

2016

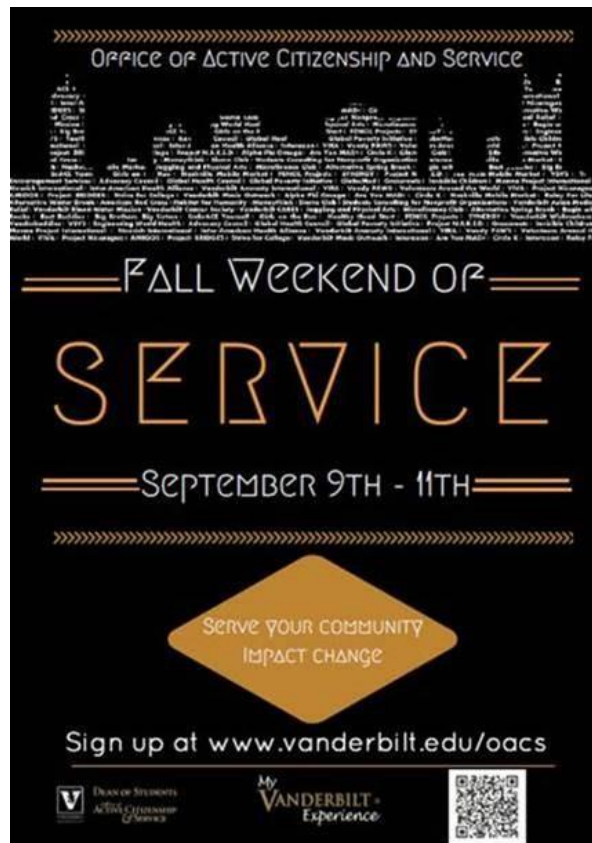
Fall Weekend of Service

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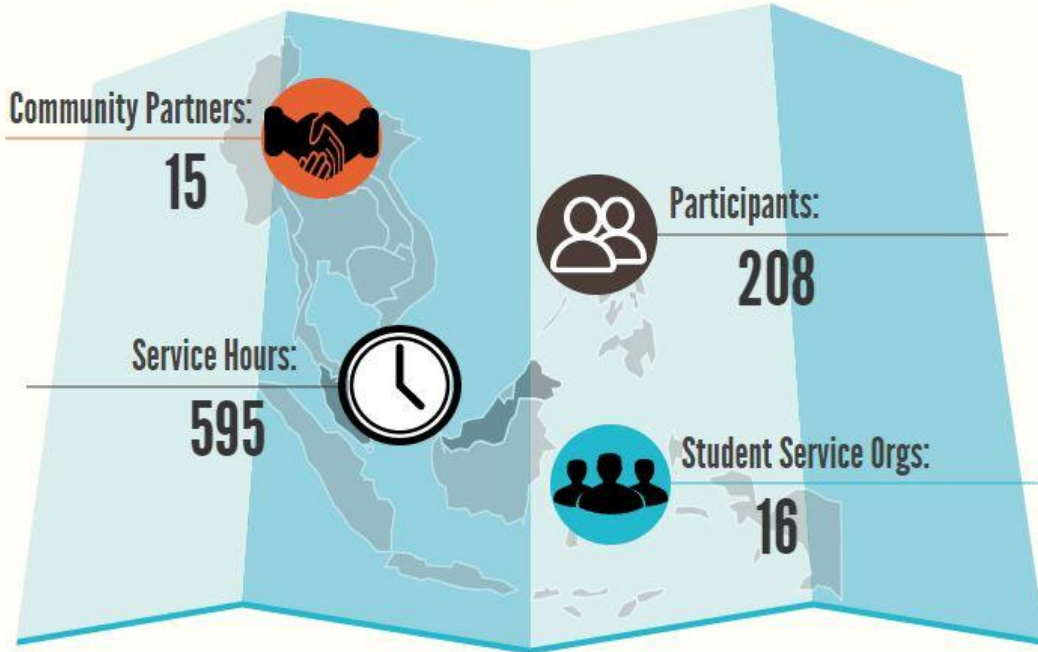
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Executive Summary

