

Opportunity Knocks

Reporting on Community Service Learning and Opportunities in the Delaware Community
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First Year Students Have An Adventure With Habitat

Even before classes had started, twenty first-year students embarked on an “Adventure Activity” with Habitat for Humanity. It was one of those oppressively hot and humid days during freshman orientation, but the students gamely hiked from the campus center to the High Street Habitat House on the South side of Delaware. Once there, they listened intently as veteran community Habitat builders Jamie Redd and Doug Warner shared the vision of the Delaware County Chapter of Habitat for Humanity, and the tasks planned for the day. In the ensuing three hours, the students cleaned up the work site and loaded a truck with leftover lumber and all manner of building materials. Once that was accomplished, they set to work sweeping the inside of the house, spreading gravel in the driveway and garage areas, (*pictured below*), installing the first half of the garage roof, and applying siding to the back of the house. The sound of hammers and friendly chatter was punctuated by music from the first annual High Street Unity Fest which was, coincidentally, scheduled on the same day. A few folks from the South side neighborhood even dropped by to see what was going on at the Habitat site that afternoon. As if on cue, the heavens opened up at exactly 4 pm as the students rushed to gather up all the tools, ladders and building materials to put in the storage shed. In short order, everyone was soaking wet, but no one seemed to mind. It was just another part of the adventure; a good day’s work followed by a shower! *(more on pages 2 and 3...)*



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Adventure, Con't.

The students gained a new “hands on” skill when they learned the correct technique for installing siding on a house. For several, this was the first time they had ever done any work of this nature.

Pictured at left are first year students Kyle Herman from Stow, Ohio, and Alfonso Taylor from Oakland, California.

On the right, in the foreground is Ahlam Awad from Addis Abeba, Ethiopia.

You can become a Habitat Volunteer simply by attending a campus chapter meeting. Contact Katie Rieman to learn more: krrieman@owu.edu.

To learn about the community chapter visit their website at www.habitatdelawareco.org/



Want to get involved in service like this? Apply for a Spring Break or Summer Mission Team!

A Spring Break or Summer Mission team is a great way to get involved in service and make new friends. Students who choose to do a service trip as an “Alternate Spring Break” find a rewarding experience grounded in helping others while undergoing a personal process of transformative reflection. This year, there are eight Spring Break trips all over the Americas and 2 Summer Mission projects.

Each provides a unique opportunity to both serve and experience another culture.

This year's teams are:

Spring Break

- ◆ Re-New Orleans—Rebuilding Project
- ◆ Women in Community: Benedictine Community in Erie, PA
- ◆ Collegiate Challenge: Habitat for Humanity
- ◆ Love and Hope Ministries: El Salvador
- ◆ Medical Mission: Costa Rica
- ◆ Chicago—Urban Poverty Project
- ◆ Sustainable Harvest International: Nicaragua
- ◆ Belize Mission Project

Summer

- ◆ *Crossroads of the Powerful and Powerless:*
Washington, DC
- ◆ Brazil—Amizade, Santarem & Pastoral de Menor



Applications are available online at http://chaplain.owu.edu/mission_team.html and are due by Wednesday, September 26th at 5:00pm.

Habitat "Adventure Activity" August 25, 2007

At right: Cleaning up the work site.

Below: Work begins on the garage roof.



Right: Kristen Lear from Cincinnati, Ohio takes a break while sweeping the inside of the house.



CropWalk 2007

Sunday, October 7th

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

Sponsored by Delaware Area Churches,
OWU Community Service Learning & Chaplain's Offices
to benefit Church World Service

www.churchworldservice.org



" We Walk Because They Walk "

** 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?*

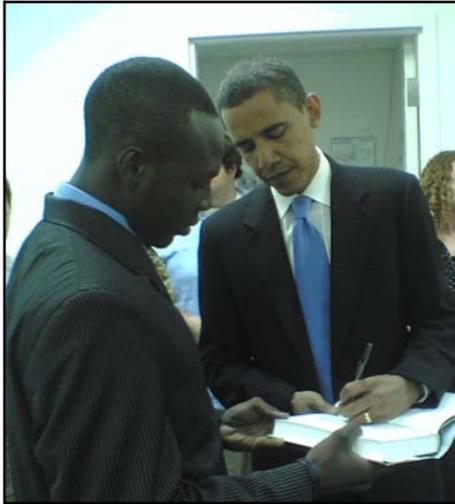
- OWU Student Groups of all types:
- Service Clubs, SLU's, Greek Organizations, etc.
 - Religious Organizations of all Faiths
 - Anyone who Cares about Fighting Global Hunger
 - Anyone who Wants to Make a Difference!



