

CARP USA: Doing Volunteer Service and Spreading Holiday Cheer this Season

Naokimi Ushiroda
December 10, 2021



"In December 2017, when I attended a Divine Principle retreat, I thought 'never in a million years am I going to start CARP at my campus' - and yet, by the end of the retreat, I was strategizing how to pioneer a chapter with my mentors," said A. Kuhlmann, a nursing student at Westminster College in Utah.

Three years later, and after overcoming many hurdles, Kuhlmann has a thriving [CARP](#) chapter on her Salt Lake City campus. On November 22, the group hosted a successful food truck fundraiser benefiting a local food bank this holiday season.



"I was determined from the deepest sincerity of my heart to be united with God in overtaking my campus with love," said Kuhlmann regarding [her inspiration](#) to establish CARP at her school. Her team organized a campus-wide service project partnering with "The Ramen Mobile" food truck, which donated 50 percent of its profits to the Utah Food Bank.

"We were able to donate more than \$250," said Kuhlmann. "And it was a pleasure to have national CARP team member C. Katayama join us during the event." The group connected with more than 70 people on campus thanks to the food truck, while also putting their Unificationist faith into practice.

"It was a joy to make this dream a reality in engaging the greater Westminster community in embodying one of the core values of CARP: living for the sake of others, while feeding people during winter season,"

said Kuhlmann. "What does it mean to live for the sake of others? Love is to give, forget you have given, and want to give again."

CARP members in other parts of the country are also serving their communities in the holiday spirit. The Bay Area chapter, led by J. Chai, joined several local nonprofits and churches on Nov. 22 to prepare boxes of fresh produce, canned goods, turkeys, chickens, and Thanksgiving ingredients to distribute to families from the Oakland community.



"We gathered with volunteers and Pastor Mustafa from B.A.S.I.C Ministry, Ground Game Ministry, Elevate Gospel Outreach, B.H. Brilliant Minds Project, Inc., Euniece Law Foundation, Bridge Association, BAFC YAM, and YSP USA," said Chai. "We set up tables and equipment for the Thanksgiving grocery giveaway at Elmhurst Park. There was excitement in the air as young volunteers from various ministries worked together to move equipment to prepare for the event."



In 2020, more than 37 million people nationwide lived in poverty, according to the [U.S. Census](#), with [food insecurity](#) and hunger being primary issues. About [four in 10 Americans](#) reported they experienced food insecurity for the first time during the pandemic, according to a poll conducted by two market research companies. CARP, which promotes selfless ideals and principles, has been responsive to this widespread problem.

"Working together as a unit, we unloaded boxes quickly and organized everything to be well prepared for the evening... and then residents began to trickle in," said Chai. "You could hear the chatter gradually increase and see the lights of cars driving up to the side of the park. There was excitement in the air."

"When I saw the first family walk up, I was excited," she said. "I was waiting for an hour for this moment to meet these people and finally they were here. I didn't know who they would be, what they would look like, but it didn't matter. I just wanted to connect and give to them through what I can by offering food."

The service project drew a large turnout. Even city council member Treva Reid, a candidate for Oakland mayor, attended the food giveaway to support the community.

"She was happy to see everyone and inspired by how we, as young people, have been going out to serve and support different projects in the community," said Chai. "It was a great evening filled with love, care, and connection to remind us all to count our blessings, have an attitude of gratitude, and live for the sake of others."

Photos courtesy of CARP Bay Area and Westminster chapters

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Principles Worth Living

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Before I hope to master the universe, I must first master myself.

— Sun Myung Moon



A movement of students by students





Mia Taguchi

College of Southern Nevada,
NV

“As my time in CARP progressed, I started to understand more and more that if I truly want to make a difference in the world, it starts with not just the individual, but the impact an individual has on the family. The impact our actions have encompasses a whole circle of people.

