



**Metropolitan Volunteer Program  
Fiscal Year 2019**

**Student Fees Advisory Committee  
Program Questionnaire**

*1. Please provide a one-page executive summary of your questionnaire responses. This summary should include, in brief terms: your unit's mission, how you accomplish your unit's mission, and a justification of your unit's student fee allocation in terms of benefits for students.*

**Our Mission:**

The mission of the University of Houston Metropolitan Volunteer Program (MVP) is to create and provide service opportunities for students by collaborating with campus and community partners. Through this, we aim to develop responsible citizens with a lifelong commitment to service while creating sustainable change on our campus and in our community.

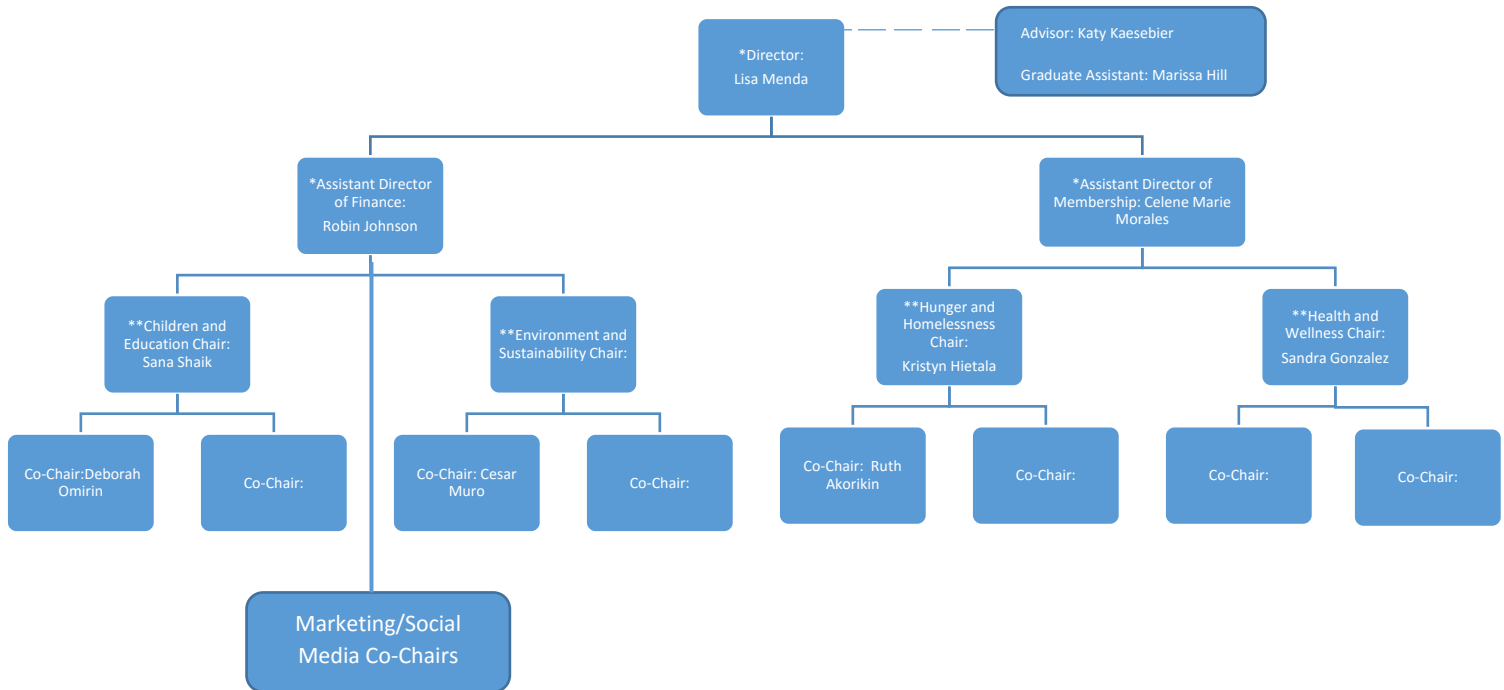
**Accomplishing our Mission:**

The Metropolitan Volunteer Program accomplishes our mission by providing the diverse student population of the University of Houston with unique service and awareness opportunities within the following social issue areas: Children & Education, Environment & Sustainability, Health & Wellness, and Hunger & Homelessness. A more specific description of each of the committees can be found under the current structure in section 2 of this report. By having chairs devoted to the social issues that MVP focuses on, we are able to provide students with events that align with their specific interests, educate students on the social issues that the Houston community faces, and create more meaningful conversations during reflections. For example, instead of connecting Pre Med students to tutoring, we now connect them with Hospice Homes, Hospitals, and other medical related events. Similarly, when groups request our assistance for volunteer/service events, we have a wider range of partnerships for specific service areas. MVP continues to hold service as our core value and we aim to ensure that students have access to make a tangible and sustainable impact within their campus and local communities.

**Justification:**

The Metropolitan Volunteer Program offers students, staff, and faculty volunteer opportunities high in both quality and quantity. Over the last year MVP has increased the number of events offered from 87 events in FY15 to 97 in FY16 to a total of 130 service and awareness events in FY17. MVP is able to offer this number of events due to an expanding network with both on and off campus partners. Volunteers receive exclusive t-shirts, free beverages and food at select events, and an engaging opportunity to serve and raise awareness in one of the service areas MVP provides.

