Working together to serve the common good.

St. Norbert College
Sturzl Center for Community Service and Learning
2011-12
Annual Report
Ann and Ed Sturzl

The Sturzl Center for Community Service and Learning was named in 2012 with an endowed gift in honor of Ed and Ann Sturzl. The donors who made this possible wanted to honor the Sturzls for their lifelong commitment to service. They have a history of service to St. Norbert College, as well as to organizations in their community. In announcing the gift, President Kunkel remarked: "We are more grateful than we can say for this generous gift, which will support the center as it develops new initiatives and continues its work to strengthen service-learning at St. Norbert College. Our Norbertine tradition charges us to respond to the needs of the local community, and service-learning is central to our mission to prepare students to share their intellect and abilities."

This gift is a beautiful way to recognize Ed and Ann and ensure permanent funding for students to meaningfully serve in their community.

### Sturzl Center Staff—2011-12

**Nancy Mathias**
Director

**Susan Angoli**
Coordinator of Community Partnerships

**Amie Arnoldussen ‘10**
AmeriCorps VISTA Service Coordinator 2011-12

**Brian Bar**
AmeriCorps VISTA Service Coordinator 2010-11

**Anne Buttke**
Service Coordinator, Fall 2011

**Justin Kluesner ‘10**
Service Coordinator, Spring 2012

### Student Staff—2011-12

**Tressa Reuter ‘13**
Community Partner Intern

**Laura Riley ‘14**
Project and Marketing Organizer

**Rebecca Sievers ‘12**
TRIPS Intern

**Leigh Smalley ‘13**
Youth to Youth Program Organizer

**Anna Spies ‘15**
Research Fellow

**Hannah Sternig ‘15**
Research Fellow
Letter from the Director

What an exciting year it has been! As the new director of the newly endowed Sturzl Center for Community Service and Learning, I am pleased and privileged to share so much good news from our campus in this annual report.

The Sturzl Center supports students in their service and learning work in the community. Nearly 80% of students served this past year! This year we began our work by strengthening our existing service programs with new corporate sponsors, staff advisors and administrative support. We will continue this work next year while piloting additional service initiatives as we form new partnerships across campus.

Our new staffing structure will be critical to achieve our goals next year. We are grateful to Dan Robinson and Linda Beane-Katner who laid the ground work for the Center. Deirdre Egan-Ryan now leads the faculty service-learning initiative to increase academic service-learning opportunities for students. Jennifer Nissen, Assistant Director, joined us in July and will support many of the co-curricular service programs. Melissa Steeber, our new VISTA, joins us in August. Together with our community partners, we will continue to grow strong programs that will transform both our students and communities to better serve the common good, especially for those most in need.

A special thanks goes to several people who were invaluable to our work this year. Lynette Green and Sarah Ryan helped by writing grants and connecting us with corporate sponsors. Dave Bergmann helped us with our strategic thinking and planning. Many other key people are named in this report.

We look forward to another exciting year ahead of helping students, staff and faculty create stronger and deeper partnerships to better serve our community. Stop by the Sturzl Center and learn how you can get involved too!

President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll with Distinction

The Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) honored St. Norbert College as a leader among institutions of higher education for their support of volunteering, service-learning and civic engagement.

For a second year, St. Norbert College was admitted to the 2012 President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll with distinction for its strong institutional commitment to service and compelling campus-community partnerships that produce measurable results for the community. St. Norbert was the only college/university in Wisconsin to receive the honor with distinction.

This award recognized the service work from the 2010-11 academic year, including three outstanding programs: Michels Hall Service Program, the M3C AmeriCorps program and the UMOJA retreat, an academic service-learning project.
Greetings at the end of an eventful and fulfilling academic year! I assumed this position in August of 2011, excited about the prospect of helping faculty members find ways to make connections with the local community through incorporating service-learning into their courses.

