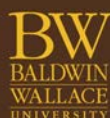


# SERVE. LEARN. LEAD.

2023 - 2024



2023-2024  
ANNUAL REPORT



David and Frances Brain  
**CENTER FOR  
COMMUNITY  
ENGAGEMENT**

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

- |                              |                              |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Year in Review            | 12. Social Change Summit     |
| 2. Thank You                 | 13. NASPA/Student PROfe      |
| 3. Community Partners        | 14. Special Events           |
| 4. Meet the Team             | 15. Brain Student Fellowship |
| 5. Alternative Funding Oppt. | 16. Student Resource Center  |
| 6. Student Leadership Teams  | 17. Student Emergency Grant  |
| 7. Alternative Breaks        | 18. SRC Programs             |
| 8. Alternative Breaks        | 19. Campus Plate             |
| 9. SERVE                     | 20. Service Learning Courses |
| 10. Weekly Programs          | 21. Jacket Philanthropy      |
| 11. Jackets Engaged          |                              |



# YEAR IN REVIEW

As we reflect on this year, the David & Frances Brain Center for Community Engagement is proud to celebrate a year of growth, innovation, and impact. From empowering students to lead meaningful service initiatives to deepening our partnerships with community organizations, July 2023 to May 2024 has been a period of transformation.

## Highlights of the Year

1. **Expanding Service Opportunities:** This year, over [X number] of students participated in community engagement programs, dedicating more than [Y number] hours of service locally, nationally, and globally. Through initiatives such as Alternative Spring Break, Super Saturday programs, and our weekly service opportunities, students have continued to make a difference in communities that need it most.
2. **Launch of New Initiatives:** The Social Change Summit, held in January, brought together students, faculty, and community partners to explore pathways to social justice and action. With over [Z number] attendees, the summit provided professional networking opportunities, inspiring keynote speakers, and impactful workshops. The event was a true testament to the power of collaboration in driving positive change.
3. **Supporting Student-Led Projects:** Through the support of mini-grants funded by the Allstate Foundation and the Center for Expanding Leadership & Opportunity (CELO), the Brain Center empowered [number] student-led initiatives. These projects addressed barriers on campus and in the Cleveland area, focused on marginalized populations, and created lasting community impact.
4. **Leadership Development:** The Brain Center continued to invest in student leadership, training student directors to manage programs, develop skills, and inspire peers. This year's training included workshops on professional tools like Microsoft Teams and Outlook, as well as strategies for effective tabling, classroom engagement, and event planning.
5. **Deepening Community Partnerships:** Our collaborations with local and national organizations have grown stronger, enriching both student experiences and community outcomes. The Brain Center's partnerships with the Ghana Anti-Corruption Coalition and Ghana Integrity Initiative exemplify our global reach, while our local initiatives continue to strengthen our ties to the Cleveland area.

## Looking Ahead

As we enter the next academic year, we remain committed to our mission of fostering civic engagement, service learning, and leadership. Upcoming initiatives include enhanced student opportunities for professional growth, expanded service projects, and the next Social Change Summit, which promises to be even more impactful.

We extend our deepest gratitude to the students, faculty, staff, and community partners who make our work possible. Together, we are building a brighter future, one act of service at a time.

Warm regards,

The David & Frances Brain Center for Community Engagement  
Baldwin Wallace University

# THANK YOU



The Brain Center would like to recognize all of the individuals who have collaborated with and supported us in the 23–24 academic year. Community Engagement is rooted in partnership and relationships, and without the contributions of these individuals our work would not have been possible.

To Baldwin Wallace Board of Trustees Chair, **Agnes Dover** and her husband, **Jack Dover**, for their on-going support of Brain Center programs, including establishing the Dover Fund which helped to expand efforts to foster civility, empathy and community building dialogue on campus in the upcoming year. We were able to create our own Dinner & a Fight, thank you both!

To Baldwin Wallace Board of Trustees Member, **Susan Bixler**, for making inspirational events for our students, colleagues, and community – and continuing to serve as a fantastic partner and host for our annual Civil Rights Alternative Break trip to Atlanta. Thank you for continuing to make these transformational experiences possible.

To **Dr. Brian Krupp**, for his never-ending trouble-shooting, innovating and developing for the Campus Plate app and support of the student team.

To **CASA**, **Student Government**, and the **Community Research Institute**, for their continued support of our Brain Fellowship program .

To **Suzanne Zilber**, for her continued support of the Jacket Philanthropy Program.

