

Opportunity Knocks

Reporting on OWU Community Service Learning and Opportunities in the Delaware Community
<http://service.owu.edu/>

VITA Program Provides Vital Service In Delaware



OWU Sophomore, Jay Hsiao, a certified VITA Volunteer, helps Catherine Lo Bello file her Income Tax return at the Woodward VITA site. Photo-Jim Cesa

On December 1st, approximately thirty-three volunteers attended a tax law training day hosted at Ohio Wesleyan University through Professor Joann Harvey of the Economics Department. At least eighteen of those trained were Ohio Wesleyan students taking the first steps toward becoming VITA volunteers. VITA or Volunteer Income Tax Assistance volunteers prepare income tax returns at no cost for taxpayers of low to moderate income. In several areas of Ohio, local coalitions of government and social service representatives are working to help families and individuals see if they qualify for earned income tax credits, (EITC). Being a VITA volunteer is no small commitment since all are required to be certified through the Internal Revenue Service “Link and Learn” on-line tax law course, and to attend a two-day electronic filing class. However, most would agree that it is a vital service to residents of Delaware County and an amazing service learning opportunity for OWU students.

Several Delaware area agencies have joined forces to form the Delaware County EITC Coalition in order to help local taxpayers claim the money they are entitled to receive from the federal government. According to the coalition brochure, the EITC, is a refundable tax credit that is a critical building block to helping low/moderate income workers build long term financial stability. Taxpayers can claim the EITC when they file their tax return, but only if they know how to file for it. That’s where the Coalition and VITA come together. The Delaware County EITC Coalition is committed to raising awareness of the tax credit and coordinating the work of the free tax assistance sites. These sites are staffed and run by the VITA volunteers who provide the much-needed tax preparation assistance to eligible taxpayers. The Delaware County EITC Coalition is sponsored by The United Way of Delaware County, The Community Action Partnership, Andrews House, The Delaware County Bank & Trust and The Delaware Area Chamber of Commerce. The coalition has established a VITA site within easy walking distance from campus at the Woodward Family Resource Center. (see insert story at right) Ohio Wesleyan students who wish to learn more about the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program can contact Professor Joann Harvey in Corns-201, phone (740) 368-3541, or Delaware County EITC Coalition representative, Dawn Chatman at (740) 833-2314, e-mail <info@caodmu.org>

Woodward Family Resource Center Serves as VITA Site

The newly established Woodward Family Resource Center, located in a portable module adjacent to Woodward Elementary School, is hosting the local *Volunteers In Tax Assistance, (VITA)*, program.

Trained VITA Volunteers, including several OWU students, offer free Income Tax preparation services to couples and individuals who qualify for the Earned Income Tax Credit, (EITC) program.

Volunteers are also needed to help with child care and to register people as they arrive at the Center.

The VITA Program is at the Center on Wednesdays from 6 to 9 pm and on Saturdays from 10 am to 2 pm.

To learn more, contact Erin Brite, Coordinator of the Woodward Family Resource Center, via e-mail at <erinbrite@actionforchildren.org>

The Woodward Family Resource Center
 is sponsored by
 Action for Children and
 The Delaware County United Way



“The Act of Giving in the Spirit of Love”



You Are Cordially Invited To a Valentines Dance

Saturday, February 16th

9:00 pm to 2:00 am in Benes A & B

Tickets: \$10/person, \$15/couple

Dress: Semi-Formal/Cocktail

All Proceeds Benefit the
OWU Ghana Student Education Fund
And the Ghana Cultural Immersion Trip 2008
Team Leaders:: Stan Osei-Bonsu and Nick Oteng



Students To Give “Eye Witness” Accounts of Service Learning Opportunities in Delaware

Soon, a new feature will be added to the OWU Community Service Web Site which will give both current and prospective students the chance to learn from, and interact with, those who are already taking advantage of the expansive menu of service learning opportunities on campus and throughout the greater Delaware community. Below is a sample entry by OWU senior, Tabrina Dolder who has a service learning internship with The Delaware County Office of Victim Services.



