

Opportunity Knocks

Reporting on Community Service Learning and Opportunities in the Delaware Community
Stephanie Bologeorges, Editor In Chief

*Vene Vidi VISTA! **

“Didn’t she graduate? What’s she still doing around OWU?” In response to these familiar questions, Elizabeth Curseen has a unique answer. She is no longer here as a student, but has switched to a staff member role, serving as the new VISTA on campus.

VISTA stands for Volunteers In Service To America, a national service organization created to combat poverty. Now affiliated with the AmeriCorps program, VISTAs are unique in that they live in the communities they serve where they seek to implement long-standing programs to tackle the issue of poverty. As an Ohio Campus Compact VISTA, Elizabeth will be focused on community organizing which will also provide many opportunities for the campus to get involved in service learning. Elizabeth is working specifically toward this mission through the Service Learning Office at Ohio Wesleyan, and with community partners such as the Delaware County General Health District, the Delaware Area United Way, Andrews House and St. Mary’s Catholic Church.



OCC Vista Volunteer, Elizabeth Curseen '05

Elizabeth is uniquely qualified for the position, and is especially excited because it connects her with the community service she was already doing on campus as a student. Her service involvement included tutoring ESL children at Woodward Elementary School, living and seeking to fulfill the mission of the House of Modern Foreign Languages, being an active member in the Latino Outreach enrichment and mentoring programs for students and their families and participating in a Spring Break Mission Week’s Mexico Mission trip, working in a community hospital in Mexico with children and their families. She also attended the Spanish Mass service at St. Mary’s Church to further her involvement in the community by meeting the families and hearing their stories, creating a personal connection with the people she serves.

The goal of the OCC VISTA program at Ohio Wesleyan is to eventually culminate in a multicultural center in Delaware for area families. The center would serve as a safe haven for new residents to obtain services and necessary information to complete the immigration process. As an additional benefit, Ohio Wesleyan students would be able to engage in integrated community service at the center.

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*Roughly Translated as “I came, I saw, I volunteered!”

Adventure Habitat



Before their classes started, before they were even finished moving in, freshmen were already getting involved in community service. On Saturday, August 26, fifteen freshmen took part in a Habitat for Humanity build day as part of an adventure activity for Freshman Orientation. The freshmen, along with a few upperclassmen went out to two build sites in Delaware County. One group stayed in town to do some painting, while the other went to a home Ashley to work on a variety of tasks including hanging siding, pulling weeds and building a railing.

Senior Sarah Manor, president of OWU's Habitat for Humanity chapter and resident of the Habitat for Humanity SLU on campus, helped to coordinate the activity. As her house project this semester, she hopes to generate interest in Habitat and poverty issues and to meet some of the incoming freshmen. The goal is to get some fresh new faces involved in Habitat as well as get the older members out and working as soon as possible. "Habitat traditionally offers an activity during freshman orientation," she says, "so personally, I was just following up on what's been done in the past."

Jackie Kuhns, the executive director of Habitat for Humanity in Delaware County, works in conjunction with the OWU chapter and helped to set up the work sites for the group. Sue Pasters, director of Community Service Learning on campus, also helped coordinate the activity and make it possible. "We're very pleased at the outcome," she said.

Someone You Should Know: Jessica Kynion

If you see this friendly face around, you're looking at the new Assistant Chaplain of Service and Justice. Jessica Kynion is a Malone '06 graduate, and new Coalition for Christian Outreach (CCO) staff member. She loves working with college students and has taken the position at OWU to be a resource to students as they try to figure out their identities and personal world views. Her goal is to facilitate students' service experience and to help them understand and articulate their role in service and understand why what they're doing is important.

Jessica recently spent time in Hong Kong and China working with Crossroads International and in an orphanage. She hopes to incorporate her experiences there this summer with service learning here at OWU. Jessica jumped right into service learning by participating in Fresh X even before most of the students were on campus. She is currently in training to become a volunteer advocate with the SARN (Sexual Assault Response Network) program through Helpline. She is also involved in organizing and supervising the Jubilee Team, which addresses the issue of how to participate in service by integrating personal faith. She also helps facilitate Wilderness trips, providing for an alternate view of service through caring for the environment. To learn more, stop by room 403 on the fourth floor of the Hamilton-Williams campus center, which she shares with Lisa Ho and Ryan Carlson.