To **Chuck Fairchild**, **Jeannie Vasanelli**, **Renee Plataniotis**, and the entire **Dining Services** team, for their endless support for Student Resource Center programs, such as Swipe out Hunger and Campus Plate.

To our amazing alumni and campus partners, for your unwavering support of the Brain Center. We could not have done any of this without you.

## Special thank you to the Brain Family



# COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Major thank you to our non-profit partners who served as co-educators, connectors, and mentors for BW students through Weekly Programs, Alternative Breaks, Social Change Summit, Service Learning courses, and more. We appreciate you and the tremendous work that you and your organizations do!

**Advantage Cleveland  
Applewood  
Art House  
Asia Inc.  
Bellefaire  
Berea Community Outreach  
Berea Police Department  
Chair-ity  
CityMusic  
Cleveland Food Bank  
Cogswell Hall  
Collaborative to End Human  
Trafficking  
Comite de Mexicano  
Esperanza  
Horizon Education Center  
Hunger Network  
Journey Center for Safety and Healing  
LatinUs Theatre  
Laura's Home  
Malachi Center**

**Norma Herr Women's Center  
Old Brooklyn Community Development  
Organic Connects  
PALS for Healing  
Pregnant with Possibilities  
Recovery Resources  
Rid-All Green Partnership  
Rollin BuckeyeZ  
Scranton Road Ministries  
Seeds of Literacy  
Selma Center for Nonviolence, Truth  
and Reconciliation  
The Center for Families and Children  
The Centers  
UnBail  
US Together  
Vel's Oasis  
West Side Catholic Center  
West Side Community House  
Western Reserve Historical Society  
Women's Recovery Center**



THANK  
YOU

**BIG THANK YOU TO OUR 2023–2024 LHE INTERN!**



**AVERY  
CALLOWAY**

**We will miss you!**



**LHE INTERN**

**TERRANCE DUFFY**



**Coordinator, Student  
Resource Center**

**JULIA STEIN**

**Welcome to our  
2024–2025 TEAM**



**Marsita Ferguson  
Director**

**MEET THE TEAM**



# Exploration into New Funding Opportunities

The David & Frances Brain Center for Community Engagement is actively expanding its impact by seeking new funding opportunities through grants and sponsorships. These efforts aim to support innovative programs, enhance student leadership development, and strengthen community partnerships. By diversifying its funding sources, the Brain Center continues to empower experiential learning and service opportunities locally, nationally, and globally.

## Applied and Awarded

Fenn Fund Grant - Cleveland Foundation \$104,000

Fair Elections Grant - Campus Vote Now \$3000

Allstate Foundation - \$10,000

## Applied and Not Funded

Cracker Barrel - \$25,000

Suder Foundatoin - \$50,000



## Future Plans

Fenn Fund Grant - Cleveland Foundation \$120,000

State of Ohio Appropriations - \$1,000,000

State of Ohio Title 1 - \$50,000

Allstate Foundation - \$50,000

First Energy - \$50,000

Technology Grant

# STUDENT LEADERSHIP TEAMS

For over 30 years the Brain Center for Community Engagement has continued to grow our student-centered leadership model. All programs are designed and led by our team of student directors and student leaders who commit to a 1-year leadership role, monthly trainings and weekly team meetings. Thank you to all of our student leaders for your energy, passion and ideas!





# ALTERNATIVE BREAKS

## 2023-2024 AB TRIPS

SEMESTER	TITLE OF TRIP	TRIP LEADER	LOCATION	PARTNER(S)
FALL BREAK	Out of the Darkness	Lily Polen (Morgan's Message -student org)	Cleveland, OH	American Foundation for Suicide Prevention - Suicide Prevention and Awareness Walk
WINTER BREAK	Youth & Trauma	Jenna (WISE Center Team)	Chicago, IL	Rice Center for Families and Children
SPRING BREAK	Becoming an Agent of Change: a Student Voter Campaign for our Future	Hannah Dodson	Washington, D.C	NPR League of Voter Women's Senator Sherrod Brown
SUMMER BREAK	Public Health	Manav Patel Mehraeel Saleh	Boston, MA	Cambridge Water Department

# ALTERNATIVE BREAKS

*Everyone can be  
great because  
everyone can serve.*

- Martin Luther King, Jr.