****To Participate ~ Send a Group Representative to...**
The Community Service Office, (HWCC-407)
Or Campus Ministry Office, (HWCC-403)
For information packet/pledge forms, etc.

Contact Sue Pasters @ x3084, (smpaster@owu.edu)
Or Lisa Ho at x3089, (lho@owu.edu)
to learn how you can make a difference!

Campaigning with Obama...



Junior Stan Osei-Bonsu and democratic presidential candidate, Barack Obama.

For many students, now that the school year is underway, it seems the days of summer have been forgotten. Papers, exams and long nights of studying have made those dog days seem like ages ago. Junior Stan Osei-Bonsu however, had a summer experience impossible to forget.

For seven weeks this summer, Stan worked for the Barack Obama presidential campaign. As an outreach intern, Stan had the opportunity to be involved on a variety of campaign efforts, including the Partnership in Africa project. Stan found Obama to be a special candidate because he has a passion for change. As a citizen of Ghana, Stan laments not being able to vote for Obama, but he was inspired by Obama's universal passion. Stan interpreted this as including his home country of Ghana. "I believe in helping any cause that is the right one," he says.

Stan became inspired to work on the campaign after hearing Obama speak at the MLK Center in Columbus last year. He said, "After hearing his speech, I knew Obama was the right man for the job of the presidency. I had the chance to go up and meet him and something in me told me I'd be meeting him again somewhere." Little did Stan know he'd be accepted as the outreach intern later that year.

Stan says the experience was life changing. "Being able to be involved in an actual campaign gave me that little light I can hold for my own future and destiny to make change." Indeed, Stan has big plans for the future. He intends to be Ghana's attorney general and then run for president at the age of 45. Meeting with Obama and hearing his remarkable story infused Stan with renewed passion. "In many ways, I see myself in Obama's story and it gives me hope to one day bring about change in Ghana."

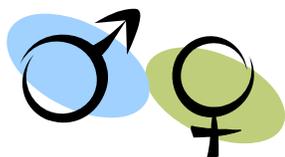
Little Moments, BIG Magic!! Be a Big Brother or a Big Sister!!

Big Brothers Big Sisters is looking for Ohio Wesleyan Students to become mentors for 5th and 6th grade students at Willis Intermediate School. As part of a mutually rewarding relationship, mentors will help to develop the social and educational needs of their mentee, while forming a lasting friendship. The program meets on Tuesdays from 3:30-5:00pm at Willis School on William Street, one block west of Sandusky.

Interested? Contact Kerri Robe at BBBS at 740-369-2447 or Sue Pasters at Ohio Wesleyan University: 740-368-3084.



Big Sister Hilary Holmes '09
and her Little Sister, Cassidy



IT TAKES TWO

It Takes Two is a teen pregnancy prevention program funded by the Delaware General Health District targeted at 7th-9th graders. The program's goal is to teach students how to be in healthy relationships.

The program is currently seeking enthusiastic individuals to teach in the classrooms. Payment is \$20 per classroom session and work is according to your own schedule! Training takes place at the end of September. If interested, contact Jen Villanueva-Henkle: jen@delawarehealth.org , **Today!**

Happenings at the Andrews House...
39 W. Winter St
740-369-4520



ANDREWS HOUSE
39 W. Winter St.
Delaware, OH 43015
People Strengthening People

- ◆ Want to find the volunteer opportunity that's perfect for you? Attend a workshop to connect with community partners seeking to increase community literacy. Representatives from Youth and Family literacy programs as well as GED, ABLE, ESOL and MRDD adult education classes will be there to explain how the programs work and what it's like to work in the field. **Helping someone learn to read or learn to speak English** is a profound experience that both changes lives and creates a stronger community. The workshop will be held on Tuesday, **September 25** from 6-8pm.
- ◆ If you love kids and enjoy First Friday, consider volunteering as a **children's activity helper!**
- ◆ **PAINT-A-TILE TUESDAYS!** For only \$5, you can create a piece of history by painting a tile at the Bare Bowl on any Tuesday from 4-8pm. Simply let the Bare Bowl know your tile is for the Andrews House and then create! The tiles will be used in a monumental Children's Community Wall at Delaware's Mingo Park. The Bare Bowl is located at 6 N. Sandusky St.
- ◆ The Annual Christmas Bazaar will require much assistance to continue to be a success. Volunteers will be needed on **Friday, November 30th** to help.
- ◆ Volunteers are always needed and welcome to do landscaping, prep/serve/clean-up for free meals, as well as painting and cleaning projects in the building.
- ◆ Long-term volunteers are needed to provide legal assistance in the clinic, monitor the computer lab, teach computer classes, especially Microsoft Excel, provide English/Spanish interpreting and do IT advising.



