The Center for Community Action and Research is a program within Dyson College of Arts and Sciences that provides community service and civic engagement opportunities which are open to all Pace University students, faculty, and staff. We offer a calendar of year-round events both on- and off-campus, enabling members of the Pace community to make a difference and have fun while gaining valuable real-world experience.

For more than a decade, the Center for Community Action and Research (CCAR) has supported civic engagement, social responsibility, and reciprocal partnerships with the community, resulting in enriched learning for positive change. Housed within the Dyson College of Arts and Sciences, the CCAR’s programs serve the entire university through curricular and co-curricular initiatives, coordination of national civic engagement programs, and support of ongoing community partnerships.

Active citizenship and social responsibility extends to all areas of the university community. Pace’s faculty and staff lead by example. The Center for Community Action and Research (CCAR) provides volunteer opportunities for staff and adjudicates the Jefferson Awards at Pace University, which recognize members of the Pace community who demonstrate a personal, sustained commitment to service for the model of spirit and service they provide the University community.

**STAFF VOLUNTEER RELEASE TIME POLICY**

- Full-time staff (non-exempt and exempt) receive up to 8 hours of paid release time every six months, i.e. January-June and July-December.
- Part-time staff (who regularly work an average of 15 hours per week during the academic year) receive up to 4 hours of paid time off during regularly scheduled work day every six months, i.e. January-June and July-December.
- In all cases, staff members must consult with and receive approval to use the designated time so as not to conflict with departmental activities and services.

For more information about this benefit contact:
Rosemary Mulry, Employee Relations Coordinator, at (914) 923-2645 or rmulry@pace.edu.
New York Common Pantry
http://www.nycommonpantry.org
New York City’s largest community-based food pantry allows its thousands of participants to choose culturally appropriate, nutritionally balanced food packages. Volunteers can help at the choice pantry and hot meal programs as groups or individuals. New York Common Pantry has opportunities on most weekdays and weekends in the morning, afternoon, and some evenings. **Contact:** Jen Winter at jwinter@nycommonpantry.org

New York Cares
https://www.newyorkcares.org
New York Cares is the city’s largest volunteer management organization, running volunteer programs for 1,300 nonprofits, city agencies, and public schools. A one-hour orientation session is required, and can be completed online, at their main office on Broadway, or in your borough. There are many one-time opportunities as well as ongoing and group opportunities throughout New York City available through New York Cares on every day of the week and focusing on nearly every issue and population. Check out their website for more information.

Pajama Program
http://www.pajamaprogram.org
Pajama Program provides new pajamas and new books to children in need nationwide, many of whom are waiting to be adopted, live in group homes, shelters and temporary housing facilities. Volunteers participate in reading sessions that last 45-60 minutes followed by snacks, and then the most anticipated part of the session – the presentation to each child, one by one by name, of a specially chosen pair of new pajamas and a new book tied in a pretty ribbon! The Reading Center is located within walking distance of Grand Central Terminal at 42nd street. **Contact:** Daisy Rodriguez at daisy@pajamaprogram.org

Read Ahead
Read Ahead is a weekly reading program that partners with Pace University. Currently, more than 25 students and staff volunteer one lunch hour per week reading to a student from the Spruce Street School or P.S. 001, both within a 10-minute walking distance from Pace’s New York City campus. Volunteers are paired with the same student for an entire year, and are also able to work with the same student for more than one year. **Contact:** Ashley Kuenneke at akuenneke@pace.edu