“Working in the Delaware County Prosecutor’s Office of Victim Services has been a really great opportunity. We assist victims of serious felony crimes through the legal system, and offer them support in a kind and confidential environment. I attend court hearings with survivors, work with community members over the phone and in person, as well as assisting with other daily work.

I obtained this internship by filling out an application and interviewing for the position. When I was offered the internship, the staff helped me work out a schedule that fit with my classes. The office provides great training that prepares interns for working with survivors and handling other responsibilities. I have met so many members of the Delaware community and networked with other agencies throughout Delaware County. I have learned a lot about myself, and this experience has shown me a potential career path that I never would have found otherwise. This is an opportunity for anyone who is compassionate and enjoys helping others.” ~ Tabrina Dolder ‘08 <tadolder@owu.edu>

Anyone wishing to explore working with Victim Services should contact Program Director, Tabitha Spring at (740) 833-2710 or via e-mail at <tspring@co.delaware.oh.us>.



Turning Point Domestic Violence Shelter ~ www.turningpoint6.com/

Is looking for a group of students to install posters in Delaware area business establishments. These posters serve to increase community awareness about the issue of domestic violence, and provide vital information for victims.

Help Increase Awareness ~ Help Save Lives

Contact Joyce Johnston 740-382-8988, jjohnston@turningpoint.com

“OWU Bowl For Kids’ Sake 2008”



What is it?

- A fund-raiser to benefit the Delaware County Chapter of Big Brothers/Big Sisters*.

When and Where is it?

- The 10th Annual “All Ohio Wesleyan Night” will be held on Friday, April 4th– 9:00 p.m. to Midnight at the Delaware Lanes Bowling Center which is located on Route 36/37 East.

How do we participate?

- ⇒ Teams of five register by filling out a Team Registration Sheet available in the OWU Community Service Learning Office, HWCC-407. (One team per organization/department, please!)
- ⇒ Don’t Delay! There are only 16 lanes and several have already been reserved by last year’s teams!
- ⇒ Once the Registration Sheet is turned in, the Team Captain is given pledge sheets.
- ⇒ Each team member should make it their goal to raise a minimum of \$25 in pledges, but hopefully, each Organization/Department will help their team raise (much) more!
- ⇒ The Team Captain is responsible for making sure each team member has collected their pledges and that all the money is turned in on the night of April 4th. (Any checks should be made out to *Big Brothers/Big Sisters.*)

What’s in it for us?

- Individuals who raise \$50 or more get a free BFKS T-shirt!
- The OWU Team that raises the most money gets a Bowling Trophy engraved with their team name to keep for one year.
- Lots of fun, games and amazing prizes, like the famous jug ‘o’ cheese balls!
- *But, most importantly: Everybody gets to have a Good Time for a Great Cause!*

Questions?

- Call Sue Pastors at x3084; visit the Community Service Office in HWCC-407; or e-mail: smpaster@owu.edu Thank You!

*Big Brothers Big Sisters is a non-profit organization which matches children with caring adults. Their goal is to make sure that every Delaware County child who needs a Big Brother or Big Sister gets one. OWU is proud to be a partner in the Willis Big Brothers & Big Sisters Program. To volunteer, or to learn more about this special program, call Kerri Robe at (740) 369-2447, or Sue Pastors at x3084. BBBS is a United Way Agency.



A Special Letter of Thanks from People In Need, (PIN)

Dear Friends,

Heartfelt Thanks to everyone from Ohio Wesleyan University—clubs, staff, organizations, individuals—who participated in the Holiday Clearing House 2007 program. Your volunteer hours spent with activities to generate donations, sorting food and toys, escorting the families and carrying their packages, filling food bags and other “jobs” too numerous to mention. Again, this year, the numbers increased— over 435 families with nearly 1,000 children, and 156 senior/disabled shut-ins served.

Knowing that the Holiday Clearing House program is not the only giving program in Delaware County and the consistent growth in requests can be overwhelming. This is where “YOU”— the volunteers make the difference. The Holiday Clearing House program would not be possible without your help. Thank you so much for your continued support.

— People In Need, Inc.