2. Provide an organization chart of your unit. Large units may need to have an overview chart and then more specific charts for each program. Where you have multiple staff in the same position (e.g. counselor, advisor, etc.), note this on your chart. Student employees should be cited on the chart and identified as students.



### **\*Executive:**

**Director-** Sets the direction and vision for the organization. Oversees MVP events and organizational processes, as well as maintains relations with various on campus departments and committees. Responsible for planning, marketing, and implementing signature events such as Rock the Campus, Rock the Block, and Service Nights.

**Assistant Director of Finance-** Oversees the financial aspects of MVP including budgets, purchases, promotional items, and membership items. This Assistant Director provides support for the Children & Education Committee and the Environment & Sustainability Committee. Responsible for opening/marketing events such as Weeks of Welcome Events, Commuter Kick Off, and any other collaborative events where MVP can be promoted.

**Assistant Director of Membership-** Oversees the membership development of MVP including tracking service hours, event sign in sheets, reservations, and assists the Director in board development. This Assistant Director provides support for the Health & Wellness Committee and the Hunger & Homelessness Committee. Responsible for the biannual Volunteer Fairs, a Membership Social each semester, and the end of the year banquet.

### **\*\*Chairs:**

Each committee chair is responsible for developing partnerships within their respective social issues, event planning, marketing, and coordinating awareness and educational events such as workshops, guest speakers, or documentaries.

**Children & Education Chair-** This chair is responsible for providing volunteer opportunities and coordinating awareness related events focused on children and education. These include service projects with community partners such as Generation One, Houston Public Library, and Children's Festivals.

**Environment & Sustainability Chair-** This chair is responsible for providing volunteer opportunities and coordinating awareness related events focused on the environment and sustainability. These include service projects with community partners such as Community Garden, Houston Humane Society, and Hermann Park.

**Health & Wellness Chair-** This chair is responsible for providing volunteer opportunities and coordinating awareness related events focused on health and wellness. These include service projects with community partners such as Bering Omega, Ronald McDonald, and Health Fairs.

**Hunger & Homelessness Chair-** This chair is responsible for providing volunteer opportunities and coordinating awareness related events focused on hunger and homelessness. These include service projects with community partners such as The Beacon, Houston Food Bank, and Meals on Wheels.

### **Co Chairs:**

**Co-Chairs (10)-** There are two co-chairs per committee and two marketing/social media co-chair that report to the Assistant Director of Finance. These students are responsible for assisting in the coordination of volunteer events, leading service events and reflections, and assisting with tracking service hours and other miscellaneous tasks that support the success of MVP.

3. *List your unit's strategic initiatives and action steps identified for the 2016-2017 academic year and cite the specific Division of Student Affairs and Enrollment Services (DSAES) Strategic Initiatives and University of Houston Strategic Goals to which they relate (links below). Please comment on your success in achieving these strategic initiatives/action steps. If a strategic initiative/action step changed during the year, please note this and explain. Also, list any new strategic initiatives/action steps, the rationale for the addition, and comment on your success in achieving these items.*

*DSAES Plan:* ([http://www.uh.edu/dsaes/about/strategic\\_plan.html](http://www.uh.edu/dsaes/about/strategic_plan.html))

*UH Goals:* (<http://www.uh.edu/president/vision-priorities/>)

1. Increase volunteer attendance at meetings and service events

**Action Steps 2016-2017:**

- Continue to offer a high number of diverse service opportunities.  
**Status: Achieved/Ongoing.** During FY17 we offered 112 diverse service opportunities, and an additional 20 educational and awareness events. We increased the number of service opportunities, and varied the event times, to allow more students the opportunity to serve. We have seen an increase in volunteer attendance over the last year, and plan to continue this effort in the upcoming years.
- Utilize the membership form survey to plan events when students are most available and in service areas they are interested in.  
**Status: Achieved.** We added a question on our membership form to identify days and times when students are most available, and the service areas they are interested in. Through this information, we have been able to schedule events more frequently on Friday and Saturday mornings with higher turnout rates.
- Continue to explore new opportunities in the Houston community and add at least one new nonprofit partnership each semester.  
**Status: Achieved.**  
 By regularly conducting outreach to new community partners we have been able to add six new nonprofit partnerships, exceeding our goal of one new partner per semester. With new partnerships, we are able to provide volunteers with a wider array of service options, serving a greater portion of the student body. We plan to continue being proactive and develop more new partnerships, while sustaining our current ones.
- Actively use the event evaluation procedure to determine causes of low attendance at particular events.  
**Status: Changed.**

The event evaluation was distributed only to students who attended the events, therefore making this goal difficult to accomplish.

- Schedule meetings on varying dates to better serve a larger population of students.

**Status: Achieved/Ongoing.**

We tried scheduling our general meetings at varying times to better serve a larger population of students, but it proved to be unsuccessful as our turnout was actually lower than our regularly scheduled meetings. Since then we have reverted back to a consistent meeting time to maintain our attendance and meet the needs of our members.

- Continue to advertise meetings and events through tabling in the days preceding the events.

**Status: Achieved.**

We have continued to advertise meetings and events through tabling in the days preceding the events.

DSA Strategic Initiative #1: Create new opportunities for student success through learning, engagement and discovery.