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Samuel Tamura

University of Davis,
California, CA

“ I want everyone to see the Principle and the CARP culture and feel moved and inspired by it. I want to create a chapter that truly aims to bring a new perspective for all members and they can come out of CARP thinking that it made a positive change in their life. ”

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Josue Kisile

Grand Rapids Community
College, MI

“ Transferring your vision and passion to others is probably the hardest part of leadership, but it takes you on a very needed journey of patience and perseverance. I have grown so much as a leader through this journey.”

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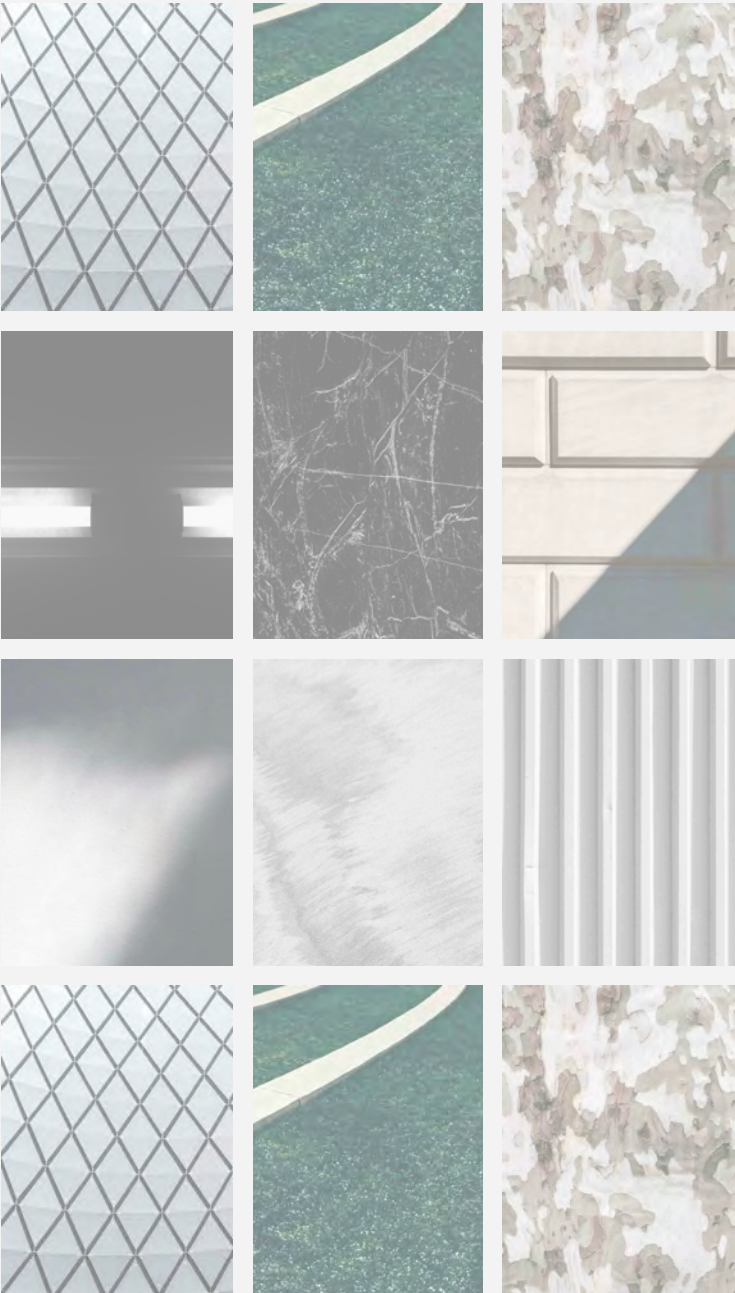
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Overtaking my campus with love

November 11, 2021 · student-spotlight



My name is Alicia Kuhlmann, and I’m a nursing student and pre-professional science major graduating Spring 2023 at Westminster College in Salt Lake City, Utah. My journey with CARP started in December 2017 when I attended a *Divine Principle* retreat and thought “never in a million years am I going to start CARP at my campus”—and yet, by the end of the retreat, I was strategizing how to pioneer

a chapter with my mentors.

