Big Partner Little Partner
Mission Statement
To build stronger ties between the St. Peter Community and Gustavus Adolphus College by having the leaders of today mentor the leaders of tomorrow through a one-on-one relationship.

Community Impact:
Overall, 99% of parents indicated a significant positive impact on their child by participating in the program, with 11% of parents recognizing some positive impact on their child. 95% of participants indicated a positive increase in social skill development. 90% of participants indicated a positive increase in Self-Awareness. 59% of participants indicated an increase in Academic Achievement.

Elders
The mission of the Elders Program is to build mutually beneficial relationships between committed and enthusiastic Gusties and residents of elderly care facilities. Elder’s fosters companionship and happiness by working with residents to enrich their quality of life

Community Impact:
77% of constituents said their mood improved greatly when interacting with volunteers. 86% of constituents strongly agreed that they felt valued by volunteers. “I enjoy young people a lot, my grandchildren are far away and family is really important to me.”

“...Nice to have younger person interested in me. An outlet for me to share my life.” “It’s very comforting to have the students here with us.”

Gustie Buddies
The mission of Gustie Buddies is to provide youth with developmental delays from the St. Peter and surrounding communities with a mentoring, affirming, and compassionate relationship with committed Gustavus students while promoting growth in understanding of themselves and others through dynamic and intentional programming.

Community Impact:
66% of parents strongly agreed that their child demonstrated increased confidence in expressing themselves for who they are, an additional 17% of parents agreed with this statement. 75% of parents strongly agreed that their child exhibited greater comfort in social interactions after participating in Gustie Buddies, an additional 20% of parents agreed with this statement. “I think [my son] is more comfortable in a big group. I have heard him expressing more concern for others at times. He has better attending skills.”

“I do think participating in Gustie Buddies has improved my son’s social skills a lot.” “My son is continuing to work on his proper social skills with others but his Buddies were great working with him and being patient.”

“I feel that at [my son’s] age and only being an only child, that this has been a very positive program for him. He is excited to go and enjoy his time with the girls. They have had a huge impact in his life and I believe he will remember them always.”

Hoffmann Center
The mission of the Hoffmann Center volunteer program is to build positive relationships with adolescent males who are in treatment for problematic sexual behavior through the use of games, songs, and activities in a fun, welcoming, and loving environment that helps the youth at the center develop healthy relationship skills and learn appropriate social interactions.

Community Impact:
Boys at Hoffmann Center said that Gustavus volunteers had the following impact: 99% agree or strongly agree that they are more willing to share opinions openly in a group. (46% strongly agree and 53% agree) 83% agree or strongly agree that they have been more respectful of peers. (36% strongly agree and 53% agree) “They helped me be more secure with my thoughts and feelings.” “They were really positive and even supportive when someone needed to talk.”

“They were positive and helpful, very supportive of me.” “I noticed that people’s moods changed and they gave helpful tips.” “The boys are willing to listen to each other when arguing or having a conflict.”

Language Buddies
Became part of the center in this academic year and will provide statistics when available.

Community Impact:
71% of constituents strongly agreed that they are more willing to share opinions openly in a group. (30% strongly agree and 53% agree)”

“83% agree or strongly agree that they have been more respectful of peers. (36% strongly agree and 53% agree) “They were really positive and even supportive when someone needed to talk.”

“They were positive and helpful, very supportive of me.” “I noticed that people’s moods changed and they gave helpful tips.” “The boys are willing to listen to each other when arguing or having a conflict.”

Pound Pals
The mission of St. Francis Pound Pals is to further the cause of animal welfare by serving the local shelter, by raising community awareness of animal issues, and by taking personal responsibility for the wellbeing of animals in our lives.

Community Impact:
Nearly 100% of the animals that came into the pound saw positive behavioral changes. “The volunteers handling and socializing the animals made the difference between ability to adopt out the animals or not able to adopt them out.” “I would like to thank all of you for your support of the pound this past year. The animals were once again well cared for during your tenure. The animals were the big winners, most dogs being moved quickly to humane societies or new homes. Thank you for supporting the pound!”

Study Buddies
Study Buddies works to utilize Gustavus students and their talents to compliment the quality of education offered in St. Peter. Our volunteers do this by working in direct contact with students of all ages and backgrounds, wherever needed. The program will give educators additional means, through our volunteers, to enable every student to reach their highest potential. We value meaningful partnerships between Gustavus students and St. Peter Schools.

Community Impact:
64% of teachers agreed that due to Study Buddies volunteers, students in their class reached greater levels of academic achievement; an additional 17% strongly agreed. 76% of teachers reported being very satisfied with the service volunteers provided. “I was able to get some students one to one attention that would have not otherwise been possible.”

“[Volunteer] were able to give some students one to one attention that would have not otherwise been possible.”

Trips and Activities Group (TAG)
Mission Statement
To provide an independent and respected after school program for St. Peter youth that supplies healthy lifestyle education, character development, and a positive living environment. This is accomplished through activity, teamwork, respect, and peer mentorship.

Community Impact:
55% of kids eat more healthy snacks at home because what they learned through TAG bringing snacks. 72% of kids indicated that they preferred participating in activities rather than watching TV when TAG was present. “What is exceptional about TAG members is that they model all parts of its mission by not just supervising but by joining in the activities that they began.”

TAG participants said because of TAG they “learned teamwork and responsibility” and that “it’s not always a race” when competing in competitions.

Wednesday Friends
Wednesday friends strives to foster meaningful relationships with adults who have special psychiatric needs to promote the continued development of fundamental social skills through creative and intentional programming.

Community Impact:
71% of constituents strongly agreed that they socialized more with other people, 71% of constituents strongly agreed that they developed meaningful relationships with others at the club house.

“They have helped me with some difficult situations with my life.”

“I don’t talk much but I do wear a lot.”

“They show me they don’t judge, they actually get to know people for who they are”