Over the weekend of September 9th – 11th, 2016, more than 208 Vanderbilt students working with 16 student service organizations and 15 community partners came together in remembrance of the events of September 11th by paying tribute to the victims of that day through more than 600 hours of compassionate and dedicated community service. The importance of The Fall Weekend of Service cannot be overstated, as it exemplifies the empathy and social consciousness of our student body as well as the fundamental link between Vanderbilt and the communities of Nashville. As our Academic Strategic Plan directs, “our graduates must be active citizens who solve important problems that confront the world and seek opportunities for discovery.” This report details how the fellowship between university and city is at the core of our Weekend of Service, giving students the opportunity to recognize the important role they play as leaders on campus and in the greater community.



SNAPSHOT: FALL WEEKEND OF SERVICE 2016



 September 9-11

84 SURVEY RESPONDENTS 



Staff Recommendations

- Move the Fall Weekend of Service to October in order to give students and OACS staff sufficient time to prepare projects. The Weekend of Service falling early in September does not present sufficient time for campus awareness raising and project planning.
- Begin awareness raising and promotion of the Fall Weekend of Service during the Service Leaders Conference, on/around August 22nd. Promote the event through September more thoroughly to increase the number of projects.

Methodology

To properly assess the Fall Weekend of Service and to analyze the impact on the Vanderbilt students who participated, OACS staff created a paper assessment instrument composed of open-ended and Likert-scaled questions. These questions were designed to capture the opinions of students as well as gain a clearer understanding of who composed our student cohorts and respective community partnerships. OACS staff hosted a breakfast for site leaders on September 9th, which was attended by approximately 16 site leaders. Surveys were distributed to site leaders that morning and those who could not attend the breakfast were emailed the survey.

Site leaders were responsible for disseminating surveys to their groups at the conclusion of service events, and were instructed to emphasize the importance of completing them. The surveys took approximately 5 minutes to finish, and site leaders were responsible for collecting and returning the surveys to OACS staff the following week. Site leaders were also reminded via email to hand in the surveys. 84 surveys were returned, representing a 40% completion mark.

From a methodological perspective, paper surveys were utilized to maximize the response rate. It was felt that students would be most likely to respond to a survey distributed immediately following their service event, when the experience was fresh in their minds and they were together as a group. The survey was kept intentionally brief at eight questions to encourage participation.

Results and Analysis

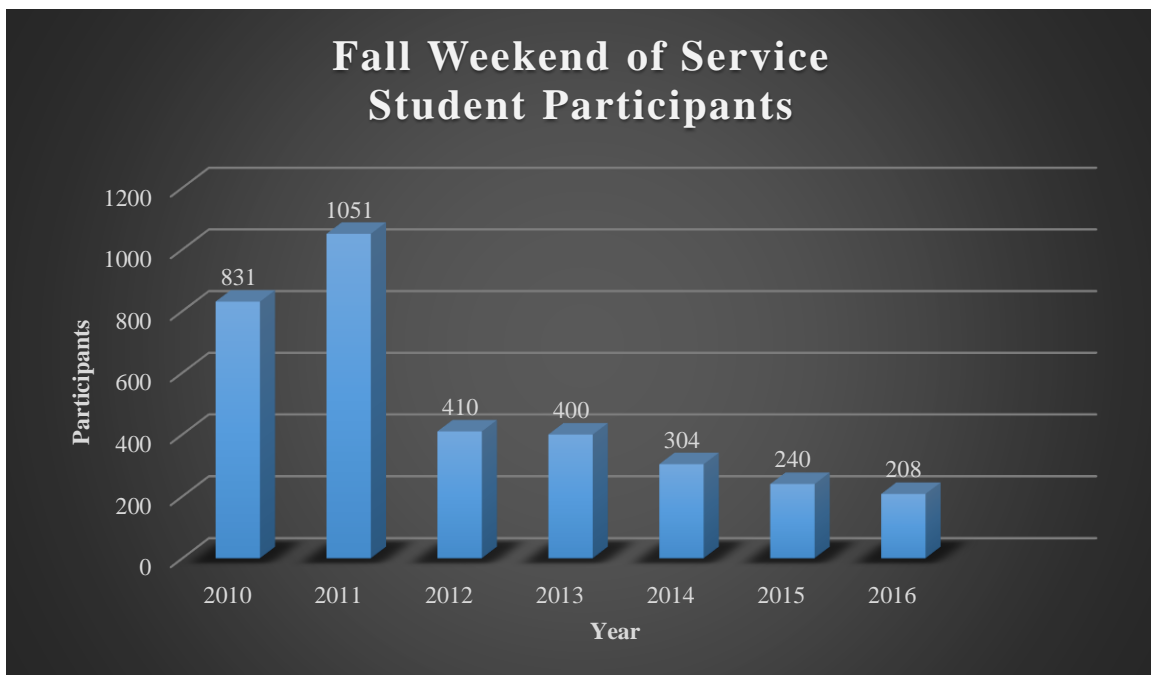
Approximately 208 students were reported to have participated in the Fall Weekend of Service. 16 student service organizations partnered with 15 community organizations (primarily non-profits) and logged approximately 595 hours of work. 84 participants completed evaluations, yielding a 40% response rate, which is a response rate increase of 7% from 2015.

