In April 2017, the Gephardt Institute for Civic and Community Engagement and the Washington University Alumni Association will work with alumni leaders across the country to plan alumni service opportunities that are meaningful and needed in their communities. More in depth than a typical service project, these events will include an educational component and discussion designed to give participants a better understanding of the needs, assets, and challenges within their community. This is the second year of WashU Engage, an initiative which works to advance the institute’s mission of cultivating informed and actively engaged citizens, as we continue to grow to more cities. WashU Engage also supports alumni engagement with local communities and fosters connections among alumni.

Through WashU Engage, we hope to:

1. Provide community organizations across the nation with needed and desired assistance
2. Provide Washington University alumni with meaningful community engagement opportunities in their local communities
3. Educate Washington University alumni about a social issue in their local communities
4. Foster and strengthen connections between alumni, Washington University, and community organizations

Each project will include the following components, although the order may vary based on plans made with community partners:

1. Breakfast, lunch, or casual reception for project participants
2. Service project with a non-profit organization
3. Educational component (an overview of the organization for which the group is volunteering, a discussion of the issue(s) addressed by the organization, etc.)
4. Discussion and reflection among participants
5. Evaluation and feedback from participants, site leaders, and host organizations