

SERVICE ISN'T REQUIRED.

FOR MOST OF OUR STUDENTS, IT'S JUST SECOND NATURE.

We don't "require" you to complete a certain number of service hours, because as far as we're concerned, that defeats the purpose. The call to serve should come from the heart. It should be something you feel compelled to do because you know it's right and because you want to do your part to make things better (for everyone).

At Saint Mary's, we've always attracted students who have a genuine passion for helping others. Maybe it's our Lasallian heritage, which promotes social justice and believes in the transformation of self and society. Or maybe the students who choose to come here simply have that little something "extra" – the desire to go out and make a difference in the world.

On average, Saint Mary's students contribute nearly 30,000 hours annually to social service agencies and organizations around the world.



Catholic Institute for Lasallian Social Action (CILSA)

Saint Mary's Catholic Institute for Lasallian Social Action, which was established more than a decade ago, is now a national model for campus-based service programs. CILSA is kind of like command central: It serves as a clearing-house for service opportunities; organizes social justice/human rights speakers to come to campus; and serves as an incubator for new projects and programs dedicated to social justice and the common good.

CILSA also sponsors service-learning courses. A recent example was a class on Catholic social teachings, which examined the ways in which doctrinal texts and theological wisdom shape our response to social issues.

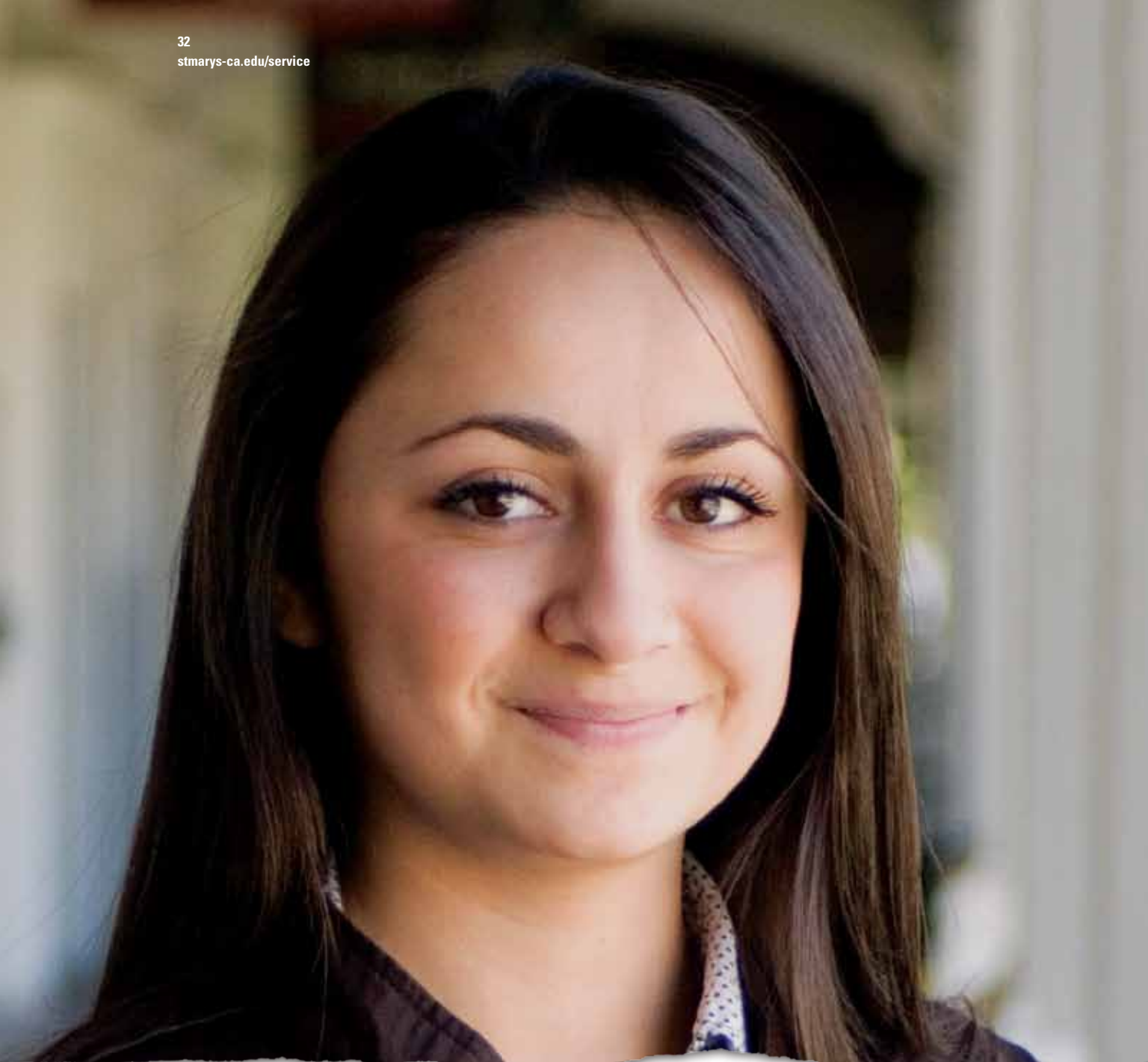
Mission and Ministry

Mission and Ministry organizes a number of programs that explore the role of faith and the larger meaning of service in daily life. Some programs, such as those sponsored by the student-led Campus Pastoral team, are dedicated to providing social and spiritual pursuits for the Saint Mary's community; others are more focused on outreach. Recent projects have included Hunger Awareness Week, holiday parties for disadvantaged children in the area, and work with homeless shelters and needy schools.

Saint Mary's is one of only 50 schools in the country to offer the **Bonner Leaders Program**. Participating students give 900 hours of public service over the course of two years to a community partner organization. Initiatives on campus include student groups dedicated to labor issues and human rights, cultural events celebrating Asian and Latino heritage and programs for area children.