My heart was touched by the lectures and testimonies presented that shared how my loving Heavenly Parent has been aching in pain as He longed to embrace his children. I began to realize how much God’s love and grace had been working in my life, and I couldn’t help but run with burning love and joy in pioneering a CARP family on my campus where God could feel that His heart could joyfully and peacefully reside in.

I quickly realized, though, that pioneering a chapter was not as simple as it seemed on paper. My biggest challenge came when I transferred from my community college to Westminster and was almost immediately met with backlash. I was blessed to have met my to-be advisor, Jan Saeed, who is the Director for the Office of Global Peace and Spirituality, and she helped me find the connections and students to start a chapter.

However, a group of students pushed back and spread flyers and stories around campus saying malicious rumors about CARP. They met with my advisor and pushed her to drop her position as an advisor and even petitioned to prohibit the establishment of CARP altogether. There were days where I was afraid to walk around campus because people would say horrid things or even throw things at me. In my darkest hour, I felt so hurt, alone, and misunderstood—my dream from the sincerest place of my heart was to build a family where we could dream what a world of peace would be and actualize this vision through the teachings of the *Divine Principle* in living for the sake of others.

I found myself swelling with anger and hurt. I wanted to turn around and report the obvious religious discrimination, and I questioned why God had guided me to lead CARP at all, for persecution was what challenged my faith the most. But a couple of weeks later, I watched Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, co-founder of CARP, stand in front of 30,000 people in New York; I watched as she chose to love unconditionally. I watched as she loved those who have worked against her, as she loved in the face of the greatest fear, and how she even loved the country that wrongly placed her husband in jail.

In witnessing this, I have discovered a piece of what composes CARP’s incomparable beauty: the ability to love so unconditionally. At that moment, I dreamed to also love unconditionally. I discovered this is what it truly means to live for the sake of others, to love someone who has caused you the greatest pain and to do so for their sake. In realizing this, I was determined from the deepest sincerity of my heart to be united with

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God in ***overtaking*** my campus with love.

A few weeks after the rally, my school’s administration apologized for the discrimination and CARP was approved.



As time went on, I realized that it is the young people who change the world because they are the ones who determine the cultural and philosophical thought of the future, and the tremendous importance of CARP is to substantially realize God’s original dream, vision, and hope of fostering a culture of heart. God longs to find a place in our hearts where *His* heart can joyfully and peacefully reside in, and He dreams of us building peace-loving families that embody His innermost dream. CARP is the organization that raises these young leaders who can do this.

In my own life, I’ve come to know that God didn’t need me to be just another college student, but that God needed me to be a CARP student; I am overwhelmed by that realization and love in how God has guided my journey. I’ve learned what it means to fly in my faith, to find real love in my relationships by having a desire and willingness to continually grow—and that in order to become the kind of wife that I want to be for God and my future spouse, I must first become the kind of daughter and sister who seeks to live for the sake of others. CARP has shown me what it means to be a truly unconditionally loving person in the face of great challenges and persecution and to embrace the journey of growth and humility that accompanies such a path.

Regardless of where my journey takes me next, I know that CARP has been the instrumental framework in sculpting the moral compass in which I want to live the rest of my life.

Tagged: student spotlight, student, student leadership, live for the sake of others, global citizen, carp utah, power of the principle

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Robert Henry Beebe 6 days ago · 0 Likes

Thank you, Alicia, for your inspiring testimony. God needs people like you who are willing to put things on the line and win people over through sincere love and speaking the truth. God bless you!



Benedicte Suzuki A week ago · 0 Likes

Waouuu what a nice testimony! i feel so sorry for you and your advisor, but you have witnessed that goodness finally always win eventhough it might take time. Specially in this time where discrimination is really a societal discussion! We hope great success for your CARP chapter and thank you for not having give up



Glenda A week ago · 0 Likes

Awesome and powerful story! Thank you, Alicia for your courage, love and determination. I have more HOPE for our young adults because of you:)



Randy & Kumiko Francis A week ago · 0 Likes

Such a fantastic story of resilience and love for Campus and community. Thank you Alicia and Go CARP Westminster College!
Randy & Kumiko Washington, DC.

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