

Community Service

EFFECTIVE OUTLETS FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE

Students carrying beams
for rebuilding a shelter

A photograph showing two young men carrying large wooden beams outdoors. One student is in the foreground, wearing a teal t-shirt with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency logo on the sleeve. The other student is partially visible behind him, wearing sunglasses. They appear to be working on a community service project to rebuild a shelter.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is a federal government agency whose mission is to protect human health and the natural environment. EPA's Office of Solid Waste (OSW) is committed to ensuring the responsible management of hazardous and nonhazardous waste. OSW's goals are to conserve resources by preventing waste, reduce waste that cannot be prevented, and ensure that all waste is properly disposed of.

OSW is also committed to furthering its education and outreach efforts by promoting volunteerism and community service programs to people of all ages.



EMILY BISHOP: PULVERIZING POVERTY

Emily Bishop

Junior at Southern New Hampshire University



When I was little I was a Girl Scout and we did a lot of service. It was just fun and felt good to give back to our community.

I joined the office [Center for Community Engaged Learning at Southern New Hampshire University] the Spring semester of my Freshman year, so about 3 years ago.

We have 3 professional staff and around 30 student staff. We split all that we do into 3 sections. Service Learning, where classes go and do service that matches their curriculum, Service Projects, one time service opportunities on and off campus for students, and Alternative Break, traveling across the US or the world to help with a cause.

I am a Service Projects coordinator. I help to make programs on and off campus for students to help out with. Each of us also has desk shifts, front and back desk to help the office run smoothly. Another part of my job is driving the office van with service learners to and from their sites.

Community Service

My favorite service project is Happy Birthday Visitors, I love seeing the residents at Mt. Caramel Nursing Home light up when we sing to them and chat for a little. My monthly craft project at an emergency housing unit is also one of my favorites.

I most enjoy networking with different organizations that do a wide variety of services for the less fortunate in and around Manchester, NH. A lot of my contacts for future internships and jobs were made through work that I have done with the office.

My biggest accomplishments with the office is making the monthly craft program fun and engaging for the kids at the emergency housing unit.

