What is DCSP?

The Dietetic Community Service Program is a student directed community service program whose purpose is to match WMU dietetic students to local area mentors. It allows students to work alongside professionals in the dietetics field while getting volunteer experience they need for their internship application. At the same time, it allows students to benefit the community. If you are interested in being matched up with a mentor and gaining hands on volunteer experience in the dietetics field, please print and fill out an application found on our website: http://www.wmich.edu/consumer/dietetics/dcsp/documents.htm. A list of our mentors and sites is located on the back side of our newsletter. Please understand that placing you where you prefer is not always possible. Applications can be turned in to Dr. Soliman in 3222 Kohrman Hall. You can also find student evaluation forms on our website. If you are volunteering, please make sure that your mentor completes this at the end of your volunteering service. This form should also be returned to Dr. Soliman. We are placing mentors on a first come first serve basis, so apply soon!

Volunteer Opportunities at WMU

If you are unable to volunteer for an entire semester or year but still want to get involved and gain hands on experience working with dietitians in our community there are still plenty of volunteer opportunities that occur throughout the year. Here is one such opportunity coming up.

- Woods Lake Elementary School is having a health walk on Thursday November 3. This is an all day event to bring awareness to both students and teachers on the importance of physical activity and healthy eating. Volunteers would be involved with demonstrating and coaching kids through various physical activity drills. If you would like to volunteer or would like more information you can contact Leatta Byrd at 269-384-8063. You can also email her using byrdle@anr.msu.edu.

Other opportunities that have been offered in past years that could occur again this year are:
- Helping with programming and booths on WMU’s campus during Eating Disorder Awareness week.
- Helping out at health fair booths.
- Other opportunities in the community through MSU Extension. Emails will be sent out to students when volunteers are needed for these events including the contact information of who to approach to get involved.

DCSP COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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Dietetics Students Volunteer at Ultimate Family Reunion

On August 6, the dietetics department participated in Kalamazoo’s Fourth Annual Ultimate Family Reunion. The event is put on by Mothers of Hope, a non-profit community based organization located in Kalamazoo MI. “Women united to uplift families and empower leadership in the community.” The event allowed families to interact with community based organizations that offer services to assist them. The dietetic volunteer’s role in the event was to run a booth with various activities and nutrition information. Students shared statistics on nutrition related disease prevalence in Kalamazoo County and provided basic nutritional educational materials for adults and children. Materials shared information on tips for affordable healthy snack ideas and healthy cooking recipes for families on a tight budget. This volunteer opportunity allowed students to partner with organizations in the community and to interact with families promoting health, wellness, and education. It also allowed them to act as a spokesperson for the Dietetic program and WMU as a whole. Thank you students who volunteered for this event!

Thank You Mentors

We would like to thank our mentors who make DCSP possible.

- Joyce Ross, Rebecca Heinhold, and Patty Huxama (Borgess Hospital)
- Diane Delhey (Bronson Hospital Nutrition Services)
- Valerie Keich (Alamo Nursing Home)
- Cheryl Tenenbaum (Borgess Hospital, Diabetes Education)
- Gretchen Kauth (WMU-Sindecuse Health Center)
- Kris Granaderos (Heartland Health Care Center)
- Leatta Byrd (MSU Extension)

- Laura Winther (Loaves and Fishes)
- Sarah Clark (Sturgis Hospital)
- Jeff Neverske (Senior Services)
- Krystal Manard (Tendercare Nursing Home)
- Pamela Knutsen (Upjohn Nursing Home)
- Sandy Haines, Andy Mitche, and Anita (The Fountains at Bronson)
- Laurie Sutton (Tendercare)
- Marga Keizer and Tammy Wood (Renal Care Group)
- Heather Stanley-Sutton and Carol Maye (VA Hospital)
- Laura Lauinger (Metron Integrated Health Services)
- Jonathan Morgan and Keely Csom (Three Rivers Area Hospital)
- Katie Vanders Sutton and Barb Fish (Heritage Community of Kalamazoo)
- Lori Yelton (West Michigan Cancer Center)

Mentors, we are very grateful for the opportunity that you provide us to be able to have hands on experiences in our desired fields. The DCSP is always looking to grow in the number of mentors we have and expand on the experiences we can offer to students. If you, or anyone you know, are interested in becoming a mentor for DCSP please feel free to contact us.