

**Spring 2018 Community Partner Options
MONT 111S**

Community Partner	Time Frame
Catholic Charities – Mercy Center	Monday – Friday, 8am-2pm (for one 2-hour time block)
Dismas House	2 hours per week (based on volunteer’s schedule)
Hadwen Park Congregational Church – LGBT Asylum Task Force	Various days and times (for 2 hours per week)
Refugee and Immigrant Assistance Center (RIAC)	Monday-Friday, 10a-4p (for one 2- or 3-hour time block)
St. John’s	Monday-Friday, 6a-10:30a (for one 2-hour time block)
Training Resources of America (TRA)	Monday – Friday 9a-3p or 4:15p-7:45p (for one 2- or 3-hour time block)
WPS Adult Learning Center	Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday morning, 9-11:30a; or Tuesday or Thursday evening, 5-8p (for one 2- or 2.5-hour time block)

Catholic Charities – Mercy Center

www.ccworc.org

25 West Chester Street, Worcester MA 01605

508-852-7165

Hours: Monday – Friday; 8:00am – 2:00pm

Staff Contacts:

Rose Gage, Coordinator of Volunteer Services

rgage@ccworc.org

Peg Buzzell, Administrator

pbuzzell@ccworc.org

Office: 508-852-7165

Organization Description:

Mission of Catholic Charities: Inspired by the teachings of Jesus Christ and the Church and the pastoral leadership of the Bishop of Worcester, Catholic Charities is committed to meeting the needs of the poor, the homeless and the infirm and to enhancing the quality of life for all. Catholic Charities will promote the gift and sacredness of life from the first moment of conception through all stages of human growth and development. It is committed to strengthening families and to serving individuals in need, regardless of racial, ethnic, cultural or religious origins, ability to pay, or mental, physical or developmental challenges. Catholic Charities believes that every person has the right to life, housing, food, shelter, clothing, and health care, and that all should be enabled to participate in the decisions that vitally affect them.

Mercy Centre: Mercy Centre is dedicated to helping adults, age 18 years and older, with developmental disabilities live a meaningful, productive and joyful life. Founded by the Sisters of

Mercy and Catholic Charities, Mercy Centre has more than 50 years experience and serves over 100 adults in Central Massachusetts. Click here to access their brochure:

<https://www.ccworc.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/Brochure-for-Website1.pdf>

Mercy Centre offers four programs:

1. **The Employment Program** develops, seeks and enhances employment opportunities.
2. **The Group Supported Employment Program** provides a valuable work experience at supervised sites in the community.
3. **The Community Based Day Supports Program** assists people to engage in social, recreational or leisure activities when work is not a priority.
4. **The Day Habilitation Program** provides people who have cognitive and developmental disabilities with challenging, supportive and individual driven skills training. *Volunteers will be serving in this program.*

CBL Opportunities:

Volunteers are needed to assist program participants (in the Day Habilitation Program) with the following:

- Social skills training
- Cooking
- Exercise
- Gym activities
- Computer training
- IPad training
- Mercy Centre is open to match college student skills with interests of the program participants. This includes photography, dance groups, singing, etc.
- Mercy Centre staff also appreciates the creativity of students and the skills they can bring to the participants.
- In terms of photography, it would be wonderful for a student to teach these skills to the participants and highlight their work at Holy Cross, in which the participants could come to campus. This could be turned into a fundraiser for Mercy Centre if Holy Cross students, faculty and staff purchased the photography.

For all positions, volunteers will generally assist **one time per week for 2 hours for the entire semester**. Students are welcome to give more time if their schedule allows. The Day Habilitation Program runs from 8am-2pm, Monday thru Friday. Volunteers will coordinate their schedule with the Volunteer Coordinator.

Dismas House

<http://dismashouse.org/>

Staff Contact:

Dave McMahon

davemcmahon@dismashouse.org

30 Richards Street, Worcester

(508) 579-9249

Organization Description:

Dismas provides housing and services at three locations for homeless and ex-offenders. In our homes, Dismas House, Dismas Family Farm, and the Father John Brooks House, former prisoners are engaged in the hard work of rebuilding lives, and rekindling hope for themselves and their families. Families with kids, volunteer Board members, live-in international students, and church groups help create the family atmosphere by breaking bread with residents and spending the holidays with them. Our dedicated staff - many former prisoners themselves - provide key educational, recovery, and reentry tools to our residents.

CBL Opportunities:

One CBL volunteer will be involved in updating the Coming Home Directory to include western Mass resources, as well as interacting with the clients of Dismas House. The Coming Home directory is a directory of services available to ex-offenders returning to, or currently living in the greater Worcester area. The directory is a resource that presents important information for ex-offenders about the services available in our community. This guide may also be useful for corrections practitioners, program staff, policymakers and the friends, families and volunteers that work with former offenders in the community.

