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# Putting Faith Into Action: Fostering Education Through Relationships

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# Putting Faith Into Action: Fostering Education Through Relationships

Tori Cirino

## Service Learning Through the Social Justice Service Learning Organization

### Abstract

The Sophomore Social Justice Service Learning Community's (SSJSL) mission is to promote literacy. The SJSJC's community partner, the non-profit organization Project READ, trains volunteers to help tutor students in grades K-8 and young adults. After training, I was assigned an afterschool tutoring position assisting students at the Westminster Presbyterian Church in downtown Dayton. Under the supervision of Jim Henry, I have tutored students from E.J. Brown K-8 School. Many of the students who participate in the after school program need assistance in achieving higher results on their Ohio Achievement Test Scores. Through individual attention in this program students continue to progress towards that goal. The schools and the students in the City of Dayton benefit from the extra assistance provided through programs like the one at Westminster. My service learning experience has shown me that tutoring is one way serve our community. It is also an opportunity for me to apply the Marianist ideals of lead, learn, and serve. This tutoring experience was a new experience for me and one that I hope to be able to continue throughout my education at The University of Dayton.



### Westminster's mission:

#### Putting Faith into Action

"How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help? Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action" (1 John 3:17-18).

### Urban Education in Dayton

The condition of education in urban America is troubling. It seems that everywhere we turn we see another sad story about the failing school systems across the country. Since 1996, Schoolchurchpartners.org has been a partner that helps out the urban student population of the Dayton Area. So many of these children need our help and getting as many hands on deck is so important to the survival of the young minds in Dayton.



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