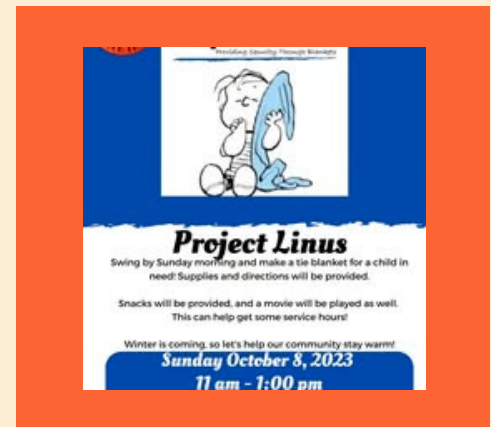


# SERVE

The SERVE team continued to host monthly service events to engage the campus and surrounding community. Many new members were added to the team this year, and with that came new and innovative ideas to best serve the Berea community. Traditional events such as the Holiday Gift Drive, MLK Day of Learning, Community Leaf Raking, and Leave it Behind saw more success and participation.

The SERVE team collaborated with many new and established community partners, for the benefit of the following community organizations:

- West Side Catholic Center
- Cleveland Food Bank
- Berea Community
- Empowered Sports
- Cuyahoga County Juvenile Court
- Laura's Home
- BW's Military and Veteran's Center



# JACKETS ENGAGED



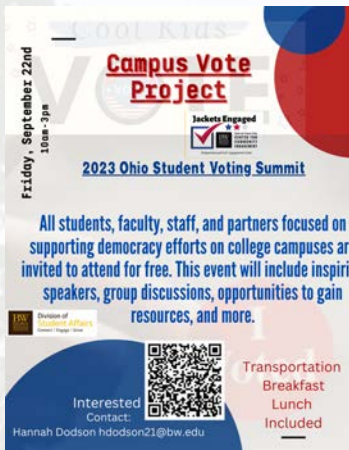
*Somewhere inside of all of us is the power to change the world.*

- Roald Dahl

Jackets Engaged, the Brain Center's student-led, nonpartisan political engagement organization, continues to work to increase BW students' engagement in elections & politics, and understanding of how they affect our community.

## Engaging Civic Dialogue Event

The Jackets Engaged Team partnered with Dr. Ward to learn, discuss, and vote on alternative forms of voting in the US.



## Fair Elections Conference

## Propel Conference

BW was awarded 6 student admissions to Senator Sherrod Brown's Collegiate forum dedicated to increasing student participation in civic leadership.





# SOCIAL CHANGE SUMMIT

This is a FREE, conference-style event taking place in the spirit of MLK's legacy surrounding social justice and working for positive social change. This program was open to all students and is designed to help students move from feelings of anxiety, apathy, and angst with current events into ACTION for social justice and positive social change.



## 2024 Workshop Presenters

■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■

Career Readiness



Dr. Eric Evans,  
Senior Career Advisor

V-A-R:  
An everyday tool  
for everyday connection

active minds

Anti-Trans Policy  
in the  
United States



## 2024 - Student Leadership Panel



# FIRST GEN + BRAIN CENTER

## 2024 First Gen Celebration

Here's a refined version of the content with clearer structure and enhanced readability:

First Gen + Brain Center

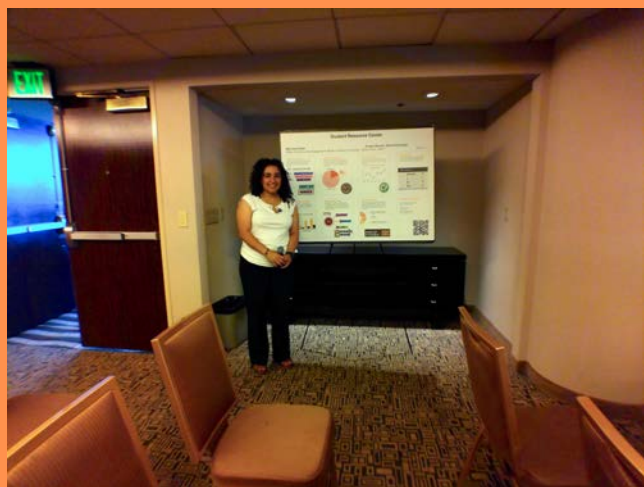
Brain Center Review | 2024 First Gen Celebration

2024 was an incredible year for celebrating Baldwin Wallace University's first-generation student population! A special THANK YOU goes out to board member Rich Desich and the entire Desich family for their generous support of the Brain Center for Community Engagement.

