

POINT LOMA

SEA LIONS

Point Loma Nazarene University Community Engagement Award Nomination

During the 2014-15 academic year, PLNU student-athletes engaged in many single and recurring community engagement events, projects and outreach. The estimated combined total hours spent in both community engagement and service by PLNU student-athletes was over 4,000 hours.

While PLNU student-athletes focused on a few core campaigns such as Make-a-Wish, Breast Cancer Awareness, Coaching Corps and Bread of Life Homeless Shelter, they were also encouraged to diversify their community involvement to touch as many different groups and individuals as possible, both on and off campus. In an effort to develop programs and activities that celebrate diversity, PLNU Athletics has formed a unique partnership with the Special Olympics and Special Olympics World Games.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS

Point Loma Nazarene University has built a tremendous relationship with the International Special Olympics. With the support of PLNU Athletics and student-athletes, this past year PLNU hosted the Regional Special Olympics Track Meet, as well as a large group of international Special Olympians training for the World Games in Los Angeles this summer. PLNU Student-athletes were

involved in every aspect; from set-up and tear-down, to running events, to acting as “buddies” assigned to assist individual special Olympics athletes. PLNU Athletics accepted a proclamation from the City of San Diego on behalf of the university for its support of the Special Olympics.



PLNU cheerleaders posing with one of the Special Olympics athletes



Point Loma Nazarene University Women's Volleyball student-athlete, Stephanie Aviles, accepts the official Special Olympics banner on behalf of PLNU

[WATCH a video produced by one of the Special Olympics athletes who competed at PLNU this year.](#)

MAKE-A-WISH

PLNU athletics continued its efforts on behalf of the Make-A-Wish Foundation this year. Point Loma men's basketball team came up with the idea for a “half court challenge”, which consisted of donations based on the number of half court shots the team made in a given amount of time. Point Loma SAAC challenged the other schools in the PacWest Conference to try to make more shots than PLNU's team. Point Loma SAAC also manned a donation table at PLNU home athletic contests throughout the year, collected donations through “Penny Wars” competition pitting PLNU's teams against one another to see which team could raise the most money, and held a campus-wide dodgeball tournament with the proceeds going to Make-A-Wish. PLNU SAAC's biggest Make-A-Wish fundraiser though was a Bike-A-Thon event in which individuals gave pledge donations towards the number of miles one of our cycling enthusiast administrators would ride in a given time frame. The result was Point Loma SAAC raising just over \$2,000 for Make-A-Wish. They also added a new partnership with WishMakers on campus and plan to work with them to hopefully have PLNU fully sponsor it's own Make-A-Wish Kid next year.



PLNU SAAC President, Alyssa Orito accepting 2014 Make-A-Wish award from Commissioner Bob Hogue

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BREAST CANCER AWARENESS

A big part of Point Loma Athletics' community outreach in 2014-15 was focused on drawing attention to breast cancer awareness and raising funds to assist in the fight against the dreaded disease. The PLNU women's volleyball team hosted a "Dig Pink Breast Cancer Awareness" event. PLNU Athletics donated \$2 for every ticket sold to the Side-Out Foundation in support of their efforts to fight breast cancer. In addition to donning pink jerseys, each of the PLNU volleyball players wore the initials of someone she knows who has been affected by cancer on the sleeve of her pre-game warm-up shirt. The "Dig Pink" volleyball match was the culmination of several days of breast cancer awareness activities on the PLNU campus. There was also a 'Chalk Walk of Hope' on the sidewalk in front of the gym where anyone could write a message or draw a picture of encouragement, admiration, inspiration or in memorandum to loved ones affected by cancer using pink sidewalk chalk.



PLNU Women's Volleyball team during their "Dig Pink" breast cancer awareness event on October 2



PLNU Baseball student-athletes escorting cancer survivors during the 2015 Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure Survivors

Students attending the match also received pink Point Loma Volleyball T-Shirts. The event received local TV news (KNSD-NBC) and other media coverage.

