

# PARTNERSHIP REPORT

2024-2025



## Collaboration

Every year, the University of Mary Washington and Fredericksburg City Public Schools (FCPS) support each other in our educational missions. This report provides a summary of collaboration during the 2024-2025 school year and the range of projects that represent a positive partnership between the UMW Center for Community Engagement and Fredericksburg City Public Schools. The UMW College of Education also supports the Fredericksburg City Public Schools in a variety of ways, and that is captured in a separate report.



Junior Honor Society members from Walker Grant Middle School visit UMW for a day of service.



UMW students paint tote bags for care packages that are delivered to youth in FCPS.

## Donations

UMW students worked with the Center for Community Engagement and the student-run service group COAR (Community Outreach and Resources) to provide needed donations for FCPS. After consultation with the FCPS Director of Family & Community Engagement and Special Initiatives, COAR organized volunteer events to meet community needs. Students were able to assemble care packages and hygiene kits for youth in City Schools.

## Donations, cont'd



Starting in August with early arrival programs for the UMW students, student volunteers helped assemble personal hygiene kits with shampoo, soap, and other items that are donated to school nurses in elementary and high schools. COAR organizes a day of service each month, and partners with the James Farmer Multicultural Center to celebrate a MLK Day of Service in January. During MLK Day of Service, Into the Streets, Pay it Forward Day, and Engage with the Earth, UMW students assembled fleece blankets, hygiene kits, and care packages for children in Fredericksburg City Public Schools. These donations are delivered to local schools in the City of Fredericksburg.





# Start on Success Program

Starting with the 2021-22 academic year, UMW established a partnership with James Monroe High School (JMHS) for a paid internship program for up to 8 high school seniors. JMHS had received a grant for a 3-year pilot of the “Start on Success” program. This program connects high school seniors, who receive services through an IEP and are on a path to completion of a standard or advanced diploma, with paid internship experiences.



Students are carefully selected into the program in the spring of their Junior year, and receive classroom instruction to prepare them for field experiences in the fall of their Senior year. They begin their paid internships in spring of their senior year. They spend 3 hours a day, 5 days a week at their placement, over the course of several weeks. They are accompanied on campus by the program coordinator who checks in with them regularly. The UMW Facilities Department hosted 5 students on the UMW campus in spring 2025, and they rotated their internship between the electrical, plumbing, and painting departments. One of the many positive outcomes of this program: In 2023, Facilities hired an electrical intern as a part-time employee after graduation due to his work ethic and willingness to learn and work. He shared his story in a video for the Center on Transition Innovations at Virginia Commonwealth University, a partner of the program.



# Gift Box Drive



UMW students help hand out the gift boxes.

UMW students work with staff at FCPS and the Head Start Program to deliver the gift boxes to the Walker Grant Center. In December 2024, students delivered 240 boxes to the early childhood classes, and assisted Santa in handing out the boxes to students.



Head Start students open their gift boxes.



UMW students help deliver the gift boxes to FCPS.





# National Junior Honor Society Visit

In March 2025, we worked with Ms. Carleigh Rahn, the advisor for the National Junior Honor Society, to arrange a visit of 31 Walker Grant Middle School students to campus. The Center for Community Engagement was sponsoring a Good Neighbor Day and the middle school students helped with service projects for local nonprofit partners. It was a great chance for the students to visit UMW and learn more about the Center for Community Engagement. The students also gave back to the Fredericksburg community by making bag lunches for Micah Homeless Hospitality Center and fleece blankets for local programs.



## Carpentry Class

UMW faculty and staff partnered with Mr. Andrew Ewing, a building trades instructor from James Monroe High School this summer to build a tool shed for the Bragg Hill Community Garden. Mr. Ewing used this project as an experiential learning opportunity, providing a unique learning experience for his students as well as a needed tool shed for the local community garden.



# Hazel Hill Homework Club

Hazel Hill Homework Club is an after-school homework assistance program for elementary and middle school students at the affordable housing Hazel Hill Apartments in downtown Fredericksburg, Virginia. The program is managed by the National Housing Trust and volunteering is supported by the College of Education at the University of Mary Washington through a partnership. The CCE helps recruit volunteers and tutors. The program runs Mondays-Thursdays, 3:45pm – 5:30pm. In summer 2025, the UMW Center for Community Engagement hired an AmeriCorps VISTA who will support the Hazel Hill Homework Club in the upcoming year.



## Hope House and Bigs in Schools

UMW students also support FCPS students through a range of other programs. Once a week, UMW students provide tutoring and mentoring at Loisanne's Hope House. The local Big Brothers, Big Sisters sends UMW students to the local elementary schools as part of their Bigs in Schools mentoring program. Both of these program are supported through UMW's student-run service program, COAR (Community Outreach and Resources).

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## UMW Center for Community Engagement

The UMW Center for Community Engagement is located in Suite 320 in the Cedric Rucker University Center. Our mission is to serve as a catalyst for community engagement between UMW and our greater communities, building bridges between students, faculty, staff, and community partners through effective relationships that bring about student learning and positive social change.

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Center *for*  
Community  
Engagement