree, PA. Students cleaned and repaired wheelchairs, walkers and crutches, and packed scrubs to be sent to hospitals and clinics in Latin America
- **BLESSING BAGS** with various items are created by the OT students to hand out to individuals experiencing homelessness. These bags are distributed throughout the year.
- **CRECER CENTER, IBARRA, ECUADOR:** Chatham OT and PT students travel to Ecuador to provide therapy services to children and adults at a free clinic (CRECER), adult day care center, and nursing home.
- **PENNSYLVANIA OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSOCIATION (POTA) POWER PEOPLE CREW:** Chatham University is a Gold Sponsor for the POTA Conference. Students have the opportunity to volunteer at the POTA Conference with registration, poster and speaker presentations, raffles, and booths.
- **AOTA'S CAPITOL HILL DAY** held in Washington, D.C. is a day where OT practitioners and our OT students meet with elected officials to advocate for issues important to occupational therapy.
- **STUDENT OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSOCIATION, (SOTA)** is a student driven organization developed by the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA). The primary purpose of SOTA is to promote OT through advocacy and service to the profession, as well as service endeavors throughout the community. Chatham's SOTA is a self-governing body, made up of several committees such as public relations and community service.
- **COALITION OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ADVOCATES FOR DIVERSITY (COTAD)** formed in 2014 to empower occupational therapy leaders to engage in practices that increase diversity, equity, and inclusion for a more transformative profession. The Chatham COTAD Chapter aims to increase diversity and inclusion within the program, the University, and the profession at large.