Create a greater variety of student involvement initiatives that focus on the development of a vibrant campus life, including expanded evening and weekend programs

2. Improve MVP's service learning, reflection, and awareness aspects.

*Achieved*

- Have a clear and written procedure for leading service reflection.

**Status: Achieved.**

In order to have a clear procedure for leading post-service project reflections, we have set a precise standard for our site leaders to follow. This allows us to ensure that meaningful reflections are being held at the end of every event.

- Train student leaders in leading reflection prior to the start of the semester.

**Status: Achieved.**

To properly train student leaders in leading reflections, the advisor and graduate assistant facilitate a presentation on best practices for leading reflections. This training takes place twice a year during retreats at the beginning of each semester.

- Include service reflection in event procedures.

**Status: Achieved.**

We have instituted an expectation to include reflection in our event procedures, and provide materials to support this in our event briefing materials provided to our site leaders.

- Continue to host MVP Theme Weeks with educational components.

**Status: Achieved.**

To supplement our service projects and reinforce the value of learning about social issues, we have added educational components to each theme week. These have been in the forms of documentary screenings, workshops, or hands on projects.

DSA Strategic Initiative #1: Create new opportunities for student success through learning, engagement and discovery.

Develop new service learning initiatives that create opportunities for self-discovery and application of academic disciplines for students.

3. Continue to improve MVP's brand recognition on campus.

- Increase number of likes and followers on social media and make social media posts more interactive.

**Status: Achieved.**

Through interactive initiatives and providing consistent content on our social media platforms, we have increased our Facebook followers by 35%, and our Instagram followers by 60%. We are working to sustain this growth as we continue to build up our social media presence.

- Explore new social media outlets as they arise.

**Status: Achieved.**

To spread our brand as far as possible, and stay current with evolving technology trends, we have added a Snapchat account to our social media presence. We utilize Snapchat filters to advertise our events and support our branding efforts.

- Continue to seek out collaboration opportunities with campus departments and RSOs.

**Status: Achieved/Ongoing.**

Last year, we worked with 14 RSOs, and had 19 on-campus partners. We plan to continue forming new collaborations in the upcoming year.

- Continue active participation in Weeks of Welcome events including Cat's Back, Commuter Kick-Off, Party in the Park, and any other new event opportunities.

**Status: Achieved.**

MVP has had active participation in the Weeks of Welcome events including Cat's Back, Commuter Kick-Off, and Party in the Park. We are always seeking new opportunities to partner with other departments and RSOs on campus in a way that also allows us to market to a large quantity of students at a single event.

- Use marketing avenues in the Center for Student Media including ads in The Cougar and on Coog Radio.

**Status: Ongoing.**

While MVP has worked with the Center for Student Media last year to increase event publicity, there were no marketing transactions. This goal will be implemented this year.

- Table regularly at high traffic locations on campus.

**Status: Ongoing**

MVP tabled frequently in the days leading up to theme weeks and large scale events. We plan to be more consistent with scheduling tabling events this year.

DSA Strategic Initiative #1: Create new opportunities for student success through learning, engagement and discovery.

Create a greater variety of student involvement initiatives that focus on the development of a vibrant campus life, including expanded evening and weekend programs

4. Continue the growth of MVP's All-Star Committee.

- Work to increase committee membership through promotion of the committee at meetings and events and personally inviting involved volunteers

**Status: Changed.**

MVP has promoted early leadership opportunities at meetings and events, as well as personally inviting volunteers, however not through the All-Star Committee. With the board restructure, it was made clear that the need for an All-Star committee was negligible.

- Assess the participation and effectiveness of the committee in FY16 and modify the structure accordingly.

**Status: Achieved.**

As previously mentioned, the board restructure made it clear that the need for an All-Star committee was negligible. Therefore we decided to temporarily halt the All-Star Committee. We will continue to evaluate the effectiveness of our new board restructure and will make any additional adjustments as needed.

- Increase involvement opportunities.

**Status: Achieved.**

With the temporary halt of the committee, we were able to instead offer larger and more intentional opportunities for co-chairs to take on a greater role within their leadership positions.

DSA Strategic Initiative #1: Create new opportunities for student success through learning, engagement and discovery.