People In Need is Delaware County’s food pantry and provider of emergency help with utility bills, housing, prescriptions, medical equipment rental, eye-glasses and dental needs. PIN also offers a diabetes program, school shoes, and family advocacy services. PIN is located at 274 N. Sandusky St. To learn how you can help, contact Carolyn Leasure, Kevin Crowley or Lula Mae Downerd at (740) 363-6284. People In Need is a United Way Agency.

T.E.A.M. MENTORING

A Program of The Delaware County
Juvenile Court

Together Everyone Achieves More



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? TEAM Mentoring is a service learning program offered by the Delaware County Juvenile Court that matches mentors with Delaware county youth who are court-involved, as well as with kids who are at risk of becoming court-involved.

Want to know more? Contact Patty Cram at 833-2678 for information about becoming a TEAM Mentor. Your help can make a valuable difference in the life of a child.



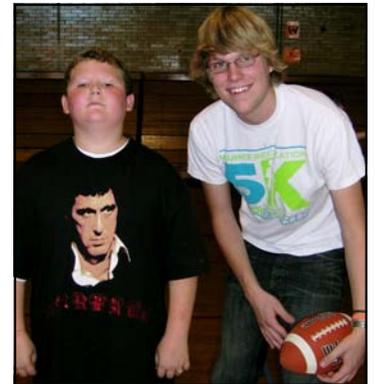
Planet Aid is a non-profit organization dedicated to protecting the environment and creating sustainable development in Africa and Asia. They collect and recycle used clothing and shoes in 19 states in the USA. Items donated to Planet Aid are resold and the proceeds are used to support education, community development and HIV/AIDS programs in Africa and Asia. They partner with individuals, schools, organization, companies and government agencies to inform and contribute to community based development. The local office and warehouse is located at 2846 Banwick Road in Columbus, OH 43232. To learn more, contact Gretchen Stranges, (614) 598-6422, e-mail: gretchen.stranges@planetaid.org

Little Moments, BIG Magic!! Be A Willis Big Brother!!

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

~ **Are Tuesdays a problem? Lead Tutor/Mentors** are needed on Wednesdays and/or Thursdays for after school tutoring programs at Conger and Woodward Elementary Schools from 3:15 to 5:00 pm.

~ **Interested? Want to learn more?** Contact Kerri Robe at BBBS at 740-369-2447 or Sue Pastors at Ohio Wesleyan University: 740-368-3084. (smpaster@owu.edu)



Drew Farrell and Little Brother, Chase.

Teen Start Inc.
Striving for excellence

TEEN START Inc. is a non-profit organization with the mission to enhance the social development of teens and young adults through life skills training, mentoring, experiential learning and cultural exposure activities that will prepare them to be Self-sufficient, Responsible and Prepared for adulthood. Their services include independent living trainings such as spirituality, goal setting, communication skills, personal and professional etiquette, job skills and maintenance, nutrition, money management, domestic violence prevention, interpersonal skills development, anger management and coping skills, health/sexuality and teen relationships, legal, emergency, and safety skills. Mentors/Life-coaches are recruited to provide support, encouragement, guidance, and to hold the youth accountable for their actions. Workshops available for parents of teenagers, "*Parenting Teens in the 21st Century.*"

The Teen Start office is located in Andrews House, 39 W. Winter Street. To learn more or to volunteer contact Stanya Greathouse by phone (740) 362-3817; or via email stanyamg@yahoo.com.

Visit the Teen Start, Inc. website <http://www.teenstartinc.org> or info@teenstartinc.org

Happenings at the Andrews House...

39 W. Winter St ~ Jill Lee, Director
Kendra Carlson, Community Outreach
740-369-4520

- ◆ Help Prepare and Serve Free Community Meals held at Andrews House on Second Fridays and Third Thursdays of each month. Clean-up help is also needed.
- ◆ The Free Legal Clinic Program, held each month on Third Tuesdays at 5:30 pm has openings for volunteer greeters and people to help with intake/registration.
- ◆ Volunteers are always needed monitor the computer lab, teach computer classes, especially Microsoft Excel, and to do IT advising. There are also opportunities to do landscaping and cleaning projects in the building. Currently, there's a lot of interior wood trim to be painted!
- ◆ e-mail kcarlson@andrewshouse.org



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 county 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, as well as Café kitchen assistants, meal labelers, etc.

