



Students Flex Their Volunteer Muscles

FIU Doctor of Physical Therapy students are going beyond the classroom in different ways to break past their own preconceived expectations of the vocation while optimizing their skills.

Rachel Hagiel, Rohmoya Baily *(pictured above left and right)* and Kristy Serrano's time at the Special Olympics and training athletes with intellectual disabilities heightened their understanding of the boundless abilities of the special needs population.

Ana Marzak and Shana Saffer learned that the benefits of physical therapy aren't confined to the four walls of a clinic or gym. You could say they took an "open range" approach to PT through their experiences with hippotherapy.

The connection between feeding the underprivileged and physical therapy may not be immediately clear. But for Jemma Lopez *(pictured center)*, volunteering at a food bank and recognizing that hardship does not discriminate has deeply shaped her perspective as a practitioner to help others overcome obstacles.

Jemma helps sum up all these experiences best: "Our human responsibility is to help others, which is why many of us chose physical therapy as the means to galvanize people toward a better quality of life." **Read more about their stories.**

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Together we can inform and encourage one another to push the limits of our discipline and help new avenues of practice and progress emerge.