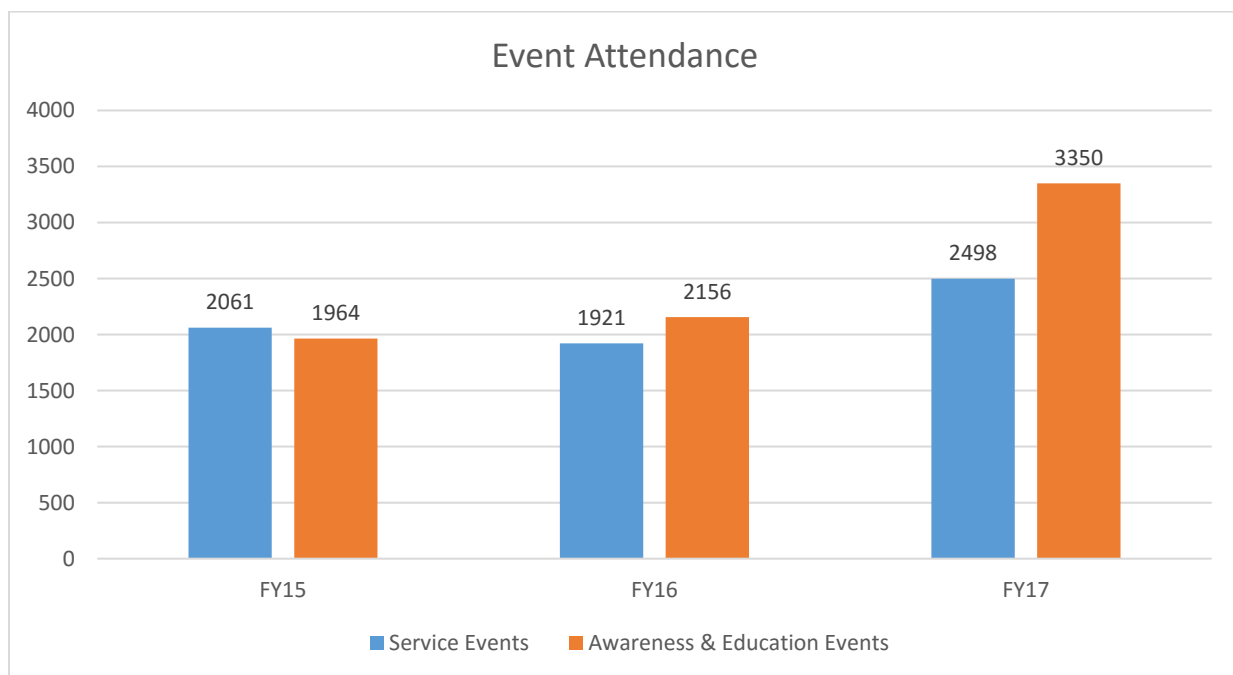
Create a greater variety of student involvement initiatives that focus on the development of a vibrant campus life, including expanded evening and weekend programs



4. Please discuss the means that you are utilizing to evaluate both your success in achieving the aforementioned strategic initiatives and/or action steps and their importance as compared to others that you might pursue. Where data exist, discuss the number of persons served by each of your programs and any assessment measures and/or learning outcomes used to evaluate program success. Please provide the method for collecting these data.

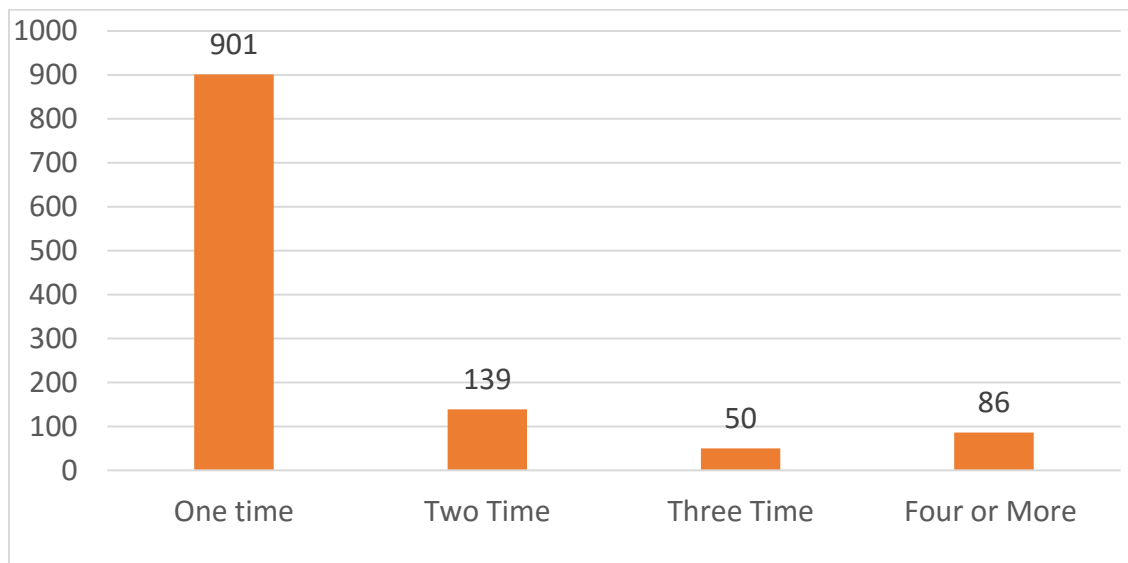
The Metropolitan Volunteer Program currently uses the following measures to evaluate the success of our program through achieving our objectives:

**Attendance:** One of MVP's primary methods of evaluating the success of our organization is by tracking attendance at general meetings, service events, workshops, awareness events, and other MVP events. Students must register for events in advance via the website, and then sign in or swipe in to the event under the supervision of an officer. After every event, MVP records the information in a database that tracks the number of volunteers, individual service hours logged with MVP, annual number of service hours, a monthly/yearly participation count, and on Get Involved. According to our current records, a total of 901 unique individual students volunteered with MVP at least once during the 2016-2017 school year. An additional 1,406 individual students attended our meetings and awareness related events. The total number of students that participated in MVP related programs and events during FY17 was 5,848.