Thanks to their contributions, we were able to award 16 scholarships to students engaging in meaningful service work. This year, we were thrilled that Mr. Desich dedicated 4 of those scholarships specifically for First Gen students!

(Pictured: Mia Basit-Hightower, one of the inaugural First Gen scholarship recipients.)

Let me know if you'd like further edits!



**CENTER FOR  
FIRST-GENERATION  
STUDENT SUCCESS**



## Professional Development

Senior, Mehraeel Saleh presenting on the Student Resource Center NASPA Student Success Conference



# SPECIAL EVENTS

Creating a sense of belonging is at the core of the Brain Center. This past year we created and added to events dedicated to creating space, fellowship, and recognition to women and students, staff and faculty of color.

Thank you to each of our guests, speakers and collaborating partners!

## WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH



## COMMUNITY PARTNER APPRECIATION BREAKFAST



# BRAIN STUDENT FELLOWSHIP

**Program Mission: BW student leaders addressing today's most complex and challenging social issues, while working to educate and empower the community to take action.**

## 23-24 Fellows + Social Change Projects

Noah Argawalla  
Madeline Clas  
Rebecca Del Rio  
Sarah Griffin  
Alyson Hand  
Rhiannon Hunter  
Layan Jaber  
Noah Mowery  
Naqa Thaher  
Evelyn Vogel

**BREAKING CHAINS: HEALING GENERATIONAL TRAUMA WORKSHOP**

**JOIN OUR WORKSHOP**  
A Generational Trauma Informational Session

**Workshop Highlights:**

- Group Activities
- Key Speakers
- Understanding Generational Trauma
- Healing Strategies & Coping Mechanisms
- Community Support and Resources

**Who Should Attend:**

- Student Leaders
- Faculty/staff members
- Individuals Seeking Insight on Generational Trauma
- Supportive Friends and Family

**Scan the QR Code to Register**

**Speakers, Activities & Games**

**Sand Stone 3**

**March 14th 3:30-5 PM**

**Chance to win free giftcards!**

**Free food**

Don't miss this opportunity to learn more!  
For more information and registration  
Contact us  
Sarah Griffin: sgriffin21@bw.edu  
Maddy Clas: mclas22@bw.edu

**Division of Student Affairs**  
Counseling & Support Center

**BW STUDENT CENTER FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

Program partners included:

EDWINS

NEO  
LaunchNET

POWERED BY BURTON D. MORGAN FOUNDATION



**BW Brain Center**

**FINANCIAL WORKSHOP**  
Learn how to better your financial habits!

**find your Center**

**21 March 5-6:30 pm**

**SANDSTONE 3 IN THE UNION BASEMENT**

Use the QR code below to sign up!

**Door Prizes and Raffle Baskets**  
**Free Food**

Contact Rebecca Del Rio at rdelrio22@bw.edu

**WHERE MODESTY MEETS MEDICINE**

**THURSDAY | 29 FEB | 5:30-7:00 PM**

Discussion on the gap between wearing hijab and working in healthcare, reflections, free food, raffle, prizes, and activities!  
Everyone's welcome!!!

Brain Center Review | 14



# STUDENT RESOURCE CENTER

Created to meet the needs of BW students, the BW Student Resource Center provides 1:1 support, resources, and referrals to current BW students to ensure all students are able to persist and succeed in their academic endeavors. The Student Resource Center's robust programs address food and housing insecurity and equitable resource accessibility:



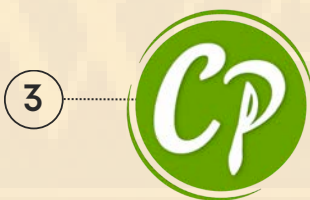
1 STUDENT AMBASSADORS



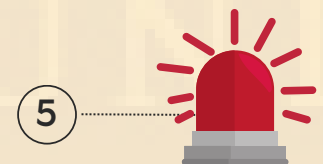
2 CAMPUS CUPBOARD



4 SWIPE OUT HUNGER



3 CAMPUS PLATE



5 EMERGENCY GRANT FUND

# Student Resource Center

Mehraeel Saleh

Office of Community Engagement, Baldwin Wallace University

Project Mentor: Alaina Giovengo

Berea, Ohio 44017

Project #: 2

## Swipe Out Hunger

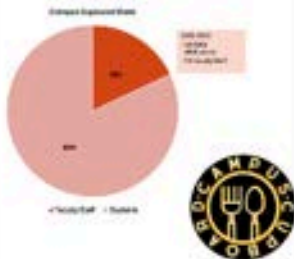
Swipe Out Hunger is a student-led nonprofit addressing hunger among college students. BW students can donate their good meals, which will be provided to other students. Most requests are fulfilled at the BW Union dining hall.

