



All Things Ignatian



Creighton Clean-Up: A Day of Student Outreach in Our Community

Sponsored by Inter Residence Hall Government

Creighton Clean-Up, sponsored by Inter Residence Hall Government, is the University's largest student-led community outreach event. While the event has many goals, a few stand out as pillars for what the event strives to accomplish:

- Provide an exemplary service experience that educates participants and keeps them actively engaged in the activity
- Create a Creighton Clean-Up 'experience,' not just any other day of service
- Initiate thought-provoking questions and curiosity for service
- Create an impression that will influence students to continue active service involvement in the community after the event



Opening Ceremonies at Creighton Clean-Up 2011.

Creighton Clean-Up 2011 was a record-breaking success with more than 400 participants – students, faculty, staff, and community members – organized into forty-seven teams. The group completed more than 1,200 combined service hours in the Omaha community and raised over \$3,200 for local non-profit organizations and residence hall Community Partners.



A team serving at City Sprouts.

The Deeper Meaning

The purpose of Creighton Clean-Up involves two educational initiatives: to educate participants about local community efforts and to open their minds to self-reflection. The service opportunities allowed participants the chance to get a glimpse of the surrounding community through personal interactions with organization leaders. Students were also able to reflect on their own position in the community and their views of serving others through genuine feelings experienced during their time of service.

One of the participants who had never served in the community before Creighton Clean-Up commented, "This was completely new to me, and at first I didn't know what to expect. Now that it's all said and done, I can see how important this work is. Sure, it doesn't all have to get done by me, but at least I can be a part of something that really makes a difference in another person's life – all I have to do is look around. Someone needs me somewhere."

Benefits of the Program

The benefits of Creighton Clean-Up are numerous. Many participants were able to discover a new service organization in the Omaha community and learn about its mission. Participants were also able to donate to a Community Partner and see the effects of their generosity down the road. Some participants were reminded of the life-giving experience that comes along with serving others. Still others realized the true importance of reflection after service.

The benefits of Creighton Clean-Up, which exemplify the Jesuit values of *Magis* and *Women & Men For and With Others*, last long after the event, with many participants continuing service at their respective host site throughout their college careers.



A team doing yard work throughout the Omaha community.

Sponsored by the Creighton University Jesuit Community, in association with the Deglman Center for Ignatian Spirituality.