- SAINT MARY'S STUDENTS VOLUNTEER AT**
- BAY AREA CRISIS NURSERY (CONCORD)**
- BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB OF OAKLAND**
- ELIZABETH HOUSE (OAKLAND)**
- FAMILY STRESS CENTER (CONTRA COSTA)**
- GLIDE MEMORIAL FREE MEALS PROGRAM (SAN FRANCISCO)**
- HOMELESS ACTION SHELTER (BERKELEY)**
- LASALLIAN EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY CENTER (WEST OAKLAND)**
- MUSEUM OF CHILDREN'S ART (OAKLAND)**
- ST. ANTHONY FOUNDATION (SAN FRANCISCO)**
- SPORTS4KIDS (OAKLAND)**
- WOMEN'S DAYTIME DROP-IN CENTER (BERKELEY)**



GETTING REAL AT THE HOMELESS SHELTER.

KNOWING THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN CHARITY AND SERVICE.

It's an attitude.

Malena Hernandez, student, anthropology & Spanish major

When I came to Saint Mary's, I knew I wanted to work in the nonprofit world, particularly in Latin American communities. Latino boys tend to get labeled as delinquents, but I always knew there was more to it than that. Is it tied to immigration? To struggling with their identity in the U.S.?

That's why I chose anthropology as one of my majors. To find out why people do the things they do and not limit myself to the explanations on the surface. Anthropology allows me to go deeper and explore the social impact that pushes certain behaviors.

Through Saint Mary's, I've gotten involved with the Catholic Institute for Lasallian Social Action (CILSA), which does a lot of work with underprivileged kids in the

Oakland area. We do the things you'd expect, like tutoring, but also calligraphy, chess and sustainable gardening. We're helping children make their lives better.

This past January, my "faithjustice" class went to Salinas to work with the Dorothy Day homeless shelter. The Catholic doctrine emphasizes service in action, so for four days we lived at the shelter just like the homeless. We slept on the floor and ate in their dining room. By being part of the community, we helped give back their dignity.

Solidarity is the main focus of my service work. To me, it's the main difference between charity and service. Charity is about handing out and not getting anything in return. With service, it's back and forth, working with people. You learn from the culture.

I want people to know that we don't have to live in two different worlds. It's not "the poor people's world" that has to be fixed; their world is **our world**.

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