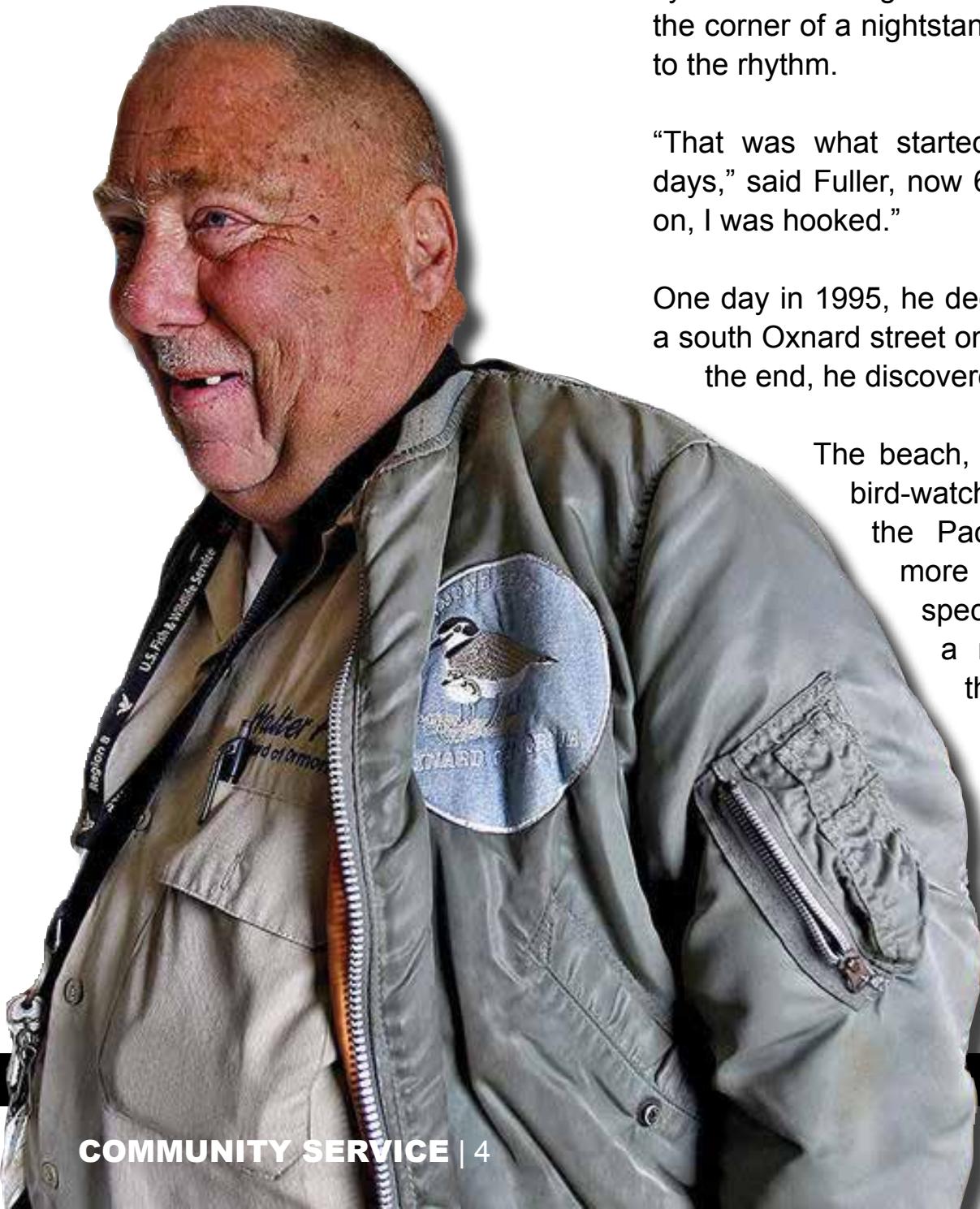
Our office has many big accomplishments but I think our biggest one would have to be the success of our annual food drive Give a Little Feed a Lot. It gets bigger every year with volunteers and we put so much time into it the first weeks before school starts up. I always love seeing all of our hard work coming together as we pack up all the food at the end of the day.



WALTER FULLER: GUARDIAN OF ORMOND BEACH

Walter Fuller

Sole resident of Ormond Beach for 17 years



As a child, Walter Fuller would play Johnny Cash on the record player in his bedroom and let Whitey out of his cage. Whitey would fly around and alight on the back of a chair or the corner of a nightstand and bob his head to the rhythm.

"That was what started my bird-watching days," said Fuller, now 60. "From that point on, I was hooked."

One day in 1995, he decided to drive down a south Oxnard street on his lunch break. At the end, he discovered Ormond Beach.

The beach, one of the premier bird-watching spots on the Pacific Flyway, hosts more than 200 migrating species and serves as a nesting ground for the rare Western snowy plover and the California least tern. Birders from all over the world visit the two-mile swath of coastline.

Community Service

"I found my spot," he said. "I knew this is where I could study birds the rest of my life."

Nearly 10 years later, Fuller spends every day of the year at the beach — holidays included. He spends nights there, too, in a small trailer provided by the city. And he does it without pay.

Fuller has become the guardian of Ormond Beach.

Ormond Beach is one element in an ambitious restoration project underway by the California Coastal Conservancy that experts say could one day become the largest coastal wetlands in Southern California, spanning nine miles of largely undeveloped waterfront from Port Hueneme to Point Mugu.

Heavy industry drained and degraded the wetlands and lagoons over the last 50 years.

A tall slag heap — a remnant of the closed Halaco steel recycling plant — is on the north side of the beach, part of a Superfund hazardous waste cleanup site overseen by the federal Environmental Protection Agency. Their smokestacks are still nearby.