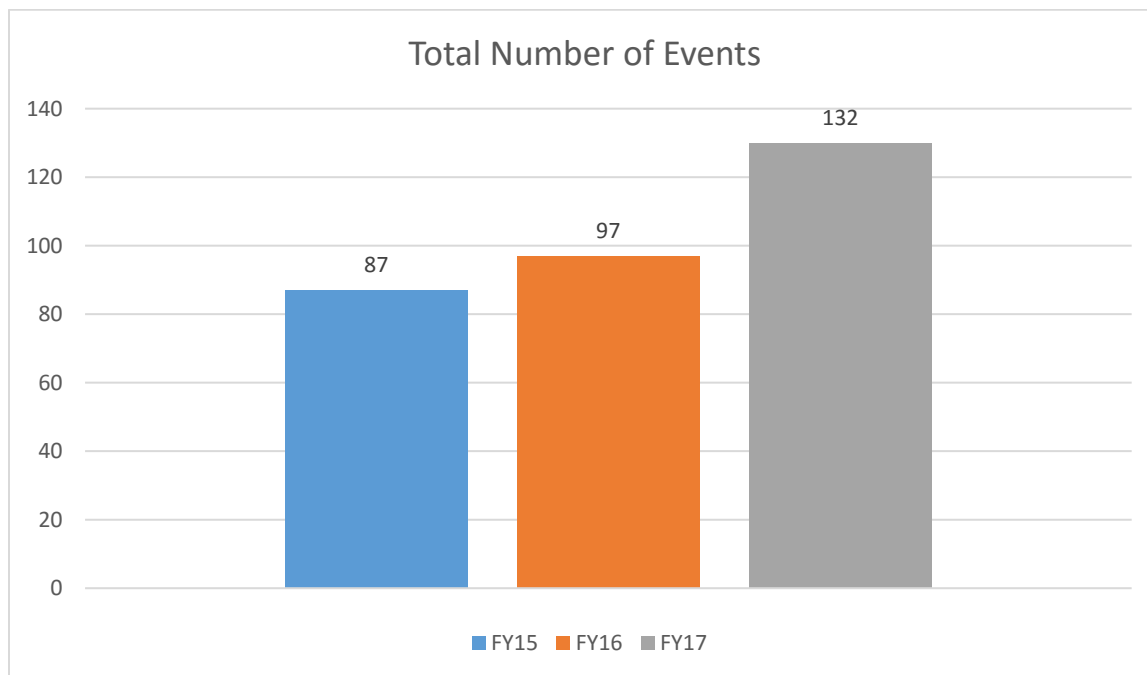


**Number of Returning Volunteers:** Another method that MVP utilizes to evaluate the success of volunteering events is by looking at the number of returning volunteers. The breakdown of the 1,176 unique individual students who volunteered with MVP during FY17 can be seen below. MVP has maintained a high level of overall participation since FY15, but we hope to start shifting our volunteer culture in a way that increases our number of returning volunteers to better align with our mission. Of the number of students who volunteered four or more times during FY17, 25 students volunteered 10+ times, with one member volunteering with MVP an impressive 44 times. Our goals for FY19 reflect the strategies we will implement to increase our number of returning volunteers.

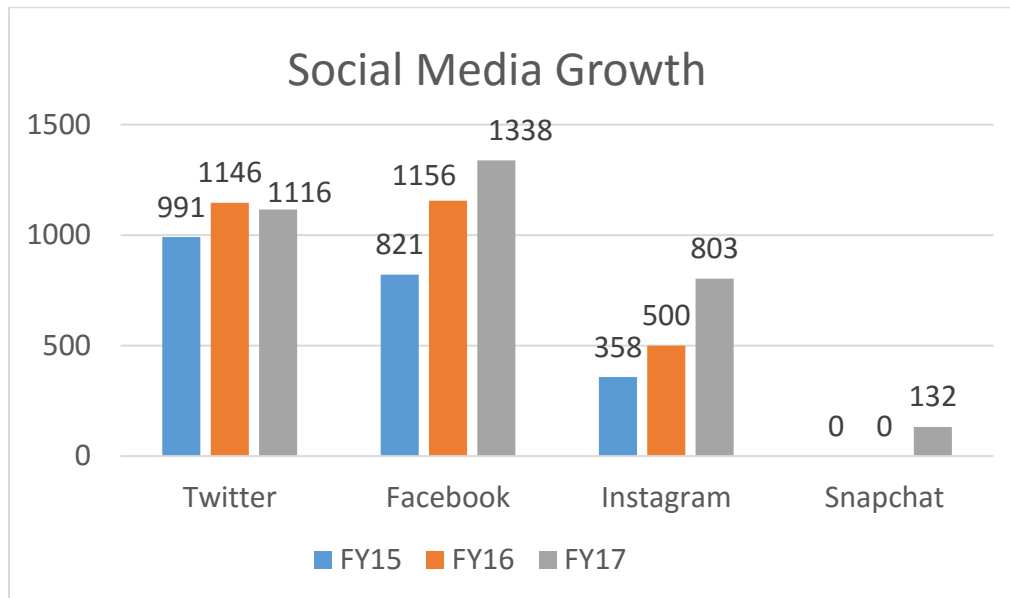
*Returning Volunteer Participants*



**Number and Variety of Volunteer/Service Events Provided:** Over the past year, MVP increased the number of volunteer opportunities from 97 in FY16 to 112 in FY17. We also offered 20 education and awareness events during FY17. We continued to diversify the opportunities we offer by building relationships with new agencies including Meals on Wheels, Harris Health Systems, The Beacon, Houston Humane Society, Hermann Park Gardens, Kids' Café, Community Festivals, and The Boys & Girls' Club Houston Chapter. We also expanded the projects available at MVP Service Nights from the traditional sandwich making to also including making dog toys, assembling no sew blankets, and making cards for children's hospitals.



