

## **ON CAMPUS VOLUNTEERING ACTIVITIES**

### **Baylor College of Medicine - Patient Discharge Initiative**

Baylor College of Medicine – Patient Discharge Initiative, or BCM-PDI for short, is a joint organization between Rice University and Baylor College of Medicine that aims to help the underserved patient population. Members volunteer at the emergency center of Ben Taub Hospital, which is Baylor's affiliate hospital. Many of the patients at Ben Taub Hospital come from underprivileged backgrounds with limited access to social benefits and insurance. We provide patients important social services as they are being discharged from the hospital. Once training sessions have been completed, each volunteer assists patients for 2.5 hours per week under the guidance of one of our shift leaders.

*Contact: [bcm.pdi@gmail.com](mailto:bcm.pdi@gmail.com)*

### **Best Buddies**

End isolation of those with intellectual and developmental disabilities at Rice. Match one-on-one friendships with young adults with and without IDD, promote inclusive community.

*Contact: [mms9@rice.edu](mailto:mms9@rice.edu)*

### **Blueprints for Pangaea**

Blueprints For Pangaea (B4P) is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit medical surplus recovery organization (MSRO) that provides sustainable solutions to inefficient health care resource distribution. B4P is a network of university chapters united in addressing global health care inequalities by reallocating excess, unused medical supplies—that would otherwise be discarded—from U.S. hospitals and suppliers to areas of need overseas. B4P then arranges transport of these supplies to foreign hospitals, enabling affordable, higher quality patient care overseas. With fewer medical resources to process, our partner hospitals are able to cut expenses and reduce their environmental footprints while gaining community goodwill. The Greater Houston Area Chapter works with hospitals in the Texas Medical Center and local community to collect supplies.

*Contact: [blueprintsforpangaea-gha@b4pglobal.com](mailto:blueprintsforpangaea-gha@b4pglobal.com)*

### **BrainSTEM**

BrainSTEM is a service organization dedicated to teaching STEM subjects through neuroscience. We are a multiple institution program, with members from Rice University, UTHealth, GSBS, MD Anderson and Baylor College of Medicine. Our group teaches throughout the Houston community at a variety of academic levels. Our teaching philosophy includes building strong connections with our students and engaging them in STEM subjects through highly interactive lesson plans and activities.

Contact: [brainstem@rice.edu](mailto:brainstem@rice.edu)

### **Camp Kesem Rice**

Kesem is a nationwide community, driven by passionate college student leaders, that supports children through and beyond their parent's cancer. Kesem's flagship program, Camp Kesem, operates free summer camps for children who have been impacted by a parent's cancer. Founded at Stanford University in 2000, Camp Kesem has since expanded to 116 chapters in 42 states across the country. Camp Kesem Rice was founded in 2014, and has continued to grow every year, and in the last year served 129 campers. CK Rice's student team works year round to provide support and programming, organize reunions, reach out to the Houston and Rice community, and fundraise to spread the Kesem magic (Kesem means "magic" in Hebrew) to as many families as possible.

Contact: [rice@campkesem.org](mailto:rice@campkesem.org)

### **DREAM - Achievement through Mentorship**

DREAM - Achievement Through Mentorship strives to increase the number of underrepresented minority students and women earning undergraduate degrees in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) fields through team-based, high school mentoring. Rice University undergraduate and graduate students serve as mentors for small teams of high school students, committing to weekly meetings all semester long.

Contact: [dream.riceu@gmail.com](mailto:dream.riceu@gmail.com)

### **Global Brigades**

Global Brigades is the largest, student-led, nonprofit global health and sustainable development organization in the world. Students help to empower communities in developing countries with sustainable solutions that improve quality of life/environment while respecting local culture. The national organization has 30,000+ volunteers from 800+ university clubs provided health development solutions to 600,000+ beneficiaries.

