

## Health Care-Related Volunteer and Community Service Opportunities in the New Haven and Surrounding Area

While academics and research experience can strengthen an application for admission to a Health Professions program, schools also look for certain personal attributes in their applicants. Admissions committees expect to see in your undergraduate years a clearly demonstrated commitment to the community through volunteer service. Involvement in service opportunities can be rewarding and eye opening and will demonstrate to the schools that you have an understanding of the environment, people, and circumstances you will face throughout your medical career. Volunteering will also help you clarify and substantiate your interest and dedication to a life of service as a physician or other health professional. There are many ways to get involved both on campus and in the local community. The Center for Public Service and Social Justice at Dwight Hall, located on Yale University's Campus, can help direct you to these valuable opportunities to serve.

The following are some [examples](#) of opportunities, with many other options available at The Center for Public Service and Social Justice at Dwight Hall. Please visit their website at <http://dwighthall.org> for additional information.

### [Alzheimer's Buddies](#)

A chapter of the national organization that pairs college students with long-term care facility residents. Through weekly one-on-one visits, volunteers cross the void to play games and smile, to read and listen to the patients.

### [AIDS Project New Haven \(APNH\)](#)

A non-profit organization committed to providing support services, basic needs, and education to individuals and their families in the greater New Haven area who are infected and affected by HIV/AIDS.

### [AIDS Walk](#)

AIDS Walk New Haven is a 5K walk to raise money to provide support services to individuals and families infected and affected by HIV/AIDS in the greater New Haven community. Their goals are to raise money, increase public awareness, promote prevention through advocacy, and unite the Yale-New Haven community against stigma, apathy and infection.

### [American Red Cross at Yale](#)

American Red Cross at Yale strives to promote service and activism for health-related issues on the Yale campus and in New Haven as part of the national American Red Cross. They organize and run four campus-wide blood drives each year, and teach many health and safety education programs.

### [Best Buddies](#)

The Yale chapter of this international non-profit organization matches Yale undergraduates (called College Buddies) in one-to-one friendships with members of the New Haven community who have intellectual disabilities (called Buddies).

## **Chapel Haven**

Chapel Haven is a residential program that prepares young adults with Asperger's Syndrome for independent living. [SAAY](#) (Students for Autism Awareness and Advocacy at Yale) has partnered with Chapel Haven to provide interested Yale students with opportunities to mentor students.

## **Community Health Educators**

CHE members write and teach a health curriculum composed of a series of workshops in local public high schools and middle schools.

## **Cornell Scott Hill Health Corporation**

Cornell Scott-Hill Health Center, Connecticut's oldest and one of the largest community health Centers, has been a leader in community health care innovation for 40 years. CS-HHC provides an extensive array of medical, behavioral health and dental services to more than 29,000 Connecticut residents. The Center is a dynamic institution, which continually improves its practices to meet the needs of its predominantly low-income patients.

## **Fair Haven Community Health Center**

The Fair Haven Community Health Center is a not-for-profit primary health care organization that has been dedicated to serving the greater Fair Haven Community since 1971. We provide comprehensive health care – from prenatal to pediatric, adolescent to adult and geriatric.

## **Fellowship Place**

Fellowship's mission is to help adults with mental illness lead more meaningful, fulfilling and healthy lives by offering resources, education, and opportunities.

## **HAPPY (Hypertension Awareness & Prevention Program at Yale)**

HAPPY trains dedicated volunteers to conduct regular blood pressure screenings in New Haven community centers. Working with clinical advisors from Yale and partner health professionals, they implement training protocols and competency testing to ensure high quality and consistency of screenings by student volunteers. In contrast to the conventional poor practice of one-time community health screenings, HAPPY volunteers establish a constant presence in the communities by providing regular blood pressure screening sessions, helping to monitor the blood pressure levels of community members on a daily basis

## **Haven Free Clinic**

HAVEN Free Clinic provides free primary care to the uninsured population of Fair Haven on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Our patient population is mostly Spanish speaking, and many are recent immigrants, lower income, and uninsured. Undergrads can get involved at HAVEN by volunteering at the FRONT DESK, as an INTERPRETER, or with the SOCIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT.

\*Looking for students who can speak Spanish

## **Hole in the Wall Gang Camp**

A nonprofit residential summer camp, an ingeniously designed and dazzingly equipped Wild West hideout in northeastern Connecticut, where children with cancer or other serious blood diseases do not have to sit on the sidelines. Over 1,000 children from 7-15 years old come each year, free of charge, from across the United States and abroad. Volunteers needed at camp or in the New Haven development office.

## **Integrated Refugee & Immigrant Services (IRIS)**

Every year nearly 150 refugees from as far as Iraq, Bhutan, and Sudan make their way to New Haven through the local NGO called IRIS. During their first months in New Haven, refugees often have a large number of health appointments to meet their varied and complex health needs. IRIS is looking for volunteers who are able to take refugees to their health appointments, talk with health providers about their special needs, assist in filling prescriptions, and following-up with the IRIS health coordinator.

## **LEEWAY**

Leeway is dedicated to the care of persons with HIV/AIDS. They provide intensive medical, nursing, and behavioral health services in a nurturing, caring and positive environment.

## **Living History Project**

The project's purpose is to provide a team of undergraduates with the opportunity to improve the patient-centered experience at Yale-New Haven Hospital (YNHH).

