**Service learning** is a method of integrating community service with education and reflection to enrich the learning experience, teach civic responsibility, encourage lifelong engagement, and strengthen communities for the common good.

**Benefits of Service Learning**

Service learning allows you to make a difference in your community, helps to enhance your critical thinking skills, provides you an opportunity to develop some networking opportunities, and provides you a greater understanding of social needs of your community.

**Ashford University Mission**

To provide accessible, affordable, innovative, high-quality learning opportunities and degree programs that meet the diverse needs of individuals pursuing integrity in their lives, professions, and community.

In line with the mission statement, one of the University’s purpose statements is to foster intellectual and personal growth, sensitivity to diversity and human dignity, effective and responsible leadership, environmental responsibility, and lifelong learning. Ashford University values the action of giving back to the community. See page 2 for several organizations that Ashford University believes uphold these same values.
USO
The USO is a congressionally chartered, non-profit organization, and is not a part of the federal government. Since 1941, the USO mission has remained the same: to provide morale, welfare and recreation-type services to service members and their families. For further information, please visit: http://www.uso.org.

The American Red Cross
This organizations offers compassionate services in five areas: community services that help the needy, support and comfort for military members and their families, the collection, processing and distribution of lifesaving blood and blood products, educational programs that promote health and safety, and international relief and development programs. For further information, please visit: http://www.redcross.org.

Volunteers of America
Dedicated to helping those in need rebuild their lives and reach their full potential, Volunteers of America delivers thousands of human service programs, including housing and health care to America’s most vulnerable groups. Since 1896, the organization has helped at-risk youth, the frail elderly, men and women returning from prison, homeless individuals and families, people with disabilities, and those recovering from addictions. Their work touches the mind, body, heart — and ultimately, the spirit — of those they serve, integrating deep compassion with highly effective programs and services. For more information, please visit: http://www.voa.org.

Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure Advocacy Alliance
Their mission is to raise awareness about breast cancer around the world. For further information, please visit: http://ww5.komen.org.

United Way
The mission of United Way is to improve lives by mobilizing the caring power of communities around the world to advance the common good. Their goals are to improve education, to help people to achieve financial stability and to promote healthy lives. For more information, please visit: http://liveunited.org.

Feed the Children
This organization is a Christian, international, nonprofit relief organization that delivers food, medicine and clothing and other necessities to individuals, children, and families who lack these essentials due to famine, war, poverty, or natural disaster. For further information, please visit: www.feedthechildren.org.

Ronald McDonald House Charities of San Diego
The Ronald McDonald House Charities of San Diego provide a home-away-from-home for children and their families while the child is treated for serious, often life-threatening, illnesses at San Diego hospitals. For more information, please visit: http://www.rmhc.esd.org.