One of the primary reasons that I accepted this position is that, as an educator and from a practical perspective, I know that service-learning works. It works well. Students who engage in community service and then return to their classrooms readily link those experiences to concepts that, until then, were strictly theoretical. In the practical application of such academic work, students time and again report that they comprehend and retain course material better.

From a more idealistic standpoint, these experiences are truly transformative. And such transformation is at the heart of what we do at a place like St. Norbert College. When students tell me—as they have in my Literature of Service course—that they began the course with a naïve enthusiasm for helping others, yet the readings we do, analytical essays we write, and the experiences we have in the community tempered such enthusiasm to a quiet dedication... then I know I have done my job. When students ask, in the wake of a morning at a local soup kitchen or warming shelter, why do we have soup kitchens and shelters in the first place?... then I know I have done my job. This is critical thinking in action, and it is what we care about in the liberal arts. If we can challenge our students to press beyond the comfortable, and risk new ways of thinking and doing, then we have given them the gift of a liberal arts education, a gift that will continue giving throughout their lives, in their capacities to analyze and interpret the world around them.

What is most meaningful, in a sense, about service-learning is that it is a two-way street, always helping students to question the “us and them” mentality that can haunt service experiences. When students frame their experiences in terms of course concepts, they cannot simply think of the world outside the college campus as “other” than themselves, or merely as a site from which to learn. The two parties become partners in the learning experience, whereby each one benefits. Our students might, for example, hone their critical thinking and writing skills by assessing the needs of a local shelter, and then writing a grant to help support programming there. In this instance, the student gains the enviable skill of grant writing, and the shelter gains support for its programs. They might test water quality, and provide a report to local authorities, for example, encouraging sustainable growth on the Fox River. The learning and benefit to the community are mutual here. When we foster intelligent reflection and thoughtful analysis of the world around us, we are doing just the kind of embedded education that the Norbertines valued so much in founding this college here on the banks of the Fox River.

It is an exciting time for Academic Service-Learning at St. Norbert College. This partial listing of courses for the 2011-12 year demonstrates the breadth of service-learning across the disciplines.

- Dr. Joy Pahl—BUAD 468/469: Senior Seminar in International Business and Language Area Studies
- Dr. Jason Senjem—BUAD 230: Foundations of Management
- Dr. Ravi Agarwal—CSCI 370: Introduction to Operating Systems
- Dr. Tynisha Meidl—EDUC 386: Reading Improvement in the Elementary/Middle School
- Dr. Reid Riggle/Dr. Bob Rutter—EDUC 120: Psychology for Teaching (Village Project)
- Dr. Bola Delano-Oriaran—EDUC 272: A Multicultural Approach to Early Education Curricular Issues and Instructional Methods
- Dr. Deirdre Egan-Ryan—ENGL/AMER 329: Literature of Service
- Dr. Shelly Morris Mumma—LEAD 400: Leadership Studies Capstone
- Dr. Corday Goddard—LEAD 200: Introduction to Leadership Studies
  LEAD 361: Peer Leadership in Student Affairs
- Dr. Leanne Kent—PHIL 315: Ethics
Some of the highlights of this 2011-2012 year include:

- Two faculty received academic service-learning course development grants in the amount of $2,000 each to create a new course, or revise an existing course to add a substantial academic service-learning component:
  - Dr. Mara Brecht—New Course: Inter-religious Dialogue: This My Friend Believes
  - Dr. John Day—SPAN 400: Senior Capstone Seminar in Spanish

- Two faculty received mini-grants of $300 each to support the service-learning activities of students currently in their courses:
  - Ms. Kim Kaczmarowski—SOCl 481/482: Human Services Internship
  - Dr. Shelly Morris Mumma—LEAD 400: Leadership Studies

- Faculty engaged in or interested in academic service-learning met three times throughout the year to discuss pedagogical issues, and to share classroom strategies, assignments, grading rubrics, syllabi, challenges and successes. Taking the form of brown-bag lunches, these casual gatherings fostered a sense of community among the faculty teaching these kinds of courses and projects, at the same time that it gave each of them new practical strategies for their work.