The Delaware Senior Nutrition Program and the Council for Older Adults need help

The Senior Nutrition program is a partnership with Grady Memorial Hospital that provides hot meals daily to older adults in their homes. The program delivers about 160,000 meals per year throughout the country on 25 different routes. As the Nutrition Program grows, more and more volunteers are needed, and **YOU CAN BE ONE OF THEM!** Volunteer drivers are needed from 11-1pm either short or long term any day Monday through Friday. Volunteers will receive training, mileage reimbursement and a free hot meal on the day they volunteer.

Don't have a car but still want to help? Local congregate meal site assistants are also needed to help with the nutrition program. The Council for Older Adults is also always in need of people who can provide help for small household chores and yard work. To get more information contact Amy Brown at amyb@growingolder.org or call (740) 363-6677.

The Global Village Collection ~ 37 N. Sandusky Street

This store with a conscience provides a source for fair trade coffee, tea and beautiful hand-crafted items made by artisans from developing countries. All purchases provide merchants with a fair-living wage, making retail therapy that much better! You can also help by becoming a store volunteer. Applications are available at the store upon request.



Get Involved!

Tutor/Mentors Are Needed for “(WS) 2” Program



(WS) 2 is a collaboration between William Street United Methodist Church and Willis Intermediate School and is facilitated by The Literacy Coalition of Delaware County. Volunteer Tutor/Mentors are needed Mondays and/or

Thursdays from 3:30 to 5:00 pm to work with 5th and 6th grade in the after school program held at the church. The program starts September 24th. Responsibilities include supervising students through snacks, games, homework and clean up...as well as developing lasting friendships.

Interested parties should contact Teresa Milner at (740) 369-7401, or ws2help@yahoo.com

Come have FUN and Volunteer with Preservation Parks!

Preservation Parks of Delaware County seeks responsible volunteers to assist in the nature centers. Enjoy a peaceful afternoon in the park and be the one to greet and host visitors at the McCoy Nature Center at Hogback Ridge Preserve or at the Nature Discovery Center at Gallant Woods Preserve.



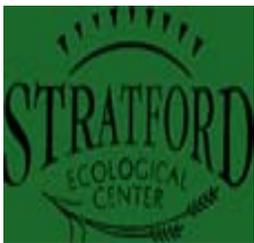
Weekday and weekend shifts are available from noon until 5 p.m. at both nature centers.

To help, contact Sandra Sklar,
(740) 524-8600, ext. 6
saundras@preservationparks.com.

Harbor Light Hospice is looking for students who would like to serve as Hospice Volunteers for clients, and their families, in Delaware County. If this sounds like something you would like to do, contact Volunteer Coordinator, Rachel Schoen toll free at 866-355-0553, or via e-mail at rschoen@harborlighthospice.com. A public information session is scheduled for Thursday, September 27th, 5:30 to 7:30 pm at 751 Brooksedge Plaza Boulevard in Columbus.



Are you Environmentally Conscious? If so, get involved with Stratford!



3083 Liberty Rd.
Delaware, OH

Stratford Ecological Center is a non-profit organization dedicated to the education of children and adults in understanding the relationship between living things and their environment, hoping to foster an appreciation of the land and the life that depends on it. Stratford's goal is to act locally and think globally.

The Remaining September Events include:

- ◆ **Butterfly Monitoring:** Tuesday, September 25th at 1:00pm. Enjoy a nature walk through the fields while searching for butterflies.
- ◆ **Simplicity Circle:** Friday, September 28th from 7-9:00pm. Guest Dale Sparlin will share his experiences working with labyrinths as tools for transformation. Temporary labyrinths will be available to explore!

Stratford Ecological Center Also Has Volunteer Opportunities!

