

University of Central Florida

STARS

High Impact Practices Student Showcase
Spring 2024

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Leadership Within Volunteer UCF

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Abstract

Through a variety of events and programs such as Knights Give Back and the Alternative Break Program, students gain valuable knowledge and experience, become connected to volunteer opportunities of their interest, and expand their community outreach. Volunteer UCF provides service event consultations and recognizes student volunteers for their outstanding service. We work with over 200 community organizations and continue to expand our agency's outreach.

Community Impact

Through our involvement with VUCF, we collaborated with Clean the World, a non-profit who is dedicated to redirecting hotel waste from landfills to countries and communities facing shortages. Through our efforts, we made a tangible difference for individuals in lower-income or developing nations lacking basic hygiene necessities. In addition, VUCF's commitment extends to various community service initiatives such as pet adoption events, litter cleanups during hikes, and other volunteer opportunities, ensuring a deeper impact for those they serve throughout the Orlando area.

Civic Responsibility

As students in LEADS, we have a responsibility to work with and serve our community that we grew from and who supported us. Volunteer UCF provides that bridge and tie to us and our community. When working with VUCF you are guaranteed to be supporting and working with the community around you, the way they supported us and our university.

Course Connection

Volunteer UCF reflects the ideology of LEADS scholars perfectly by portraying all of the "C's" taught in our class, mainly community or citizenship and common purpose. Those working with VUCF work as a team with the others around them to achieve the common goal of helping and serving those in their community, thus citizenship. And with that common goal of uniting students and the community through service learning and volunteering, all volunteers and employees serve a common purpose.

Reflection

Volunteer UCF has shown us that a highly impactful organization can be found here at the University of Central Florida. Everything they do is for the benefit of the community and the students that choose to spend their time volunteering. Because volunteer UCF works with a different organization each time, they have impacted hundreds of people in the Orlando community. We have learned throughout our time volunteering that spending extra moments helping others can make a bigger impact than we might know.

References

VUCF
<https://knightconnect.campuslabs.com/engage/organization/vucf>
Komives, S.R., & Wagner W. (Eds.). (2016). Leadership for a better World: Understanding the Social Change Model of Leadership Development – John Wiley & Sons, Inc.

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