**Growth of Social Media Pages, Membership Sign Ups, and Newsletter:** MVP currently has active pages on Instagram, Twitter, Snapchat, and Facebook. We monitor the growth of the number of followers on these social media pages to gauge how effectively our organization is reaching new students and promoting



**Survey Assessments & Reflection:** After every service event, the site lead from the MVP board facilitates a reflection. The reflection consists of addressing the social issues that the event was focused on, challenging student perspectives, and posing the question: “What can you do, from this point on, to positively impact this issue in your community?” Each board member is trained by the advisor and graduate assistant in the reflection process prior to leading events. MVP sends each volunteer a thank you email and a link to a survey about their overall experience 24 hours after each event.

#### Events:

#	Date:	Service Event:	Total Volunteers:	Service Hours:
1	8/27/2016	WOW Day of Service*	160	480
2	8/29/2016	MVP Service Night	104	145
3	8/31/2016	Generation One	3	8.5
4	9/2/2016	Kids' Cafe	10	53
5	9/3/2016	Houston Public Library	12	29
6	9/4/2016	The Beacon	8	22
7	9/6/2016	Houston Food Bank	8	26

8	9/7/2016	Generation One	5	13.5
9	9/9/2016	Houston Humane Society	8	26
10	9/9/2016	PM Pals	6	29
11	9/10/2016	Breakfast Meals	8	18
12	9/10/2016	Stopping the Silence on Sickle Cell	6	26
13	9/11/2016	Community Garden	15	30
14	9/11/2016	Houston Food Bank	16	36
15	9/13/2016	Harris Health Systems	7	19.5
16	9/15/2016	Sickle Cell Reception	6	26
17	9/17/2016	Ronald McDonald House	15	33
18	9/19/2016	MVP Service Night	67	77
19	9/20/2016	Boys & Girls Club	8	35
20	9/23/2016	Hermann Park	8	18
21	9/24/2016	Adopt A Beach	49	154
22	9/25/2016	Special Pals	6	14
23	9/28/2016	Generation One	4	11
24	9/30/2016	BARC	15	63
25	9/30/2016	Houston Public Library	11	42.5
26	10/1/2016	HPL: Librofest	8	40
27	10/2/2016	The Beacon	11	36
28	10/4/2016	Career Fair	6	18
29	10/5/2016	Generation One	7	20.5
30	10/6/2016	Children's Museum	9	30
31	10/6/2016	Be the Match	3	10
32	10/7/2016	CHAMP Tutoring	4	9
33	10/7/2016	Ronald McDonald House	10	17
34	10/8/2016	Sickle Cell Health Fair Event	4	18
35	10/10/2016	MVP Service Night	106	163
36	10/13/2016	Harris Health Systems	11	25
37	10/13/2016	CHAMP Tutoring	5	6.25
38	10/14/2016	Kids' Meals	10	32
39	10/14/2016	PM Pals	4	19
40	10/15/2016	Breakfast Meals	12	28
41	10/15/2016	Houston Cares Event	15	49
42	10/16/2016	Community Garden	8	20
43	10/19/2016	Generation One	4	11
44	10/20/2016	Ronald McDonald House	12	20
45	10/21/2016	Houston Public Library	11	25
46	10/21/2016	Target Hunger	7	23
47	10/23/2016	The Beacon	11	37
48	10/24/2016	MVP Service Night	104	165
49	10/27/2016	CHAMP Tutoring	6	7.5
50	10/28/2016	Houston Humane Society	12	39
51	10/28/2016	Ronald McDonald House	7	13.5
52	10/29/2016	Special Olympics 505K Run	7	24.5
53	10/29/2016	Children's Museum	13	35.5

54	10/30/2016	Zoo Boo	9	54.5
55	11/2/2016	Generation One	7	19.5
56	11/3/2016	CHAMP Tutoring	7	8.75
57	11/3/2016	MVP Service Night: Delta Zeta	30	45
58	11/4/2016	CHAMP Tutoring	6	14.5
59	11/5/2016	Fall Family Festivals	12	51
60	11/6/2016	The Beacon	7	25.75
61	11/9/2016	Generation One	9	24.5
62	11/10/2016	Boys & Girls Club	9	40
63	11/11/2016	Rock the Campus	341	623
64	11/12/2016	Medical Bridges	4	13
65	11/12/2016	Houston Humane Society	11	35
66	11/14/2016	MVP Service Night	80	125
67	11/17/2016	Houston Food Bank	10	32
68	11/18/2016	Kids' Meals	3	10
69	11/19/2016	The Art Project of Houston	6	11
70	11/30/2016	Generation One	4	11
71	12/3/2016	PM Pals	2	11
72	12/5/2016	MVP Service Night	15	22.5
73	1/21/2017	MLK Day of Service*	260	780
74	1/22/2017	Special Pals	4	9
75	1/26/2017	Boys & Girls Club	8	29
76	1/26/2017	Harris Health Systems	10	22
77	1/27/2017	Kids' Cafe	6	20
78	1/27/2017	Houston Public Library	2	5
79	1/27/2017	BARC	8	26
80	1/28/2017	Medical Bridges	7	23
81	2/1/2017	Generation One	5	13.5
82	2/7/2017	MVP Service Night/Info Meet	107	227
83	2/8/2017	Wesley Foundation	14	31
84	2/9/2017	Boys & Girls Club	5	18.5
85	2/10/2017	BARC	16	51
86	2/10/2017	Ronald McDonald House	8	14
87	2/14/2017	Generation One	8	23
88	2/24/2017	Kids' Meals	10	33
89	3/23/2017	Houston Food Bank	7	21
90	3/31/2017	Kids' Cafe	4	12
91	4/12/2017	Wesley Foundation	4	11
92	4/21/2017	Target Hunger	8	18
93	2/27/2017	MVP CE Service Night	17	25.5
94	3/21/2017	MVP Service Night/Gen Meet 2	46	74
95	4/8/2017	Rock the Block	150	455
96	4/10/2017	MVP Service Night	58	92
97	4/13/2017	Feeding Houston Service Night	30	45
98	4/14/2017	MVP Service Night: Delta Gamma	12	24
99	4/17/2017	MVP Service Night: ES Week	40	63.5