Student Comments

The following student comments were taken from the free response question “how could your Weekend of Service experience have been improved?”

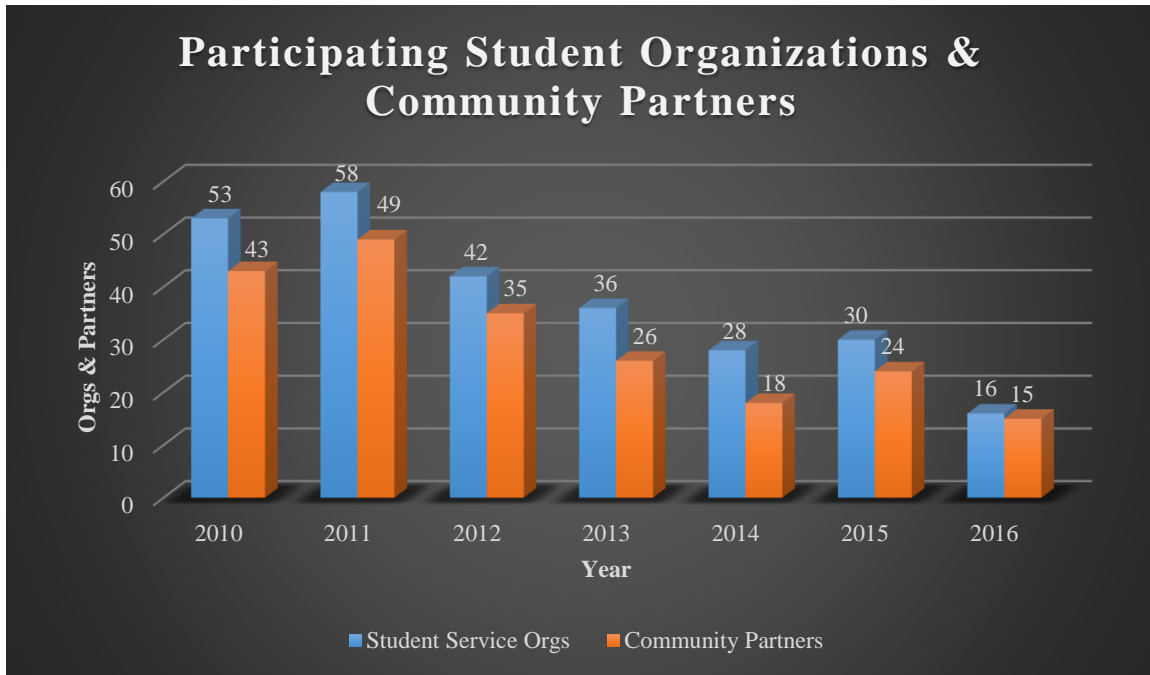
- More equipment provided by the university to help with the project
- Having more (volunteer) options, especially on Friday and Sunday
- More time to interact with the kids
- Make it on campus
- More accountability for all signed up to serve
- More communication/advertising earlier by OACS
- More events of different genres
- Details about the service projects could have been easier to find