Contact: [gmb@mailman.rice.edu](mailto:gmb@mailman.rice.edu)

### **Pancakes for Parkinson's**

Pancakes for Parkinson's hosts an annual pancake breakfast fundraiser in the Grand Hall/Ray Courtyard to raise money for Parkinson's research through the Michael J. Fox Foundation. The annual pancake breakfast involves breakfast food, student performances, speeches from Parkinson's patients, professors and the Houston Area Parkinson's Society. We also host small, educational study breaks, volunteer with the Houston Area Parkinson's Society, and host a cross-organizational cultural event called Pancakes around the World in the fall. The events are planned by a board of Rice undergraduate students chosen by the vice-chairs and chairs from applications submitted at the beginning of the year.

## **Partnership for the Advancement and Immersion of Refugees (PAIR)**

PAIR is an after school program for refugee youth to help them adapt to the new culture they have been placed in. We teach them about the American lifestyle, tutor in academic subjects they are struggling in, encourage friendships between the students, and serve as a role model and mentor. Volunteer positions are divided into elementary school, middle school, and high school.

## **Rice All-Stars**

Rice All-Stars is a student organization dedicated to increasing awareness and decreasing stigma around disability related issues and to foster an overall environment of inclusion at Rice University. We do this by playing basketball with individuals with disabilities in the Houston area. Our mission is to provide individuals with special needs in the Houston area with opportunity to play team sports in order to bolster their self confidence, social skills, and overall well-being.

Contact: [riceallstars@gmail.com](mailto:riceallstars@gmail.com)

## **Rice Empower**

Rice Empower is a club that promotes STEM education in local Houston high schools. Our goal is to show high school students in lower-income areas that a college education in STEM is possible and can be fun. We want to show the importance of science in the world, especially as a problem-solving tool. We also want to give the students in these high schools exposure to college and the application process. Finally, our goal is to build relationships with these students, so we can foster a learning environment for our club members in addition to helping high school students.

Contact: [riceempower@gmail.com](mailto:riceempower@gmail.com)

## **Rice EduCare**

As members of the Rice community, we believe that working together we can fulfill our overall objective of providing educational assistance to patients in the Texas Medical Center in school at various hospitals in the Texas Medical Center, including Texas Children's Hospital and MD Anderson. We will fulfill these goals by tutoring children in schoolwork given by their school system (either from their original school or the hospital school system) and teaching introductory classes for standardized testing and various other subjects. We will partner with different hospitals in the Texas Medical Center and inform the Rice community of this inconspicuous issue.

Contact: [mpp3@rice.edu](mailto:mpp3@rice.edu)

## **Rice Habitat for Humanity**

Volunteer along Houston Habitat for Humanity on build days - to build and preserve homes.

### **Rice Health Narratives**

Through the Rice Health Narratives Club, students are properly trained in patient-centered interviewing with the goal of composing patients' life histories, both medical and non-medical, into a narrative, which will be shared with the patient, the patient's family, and the patient's medical team. In this way, the Rice HNC aims to bring the patient's personal story to life so that the medical team can provide a more holistic care for their patient. Moreover, it also provides undergraduate students with the opportunity to experience meaningful patient-centered interactions.

*Contact: [djl11@rice.edu](mailto:djl11@rice.edu)*

### **Rice Heart**

Cardiovascular disease is the number one cause of death in America, and not enough is being done for it. Rice Heart is a volunteer-based program that educates and raises awareness for cardiovascular health and first aid throughout Houston. Specifically, we provide cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and first aid training with and without certification for free to communities lacking adequate resources and access to healthcare. Classes will be taught in English, Spanish, and Mandarin. Our goal is to significantly increase the number civilians capable of providing cardiopulmonary resuscitation and basic prehospital care. At the beginning of each semester, certified Rice EMS instructors will train interested Rice students in CPR followed by training to become CPR/First Aid instructors. Subsequently, a group of 5-6 instructors will be delegated to a predetermined community center (e.g. a church or a health club) to teach CPR/first aid and raise awareness for healthcare. Locations will be chosen based on areas facing financial, cultural, and geographical barriers. Specifically, we will focus on communities that have high emergency medical service (EMS) call volumes, are distant from Level I trauma centers or paramedic ambulances, and have a significant population of non-English speaking residents.

