Every year near the feast of St. Ignatius, Loyola University Chicago engages in service days as a means of animating Loyola’s mission “in the service of humanity.” During this time, Loyolans seek to demonstrate, in the spirit of St. Ignatius, that love is shown more in deeds than in words.

This year, on Friday, July 22nd and Wednesday, July 27th, Loyola employees served at Centro Romero, a community-based organization that serves the refugee immigrant population on the northeast side of Chicago. On Tuesday, August 9th, volunteers worked at the Quinn Center through meal preparation and service, as well as working in the gardens. In addition to the days of service, Loyola’s three Chicago campuses wrote letters to community members at Misericordia and Chicago Methodist Seniors.

Friday, July 22

Loyolans from all three campuses spent the day sprucing up space at Centro Romero. This service included painting several classrooms and a hallway, replacing light fixtures, building bookshelves, and reorganizing the children’s community library.

Wednesday, July 27

Loyolans from the LSC and WTC hosted a youth day for the children participating in Centro Romero’s summer youth program. Employees read ecology themed books to children, helped them do ecologically-focused activities, and threw them a BBQ lunch complete with Loyola-created lawn games (giant Jenga, Cornhole, and giant Connect Four).
Health Sciences Campus held a shared day of service for the Health Sciences Division and Loyola University Health System in the Maywood community. Volunteers assembled and distributed 380 meals along with bags of groceries through the Quinn Center of St. Eulalia’s Hunger Ministry’s Drive-Through Food Distribution Program. The department of Bio-Ethics donated 205 sandwiches from Starship Restaurant in Forest Park with items such as chips, cookies and fruit bars donated by Office of Neighborhood Initiatives.

Impact

- 70 youth received the school supplies needed for the upcoming academic year including pencils, pens, markers, crayons, notebooks, rulers, glue sticks, tissues, regular glue, folders, paper, and so forth – specific lists representative of the grade the child is in
- 28 volunteers on July 22, 31 volunteers on July 27, 29 volunteers wrote letters to Misericordia and Chicago Methodist Seniors, and 8 volunteers on August 9
- 70 youth participated in the youth day
- 80 Ecology-themed books donated
- 8 new bookshelf units
- New flooring and chairs for children’s library
- 10 light fixtures replaced
- Aramark donated food for a 150 person bbq for the youth program