This initiative documents the lived experience of the volunteers for the Virginia Student-Help Project and the Jamaica Student-Help Project of Queens College in the early to mid-1960s. Queens College is proud of its long history of Civil Rights activism. While much of the effort was focused on protest and political activity opposing racial segregation and discrimination, the Student-Help Projects were centered on education.

The Virginia Student-Help Project was an intensive education effort during the summer of 1963 in Prince Edward County, Virginia where public schools were closed for five years in massive resistance to integration.

The Jamaica Student-Help Project took place closer to home. Starting in schools near campus, it eventually engaged 500 Queens College student volunteers in tutoring more than one thousand educationally challenged, under-resourced students across New York City.

This project seeks to record the insights and lessons learned of the Student Help volunteers. Documentation will be gathered primarily through oral history interviews and written responses to prompts. These first hand-accounts will supplement the Queens College Library's existing civil rights collections (www.bit.ly/CivilRightsQC) and be made available to researchers through the Queens Memory Project, an ongoing community archiving program supported by the Queens College Library and Queens Public Library (www.bit.ly/QMP-Online).