



# Citizenship and Service Learning at Lynn University

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# The Citizenship Project at Lynn University

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An immersive and required program for first year students in January

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Idea is to "enhance the community and make an impact"

3

Different issues are addressed such as homelessness, environmental sustainability and urban renewal



# The Remembrance Plaza

- “The Lynn University Remembrance Plaza is designed to honor the legacies of the four students and two faculty members who died in the 2010 earthquake in Haiti while performing community service there.
- Stephanie Crispinelli, Britney Gengel, Christine Gianacaci, Courtney Hayes, Dr. Richard Bruno and Dr. Patrick Hartwick were part of Lynn’s Journey of Hope Haiti humanitarian project when a 7.0 magnitude earthquake hit Port-au-Prince” (Lynn University, n.d., para 1-2).

# The History of the Project

- The Citizenship Project was first launched in 2012 (our QEP for SACS)
- Sustainability and Social Responsibility
- Required for all first year students
- Lynn University students, “have devoted over 125,000 service hours to supporting local organizations” (Lynn University, 2024, para. 5).
- United Nations Academic Impact (UNAI) member institution
- Dr. Anna Krift, Professor of International Relations, has served as the Citizenship Project Director since the inception of the program.



# Our Curriculum

- Importance of Citizenship
- Service Learning
- Civility
- Relate projects to the UN Sustainable Development Goals

Students in each course utilize "Design Thinking" to create a unique and viable service-learning project.

# Community Partners

- Acts Life
- Be Like Brit
- Big Dog Ranch Rescue
- Boca Helping Hands
- Boca West Hospital Pediatrics Unit
- Brighton Gardens
- CROS Ministries
- Exchange for Change
- Florence Fuller Developmental Center
- Friends of Jupiter Beach
- Guatemalan-Maya Center
- Gumbo Limbo Nature Center
- Habilitation Center
- Inlet Grove Community High School
- Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse ONA, Bureau of Land Management
- Lynn University Sustainability Committee
- Miracle League of Palm Beach County
- Paint Your Heart Out Palm Beach County with the Solid Waste Authority
- Palm Beach Children's Hospital at St. Mary's Medical Center
- Palm Beach County Department of Environmental Resources Management (ERM)
- Pediatric Oncology Support Team (POST)
- Tradewinds Park
- Vietnam Veterans of America #1125
- Best Foot Forward, ChildNet, Citrus, Place of Hope and 4Kids 1,000 cases with Comfort Cases





# Service Learning Projects

- Visit Gumbo Limbo (Protect Sea Turtles)
- Beach Clean-up
- Campus Clean-up
- Visit Hospitals and Perform Plays
- Help at Homeless Shelters
- Animal Rescue
- Gleaning
- Create Strategies for Students with Autism
- Mental Health Activities and Projects





Lynn students actively participate in the Citizenship Project. Photo: Lynn University

# Comfort Cases

- 3 Guest Speakers during Comfort Cases: Deborah Oppenheimer, Mrs. Earcylene Beavers and Erika Beavers and Rob Scheer
  - **7th** year partnering with Comfort Cases
  - **5,453** cases distributed to community organizations
  - Packed **803** cases (2024) for foster children and partnered with **5** community organizations, including:
    - Best Foot Forward, *Boca Raton*
    - ChildNet, *PBC and Broward County*
    - Citrus Network, *Miami Dade and Monroe County*
    - Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies, *Broward County*
    - Place of Hope, *Boca Raton*



# Results

- Delivered more than **108,220** hours of community support in **13** Academic Years.
- Citizenship Project 2024 in review:
  - Total of **8,220** hours served
  - **754** first year students
  - **23** community partners and **44** service projects
  - Projects connected to **10** of the **17** UN SDGs
  - Alumni Engagement - **300** Comfort Cases cards written to children in foster care

# References

- *Lynn University announces 2024 partner organizations for public service projects.* Lynn University. (2024, Jan. 10). <https://www.lynn.edu/news/2024/lynn-university-announces-2024-partner-organizations-for-public-service-projects#:~:text=Launched%20in%202012%2C%20the%20Citizenship,hours%20to%20supporting%20local%20organizations.>
- *Remembrance Plaza.* Lynn University. (n.d.). <https://www.lynn.edu/campus-directory/locations/remembrance-plaza>
- United Nations. (n.d.). *Engaging students in the 2030 agenda through Civic Action.* United Nations. <https://www.un.org/en/academic-impact/engaging-students-2030-agenda-through-civic-action>