*Contact: [riceheart1@gmail.com](mailto:riceheart1@gmail.com)*

### **Rice HOSA Future Health Professionals**

The Rice HOSA chapter will enable aspiring students on the pre-health track to explore their interests. One of the primary avenues HOSA offers for this exploration is academic competition. Members will have the opportunity to compete in a variety of medical knowledge related events against students from around the country. Additionally HOSA has strong ties to community service and we will be providing opportunities for our members to engage in meaningful and impactful volunteer work throughout the year. This work can range anywhere from volunteering

in hospitals to local soup kitchens and are an excellent way for our chapter to have a community wide impact.

*Contact: lep7@rice.edu*

### **Rice Houston Humane Society**

Who we are: We partner with the Houston Humane Society to make a difference in the lives of abused and abandoned animals in Houston.

How we work: We provide you with rides to the shelter one or two times a month. And your job is to walk the dogs, play with the cats, keep an eye on the puppies, etc. (you can select one or multiple)!

Benefits: It is a great way for you to de-stress, bond with your fellow Rice students, and to brighten up an animal's day!

*Contact: ricehhs@gmail.com*

### **Rice MusicMDs**

Rice MusicMDs is a music therapy-inspired outreach organization of students with musical experience who volunteer to promote patient healing in healthcare institutions via music-assisted patient communication. MusicMDs members are trained to actively assist in the healing process by providing live, one-on-one musical performances to individual patients, families, and staff at Houston Methodist.

*Contact: ricemusicmds@gmail.com*

### **Rice Owls Online Tutoring Service**

ROOTS (Rice Owls Online Tutoring Service) was founded in 2018 to help tackle educational inequality in the Houston community by creating a free online tutoring network between Rice students and underserved high school students. Our mission is to reduce the achievement gap and ensure underserved high school students have a pathway to reach their goals. In this program, high school students and Rice students will consistently connect for at least one hour a week for help in classes, college essays, college applications, and/or standardized test (SAT/ACT) preparation. Rice students will also serve as a mentor and provide high school students the support and advice they need to succeed. The goal of ROOTS is to address academic inequality in the Houston community and increase civic engagement at Rice by creating a free online tutoring network between Rice students and disadvantaged high school students.

*Contact: roots.riceu@gmail.com*

### **Rice Splash**

Rice Splash is an educational event for underprivileged middle school students (and potentially also high school students starting this year). We bring hundreds of kids to campus for a one day event where Rice students teach classes of their choice (can be alone or in groups) to share their passions. Our goal is to inspire these children to pursue their passions and consider higher education an option for their future when they otherwise might not due to educational disparities. We're looking for teachers and volunteers to make this year's event the best one yet!

### **Rice Student Volunteer Program**

As a student organization, RSVP is committed to understanding and meeting the needs of the community through direct and thoughtful action that simultaneously increases the capacity, knowledge, and engagement of the student body at Rice University. As student leaders, we adhere to our commitment through the formation of sincere community relationships that enable us to raise awareness with our peers, educate the student body at Rice, and mobilize students to work with our community partners to create positive change.

*Contact: [ricestudentvolunteerprogram@gmail.com](mailto:ricestudentvolunteerprogram@gmail.com)*

### **Rice University Alzheimer's Buddies**

Rice Alzheimer's Buddies began in August 2017, with our first memory care visits occurring in January 2018. Our mission is to: (i) engage college volunteers and buddies in meaningful intergenerational relationships; (ii) reduce the stigma and silence around neurodegenerative diseases; and (iii) raise awareness about elder care issues in the Houston community.

We currently have 30 volunteers in our Buddy Program who visit two memory care facilities every Sunday. We also have five vibrant committees who plan a variety of events for our club, such as Art for Alzheimer's and the annual Rice Alzheimer's Symposium.

*Contact: [rice@alzbuddies.org](mailto:rice@alzbuddies.org)*