



Service Opportunities

Service activities allow DPT students to provide much needed assistance to a variety of individuals and organizations. And it's not just the individuals and organizations who benefit: students develop their professional communication, leadership, and advocacy skills, and gain an increased awareness of community resources for their future patients.



- **SAFETY FOR SENIORS:** This project is an initiative of Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers of Southwestern PA/Family Services. After an orientation/training, groups of two or three student volunteers participate in home safety checks for elderly residents.
- **THREE RIVERS ADAPTIVE SPORTS:** The Mission of Three Rivers Adaptive Sports is education, to promote quality of life, and to provide quality year-round sports and recreation opportunities for people with disabilities, their families, and friends. Opportunities for student volunteers include participation in bowling nights, water-skiing, and snow-skiing.
- **MIGHTY PENGUINS SLED HOCKEY:** This organization operates therapeutic and competitive ice hockey programs for the benefit of individuals who are physically disabled. Student volunteers assist with various aspects of sled hockey practices and games.
- **BETHANY HOSPICE:** The mission of Bethany Hospice is to care for those who have been touched by a life-limiting illness, ensuring a life of quality and dignity. Student volunteers work directly with patients and their families to provide emotional support and companionship.
- **THE WOODLANDS:** The Woodlands is committed to enriching the lives of children and adults with disability and chronic illness. It includes a 48-bed lodge with a spacious activity center, creative arts building, and indoor aquatic center. Student volunteers assist participants with crafts, cooking, ADLs, swimming, recreational activities, and/or weekend retreats.
- **HOMWOOD RENAISSANCE ORGANIZATION:** Opportunities to serve the local communities, including Homewood, occasionally arise as needs are identified. Recently, Chatham students volunteered to provide pre-season health screens for young athletes, and fall screening and prevention for senior citizens.
- **CRECER CENTER, IBARRA, ECUADOR:** Each year in August, a group of physical and occupational therapy students travels to Ibarra, Ecuador, to provide services to individuals in a variety of clinic settings, including pediatric and adult outpatient, a nursing home, and an adult day care center.
- **GRADUATES GO GREEN:** Started by physical therapy students in the spring of 2017, this club includes representatives from all programs at Chatham Eastside. The group works to develop and implement sustainable and environmentally sound practices at Eastside.
- **OUT OF THE DARKNESS WALK:** This walk supports the work of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention and occurs each spring.
- **HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE:** Started in 2016, this food drive is coordinated by first-year physical therapy students each fall. Non-perishable food items are gathered and donated to the Food Pantry at the East End Cooperative Ministry.
- **GO BABY GO:** First developed at the University of Delaware, the Go Baby Go program aims to help children with mobility impairments become more mobile by modifying drivable toy cars. The club was created by physical therapy students in 2016 and the goal is to modify cars for up to four children at each of 2-3 events per year.
- **RELAY FOR LIFE:** Chatham physical therapy students participate each year in this event, which raises money for cancer research, for patient care programs, and for education and prevention.
- **FUNCTIONAL MOVEMENT SCREEN FOR CHATHAM ATHLETES:** In conjunction with the athletic training and exercise science programs, physical therapy students work with Chatham student-athletes to analyze movement strategies that can help guide off-season and in-season strengthening, conditioning, and injury prevention.