100	2/28/2017	Generation One	4	10
101	03/02/2017	Seuss-A-Palooza	7	17.5
102	3/3/2017	Boys & Girls Club	11	27.5
103	3/10/2017	P.M. Pals	3	12
104	03/25/17	Heights Kids' Day of Music	6	26
105	03/28/17	Generation One	11	24.5
106	03/30/17	Boys & Girls Club	3	7
107	04/01/2017	Houston Children's Festival: Houston Public Library	8	32
108	04/01/2017	Houston Children's Festival: PBS KIDS	8	28
109	04/04/2017	Generation One	5	13.5
110	04/13/2017	Boys & Girls Club	4	13
111	04/29/2017	Spring Into Wellness	6	27
112	05/02/2017	Generation One	4	12
		<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>2,498</b>	<b>5969.75</b>

\*Signifies a collaboration with a campus department or RSO

<b>Other Events</b>	<b>Total Attendance</b>
Banquet	64
Awareness/Educational	760
Marketing/Informational	1,730
Volunteer Fairs	796
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>3,350</b>

### **Highlights:**

**Service Nights:** In order to provide students with an opportunity to give back to their community without leaving campus, MVP organized 11 Service Nights during FY17, an increase from seven Service Nights during FY16. MVP Service Nights provide students the opportunity to engage in one of the following projects: making sandwiches for the homeless which are then distributed to the Star of Hope, making dog toys out of recycled materials for abandoned dogs at BARC, making festive/holiday cards for patients at nursing homes or local hospitals, decorating coloring sheets which are donated as decorations for young patients at children's hospitals, and creating no-stitch blankets which are donated to families with small children at Star of Hope. MVP had a

record attendance of 106 student volunteers at a single event in FY17. Overall attendance at MVP Service Nights has grown by 161%, and the program won the Outstanding Program Award at CSI's Campus Leaders Reception in April 2016. We continue to work with our community partners to identify new projects that can be completed on campus and support the mission of the organization.

**Generation One:** Generation one is our most frequent community partner with 14 events and 261 volunteers over the course of FY17. Generation One is an after school program aiming to uplift students to break away from the cycle of generational poverty. Volunteers are needed to help kids with their homework, help facilitate snack and playtime, and have positive interactions with three different groups of children over the course of one shift. MVP volunteers have been able to positively impact the lives of children at this event. By having MVP consistently at Generation One, we have been able to provide the children with supportive role models to help them reach their full potential.

**Rock the Campus:** This event continues to have a successful and sustainable attendance each year. MVP collaborates with Citizenship Month, The Office of Sustainability, The Homecoming Board, and the Center for Fraternity & Sorority Life. This collaborative event provides a great opportunity for students to give back directly to our campus by having a campus wide clean up.

**Rock the Block:** This year, MVP partnered with the South East Houston Transformation Alliance (SEHTA), The Forge for Families, and AGAPE Development, to celebrate National Keep America Beautiful Day. Our partners provided service projects to beautify the Third Ward such as painting facilities, neighborhood clean ups, lot clearing, community garden maintenance, and hosting a local block party for the families of the surrounding neighborhoods. During FY17, 258 students registered for the event, and 150 student volunteers participated. Due to this event being tied to the National Keep America Beautiful date, we are unable to take other events into consideration when planning. Last year, we faced the challenge of our event starting at nearly the same time as the Stop the Silence walk, an event hosted on campus that draws thousands of people each year. We received the feedback that due to parking challenges and road closures, some students decided to not participate the morning of the event. Students, our nonprofit partners, and the community all shared that the event was a great way to build a bridge between the campus and the Third Ward.



5. *Please discuss any budget or organizational changes experienced since your last (FY2018) SFAC request, their impact on your programs, and your reason for implementing them. SFAC recognizes that some programs did not receive the funds that they requested, that some programs were impacted by additional expenses after the conclusion of the budget cycle, and that some programs may be ahead of or behind their self-generated income projections.*

MVP has not implemented any budget or organizational changes since our last SFAC request.