The CBL Volunteer will also be required to attend at least one of the Dismas House community meals. This will be a chance for the volunteer to get to know the residents, as well as begin to build relationships with the Dismas House staff and the people Dismas House serves.

The volunteer will be expected to serve for one 2-hour block each week. The volunteer should reach out to Dave McMahon to set their volunteer schedule.

Pre-Service Requirements: None listed

Number of Volunteers Needed: 1

Hadwen Park Congregational Church – LGBT Asylum Support Task Force

<http://www.lgbtasylum.org/>

Staff Contact:

Rev. Judy Hanlon

info@lgbtasylum.org

Organization Description:

Established in 1914, Hadwen Park Congregational Church is a UCC congregation in Worcester. Hadwen Park is an open and affirming congregation and has several extensive ministries to support marginalized individuals and groups. Throughout the history of their denomination and church, Hadwen Park has sought to minister to the "least of these" - the hungry, thirsty, stranger, naked, sick and prisoner. Among their several current efforts is their Food Pantry, their involvement in the Interfaith Hospitality Network, ministry to LGBT asylum seekers, and other special projects.

CBL Opportunities:

Students are welcome to volunteer with Hadwen's LGBT Asylum Support Task Force. The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Asylum Task Force is a ministry of Hadwen Park Church and a community-based organization dedicated to supporting and empowering LGBTQI individuals who are

seeking asylum in the United States, regardless of their religious tradition. Individuals who file for asylum in the United States are not permitted to work until they are granted a work permit and social security number, a process which can take more than a year. During that time, the Task Force strives to provide housing and financial support. Student volunteers would take part in the work of the Task Force, attending various Task Force meetings, the monthly Hadwen meetings, traveling with Task Force folks to assist with fundraising, etc. Students interested in this CBL option should have flexible schedules and be extremely comfortable with not necessarily having specific tasks to complete. The volunteers meet as a group on the second Monday of each month at 6pm. CBL students should be available to attend these meetings in addition to having other times available to support. Sunday mornings are also a time students should generally have free, as students may be accompanying task force members to fundraise for the task force at other churches and congregations.

Pre-Service Requirements: Orientation Meeting

Volunteers Needed: 4

Refugee and Immigrant Assistance Center (RIAC)

<http://www.riacboston.org/>

340 Main St, Suite 802, Worcester, MA 01608

Staff Contact:

Ahmed Al Rubaye, Office Manager

aalrubaye@riacboston.org

508-756-7557/ 508-926-8969

Organization Description:

RIAC is a non-profit human service agency that provides comprehensive services to refugees and immigrants, including resettlement, counseling, cultural assimilation, job counseling, and social services. The Worcester Office has an employment program that introduces clients to industries with job opportunities in Worcester, helps them to develop job-related skills and language capabilities, and guides clients through the job search process.

CBL Opportunities:

The Refugee and Immigrant Assistance Center is looking for students to assist with the many services they offer to refugees through the U.S. Refugee Program (USRP). Depending on students' interest and availability, there are opportunities to providing ESL tutoring, teaching basic computer skills, engaging with refugee families on issues related to their orientation to life in the United States, assisting case managers as needed. Our student volunteers are encouraged to enrich our refugees by sharing any special talent such as art, music, or sewing. Some knowledge of French will be useful, but is not required. The Refugee and Immigrant Assistance Center is looking for students **who can commit to a regular 2-3 hour shift each week**. Hours are flexible, but should fall on a weekday between 10:00 and 4:00. The best times to volunteer are between 10a and 2p. If students can volunteer for a 4-hour shift every other week, that is preferred (this must be cleared by the student's professor, as well).

Pre-service requirements: Confidentiality agreement, Resume Submission, copy of photo ID

Volunteers needed: 5 -10

St. John's Parish

44 Temple Street, Worcester, MA

Staff Contact:

Fr. John Madden

frjohnmadden@gmail.com

774-243-6351

Organization Description:

St. John's Parish opened in Worcester, MA in 1846. It is a Roman Catholic church with a mission to serve the poor. Located in the heart of downtown Worcester, the church beckons all believers, especially immigrants and the poor to a place of solace and hope. St. John's embraces Southeast Asian, Spanish and African parishioners. For decades, St. John's' Food Pantry has provided sorely needed food to more than 1,000 people annually. Their Free Meal Program serves more than 1,000 people each month. St. John's rectory is a sober house, and St. John's provide meetings for those in Alcoholics Anonymous. St. John's also reaches out to those recently released from prison and offers spiritual guidance and moral support.

CBL Opportunities:

Students are welcome to assist with the meal program at St. John's Xavier Center (next door to the Parish). From 6a-10:30a Monday thru Friday, St. John's opens its doors to those who are food insecure. Students are invited to serve a 2 hour shift on any day during that time frame. On Fridays, the Xavier Center operates a Food Pantry from 11a-1p. Students are also welcome to volunteer during this time to assist with the stocking and distribution of food.

