

Barry Service Corps Member Rodney Morvan Provides Community Engagement Program Support



By Heather Johnson Desiral

Quiet and unassuming, Rodney Morvan has contributed to community engagement at Barry University by providing mostly behind-the-scenes program support in the Center for Community Initiatives (CCSI). He has also done a considerable amount of work in the Barry Urban Garden.

A senior about to graduate, Morvan is a member of the Barry Service Corps. His community engagement program support assignments have included assistance with a Miami-Dade PACT (People Acting for Community Together) event called Nehemiah Action and with various CCSI-organized events. Among such events are Days of Service and the Community Engagement Symposium.

“Rodney has contributed to community impact through his role as a CCSI program assistant,” noted Liz James, experiential learning coordinator. “He has supported the CCSI’s work from behind the scenes ... and has run countless errands on campus and in the community to help make our programs and events run smoothly.”

Morvan usually assists with tasks like event setup and breakdown, and sometimes with registration. He helps to update the community engagement bulletin boards and to keep the CCSI storage space organized. At some events, he is found behind the camera.

“For the past three to four years,” James explained, “it has largely been Rodney who has entered data on [students’ community] service activity in our databases.”

In the Barry Urban Garden, he has helped to plant and harvest crops and to maintain the garden plots.

While in high school, Rodney participated in community service; at Victory Wesleyan Gospel Church in Palm Beach, where his dad has been the pastor, Rodney has served in the youth ministry.

As he indicated, his Barry Service Corps experience has allowed him to gain a new, deeper understanding of community engagement and the difference it can make in the lives of people who are less fortunate.

Barry Service Corps member Rodney Morvan has worked largely out of public view, helping to ensure that CCSI-organized community engagement programs and events are successful. He has also served in the Barry Urban Garden.



A criminal justice major with a minor in computer information science, Morvan wants to pursue a career in cybersecurity. As a licensed real estate agent, he balances his job of representing buyers and sellers in real estate transactions with the demands of being a full-time, civically engaged student. It is quite a challenge for him, but he has been coping well.

“Knowing how to thrive in a structured work environment” is key to balance, he said. “In my junior year, I was taking seven classes with a lab—but the CCSI allowed me a flexible schedule and recognized I was a student first.”

Guided by his strong work ethic and commitment to civic involvement, Morvan is finding his place in the world. Commitment is important, he said, “even when you’re not in the mood” to do something.

Noting his own professional growth, he acknowledged that the CCSI has provided him with a training ground, allowing him to gain skills in such areas as phone etiquette, email communication, data organization and management, and use of technology.

Rodney Morvan has worked largely out of public view, helping to ensure that CCSI-organized community engagement programs and events are successful. In his own way, he has contributed to community impact.

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