Greeks and Clubs IN ACTION



Below: The Brothers of Sigma Chi Fraternity and the Sisters of Kappa Alpha Theta Sorority participated as “pooper-scoopers” during the Annual All Horse Parade on Sunday, September 10th. As the back of their T-shirts said, “You poop, We scoop.” They ended their day with a full bucket of service.



↑ Above: Members of Circle K joined the brothers of Alpha Sigma Phi at the Scioto River Sweep as part of the Delaware General Heath District and Keep Delaware County Beautiful annual clean-up event on Saturday, September 9th.



In a college town with a prestigious University, poverty is often overlooked in the immediate community. Most often, thoughts of poverty go straight to Africa and the South and Central Americas. Therefore, It may come as a shock that in Delaware county there are currently 2,190 residents living below the poverty line, 692 of which fall into the critical housing needs category. Many of these residents are under 18 or over 65, making them fall between the cracks of many social outreach services. In reaction to these statistics, a new non-profit storefront organization called Common Ground Free Store Ministries has been established to address the needs of these individuals and families. Their vision is to “establish a warm and welcoming store run by volunteers where everything is available to everyone free of charge. There are no income requirements, no questions and no scrutiny. Everyone is on common ground.”

To get involved, prospective volunteers can attend meetings the first Tuesday of every month at 7 p.m. at Williams Street United Methodist Church in the Fellowship Hall. Donations are also accepted either by becoming an Adopt-A-Day sponsor, making a monetary donation or by donating clothing, linens, towels, diapers, small appliances, toys, books and home decorations. To find out when and where to make donations, call 369-FREE. Common Ground Free Store Ministries is located at 193 E. Central Avenue.

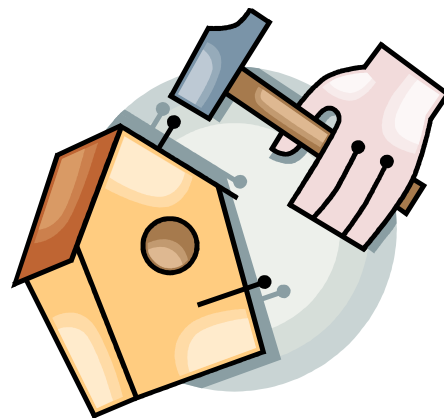
Spring and Summer Mission Teams 2007

OWU's Spring Break Mission Week and summer teams provide a medley of service opportunities through cultural immersion, spiritual integration and social justice systems. Through participation, students and faculty may be challenged to grow, be of service, be humbled and motivated to facilitate change and social reforms for the future.

Spring Break Mission Week: March 10-18

This year's teams include:

- ♦ Hurricane Katrina Recovery
- ♦ Women in Community: Benedictine Community
- ♦ Mexico/US Border team
- ♦ Collegiate Challenge: Habitat for Humanity
- ♦ Building and Rebuilding: Lakota Nation, South Dakota
- ♦ Love and Hope Ministries: El Salvador
- ♦ The Missionaries of Charity: Rome, Italy
- ♦ Faculty/Staff team—TBA

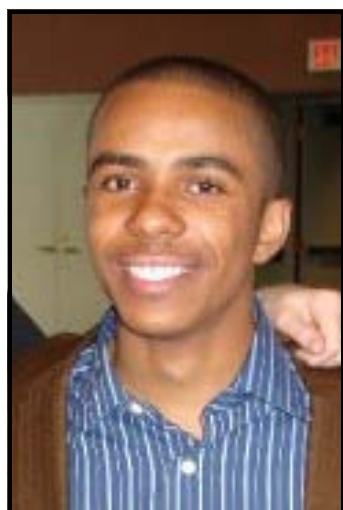


Summer Missions

- ♦ Crossroads of the Powerful and Powerless: Washington, D.C.
- ♦ Peace and Reconciliation: Northern Ireland

Applications can be found online at www.chaplain.owu.edu or in the Office of Mission and Vocation on the 4th floor of the Hamilton-Williams campus center. Applications are due by September 27th at 5:00pm, with teams to be announced October 6th.

Walking the Talk...



