Since our founding by the Congregation of Divine Providence over a century ago, servant leadership has been an integral part of the University's commitment to educating the total person. Whether in education, business, social work, church, government, or other non-profit agencies, our graduates are servant leaders making positive impacts in their communities and professions.

Service is more than what we do with our spare time as a University community. It defines us as who we are and assures us that we live the mission of our founding and sponsoring religious order. Active participation in service organizations is an excellent way of living that mission throughout the year.

Definition of Service
The University’s view of service is not a passive effort at volunteerism. The performance of service involves the identification and addressing of community needs affecting those with whom we live. Community service includes activities that promote social and economic justice, enhance social welfare, and build strong community-University partnerships.

Service-Learning and Volunteerism Office
If the group you are attempting to start will focus on service as its primary purpose, the University maintains requirements designed to monitor and encourage service efforts in the surrounding community. The Service-Learning and Volunteerism Office is a useful resource as you explore the community needs your new student organization will address. Linking members of the University community to the greater San Antonio and Bexar County communities, the office coordinates the following services and programs that may assist your new student organization:

- **vOLLUntee Clearinghouse.** On-going posting and promotion of volunteer opportunities for both individuals and groups.

- **vOLLUntee Unity Council (VUC).** A student organization that organizes and promotes a variety of service projects as well as annual programs and events, including Alternative Spring Break, Mentoring Programs, vOLLUntee Fairs, and vOLLUntee Impact.

- **University-wide Service Activities.** Group service-learning projects and University-based public awareness and social justice initiatives, as well as registration of individual and group service-learning projects.

Once you have determined that your service group will not duplicate the purpose of an existing RSO and have submitted a completed “Emerging Student Organization Interest Form” to the Campus Activities Office, visit the Associate Director of Service-Learning and Volunteerism for information on identifying short- and long-term service opportunities. The Associate director will also detail for you the requirements that apply to all service organizations, including those required of your group as you pursue official University recognition.
Requirements for service organizations are quite different from other RSO’s. The Campus Activities Office recommends you develop a strong working relationship with Associate Director of Service-Learning and Volunteerism. Meet with the director regularly and often to insure your organization is in compliance with the University’s requirements for service organizations.

Many of the University’s service RSO’s choose to be affiliated with local, state, national, or international organizations. Such affiliation, however, is not required of service organizations. Only Greek-letter service organizations, in compliance with the “Policy on Recognition of Student Organizations,” must be affiliated with national or international organizations through either the National Interfraternity Council, the National Panhellenic Conference, or an equivalent.

If you choose to affiliate with a local, state, national, or international organization, you will be required to meet that organization’s minimum service requirements. Additionally, the University’s minimum service requirements are applicable to your organization as well. Regardless of the affiliate’s requirements, the University’s requirements supersede them.

Emerging service organizations are required to work directly in conjunction with the Service-Learning and Volunteerism Office in order for the Associate Director of Service-Learning and Volunteerism to oversee and to monitor the activities of these organizations. To facilitate this relationship and to ensure that emerging service organizations are addressing community needs, the following apply:

1. The organization’s president will schedule and keep three appointments per semester with the Associated Director of Service-Learning and Volunteerism.

2. The organization’s service chair, or equivalent position, will maintain records of service work completed by each active member of the organization. These records will be submitted monthly to the Service-Learning and Volunteerism Office.

3. The organization will organize group service-learning projects for its active members. The minimum number of these projects required each semester will be determined by the Associated Director of Service-Learning and Volunteerism.

4. By the time of recognition, the organization will identify an agency that active members will complete one half of their service hours, as required by the organization’s national or international chapter, in a long-term service commitment (one-year minimum).

5. The organization will identify an active member to serve in a leadership position on the vOLLUnteer Unity Council.

6. The organization will organize a team of active members to participate in vOLLUnteer IMPACT each semester.