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 DELAWARE'S FAIR TRADE HEADQUARTERS



GLOBAL VILLAGE

COLLECTION

This unique downtown Delaware 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 the artisans with a fair-living wage, so if you do all your Valentine's Day shopping at the Global Village, you can share the love...twice! You can also join this thriving enterprise by becoming a store volunteer. Service Learning opportunities include many options including daily store operations, support operations and strategic planning. A Financial/Systems Management Internship is available as well! Applications are available at the store upon request, or via email at gvc@nexgenaccess.com.



The Global Village Collection is also facilitating a Fair Trade Spring Break Trip to the Mayan Highlands of Chiapas, Mexico from March 8-15, 2008. The excursion provider is The Higher Grounds Trading Company of Traverse City, Michigan. Co-Founder and entrepreneur, Chris Treter will lead the trip, the purpose of which is to meet with organic farmers, women's fair trade artisan cooperatives, fair trade coffee coops and activists. To learn about innovative, sustainable water projects. To examine the issues of land rights and global threats to Mayan communities. To witness the effects of the global economy on indigenous peoples and how social entrepreneurship can impact their lives. The trip is open to anyone in the community. All expenses in Mexico are included in the \$700 fee. The airfare is separate. Email [<gvc@nexgenaccess.com>](mailto:gvc@nexgenaccess.com) to express interest in the trip and you will be provided with more information.

**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 graders in the after school program held at the church.

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!**



~ “Cuisine Along the Ravine” Annual Fundraiser is February 16th at the Hogback Ridge Preserve, 2656 Hogback Road

~ Volunteers are needed to help decorate and set up on February 15th; to help prepare & serve dinner on the 16th; and to help with clean-up on the 17th.

~ Volunteers are needed in groups up to ten people to help conduct telephone surveys as part of the campaign for the levy on the November 2008 ballot.

~ Nature Center Attendants are needed at two park locations. Flexible weekday and weekend shifts available.

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

Stratford Ecological Center ~ 3083 Liberty Road ~ 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 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. The two-part training session for new guides is scheduled for February 26th and March 3rd from 9 am to 1 pm.
- ◆ **Invasive Species Team** members help with the many facets of the removal process for invasive plants such as garlic mustard, multiflora rose and honeysuckle which crowd out delicate wildflowers.
- ◆ **Landscape Upkeep** includes planting and working in the earth to care for the Stratford gardens and landscape.
- ◆ **Greenhouse Guru(s)** help to seed flats, plant, water weed and harvest produce.
- ◆ **Famer’s Helper(s)** tackle the spring jobs which may consist of preparing and maintaining the fields, animal chores, carpentry, fence building, and other farm maintenance.
- ◆ **Trail Maintenance** involves keeping the walking trails cleared and in good shape for all types of weather.
- ◆ **Saturday Receptionist** answers the phone, takes messages, greets and directs visitors to activities, trails “u-pick” areas, and sells farm products.

To volunteer contact Jane Walsh at 363-2548 or email SECVolunteer@aol.com



HelpLine

Of Delaware and Morrow Counties, Inc.

HelpLine of Delaware and Morrow counties 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.

~ April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month; watch for a calendar of special events on campus and in the community.

~ SARN, [Sexual Assault Response Network] Advocate Training begins on February 5th. This 30-hour training takes place Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6 to 9 pm.

~ “Stewards of Children” is a new child-assault prevention program coming soon to HelpLine to train adults to recognize, respond, report and prevent childhood sexual abuse.

~ To learn more about any of these programs, contact Victoria Abbot-Swatloski at (740) 363-1835, or e-mail vabbott-swatloski@helplinedelmor.org



Don't Miss These Special Habitat Events!

Ice Bowl 2008 - Sunday, February 24th

Delaware State Park - Gordon Holton Memorial Disc Golf Course

Registration/Sign-In: 8-9:30 a.m. Tee Off: 10:00 a.m.