Comparative Data and Analysis



We see a decline in participation going forward from 2011, the 10 year anniversary of the attacks. As we move further in time from the events of September 11, 2001, this tragedy may feel less salient to Vanderbilt students, all of whom would have been very young at the time. An incoming

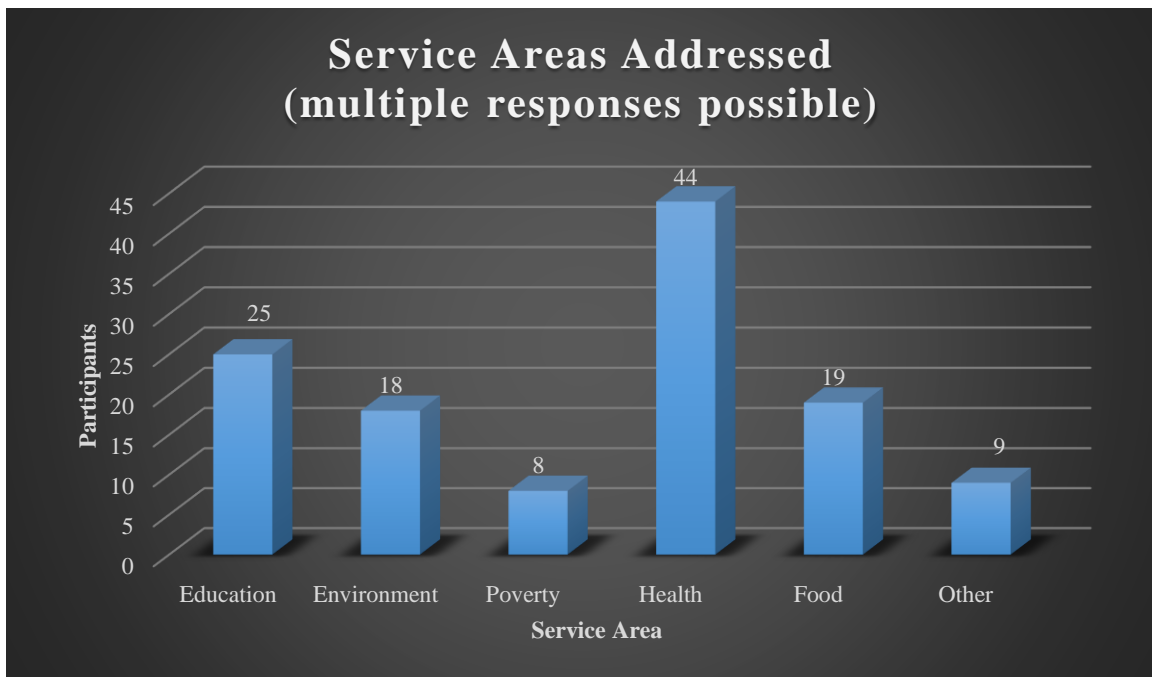
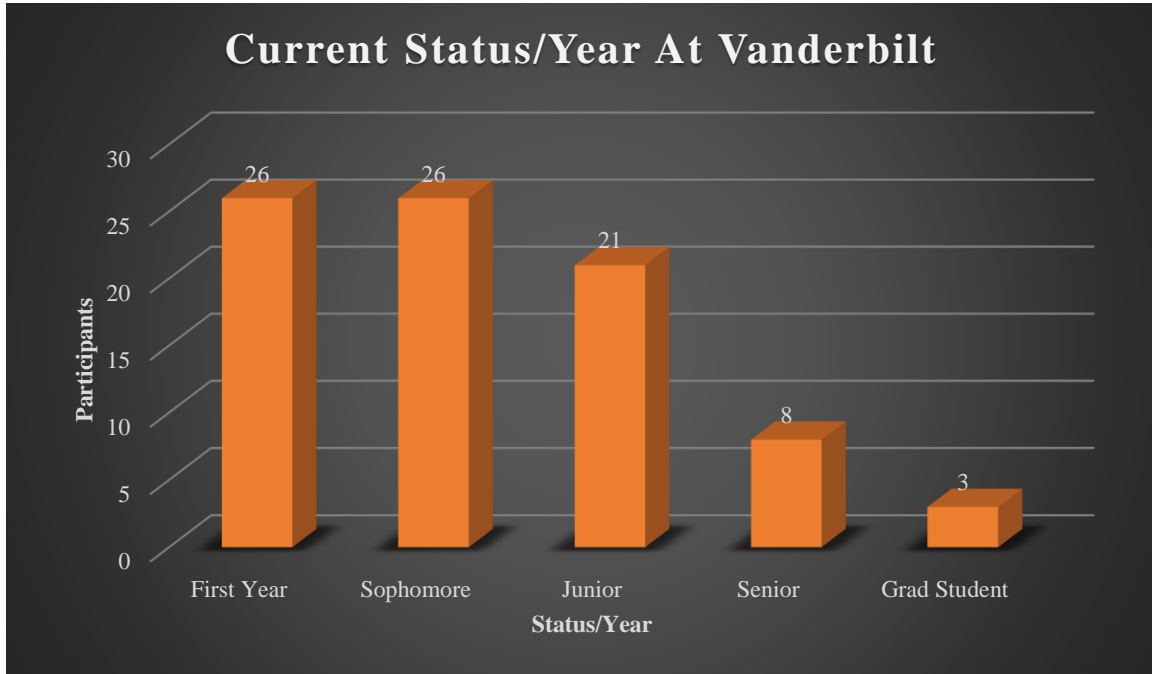
first year student in 2016 would have been approximately 3 years old in 2001 and may view 9/11 as a historical event more than a firsthand, personal loss.