SRC - Swipe Out Hunger



## Campus Cupboard

The Campus Cupboard is a pantry designed to meet the immediate needs of students by providing food items and basic household necessities. The Campus Cupboard is located near the Student Union and Office. Students can schedule a time to visit the cupboard through our intake form.



## Campus Plate

In partnership with the BW Computer Science Department, Campus Plate is a computer app that allows BW students to request food items and schedule a time to visit the cupboard through our intake form.



## Survival Kits

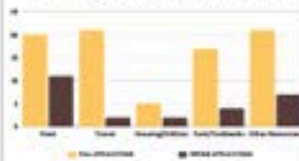
Survival kits are distributed via the Campus Cupboard during every major break. These kits include various grocery items to help students get through the break without worrying about access to food resources.



## Emergency Grant Fund

The Emergency Grant Fund is intended to support students facing short-term emergency financial hardships that may prevent them from continuing in their academic program. Additionally, the fund supports students in other areas of need.

EMERGENCY GRANTS - 71 APPLICATIONS



## Beyond BW Fund

The Beyond BW Fund (BBF) is designed to provide financial support to students who are unable to afford the program beyond their undergraduate degree. This includes graduate school tuition, research, and professional development and business, professional society membership, and more.



## Pop-Up Pantries

Pop-Up Pantries is a program designed to quickly and efficiently provide emergency food to food-insecure students in student and the BW community on the go. Each month, it takes place around different locations across campus to reach diverse student populations and meet their needs.



## Contact Information

Email: [studentresource@bw.edu](mailto:studentresource@bw.edu)  
Phone: (440) 676-1074  
Manda Ferguson  
The Director  
Email: [mferguson@bw.edu](mailto:mferguson@bw.edu)  
Phone: (440) 626-3729



## STUDENT EMERGENCY GRANT FUND

In 2023-2024, the Student Emergency Grant Fund received 123 requests, which is a small decrease from the year prior.





# SRC AMBASSADORS

The SRC Ambassadors was a new initiative created this year to aid in advocacy and outreach to the BW student body. Student leaders were invited to represent the SRC in course presentations, fair tabling, pantry assistance, recruitment efforts, and connecting with other campus partners. The SRC Ambassadors help reduce the stigma surrounding requesting assistance to succeed in college. Currently, there are 4 SRC Ambassadors that are also Brain Center leaders for other organizations.

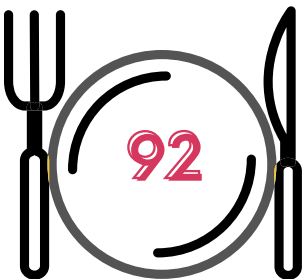


# CAMPUS CUPBOARD

Campus Cupboard is also new this year! The campus pantry is designed to meet the immediate needs of students by providing food items and basic household necessities. Students were able to schedule a time to visit the Campus Cupboard and collect items they needed free of charge. The SRC also hosted pop-up pantries and conducted a passive survey to gauge student needs. Upgrades to the space are in the plan for the upcoming year.

# SWIPE OUT HUNGER

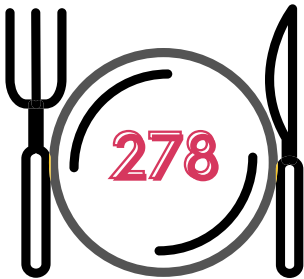
This year, our Swipe Out Hunger (SOH) team has seen a few changes in leadership, as well as some additions in membership. Many of the recipients of swipes were senior students who lived off-campus. Additionally, many of the recipients were able to receive weekly meal swipes due to the generosity of the entire student body who donated their guest meal swipes. Students who advocate for SOH worked all year with Dining Services and Campus Access Services to offer more meal swipe options for students.