## **Mind Matters**

Mind Matters is the undergraduate mental health awareness and education group on campus. Despite the increasing number of students reporting mental health concerns, there is still a taboo surrounding discussion of mental health issues.

## **Minority Association of Premedical Students (MAPS)**

The Minority Association of Pre-medical Students, or MAPS, represents the undergraduate and post-baccalaureate students of SNMA (Student National Medical Association). MAPS members are considered national associate members and make up about one third of SNMA's 5,000 members. Associate members are eligible for most of all SNMA national benefits.

## **Operation Smile**

Operation Smile is an international, non-profit organization that sends teams of surgeons and other health professionals to over 25 countries worldwide to do free reconstructive surgeries on children with facial deformities.

## **Peer Health Educators**

Yale's Peer Health Educators are a group of undergraduate students trained to provide information on substance abuse, HIV/AIDS, risk reduction, and safer sex practices, covering such topics as abstinence, contraception, sexually transmitted diseases, and sexual assault.

## **Planned Parenthood CT**

Planned Parenthood is the nation's leading sexual and reproductive health care provider, educator, and advocate, serving millions of women, men, teens, and families in the United States and abroad.

## **Public Health Coalition**

The mission is to collaboratively promote public health awareness, education, and service in the Yale and New Haven communities.

## **Queer Peers**

Queer Peers provides a one-on-one peer counseling service specializing in the needs of LGBTQQ-identified people. The peer counselors staff the Queer Resource Center, providing a comfortable, safe environment in which to counsel members of the Yale community regarding issues of gender and sexuality at Yale.

## **Remedy**

Remedy is a Yale initiative that provides medical supplies and equipment to organizations in developing countries. Volunteers collect donations, package them, take inventory, and act as liaisons, matching projects abroad with supplies and even delivering supplies themselves.

## **Ronald McDonald House**

The Ronald McDonald House of Connecticut is a 12 guest room house where families from anywhere in the world can stay while their children are being treated at nearby health facilities.

## **Students Wellness at Yale**

Resources for the Yale community support overall well-being including clinical resources, stress management skills, and engaging with other members of the community.

## **UNICEF**

The mission of Yale UNICEF is to raise awareness about children's issues, both locally and internationally, including children's right and the need for the access of all children to health and well-being, education, and inclusion in their communities.

## **Unite for Sight**

Unite for sight is a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization that empowers communities worldwide to improve eye health and eliminate preventable blindness. The Yale chapter implements vision screening and education programs at the Downtown Evening Soup Kitchen, and other community locations. Those screened are matched with free health coverage programs so that they can receive a complete eye exam by a doctor. Volunteer Teams also work with partner eye clinics in developing countries to provide eye care and eye health education programs.

## **Walden Peer Counseling**

Walden Peer Counseling is an anonymous and confidential hotline and walk-in peer counseling service staffed by Yale undergraduates. The hotline operates from 8pm to 8am every night, and the office is open for walk-ins from 8pm to 1am, every night, during the regular academic schedule and when classes are in session.

## **Yale Emergency Medical Services**

Yale Emergency Medical Services (YEMS) is a volunteer organization consisting of Emergency Medical Technicians, Certified First Responders, individuals certified in Basic First Aid and CPR, and students who have no training but are interested in emergency response medicine and pre-hospital care.

## **Yale Medical Professions Outreach (YMPO)**

The Yale Medical Professions Outreach (YMPO) is an undergraduate program dedicated to broadening the horizons of all students interested in a medical career. Members enjoy the immense reward of learning more about the medical world directly from caring professionals in the field.

## **Yale Undergraduates at Connecticut Hospice**

Yale Undergraduates at Connecticut Hospice (YUCH) is an organization that provides a unique opportunity to volunteer at a palliative care facility in Branford, CT. Volunteers provide a service that is crucial to the Connecticut Hospice organization and uplifting to the patients. In addition, they get real patient care experience that is invaluable and hard to find elsewhere. You will work hands-on with nurses and families to improve the end-of-life experiences for patients. The commitment is 3 hours at a set time each week. Transportation to and from the hospice is provided.

## **Yale-New Haven Hospital College Volunteering Program**

Energetic volunteers of all ages and skills are needed. Volunteers are generally asked to give a minimum of four hours a week for at least six months. There are a variety of volunteer roles to fit individual time schedules, abilities and interests. Volunteers may work directly with patients or choose work behind-the-scenes. One opportunity at YNHH includes [Elder Horizons](#), a program working specifically with the geriatric population.

## **Yale Public Health Coalition**

The Yale Public Health Coalition collaborates with existing undergraduate groups as well as Yale faculty to expand Yale's leadership in the field of health and healthcare, with a particular focus on international health.

## **Yale Sight Savers Program (YSSP)**

Fully endorsed by Yale College, Yale School of Medicine and the Friends of the Congressional Glaucoma Caucus Foundation (FCGCF) and closely mentored by faculty members of the Yale Department of Ophthalmology, the **Yale Sight Savers Program (YSSP)** is an exciting new initiative that brings together undergraduates, medical students and ophthalmology residents to work together towards making a tangible impact on the vision health of the residents living in our local communities.

## **Women and Families Center**

The Women and Families Center is committed to eliminating injustice and to improving the quality of life for women and families through services that foster empowerment and independence.

## **United Way of Greater New Haven**

United Way brings together the caring power of people to create change in our region and to improve lives. United Way's community investments, leadership and resource development efforts are focused on two critical and inter-related issues facing our region: education and economic disparity.