The number of participating student organizations has decreased since the high-water mark of 2011, with a plateauing effect of approximately 20-30 participating organizations for the past four years. The number of community partners worked with has similarly decreased. There has historically been overlap between student organizations working with the same partners, though this was not the case in 2016, when only two student organizations partnered together. However, this replication is not necessarily a negative outcome, as increasing community partnerships does not have a directly correlative effect on the quality of said partnerships, i.e. more isn't necessarily better unless these are cooperative learning relationships.

Survey Data

All survey data was synthesized from the analysis of 84 paper surveys. The number of returned surveys represents approximately 40% of all Weekend of Service volunteers (a 7% increase in the survey response rate from 2015), and it is reasonable to conclude that the numbers below are indicative of the larger impact and outcomes experienced across Nashville over the course of this project.



Student Organization	Community Partner
Vanderbilt Students for the Armed Services 28	Vanderbilt VA Hospital
Alpha Chi Omega 20	Heimerdinger Foundation
African Student Union 15	Project C.U.R.E.
Vanderbilt Students of Nonviolence 55	Vanderbilt Community Garden
Life's A Stitch 15	Not specified
Vanderbilt Interfaith Council 16.5	Operation Gratitude
Vanderbilt for Project C.U.R.E. 14	Project C.U.R.E.
Alpha Phi Omega 20	Hope Lodge (American Cancer Society)
Glamour Gals 16	Nashville Senior Living at Windlands South
Circle K at Vanderbilt (CKI) 18	Open Table Nashville
Vanderbilt Alpha Epsilon Delta 62	Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt
Vanderbilt Student Volunteers for Science 68	Head Middle Magnet School
Vanderbilt Habitat for Humanity 152	Habitat for Humanity of Greater Nashville
Next Steps at Vanderbilt Ambassadors 18	Nashville Food Project
Lyrical Movements 22	Sing Me A Story Foundation
Vanderbilt Food Justice 55	Vanderbilt Community Garden

