

Needs for civically engaged Gavilan students in our community

This is a snapshot regarding current needs of our communities. It is not exhaustive but gives a good idea of how students practicing civic engagement could contribute.

San Benito county: tutoring, promotion of literacy services, work in schools and community to provide alternatives to gang membership; promotion of food bank services, nutrition education, voter education, mental health para-professional services, work with at-risk youth in detention and elsewhere; support for seasonal homeless work; work on local sustainable agriculture. Work with historical society on preparing interpretive information and/or exhibits.

Gilroy: tutoring, work at food bank, nutrition education, voter education, work at animal shelter and promoting shelter adoptions, gang prevention and education, environmental work at local parks and preserves; work with at-risk youth; work in after school enrichment programs; work with local disability services organization, work on sustainable agriculture and livestock programs; support for seniors and accompaniment in activities; work with historical society on research and interpretive materials, outreach.

Morgan Hill: tutoring, food distribution, work with youth and teens; gang prevention and education; work with seniors; work on wildlife rehabilitation; work in parks and preserves, work with immigrant women on building skills; voter education; support for Buy Local campaign.

Classes that do or could provide these services through Service Learning and other civic engagement strategies—not exhaustive:

English, history, sociology, psychology, child development, political science, anthropology, biology, ecology, statistics, meteorology, Spanish, music, art, computer, digital media, CAD, humanities, kinesiology; voc tech including allied health, cosmetology, and others; theatre, communications, guidance.

--Leah Halper