- The Academic Service-Learning Advisory Council met throughout the year to plan activities and future direction for service-learning at the college. The members of this 2011-2012 appointed committee included: Dr. Jason Senjem (Business Administration), Dr. Leanne Kent (Philosophy), Dr. Deirdre Egan-Ryan (English), Dr. Ravi Agarwal (Computer Sciences), Dr. Tynisha Meidl (Education), Dr. Bola Delano-Oriaran (Education), Dr. Reid Riggle (Education). Additionally, this group met for a day-long planning retreat in May 2012 which culminated with a meeting that included the Dean and the President of the College. This work was intended to systematically plan for the future of service-learning at St. Norbert College, one of the high impact practices of higher education.

- During the April 24th faculty meeting, the faculty voted in favor of the proposal to institutionalize the Academic Service-Learning Advisory Committee, recognizing it as an official college committee. The faculty subsequently voted to staff the committee: Dr. Ravi Agarwal (Computer Sciences), Dr. Sarah Parks (Music), and Dr. Deborah Anderson (Biology) were elected by the faculty, and Dr. Tynisha Meidl (Education), Dr. Bola Delano-Oriaran (Education), and Dr. Laurie MacDiarmid (English) were appointed to the committee by the Dean of the College.

- Dr. Deirdre Egan-Ryan published the essay “Beyond Citizenship to Vocation: Literature, Writing, and Service” in the Journal of College and Character (Vol 13, No. 2, May 2012). Additionally, she presented this work, based on her Literature of Service course, at the National Faith, Justice, and Civic Learning Conference at DePaul University in June, 2011.

Future plans include establishing an Academic Service-Learning Faculty Fellows program, through which the fellows teach courses, do reading, research, and publish in the field, as well as share pedagogical strategies. We plan to offer trainings to help the faculty improve how they construct courses and projects. This program is currently under construction, and the Academic Service-Learning Advisory Committee hopes to begin it in 2013. We also will continue with our strategic planning during the upcoming year and find ways in which our courses can foster student learning as “contemplatives in action.”
Service-Learning Programs

St. Norbert College service-learning programs focus on a wide variety of social issues within our communities. Program participants must commit to two semesters and a minimum of 20 hours of service with a single site or social issue. This commitment enhances the significant learning components of the programs while maximizing the time invested by the community partners.

TRIPS (Turning Responsibility Into Powerful Service)
Campus Ministry and the Sturzl Center
139 Participants—4,500 Hours of Service

The St. Norbert students have been an amazing addition to our school the last two years. They are so dedicated, earnest, and responsible! There were tears all around when they had to leave. We hope this is an annual trip for many years to come!

- TRIPS Community Partner

TRIPS (Turning Responsibility into Powerful Service) is an alternative break service program led by Sandy Murphy, Campus Minister, and Sturzl Center staff. TRIPS gives students the opportunity to put into action their values, convictions, and religious beliefs through service. Students participate in a week of personal, intellectual, social and spiritual growth through life changing service and solidarity with some of the world’s most vulnerable people. This year students served in 15 locations including the Dominican Republic, Nicaragua, Chicago, NYC and Memphis while addressing needs such as poverty, education and affordable housing. Participants gain leadership skills, new perspectives, and a broader understanding of the local, national, and global communities of which we are all a part.

TRIPS Learning Goals:
The goals of the TRIPS program are to:

- increase spiritual growth
- develop leadership skills
- enhance participants’ commitment to lifelong active citizenship

Almost 97% of responding participants strongly agreed or agreed they have gained a greater understanding and competence of leadership skills through this program.

The nature of our trip lived Catholic Social Teaching. St. Vincent is considered a third world, or developing country, and we experienced a culture that treats and cares for one another in a different way. We taught each other about love, faith, and compassion... creating ripples from the states to the Caribbean and back.

- TRIPS Participant

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Service-Learning Programs

The Connections Program, led by Vanessa Cuevas, Assistant Director of Multicultural Student Services, is designed to integrate leadership development with civic engagement. The Connections team works together to develop leadership skills while serving others on campus and in the community. Students served in afterschool programs at Howe or Fort Howard Elementary Schools for approximately 4-6 hours a week.