Format: One Round 20 Holes / Cost: \$15 to Enter

Contact: Ken Rollins at moodgolf@yahoo.com or call 740-815-5899

Event Flyers Available in Community Service Learning Office, HWCC-407

**Soups for Shelter 2008 - Thursday, February 28th
4:00 to 7:00 pm at St. Mary's School**



Special Olympics Ohio 2008 Polar Plunge

**Take the Plunge!
Saturday, March 1st
Alum Creek State Park**

Freezin' For A Reason

**Pledge forms available in the Ohio Wesleyan
Community Service Office, HWCC-407**

Or

Online Registration and Fundraising at

www.soo.org



Ohio Wesleyan University *Relay for Life 2008*

**An 18 Hour Event ~ March 28th and 29th
Gordon Field House**

**Sponsored by
OWU Colleges Against Cancer**

**Event Coordinator Megan Evans
mmevans@owu.edu**

Partners In Volunteering Open House

Monday, March 10th, 6-8 pm ~ Powell Municipal Building - 47 Hall Street

Sponsored by City of Powell & Connections, Delaware County's Volunteer Center

An event to showcase a variety of volunteer opportunities designed with students in mind.

Bring a friend or family member interested in making a difference! Admission is FREE!

Door Prizes & Refreshments Provided. Contact Connections for details at 740-363-5000



The Common Ground Free Store Ministries is a partnership between Delaware churches, businesses, civic organizations and caring citizens. We believe God's mercy doesn't come with a price tag. Together we have established a warm and welcoming store run by volunteers where everything is available to everyone free of charge—from clothing, shoes, diapers and linens, to small appliances, books and toys. There are no income requirements, no questions and no scrutiny—only the support of people who care. Everyone is on common ground.

There are many immediate and on-going volunteer opportunities for Ohio Wesleyan Students at Common Ground – helping to run the store, sorting clothing, re-stocking racks and shelves, and providing hospitality by greeting shoppers or helping to serve food. Students interested in getting involved with the Free Store should contact Bonnie Ristau at bonniefr@columbus.rr.com or call the store and leave a message at (740) 369-3733. The store is located at 193 E. Central Avenue here in Delaware.

Campus Calendar

February 16th ~ “Protect Your Balls”
Testicular Cancer Awareness Dodgeball Tournament
Colleges Against Cancer ~ Gordon Field House

February 16th ~ “Valentines’ Dance”
To Benefit Ghana Education Fund in Benes Rooms

March 8-16 OWU Spring Break

March 28-29th ~ “OWU Relay for Life”
Colleges Against Cancer / American Cancer Society

April 1st ~ Circle K / Red Cross Blood Drive
Hamilton Williams Campus Center Benes Room

April 4th ~ Delta Gamma “Anchor Splash”
Pfeiffer Natatorium, 7-9 pm

April 4th ~ “OWU Bowl for Kids’ Sake 2008”
Delaware Lanes, 9-Midnight

Community Calendar

February 16th ~ “Cuisine Along the Ravine”
Preservation Parks of Delaware County

February 24th ~ “Ice Bowl 2008”
Habitat for Humanity Disc Golf Tournament
Delaware State Park

February 28th ~ Habitat for Humanity
“Soups for Shelter” ~ St. Mary’s School

March 1st ~ Special Olympics “2008 Polar Plunge”
Freezin’ for a Reason at Alum Creek State Park

March 10th ~ Partners in Volunteering Open House
6-8 pm ~ Powell Municipal Building

Celebrating Black History Month

“The Noose and Other Images that Hurt”
Unity Dialogue Discussion Series Brown Bag Lunch
Wednesday, February 13th - Noon - Benes Room A

“How Far Have We Come...”
Unity Dialogue ~ February 20th - Noon - Benes A

Poetry Slam ~ Bishop Café
Thursday, February 21st - 8:00 pm

“The New Agenda”
Unity Dialogue ~ February 25th - Noon - Benes A

“Still Unequal - The Disparities of Law and the Media”
Community Dialogue - February 26th - 7 pm - Benes Room

“The Fannie Lou Hamer Story” by mZuri
February 27th - 7:30 pm - Corns 312

Rafiki Wa Afrika (Friends of Africa) ~ *Culture Fest*
February 29th - 7:00 pm - Chappellear Drama Center



*“Everyone can be great
because everyone can serve.”*
Martin Luther King, Jr.