

LEAHY TRIBUNE

SPRING 2014, ISSUE 1

Editor: Megan McCarthy



The Edward R. Leahy Center is dedicated to the dual purpose of identifying and meeting the health and wellness needs of underserved individuals in the greater Scranton community while providing a place where faculty guide students in a practical educational experience.

DO YOU KNOW WHERE THE LEAHY CENTER IS?

BY: CHARLES MCGEE

Many students and faculty walk in and out of McGurkin Hall every day, but they might not all be aware of the amazing service that goes on at the Leahy Community Health and Family



Center. Local physicians, nurses, and student volunteers gather weekly to provide primary care services for

uninsured residents of Lackawanna County and make the Leahy Clinic a huge success. In addition to having these primary care clinic hours, the Leahy Center has physical therapy and counseling clinics, which provide therapeutic intervention to those in need of these services. Another vital part of the Center is the food pantry, which provides essential provisions for members of the community. The Center has also

support the youth of the community, such as the Peacemakers and University of Success programs. The Leahy Community Health and Family Center is truly a crossroads between the University and the community that surrounds it. The Center is always buzzing with friendly student volunteers and dedicated staff members, and any visitor will see there a remarkable example of service to the community!

implemented programs to help guide and

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS?

Q: What is the difference between the Leahy “Center” and the Leahy “Clinic”

A: People often use the terms “Leahy Center” and “Leahy Clinic” interchangeably, but the fact of the matter is that there is a difference between the two! The term “Leahy Center” is an umbrella term used to refer to various programs, including the Leahy Clinic, the Food Pantry, the Peacemakers program, and University of Success. The “Leahy Clinic” is a division of the Leahy Center that consists of a clinic for the uninsured, counseling, and physical therapy.



MEDICAL SPANISH WORKSHOP

By: Vivienne Meljen

The Medical Spanish Workshop is an ongoing project that is open to University of Scranton students, faculty, and volunteers. The workshops welcomes beginners, intermediate, and advanced speakers that are interested in learning how to better communicate in Spanish within a medical setting.

These interactive workshops were created provide the translators of the clinic a tools with which to improve their ability to communicate effectively between patients and healthcare providers. Over time inquiries across a broad range of fields have inspired the expansion of materials covered in order to provide others the opportunity to learn Spanish. Some topics that have been covered this semester include: the medical chart, translator progression and rubrics, introductions, physical therapy material, interior and exterior anatomy, pain, and the various nuances in language when addressing individuals from different Latin American countries.

Please refer any inquiries or topic suggestions to:

Amanda.stahl@scranton.edu

Stephanie.boccuzzi@scranton.edu

All are welcomed and encouraged to bring a friend!



THE LEAHY CENTER: A LIVING LABORATORY OF JESUIT VALUES

BY W. RYAN SCHUSTER

Andrea Mantione MSN, CRNP, director of the Leahy Community Health and Family Center, often describes the Center as a “living laboratory,” where University students can practice their skills in a hands-on, realistic environment, thereby combining learning with service to the community. I first began volunteering as a student interpreter at the Leahy Clinic last spring in order to fulfill the community service requirement for my theology class. As a student seeking to attend law school, I saw it as a good opportunity to serve the community in a professional setting while sharpening my Spanish in an

organic setting. I have come to the realization that in addition to developing my language and professional capabilities, I have learned more in this “laboratory” about what the Jesuit tradition means than anywhere else at the University.

The newly-composed mission statement of the Leahy Center Student Advisory Board states a desire to foster the Jesuit spirit of developing “Men and Women for Others.” Indeed, at Leahy this transformed from a platitude into a reality before my very eyes. Every Thursday afternoon in the crowded waiting area and examination rooms of the clinic, I saw people putting this idea

The Leahy Student Advisory Board is hosting a

zumbathon
MAKE EVERY MOVE COUNT



March 7th, 2014
The Byron Center
6-8PM

COME SUPPORT OUR CENTER!

into practice: student nurses, office volunteers and interpreters, the devoted administrative staff of the clinic, and dedicated physicians from the community giving of their time to help others in genuine need. The opportunity to join them validated every hour I had spent practicing Spanish conjugations and learning vocabulary. Here, for the first time, I felt I had found a service opportunity where I could put a skill I had worked hard to develop toward making a real difference for others.

In its “for Others” orientation, the Leahy Center embraces the Jesuit idea

of “Cura Personalis.” I have heard this translated from the Latin in two different ways: “care of the whole person,” and “care of the individual,” and I feel that Leahy incorporates both. It embraces all dimensions of the lives of its clients and treats them as “whole people” by providing clothing and food assistance, counseling services and educational programs in addition to the medical care it provides. More important than this, the Leahy Center staff treats each client or patient as an individual, not simply another number. Leahy was the first service opportunity where I could look another person in the eye and realize that

my efforts went directly toward helping them, even if that help was as simple as medicine for a cold. Getting to serve individuals in Leahy’s “Cura Personalis” culture, rather than working for the benefit of an unseen, distant beneficiary like at many service sites in the past, has made my work there the most rewarding service experience I have had.

My time at the Leahy Center has been one of the most formative aspects of my education here at the University. For in addition to providing a first-hand experience of medicine and foreign language, this “living laboratory” teaches what Jesuit education is all about.

A PATIENT’S TESTIMONIAL

To be honest I came here with a lot of problems about a year ago. I had been laid off at work and began living a very unhealthy life to the point of hitting rock bottom. With no insurance and nowhere else to go, I decided to seek help from the Leahy Center. I started coming to the clinic every two weeks to receive medical attention for high blood pressure. After speaking to a doctor, they also suggested counseling, which I didn’t even know was available. Now with my blood pressure under control and seeing a counselor every week, I can finally say I am starting to pick up the pieces to where I can pursue a healthier life. As long as I am currently living here, I will continue to receive help through the center. The clinic has helped me discover my true identify and that’s why I come here. The staff is very dedicated, never denies help from anyone, and if I need anything they will assist the best way they can. Without the clinic I wouldn’t seek help anywhere because it is hard to find help when you don’t have insurance. This community is in dire need of the services the Leahy Center provides for there are many others out there in similar situations. The Center never asks for anything in return, their mission is to provide for the underprivileged, and to give hope to the citizens of this community.