[WATCH local TV news coverage of PLNU's "Dig Pink" event](#)

The women's volleyball team was not the only group within the PLNU Athletic Department aiding the fight against cancer. The Sea Lions baseball team volunteered at the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure. These PLNU student-athletes helped by providing labor for the event and were chosen to escort the breast cancer survivors during the Survivor's Parade and Opening Ceremonies.

COACHING CORPS



This year PLNU Athletics established a partnership with Coaching Corps, launching a chapter at PLNU. Led by Point Loma SAAC, the goal of PLNU's student-athletes is to create a continuous flow of college students on campus to serve as volunteer coaches, mentors and role models in afterschool sports programs serving girls and boys who live in some of our most under-resourced communities. The program was created to ensure that for all kids, the opportunity to run, play, learn, be coached and work with a team is a given – not a luxury.

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ALCOHOL AWARENESS

This year Point Loma SAAC continued its partnership with the Student Wellness Center and helped to plan and execute Alcohol Awareness Day on campus. The event included student-athletes engaging with students in activities on campus such as shooting baskets wearing “beer goggles” (glasses made to reproduce the vision of an intoxicated person) and helping to distribute alcohol awareness information during the event. There were representatives from the PLNU Wellness Center at SAAC meetings to brainstorm ideas on how to get students involved and how athletics could best support the event.



Assisting the CHP with Alcohol Awareness Day “drunk goggles” demonstration

BREAD OF LIFE

Our teams partner with Bread of Life Ministries to help prepare and serve food at a church in Ocean Beach, located just below campus, every Saturday. Each week a different team helps with the service. These weekly trips became a favorite of our student-athletes and have had a very strong impact on them.

NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION



PLNU student-athletes helping new students move-in to their dorm rooms

Most Point Loma student-athletes reported to campus a week before classes began to assist with new student orientation. Student-athletes were waiting at the dorms on move-in day to meet new students and help them move their belongings into their dorm rooms. Many student-athletes participated in various activities and informational sessions to help new students acclimate to PLNU. New students were provided special seating at their first PLNU athletic contests and PLNU Athletics gear. They were also included in in-game contests/games and treated to free food (tacos, churros, ice cream, etc.) at PLNU athletic contests as a special welcome from the athletic department and student-athletes.

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Student-Athlete & Athletic Department – Projects, Activities and Accomplishments 2014-15

There is an extremely long list of community involvement and outreach projects in which PLNU student-athletes have participated. There are many more projects and groups than listed here that PLNU student-athletes impact on a daily basis, but here is a sample listing:

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

- Mission Trip to Haiti
- Operation Christmas Child - *provided Christmas gifts for more than a dozen underprivileged children*
- Make-A-Wish
- Dig Pink Game for Breast Cancer Awareness
- Bread of Life - *weekly distribution of food to local homeless*
- Alcohol Awareness Day on campus
- Water Conservation Series- *partnered with City of San Diego Public Utilities Water Conservation Department to spread message and provide tips for water conservation at PLNU weekend baseball series*
- Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure
- Down Syndrome Easter Egg Hunt
- Autism Awareness
- City of Hope Tutoring volunteers
- On Campus tutoring volunteers
- ALS Awareness
- Coaching Corps
- New Student Orientation
- Chickens for Armenia



Danny Trujillo preparing to present game ball on national television (FOX Sports) during PLNU men's basketball's "ALS Awareness Night"



DIVERSITY LEADERSHIP



PLNU student-athletes link arms with fellow students in a symbolic crossing of the Edmond Pettus Bridge in Selma, AL during the Sea Lions spring break civil rights pilgrimage

- Civil Rights Pilgrimage to Washington D.C. and Atlanta
- Promoting multicultural campus events such as "Faith & Ferguson" and "Sincerely Ethiopia"
- Promoting multicultural campus clubs such as MOSAIC and Pacific Islander Club and their events
- Special Olympics
- LoveWorks humanitarian mission trip to the Philippines

The community involvement events above include highlights from the past year. We also encourage our student-athletes to participate in outreach and service opportunities beyond what is organized by PLNU Athletics. They take this to heart and do tremendous things within their local communities, on campus, in their churches, and in the regional, national, and global communities, far beyond the events listed above.