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# Challenges, Frustrations, Triumphs and Terrors of Starting and Maintaining a Social Justice Club at UD.

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## Introduction

The Social Justice Club is one of the University of Dayton's newest student organizations that was created with one goal in mind: How best to support the Social Justice LLC initiative. Starting a new service organization is truly an altruistic goal, but it comes with a lot more challenges than most students and administrators realize. Our greatest strength is supporting the importance of community service and civic engagement. This presentation will honestly discuss the challenges associated with maintaining membership and initiating leadership roles within an organization. We will openly examine the challenges, the stresses, and frankly, the potential for failure of a first-year organization. In the true spirit of perseverance and the Marianist model of Lead, Learn, and Serve, with a heavy emphasis on the learning aspect of our initiative, we will outline our new strategies for increasing membership, supporting and nurturing leadership, and maintaining the can-do attitude that makes us the Social Justice Club at UD.

## Challenges and Frustrations

- Keeping organization members engaged
- Creating realistic goals
- Knowing the boundaries of a student led organization at UD.
- Remembering to constantly uphold our mission statement
- Broad unobtainable goals
- Miscommunication occur frequently



## What We Have Learned

- Create realistic and obtainable goals
- Implement better communication policies
- Engage organization members at all times
- The constraints student led organization encounter
- How to better organization group meetings.
- The need to be specific and detailed oriented



## Goals for Next Year

Next year the Social Justice Club would like to focus on ensuring members are constantly engaged in our mission. Our leadership team will work diligently to create achievable goals that will develop sustainable organization development. Next year, our organization and sophomore co-hort focus will reflect various service interests and community initiatives. We are hopeful our second year of operation will better reflect our mission statement and demonstrate positive civic engagement in the Dayton community.

## Social Justice Club Mission

The Social Justice Club is dedicated to supporting the goals and mission of the Social Justice LLC. We have organized our community to address the enduring issues of social justice through the Marianist ideals of Learning, Leading, and Service. We are dedicated to educating all people in the cause of promoting peace through ending racism, sexism, and discrimination, locally and globally. We are an inclusive community committed to education, relationship-building, and activism. We have organized in order to address the following issues; increase visibility of social justice issues on campus, educate our membership about issues of literacy, discrimination, racism, sexism, and gender inequality; and create a model for engaged and empowered community-minded living. We intend to establish a community with purpose and lives with meaning.

## Triumphs

- Learning the positive implications of starting an organization at UD.
- Making new friends
- Civic engagement
- Networking
- Educational experience