The Center is always in need of volunteers to *work at its organic farm and education center*, teaching children about ecology on its 236 acres of nature preserve. Volunteer Guides lead children on tours on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday mornings. Other volunteer opportunities include being part of an *Invasive Species Team*, or helping with *Landscape Upkeep*, or serving as a *Greenhouse Guru*, or as a *Famer's Helper*, Or even as a *Saturday Receptionist*.

To volunteer or participate in any of the events, contact Jane Walsh at 362-2548 or email secenter@aol.com.

Service Opportunities

SARN HelpLine is currently recruiting volunteers for their **Sexual Assault Response Network**. Training will begin at the end of September and consists of a total of 30 hours. Volunteers are required to have transportation and be available evenings and weekends for on-call shifts. Men and women who are interested in being a part of the movement to end sexual violence are encouraged to apply.

To volunteer, contact Volunteer Coordinator Victoria Abbott-Swatloski at 740-363-1835 or email vabbott-swatloski@helplinedelmor.org

Helpline of Delaware and Morrow counties also provides support groups, community education and crisis advocacy. Should you or anyone you know be a danger to themselves or others, please call the 24-Hour Hotline at 1-800-684-2324.

HelpLine
Of Delaware & Morrow Counties, Inc.



Did you know?... Arthritis is the number one cause of disability in the United States and one in three Americans is affected by arthritis. Arthritis also affects more than 300,000 American children. The Arthritis Foundation of Delaware County is looking for motivated volunteers to join the team!

Volunteer Opportunities

- ♦ **Fundraising:** Help with the "Fall Magic at Foertmeyer" on October 13th by either organizing, planning or actually working the event.
- ♦ **Program leaders:** They are continuously seeking self-motivated individuals with strong leadership qualities to direct local life-improving programs. Programs include warm-water aquatics, PACE (People with Arthritis Can Exercise), tai chi, support groups and self-help services.
- ♦ **Public Education:** Volunteers are needed to raise awareness at health fair booths, talks to civil organizations or to speak to support groups.

For more information or to volunteer, contact Kathy Blakeslee at 740-362-8400.

21st Century After School Tutoring Program

Tutors and Mentors are needed for Elementary and Middle School Children at Conger and Woodward Elementary Schools and at Dempsey Middle School to provide math and reading intervention, homework help and enriched learning activities. As a volunteer, you'll be matched with either a single student or a small group as they go through their afternoon. You'll help with homework and help with recreational activities while acting as a role model for your student(s). To apply, contact Cathy Silver at the 21st Century Learning Center: 740-833-1850 or email silverca@dcs.k12.oh.us



****This is a chance for you to make a lasting impression on a child's life****

Pan-Hellenic Council Unites Against Domestic Violence!

Save the Dates!

September 26
Spring Break Applications Due
5:00pm

October 7
Crop Walk 2007
Starts from Benes Room
2:00pm

October 10
Community Service
RoundTable
12 noon in Benes 'A'

October 13-15
Mid-Semester Break

October 26-28
Homecoming Weekend



While each sorority on campus supports their national philanthropy, Ohio Wesleyan's Pan-Hellenic council has decided to collectively support a local organization through service. The Council has chosen Turning Point, the local shelter for victims of Domestic Violence as the recipient of their efforts. Turning Point is located in Marion and serves a six county area. Their aim is to empower victims to make choices in order to take the steps needed to reclaim their lives.

Pan-Hellenic's goals for the semester include service projects at the shelter, a food drive for Thanksgiving, helping adopt families at Christmas and raising \$1,000 to donate to the shelter in order to get a coveted purple ribbon on their donation wall.

Anyone else wanting to get involved in the effort to stop domestic violence can contact Joyce Johnston at 740-382-8988 or via email at

jjohnston@turningpoint6.com

Ohio Wesleyan University
Community Service Learning
Hamilton Williams Campus Center, 407
Delaware, Ohio 43015

(740) 368-3084
smpaster@owu.edu



What are these people doing?

Glad you asked! They just happen to be reading together as part of the "Buckeye Valley Reads" program. Each week tutors from Ohio Wesleyan spend 3 hours reading with 3rd graders at Buckeye Valley East Elementary School in rural Ashley, OH...just 12

miles North of campus. We provide the transportation, the training and on-site supervision...and it's loads of fun! We have lots of other opportunities to have fun while making a difference for others. If you don't find something that interests you in the pages of this newsletter, visit the rest of our website...or come on up to the OWU Community Service Learning Office in room 407 of the Ham-Will Campus Center. It's worth the trip!

~ Sue Pastors