**Connections Outcomes:**
- 100% of responding participants reported an increased likeliness to take action next year to address poverty issues.
- 90% of responding participants reported an increased understanding of diverse cultures.

**Michels Hall Service Program**

Residential Education and Housing and the Sturzl Center

104 Participants—2,088 Hours of Service

The Michels Hall Service Program is a living-learning service opportunity led by a team of staff from Residential Education and Housing and the Sturzl Center. This year, over 100 students living in Michels Hall completed an academic year of service to a specific community organization that serves children and/or families in the Brown County area. Students also participated in programs and reflections designed to support their service and developed a greater understanding of how actions in the community (both in their residence hall and at the community partner site) connect them to each other and the common good.

**Michels Hall Service Program Goals:**
- Relationship building
- Mentorship
- Poverty awareness
- Multicultural awareness

Over 90% of the Michels Hall responding participants reported that they connected with and inspired the youth to pursue higher education.
Over 78% of SNC students say they volunteered in the past year. Student organizations and athletic teams are required to serve one or more times each semester. Residence Halls and the ALIVE program also host service projects for students. Described here are a few ways students prepare meals, cheer Special Olympians, tutor kids, clean parks and highways, visit elders, rake leaves, organize youth activities, and participate in over 20 service events to improve the quality of life for hundreds of people in our community.

Service Events and Projects

We are responding to the needs of our community through direct service, philanthropy and long-term partnerships.

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Into the Streets
Leadership, Student Engagement & First Year Experience with the Sturzl Center
295 Participants — 832 Hours of Service

As a part of St. Norbert College’s “Week of Welcome” for incoming freshmen, the ninth annual Into the Streets provides our new students with the opportunity to serve together for the common good and learn more about our community.

All I can say is WOW! The team finished projects that we’ve been hoping to do since early spring! The crew ROCKED! Thank you so very much for including us - - we appreciate it more than we can say!

- Into the Streets Community Partner

MLK Day of Service
Sturzl Center
160 Participants — 298.5 Hours of Service

Faculty, staff, and students honored Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. by participating in the national Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service. This 4th year of direct service by college employees and students included:

- Preparing and serving a meal to 134 people at New Community Shelter
- Building a closet for an Ecumenical Partnership for Housing home
- Preparing “Hug” packets at Howe Neighborhood Family Resource Center
- Working with Nicolet Highland residents to make fleece blankets for the House of Hope
- Sorting goods and food at the St. Vincent de Paul Store and Paul’s Pantry
- Shelling bushels of corn at Tsyunhehkwa Oneida farm
- Sharing Dr. King’s message of respect with over 160 local elementary students
- Donating mittens, gloves or socks to the Howe Neighborhood Resource Center
Service Events and Projects

**Kids to Campus**

Sturzl Center

44 Participants—176 Hours of Service

Our VISTA, Amie Arnoldussen, led the 7th annual Kids 2 Campus, bringing 34 girls from the Boys and Girls Club for an afternoon of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) and leadership workshops that enhanced college awareness. These 5th-8th grade girls were matched with SNC volunteers to learn about college, experience workshops, explore leadership, tour campus and enjoy a meal in Michels Commons. Workshops were developed by Leadership Studies 400 service-learning class and several students from the Teacher Education program.

**Make a Difference Day**

Residential Housing Association

125 Participants—500 Hours of Service

Make a Difference Day is the nation’s largest day of volunteering and provides many of our area residents with the help they need. Since 1995, SNC students have helped their neighbors winterize homes and do fall clean up projects.
Recognition and Post-Graduate Service

Members of the class of 2012 choosing to serve the common good through post-graduate service include:

- Jake DeMarais
  Mercy Volunteer Corps
- Connie Humann
  Jesuit Volunteer Corps
- Jessica Lococo
  Jesuit Volunteer Corps
- Jordan Mayer
  Peace Corps
  Master’s International

The Sturzl Center celebrates the recognition our students and staff have received for their commitment to the betterment of our community.