Pre-Service Requirements: Meeting with Fr. John Madden

Volunteers Needed: 4 per day

Training Resources of America Worcester

<http://www.tra-inc.org/tra-welcome>

2 Foster Street, Worcester Mass. 01606

Staff Contact:

Cynthia Vlasaty

cvlasaty@tra-inc.org

Organization Description:

Training Resources of America Incorporated (TRA) is a private, non-profit organization that has been providing quality education, employment and training services in Massachusetts since 1975.

TRA has made it possible for thousands of educationally and economically disadvantaged youth and adults to improve the quality of their lives. Our clients have been successful in:

- Increasing their basic reading, language and math levels
- Improving their English speaking/comprehension capabilities
- Obtaining a High School Equivalency Credential
- Learning new skills

- Developing self-confidence
- Finding and retaining gainful employment
- Improving opportunities for increased earnings and job advancement
- Becoming active and productive members of their communities.

In addition, hundreds of employers statewide have met their employment needs by hiring TRA-trained employees and utilizing TRA's customized workplace literacy services. Workforce Investment Boards and funding organizations have benefitted from TRA's ability to provide high quality workforce development services.

TRA's training programs are customized to be current with employment trends and responsive to the specific occupational needs of each particular area of the commonwealth. We bring the two ends of the labor market together by preparing people in need of marketable skills for actual jobs that are in demand.

Training Resources of America Incorporated (TRA)'s mission is to help:

- Educationally and economically disadvantaged youth and adults improve the quality of their lives by learning new skills, developing self-confidence and finding pathways to self-sufficiency;
- Employers strengthen and maintain a vitalized workforce by delivering better prepared, educated and work-ready employees;
- Workforce Investment Boards and Funding Organizations achieve their employment and training goals in an optimal time frame by providing diverse, customized and high quality workforce development services;
- Communities grow and prosper by preparing and challenging disenfranchised residents to become active and contributing members, by increasing tax rolls and economic stability, and by creating positive role models for community development.

CBL Opportunities:

Adult Education

TRA offers classes to adult learners who are trying to improve their reading, writing and math skills on **Tuesday and Thursday nights from 4:15 to 7:45**. Students from the college of Holy Cross could work with our adult learners in a one on one setting on their math, reading and writing skills. **Volunteers must serve 1.5 hours weekly at a minimum.**

ESOL Classes

TRA offers ESOL classes to adult learners who are trying to improve their reading, writing and math skills on **Monday and Wednesday nights from 4:30p to 7:45p**. Students from the college of Holy Cross could work with our adult learners in a one on one setting on their math, reading and writing skills.

Pre-Service Requirements: CORI, Volunteer Packet, Orientation (Sept 13, 14, or 15, after 11a)

Volunteers Needed: 12 (6 per evening)

Worcester Public Schools Adult Learning Center

[http://adult-](http://adult-education.worcesterschools.org/modules/groups/group_pages.phtml?gid=1509019&nid=120898)

[education.worcesterschools.org/modules/groups/group_pages.phtml?gid=1509019&nid=120898](http://adult-education.worcesterschools.org/modules/groups/group_pages.phtml?gid=1509019&nid=120898)**Staff**

Contact:

Jen Brunelle

Advisor

brunellejb@worc.k12.ma.us

508-799-3268

John McGovern

Director, Worcester Adult Learning Center

mcgovern@worc.k12.ma.us

508-799-3090

Organization Description:

Worcester Public Schools Adult Learning Center serves adults 16 years old or older, who left school during the traditional schooling years and now have a desire to resuming their education. Classes are offered on English proficiency, HiSET (formally the GED) preparation and basic literacy skills at essentially no cost. The Center also offers a Family Literacy course to encourage reading as a family, as that is an essential skill for children and parents to increase their English proficiency.

CBL Opportunities:

Literacy Program Volunteer – Assist teachers with classes; provide tutoring, homework help, and other educational support for the children of the adult learners. Family Literacy Classes run for 32 weeks, but volunteers can join at any point. They meet Tuesday and Thursday from 5:30p-8p at the Canterbury Street School. CBL students are expected to volunteer on a weekly basis for one full class (Tues or Thurs). It is helpful if CBL students volunteer in groups for this opportunity.

Tutor – The Adult Learning Center offers ESL courses and other educational opportunities for adult learners Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday mornings from 9a-11:30a and Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 5p-7:30p or 5:30p-8p. CBL students can serve as a tutor for the adult learners in math, writing, and reading, as well as assist in the computer labs. CBL students are expected to volunteer on a weekly basis for one of these class sessions.

Students must volunteer 2 hours weekly.

Additional Opportunities (class-specific): Marketing, data collection/analysis, digital literacy, projects for education majors

Pre-Service Requirements: WPS CORI Form, Orientation, Volunteer Agreement

Volunteers Needed: 10+