Sophomore Ben Goodrum

Just when you thought he couldn't possibly fit in anything else, *Mr. Community Service* strikes again. Ben Goodrum, last year's "Outstanding First Year Student", is quite possibly one of the most involved people on campus, especially in service organizations. He is on the Jubilee Team, in SUBA, a member of the Ghana Mission Team, a resident of the Treehouse, a volunteer at the Habitat ReStore, serves as the mentoring chair of Women In Science, is on the multicultural recruitment advisory committee and he is team leader for this year's Lakota Mission Team. Ben has recently also added Owu's participation in the annual vigil and protest to close the School of The Americas, which he is co-organizing with Amanda Masters.

According to Ben, the School of The Americas is a US Military Base that trains Latin American "students" in more effective means of killing, counter-insurgencies and suppression. Many of the people trained at this school have been connected to the most extreme abuses of human rights in El Salvador, Colombia and other Latin American countries in the last 60 years. Annually, people from all across the nation conduct a vigil and protest at the school. Ben and Amanda are organizing a contingency from OWU to drive to Georgia the weekend of November 17-20 to join in the protest. "I'm just trying to do what I know is right," Ben says. Interested persons should contact either Ben (bagoodru@owu.edu) or Amanda (ajmaster@owu.edu) to get involved.

CropWalk 2006*

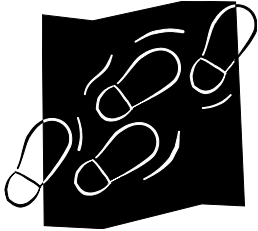
Sunday, October 1st

Registration at 1:30 ~ Walk at 2:00 p.m.

Walk Starts at Ham-Will Benes Room & Ends at William Street United Methodist Church

Sponsored by Delaware Area Churches & OWU Community Service Learning

www.churchworldservice.org



To Participate**

Send a Group Representative to...

The Community Service Office (HWCC-407)

For information packet/pledge forms, etc.

* *What is it?* A Campus & Community Event...

A 10-k Walk to Raise Money & Awareness for:

- ⇒ Global Disaster Relief & Refugee Relocation
- ⇒ Self-Sufficiency Projects in Developing Countries
- ⇒ Local Hunger-fighting Agency: *People In Need*

***Who Should Participate?*

OWU Student Groups & Individuals of all types:

- ⇒ Service Clubs, SLU's, Greek Organizations, etc.
- ⇒ Religious Organizations of all Faiths
- ⇒ Anyone who Cares...



"We Walk Because They Walk"

Contact Sue Pasters @ x3084, (smpaster@owu-edu)
to learn how you can make a difference!

Service Opportunities

Volunteer With Big Brothers Big Sisters! - The following opportunities are available:

Willis Big Brothers: Tuesdays, 3:30-5:00 pm

Male Mentors are matched one-on-one with a 5th or 6th grade boy, focusing on academic and social enrichment activities at Willis Intermediate School.

Willis Big Sisters: Tuesdays, 3:30-5:00 pm

Female Mentors are matched one-on-one with a 5th or 6th grade girl, focusing on academic and social enrichment activities at Willis Intermediate School.

Conger Pacer Pals: Mondays and/or Wednesdays, 3:30 -5:00 pm

Serve as a BBBS Liaison during the Conger Elementary after school child care program. Assist in program activities and provide leadership for the high school mentors assigned to the program.

Middle School After School Mentoring Programs: Monday through Thursdays, 3:05-4:30 pm

Program Assistants needed to provide support to the BBBS Program Coordinator including activity ideas, match support and on-site supervision at Big Walnut, Olentangy Liberty, Olentangy Shanahan, and/or Olentangy Orange Middle Schools. (choose one or more days)

Interested? Please contact Kerri Robe of BBBS at 369-2447, (krobe@bbbscentralohio.org) or Sue Pastors at x3084, (smpaster@owu.edu) .

Delaware County Youth Unites

Saturday, Oct. 14th — 8:30-noon

Any young people in Delaware County interested in keeping it clean and beautiful are welcome!

