



2016
Volunteer Report
Portage County

By

Patty Dreier
Portage County Executive
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2016 VOLUNTEER SUMMARY

- 1492 volunteers served in 15 different Portage County Departments in 2016 and gave nearly 85,000 hours of service.
- Departments include Library, District Attorney's (DA's) Office, Facilities, Justice Programs, Parks, Health Care Center, Planning & Zoning, Health and Human Services (HHS), Justice Programs, Highway, Sheriff's Office, Family Court Commissioner, UW-Extension, Human Resources (HR), and Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC).
- The value of the volunteer time contributed to Portage County in 2016 was over \$2 million! This calculation uses the Independent Sector (<http://independentsector.org>) figures related to the value of a volunteer hour. (\$23.56 in 2015; 2016 numbers were not yet updated as of 4/19/17.)
- Unpaid interns are identified as volunteers under Portage County Ordinance 3.17.

HIGHLIGHT ON INTERNS AS VOLUNTEERS FOR PORTAGE COUNTY IN 2016

- Interns are students at the technical college or university who are unpaid and earn credit for projects or practicums as they volunteer for service. Both undergraduate and graduate interns volunteer with Portage County. Some are 30 – 50 hour project oriented internships and others are internships requiring 100 – 400 hours of service. The average semester internship requires about 200 hours of volunteer service. Internships are coordinated between the student and their host educational institution and Portage County to ensure we are understanding the related course requirements and providing appropriate student oversight.
- In 2016, Portage County had interns placed in 7 Departments:
 1. DA's Office—2 interns from UWSP with 200 hours of service each helping on tracking offender data, victim witness support, research and more. (Interns in this department often have an interest in going to law school someday.)
 2. Justice Programs—1 intern from UWSP Department of Sociology and Social Work helping to research emerging best practices and data collection and analysis.

3. Health Care Center—2 interns from UWSP focused in areas of health and speech pathology and 2 from Mid-State Technical College in health.
 4. HR—2 interns from UWSP Health Promotion and Human Development supporting our wellness program for County employees.
 5. ADRC—12 interns, serving in the Adult Day Center, nutrition programs, transportation and senior center services, and caregiver support services.
 6. UW-Extension—2 interns in Family Living and FoodWise from UWSP.
 7. HHS—25 interns focusing on such program areas as public health, child protective services, special needs, WIC, and juvenile justice with graduate and undergraduate student interns coming from UWSP, Green Bay, LaCrosse, Oshkosh, and Lakeland.
- Most interns help us serve our external clients, but I would also like to highlight our HR Wellness Interns who help Portage County with our own employee wellness program. Elliot Thiem and Kristyn Mattson are our two interns this semester, each UWSP senior giving 400 hours of service as part of this capstone before graduation. For every dollar invested in workplace wellness, the research says there is about a \$5 return on investment. These two interns have done a great job. They presented to our Foster Grandparents about wellness, led our employees in an 8 week fitness challenge to get the recommended 150 minutes of exercise each week which attracted 79 employees including me to sign up. Together, we exercised 99,979 minutes or about 1666 hours! The interns held lunch and learns, created wellness newsletters for us, created a wellness champion program and conducted other outreach to departments.
 - I would like to recognize all of our 2016 interns—all 48 of them! While we have helped our interns spread their wings in their own educational endeavors, they have given us a chance to also spread our wings as we continue to learn from them and through them.
 - I would also like to recognize some of the local faculty and academic staff members who made our 2016 internship programs possible:
 - UW-Stevens Point
 - Dr. Jessica Bowers
 - Dr. Jodi Olmsted
 - Dr. David Barry
 - Dr. Jeana Magyar-Moe

- Dr. Susan Turgeson
- Dr. Tom Wetter
- Dr. Jasia Steinmetz
- Dr. Sue Bailey
- Dr. John Blakeman
- Dr. Ed Miller
- Mid-State Technical College
 - Deb Clark
 - Shirley Jackson
 - Carrie Englebright

THANK YOU

Let us recognize all of the 1492 volunteers who served Portage County last year! Thanks to all of them for giving Portage County wind beneath our wings to fly even higher in service to the citizens of our community.