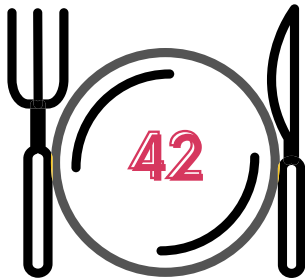
NUMBER OF SWIPE RECIPIENTS



NUMBER OF SWIPES DISTRIBUTED TO STUDENTS



NUMBER OF SWIPES DONATED BY STUDENTS



NUMBER OF STUDENT DONORS



We officially launched Campus Plate in October of 2021 and saw immediate success. That success has only increased in its second year of operation: 2022-2023. Campus Plate has seven (7) Food Stops: Residence Life (Heritage Hall), Recreation Center, Black Cultural Center, Veteran's Center, Student Resource Center, Ritter Library and Wilker Hall. Each Food Stop was operated by a student Food Stop Manager; Managers were in charge of monitoring the stops during open hours to keep track of the food that was picked up and updating the app accordingly.

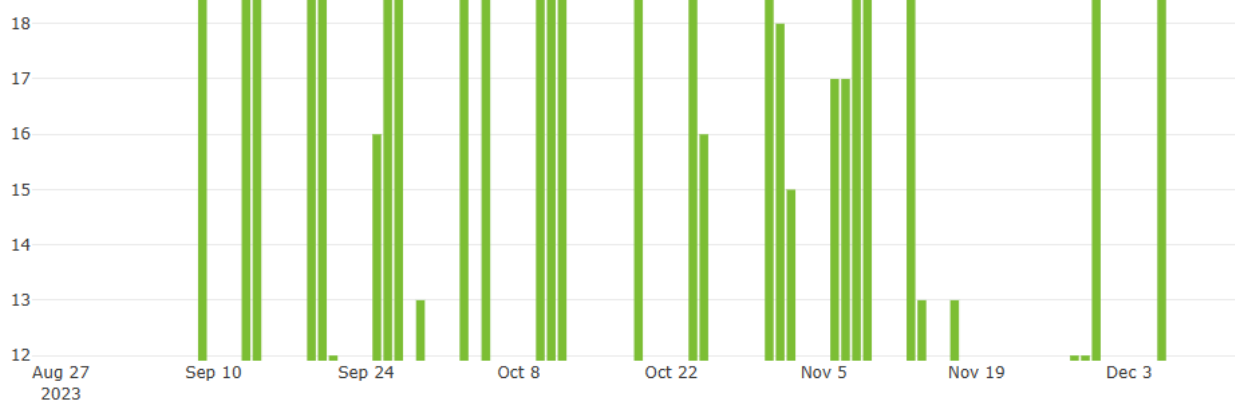
### UPCOMING UPDATES

In the coming academic year, we plan to expand Campus Plate to at least two more Food Stop locations in North Campus, continue to improve the Campus Plate app and develop a website landing page, improve our promotional and educational efforts on social media, and increase the efficiency of the food distribution and recovery process.

## New Location Established: Ritter Library!

### FOOD RECOVERED FALL 2023

Items Recovered By Day





# SERVICE LEARNING COURSES

FALL 2023 .....

BIO-313S: ECOLOGY

ENG-309SX: GRANT PROPOSAL  
WRITING

PHL-273X: ENVIRONMENTAL  
ETHICS

PHT - 450: COMMUNITY HEALTH  
ASSESSMENT

SPN 250: TECH SPAN  
TRANSLATION

ENG-309SX: GRANT PROPOSAL  
WRITING

ENV-464S: ENVIRONMENTAL  
SCIENCE CAPSTONE

PSY 269S: SERVICE LEARNING  
COLLABORATIVE

PHT 375SX:  
HEALTH & SOCIAL JUSTICE

PSY 269S: SERVICE LEARNING  
COLLABORATIVE

PRACTICUM IN PSYCHOLOGY

PRACTICUM IN LHE

SPRING 2024 .....

# JACKET PHILANTHROPY PROGRAM

The Jacket Philanthropy Program is an academic service-learning program aimed at nurturing a new generation of philanthropists through grantmaking and community service.

Students enrolled in a Jacket Philanthropy Program course provide direct service to local non-profits and award grant funding to organizations meeting immediate needs within the community.

## JPP reaches over \$300K in micro grants

## \$42,157.80 – 2023-2024

THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS 2023-24  
JACKET PHILANTHROPY PROGRAM FUNDERS:

**Zilber Family Foundation,**  
a supporting foundation of the Jewish Federation of Cleveland  
**The George W. Codrington Charitable Foundation**  
**Harry K. and Emma R. Fox Charitable Foundation**  
**David & Frances Brain Center for Community Engagement**





**TOGETHER ALL  
THINGS ARE  
POSSIBLE.**

CESAR CHAVEZ