Contact Becky Chandler at the Delaware General Health District—Keep Delaware County Beautiful Program at (740) 203-2077



The Global Village Collection

Global Village is a unique store located in historic downtown Delaware. Staffed entirely by volunteers, this non-profit gift shop supports fair trade. Help make FAIR TRADE in Delaware a success as a VOLUNTEER. If you'd like to give of your time in the store, please stop by and fill out a volunteer registration form at 37 N. Sandusky St., just two short blocks away from campus. Check it out!

Get Involved!

Notes aren't just for your classes!

**The NOTES Program
(Nontraditional Educational Services)
is looking for tutors and mentors
for at-risk high school students at
The Arts Academy and The Horse Farm.
Both programs are designed to help these
students get back on track and eventually
transition back to a regular school
through more individualized attention.**

Time: 8:30-11:00a.m.

Where: 55 W. Central Ave

Contact Kimberly Goelz at 740-362-4498

5th and 6th Graders Need Mentors!

(WS) 2 is a collaboration between William Street United Methodist Church and Willis Intermediate School. The program is facilitated by The Literacy Coalition of Delaware County.

Volunteers are needed **Mondays and Thursdays** from 3:30 to 5:00 pm, starting **September 25th through May 10th**, to work with 5th and 6th graders as mentors.

Responsibilities include supervising students through snacks, games, homework and clean-up as well as developing lasting friendships.

If interested, contact Theresa Milner at 740-369-7401.

Grady Memorial Hospital currently has need for volunteers in the following areas:

- The Grady **Coffee Shop** is in need of volunteers on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday s between the hours of 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Volunteer duties include waiting on customers, running the dishwasher and cash register and clearing tables.
- The **Information Desk** has several shifts available including Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday from 3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. Duties include greeting visitors and providing patient room numbers. Experienced volunteers provide training.
- Due to the upcoming expansion of the Grady **Gift Shop** we have several openings. Be the first to call and pick your day and time. Volunteers in the Gift Shop greet customers, assist in gift selection and process purchases.
- We are currently looking for multiple **Office Mates** to support several departments. Duties may include filing, data entry, answering phones and preparing mailing projects. You will find these positions very flexible in the days and times.
- The **Hospice at Grady** is looking for volunteers. Hospice volunteers assist terminally ill patients and their families. If you feel you can provide support, relief and companionship for the patient and family or are able to perform other various tasks, please contact us.
- As members of the Grady Professional Family, volunteers receive orientation, training and special benefits. Contact Shari Furay in the volunteer Services Office at 368-5155 for more information.

TEAM MENTORING PROGRAM

A Program of Delaware County Juvenile Court

Do you like to play games, go out to eat, and hang out with kids? Can you spare 2 hours a week to be a mentor? If so, please contact Patty Cram at 833-2678 for more information about being a TEAM Mentor. Being a TEAM Mentor is a service learning program offered by the Delaware County Juvenile Court that involves getting involved with Delaware county youth both involved in the court system and not. Your help can make a valuable difference in the life of a child.

DATES TO REMEMBER

**October 11th
(noon to 1:00)
Community Service
RoundTable
Benes A**

**November 23-30
OWU Thanksgiving Break**

**December 14th
Last Day of Classes**

**December 16-21
Final Exams**

**December 21st
Term Ends at 5 p.m.**

**December 22 - January 14
OWU Winter Break**

A Note From the Editor...

Along with brand new school supplies for the start of another school year, comes a new “Opportunity Knocks” editor to keep you posted on this year’s service learning opportunities, volunteer needs and community events. That’s where I come in. My name is Stephanie Bologeorges, and I’m a junior English/ Psychology double major and a French minor. I can already tell this is going to be a great year, filled with opportunities and ways to get involved. This September issue is a testimony to that, being packed with people already involved in wonderful acts of service. As the year moves into full-swing, my goal is to creatively find space to showcase everyone’s efforts.

Please feel free to send me your stories, your upcoming events, and volunteer needs. You can email me at sabologe@owu.edu, call the Service Learning office at 740-368-3084, or stop up on the fourth floor of Ham-Will. I look forward to hearing from you!



Editor, Stephanie Bologeorges

Here’s to a great year —

Stephanie



OWU Alum, Jennifer Villanueva-Henkle, talks with students about service learning opportunities with the Delaware General Health District’s “It Takes Two” program. Jen was one of approximately 23 Delaware and Columbus Agency Representatives who came to the annual OWU service fair on Wednesday, September 6th.