6. *If your unit concluded FY2017 with a Student Service Fee (SSF) Fund 3 addition to the SSF Reserve in excess of \$5,000, please describe the conditions which caused the addition and provide a line-item identification of the budgetary source(s) of the addition (i.e. lapsed salary, conference travel, etc.).*

MVP ended FY17 with \$5,903.08 in Fund Equity. Throughout the year, we missed a couple of deadlines for promotional items that were for specific events. We also were unable to finalize a general marketing design for our Weeks of Welcome marketing prior to the fiscal deadlines. Due to this, we ended the year with a higher fund equity than originally planned.

7. *Please list your 2018-2019 strategic initiatives and action steps in priority order and cite the specific Division of Student Affairs and Enrollment Services Strategic Initiatives and University of Houston Strategic Goals to which they relate. Larger units may wish to group responses by subprogram. Under each strategic initiative, please state the specific action steps (programs, activities, services, policies/procedures, etc.) that you intend to implement to accomplish your stated initiative.*

1. Increase Volunteer Retention

- **Action Step 1:** Revamp membership surveys to identify reasons for non-returning volunteers.
- **Action Step 2:** Increase event visibility through stronger and more consistent marketing techniques.
- **Action Step 3:** Establish an incentive system to encourage volunteers to stay engaged with MVP and volunteer more than one time per year.
- **Action Step 4:** Enhance reflections to provide a more meaningful and educational experience for volunteers.

DSAES Value #1 Empowerment: We empower students and staff through programs, personal and professional development, and employment.

University of Houston Initiative #2: UH will have a student profile consistent with a nationally competitive public research university by creating an environment in which student success can be ensured.

2. Increase Attendance at Meetings and Events

- **Action Step 1:** Develop stronger marketing techniques like consistent social media posts, and ensuring marketing for events is posted around campus well in advance of events.
- **Action Step 2:** Increase accountability for volunteers through email communication during event sign-ups.
- **Action Step 3:** Include more interactive components in meetings and workshops. This could include giveaways, on-site service projects, or open discussions.

DSAES Value #1 Empowerment: We empower students and staff through programs, personal and professional development, and employment.

University of Houston Initiative #2: UH will have a student profile consistent with a nationally competitive public research university by creating an environment in which student success can be ensured.

3. Enhance MVP's Brand Recognition on Campus

- **Action Step 1:** Identify and connect with Registered Student Organizations that have specialized missions that align with the four social issue focus areas for MVP.
- **Action Step 2:** Capture the volunteer experience to share the impact of MVP through innovative use of technology.
- **Action Step 3:** Develop an infographic to highlight the benefits of volunteering and service, specifically highlighting the impact on the community.

DSAES Value #1 Empowerment: We empower students and staff through programs, personal and professional development, and employment.

DSAES Value #6 Collaboration: We embrace the spirit of collaboration through mutually beneficial partnerships on campus and in surrounding environments that foster the exchange of knowledge, resources and expertise.

University of Houston Initiative #2: UH will have a student profile consistent with a nationally competitive public research university by creating an environment in which student success can be ensured.

8. *Recognizing that the potential to generate additional Student Service Fee income for FY2019 base funding is extremely limited and recognizing that it is likely that some units will not be allocated the FY2019 base budget augmentations and/or one-time funds requested. Please provide a narrative of how your unit would accommodate a reduction of 5% in your total approved FY2018 base Student Service Fee budget and provide a line-item explanation of where budgetary cuts would be made.*

A 5% reduction in MVP's budget would require a budget cut of approximately \$3,557. If MVP received a 5% reduction in our overall budget, we would need to cut all four theme weeks, totaling \$4,000.

Two years ago, MVP sent a survey to students to identify the social issue areas they want to focus on through service, and the areas that they feel they can most positively impact in the Houston community. As a direct response to the information received through this survey, MVP developed the following four committees through the FY17 board restructure: Health and Wellness, Children and Education, Hunger and Homelessness, and Environment and Sustainability.

Each of these committees hosts a theme week once a year that includes service events, educational components, and general meetings. During FY17, the total number of participants for MVP theme weeks was 517. These weeks are a vital component of raising awareness about the social issues impacting our community, and provide students with the opportunity to take direct action through engaging in our programs. Beyond this, due to the high quantity of events in the theme weeks, they provide MVP with a unique opportunity to engage students who may not have attended MVP events previously. Not only are theme weeks a vital component to raising awareness about the social issues addressed through our committees, they are the backbone of MVP's mission to develop responsible citizens with a lifelong commitment to service while creating sustainable change in our campus and community.

9. *What are the other possible sources of funding available to your unit and what efforts are being made to access them (e.g. grants, donations, etc.)? If you receive funds from other sources, please briefly describe the source, purpose, and duration of the funding and report the amounts received in the appropriate rows/columns on the SFAC Spreadsheet.*

MVP currently does not have any additional sources of funding available to the organization.

*10. Please describe any services that are similar to yours and/or any overlap between your unit and any other unit(s) providing services to students and the rationale for the overlap.*

Although some academic departments and various organizations on campus include volunteer outreach in their mission, the Metropolitan Volunteer Program is the only organization that combines providing service and volunteer opportunities, as well as awareness related activities specific to those events. MVP continues to foster an inclusive environment and remains open to all students at the University of Houston regardless of major or classification. We also serve as an outlet for local non-profits to connect with students in hopes of inspiring the future generations of the city of Houston through giving back to our local and campus community. In its dedication to foster the spirit of service, volunteerism, and awareness, MVP is a vital resource for both the University and the city of Houston.