Amie Arnoldussen ('10), AmeriCorps VISTA Service Coordinator in the Sturzl Center received the Governor’s Service Award for her work in helping solve serious social issues and strengthening our community through service. Her full time service work over the past two years has focused on an issue close to her heart: creating opportunities for first generation/low income students to gain access to a college education.

Lauren Senour ('12), an intern at the Brown County Volunteer Center, was awarded the Green Bay Packaging Volunteer in Education Award for helping area children exercise their hearts through both physical exercise and service.

Amy Diestler ('14) was named a Newman Civic Fellow for her work through Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) in addressing local food issues by training Hmong growers, and creating networks between local growers, Fortune 500 companies, and campus food services.

SNC Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) won their regional competition and competed nationally for the 4th consecutive year. SIFE’s 40 members and advisor Jason Senjem took on six community projects this year that included developing a community garden, collecting over a ton of food, and helping the NEW Zoo become more sustainable.

SNC Colleges Against Cancer received the Leader of Hope Award for dedication to the missions of the American Cancer Society and Colleges Against Cancer. Only two such awards were granted statewide and only 27 nationwide. The award recognized the chapter’s sponsorship of campus events like Relay for Life, the Homecoming dance and a men’s health forum. President Lauren Senour, advisor Joyce Tullbane and 46 amazing students helped raise over $68,000 through the Homecoming Dance, Run For Lungs, Relay for Life, and events with the Knight Owl. SNC Colleges Against Cancer was also nominated locally for the Green Bay Packers Large Group Volunteer Award.

The Norbertine Volunteer Community offers post-college age young adults the opportunity to live in intentional community while serving with and on behalf of the poor and vulnerable in Green Bay. SNC alums who served with the NVC this year are:

- Steph Birmingham ('09)
  Chaplain’s Office
  Brown County Jail
- Bryan Stoppenbach ('11)
  AseraCare Hospice
- Koren Bandoch ('11)
  Golden House
  Domestic Violence Shelter

The Norbertine Volunteer Community
Community Partnerships

The Sturzl Center seeks long-term partnerships that will benefit both the community and the students. Through two-way outreach, important community issues are addressed and partnerships are built. We want to thank the staff in over 50 agencies who mentor and teach our students to build stronger communities.

As we work together to serve the common good, the Sturzl Center would like to recognize community partners who have served on our Sturzl Center Advisory boards in the past year:

- Stacie Boex, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northeastern Wisconsin
- Sarah Burg, Howe Neighborhood Family Resource Center
- Michael Furgiuele, Family and Childcare Resource Center of N.E.W.
- Matthew Helsius, American Foundation of Counseling Services
- Mary Kelly, St. John the Evangelist Homeless Shelter
- Stan Kocos, Green Bay Area Public School District
- Kevin Konkol, Boys and Girls Club of Green Bay
- Jill Lavarda, Greater Green Bay YMCA
- Jessica Roush, Freedom House Ministries
- Ted Skenandore, Tsyunhehkwa Oneida Farm
- Sara Wall, Greater Green Bay YMCA
- Linda Willis, Boys and Girls Club of Green Bay

Youth to Youth Service Programs

Over 2,000 youth from high poverty schools and community sites worked with over 300 SNC students through six different events and programs this past year. The three largest programs were Michels Hall, Village Project and Connections.

By connecting youth to college mentors, coaches and tutors through extended learning activities, youth are increasing their success in school; by graduating high school, youth are more likely to escape the poverty cycle.

Thank you to the corporate partners who provided financial support for our Youth to Youth Service Programs:
This report was published by:
St. Norbert College’s Sturzl Center for Community Service and Learning

St. Norbert College
100 Grant Street
De Pere, WI 54115-2099

Phone: 920-403-3374
sturzlcenter@snc.edu
www.snc.edu/sturzlcenter