At the end of last spring, your TRIO staff held a planning meeting to prepare for the 2018-2019 school year. At this meeting, the idea to have a TRIO Service Project that would include all willing TRIO students and ourselves was discussed. We would name the project “TRIO Serves” and set a high bar of 1,000 service hours to be completed by Feb. 14th, 2019. That meant that over the next 5-1/2 months, 1000 volunteer service hours would need to be completed by only 160 TRIO students and 4 staff members! We were humbled by your willingness to serve in so many different capacities and blow the top off the TRIO Serves goal thermometer by actually completing 1,150 hours!

In celebration, we held a Valentine’s Day, Love as a Service event with Sr. Thomas Welder as the honored speaker. We were also graced with four students who shared their thoughts and experiences at the event: Mollie Anderson, Marquell Evans, Nicole Emmett, and David Alimo. Their thoughtful reflections were inspiring.
I am a transfer student from Las Vegas and this is my second semester at the University of Mary. Being here in Bismarck has taught me so much and opened my eyes to so many changes; and being able to serve in a smaller community is one of them that I truly appreciate. I have only been here for 5 or so months, yet I have been able to do several service opportunities that mainly focused on the cultural diversity that is expanding within Bismarck.

The first service project that I did back in September was with the International Student Organization at the Salvation Army. We helped set up for a Multicultural event and got to meet so many wonderful people who live in Bismarck and represent different cultures. Then I continued with the Salvation Army for the Universities Day of Service and also United Way. I went to both places and assisted with setting up a coat drive event and went back two days later to finish setting up racks of coats. While at United Way, the group I was with was tasked with sending out letters to the community and businesses in and out of town to help sponsor a family in need.

In November, International Student Organization and Global Studies put together a week worth of events for International Week. Every day during the week was filled with informing other students and staff about the different cultures. Three weeks ago, I attended another multicultural event at the library in town and taught children about the Korean culture. Although I am 100% Mexican, I am interested in many different cultures because of my friends.

Most people do service because they have to for school or work, but I do it for fun because I am able to meet new people and interact with them. I don’t want to force anyone into giving up their time to help the less fortunate, but you may feel better and make a difference in someone’s life. Being able to teach little kids about the different cultures is so cute because I can physically see them opening up to learning more. Helping an organization set up a coat drive for those in real need of a coat to battle this brutal winter gives me such a good feeling.

I am really thankful for all the opportunities that I have been given, to meet new little people and teach them something new and lending a helping hand for those in need. I will continue doing this and hope to get more people involved within the community.

When I hear the word “service” or “volunteer,” I think of St. Therese of the Little Flower and if I had to summarize her in one sentence I would say she is a powerful yet sensitive spirit who would turn towards love, instead of keeping herself happy. When I was young, I admired her for her extraordinary love and making me feel like I could help simply by loving. I think of her when I work at my job in the nursing home.

I always try to serve with love by simply remembering the residents’ names, what is going on in their lives, and going out of my way to make sure they are comfortable and cared for. Even when at my clinicals at the hospital for school, I think of St. Therese. I saw the need of love when I helped a woman in fear and in pain from being poked and prodded so many times. I took her hand and told her I am here, and she could squeeze my hand as hard as she likes. I ask myself if I were in her position, what I would have wanted them to do. That’s hard because I will never be able to fully understand everyone and what they have gone through, but I can at least try.

Honestly, I am blessed for struggles in my life that have caused me great pain because that pain helps me understand and allows me to love that much more. So with this, remember one can serve many people simply by loving each other. “Miss no single opportunity of making some small sacrifice, here by a smiling look, there by a kindly word; always doing the smallest right and doing it all for love.” – St. Therese of Lisieux.
Eighty-eight TRIO students received a Fall GPA of 3.0 or greater, therefore qualifying for the TRIO Merit Grant. Full-time credit status was also needed to qualify for the grant. This is an amazing accomplishment and one you can all be proud of! Those receiving $250.00 for a 3.0-3.25 GPA: Alaina Berger, Anne Bunnell, Michael Buster, Dora Cantu, Kasidy Chileen, Claudia Diener, Katelyn Engel, Brent Fix, Kathryn Handeland, Molly Helget, Linnea Kisby, Kayla Kitzmann, Veronica Miller, Odalys Montenegro Ramos, Mary Montoya, Shyyla Nelson, Ashley Robledo, and Beau Skurdal.

Students receiving $300.00 for a 3.26-3.49 GPA: Luis Alvarado, Rebecca Andry, Patricia Bartos, Anna Bauer, Skyler Bossert, Bridget Dowling, Carly Hands, Alysa Henry, Anna Hobbs, Emma Olson, Gabriel Rivas, Haley Roberts, Bethany Sando, Abigail Serbus, and Hailey Zacher.

Students receiving $350.00 for a 3.5-3.75 GPA: Mabel Addo, David Alimo, Mollie Anderson, John Cornwell, Brittany Davis, Tanesha Struebing, Lynn Duong, Marquell Evans, Emilee Fergel, Isabella Fredricksen, Mariah Foote, James Gilbert, Elizabeth Hands, Erin Heidrich, Abby Hill, Hunter Huizenga, Reegin Kehn, Allison Kipp, Nicole Koepl, Anastasia Koralewski, Anna Litschauer, Mae Litschauer, Connie Meziere, Nicole Miller, Nicholas Mortenson, Devan Rohrich, Kyra Schulz, Michal Sequiera, Stephen Tan, Mercedes Trujillo-Hanson, Mary Vincent, Michael Waddell, Deserea Wanner, and Brandon Welch.

Students receiving $400.00 for a 3.76-4.0 GPA: Sarina Aamold, Lucia Bolibruch, Maria Bolibruch, David Chavez, Christine David, Michael Dettloff, Jane Dukart, Jacob Gartner, Amy Howard, Lauren Kraft, Theresa Liebsch, Hannah Meier, Maisie Patzner, Genevieve Ricciardi, Kayla Schneider, and Samantha Wiechman.

Congratulations! Your hard work has paid off!
TRIO student Jaylan White scored 22 points at the game against University of Minnesota Crookston on February 16th. He is the leading scorer of the season, with this game being no different. He had 8 of 14 goal attempts and hit all five of his free throws. He also had three steals, five rebounds, and two assists.

TRIO student Kylie Alto is on the Softball team this year with a .956 fielding percentage. On February 23rd, she went 2-4 with four runs batted in (RBI) recording a double and a triple helping the team get to victory!

TRIO student Kasidy Chileen has a .977 fielding percentage. On February 22nd she went 4-4 with 3 runners batted in (RBI). In the two games that took place, she combined 7-8 with 6 runners batted in helping secure both wins for the day!

TRIO student Maria Bolibruch is ranked 30th at 8.78 seconds for the 60 meter hurdles. Her sister Tereza Bolibruch, also a TRIO student, is ranked directly behind her in 31st at 8.81 seconds in the 60 meter hurdles. TRIO student Cali Modglin is ranked 40th in the long jump at 5.67 meters.

As of February 20th, The University of Mary women’s Track and Field are off to a great start being ranked 15th in the NCAA Division II Indoor Track and Field USTFCCCA National Rating Index. TRIO student Maria Bolibruch is ranked 30th at 8.78 seconds for the 60 meter hurdles. Her sister Tereza Bolibruch, also a TRIO student, is ranked directly behind her in 31st at 8.81 seconds in the 60 meter hurdles. TRIO student Cali Modglin is ranked 40th in the long jump at 5.67 meters.

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