

# Opportunity Knocks

Reporting on OWU Community Service Learning and Opportunities in Delaware and Beyond  
Ben Goodrum ~ Editor In Chief

## OWU “Latino Outreach” Building Community Relationships

contributed by John Moriarty, OWU ‘10

Is immigration something one *really* need think about in Delaware, Ohio...so far from the border? Yes! With a growing population of Latinos in Delaware, it has become important that we recognize that the county often lacks the essential infrastructure to incorporate these men, women, and children into the community.

Thankfully, a growing number of community organizations understand this need and are taking steps to address immigrant challenges by connecting Latinos with individuals, programs and agencies dedicated to providing services with cultural sensitivity and equality. By enabling equal access to these kinds of programs, families may receive medical care, childcare, counseling services for domestic abuse and mental illness, translation services, legal services, and housing and clothing assistance. Small town programs such as these are not especially hard to access for most Americans, but frequently exclude the vulnerable immigrant demographic due to the lack of qualified translators which big-city agencies can employ. It is easy to forget that these families are not incompetent, that they would seek assistance from large government programs and NGOs if they could speak the language. Without this skill, families face major obstacles in our English-oriented social infrastructure.



Paola, standing on the right, and Adriana de La Peña, of Ohio Health on the left, spend quality time with a local family.

Paolamantina Grullón, a junior at Ohio Wesleyan University originally from the Dominican Republic, has been serving as the OWU Intern for Latino Outreach since last year. This past summer her internship, (sponsored by a grant from the United Way of Delaware County), involved serving with several local organizations to assist Delaware Latino families with finding solutions to a variety of issues ranging from health care to food, clothing, childcare and transportation. Paola worked with fifteen families from Mexico, El Salvador, and Honduras helping them get assistance; “We try to make local Latinos aware that there are programs and people in Delaware that they can trust and that we are here to help,” Paola explained. Through working with these families, Paola learned that recent Latin American immigrant families must deal with the daunting challenges of negotiating the U.S. social service system, as well as the fear of being deported.

With a national election coming up, immigration policy and “border security” are hot button issues in many communities across the country. It is important to remember that people sometimes need help solving their problems. It should make no difference where these people come from.

Some of the agencies and programs that Paola has been working with over the past year include Action for Children, the Woodward Family Resource Center, the Delaware City Schools ESL program, the Ohio Hispanic Coalition, Grace Free Clinic, Andrews House, the Ohio Health Susan G. Koman For the Cure Program, St. Mary’s Catholic Church, the Community Unity Coalition, and the Delaware General Health District. At this point in time, Paola is the only student representative of Ohio Wesleyan’s Latino Outreach program, however anyone wanting to learn how they can help should contact the OWU Community Service Learning Office, (740) 368-3084, or any of the agencies listed above. Most can be found on the OWU Agency Web Page: <http://service.owu.edu/agencies>

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## "Scioto River Clean Up Sweeping Success"

What has 100 wheels, but can't go anywhere? Apparently, the bottom of the Scioto River. Ohio Wesleyan students joined other community volunteers in working to clean up a portion of the Delaware area river. Reports of the September 6<sup>th</sup> event say that there were over 100 car tires pulled from the river during the sweep. These environmentally conscientious folks braved the depths of the Scioto River, located in northwestern Delaware County; and recovered from its banks and bottom heaps of waste. One OWU student joked that scene could have been caused by a flash epidemic of selective amnesia, were thousands of citizens mistook the river for the local garbage dump.

Representatives of Ohio Wesleyan's Environment and Wildlife Club, Circle K, and Alpha Sigma Phi fraternity participated in the three mile clean up effort. Almost two tons of garbage has been removed and put in its proper place thanks to this years efforts in the annual Keep Delaware Beautiful Scioto River Sweep.



*Caitlin Morpew, left, and Caitlin Klueber with some of the tires collected during the annual Scioto River Sweep. The two Caitlins are members of OWU's Circle K.*

Photo Courtesy of Jesse Carter  
Delaware General Health District

## Community Service Fair '08



Executive Director Don Chenoweth chats with a student about service opportunities at Andrews House, 39 W. Winter Street.

This year's Service Fair drew a big crowd as always, despite the staggering heat. The annual expo of community service opportunities available to students was held indoors this year on Wednesday, September 3rd. The fair offered a smörgåsbord of service options for students with different talents and skills. The room was lined with tables, and each table held a place for specific community agency. Attendees had the chance to speak with representatives from any agency they were interested in. If you're great with adolescents you could sign up for the Delaware Count Juvenile Court's T.E.A.M. mentoring program; perhaps you're better with more experienced members of the community, and you'd like to lend a hand with the Council for Older Adults. If a student didn't find a fit with any of the agencies present, Connections Volunteer Center was there to help.

If you were not able to attend the Service Fair, don't despair! You can still explore the service possibilities by checking out the ads in this newsletter, visiting the Community Service Learning Office on

the fourth floor of Hamilton-Williams Campus Center, or visiting the OWU CSL Web page ~ <http://service.owu.edu/>

**Due to the current economic downturn, we are experiencing a dramatic increase in the numbers of people seeking assistance for their most basic daily needs. Please consider donating canned goods non-perishable foods and taxable items such as soap, detergent, diapers, paper goods, toothpaste, toothbrushes and shaving items to PEOPLE IN NEED ~ 274 N. Sandusky Street ~ (740) 363-6284**

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# CropWalk 2008\*

*Walk With The World*

Sunday, October 5th

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

Walk Starts at Ham-Will Benes Room & Ends at First Presbyterian Church  
Sponsored by Delaware Area Churches, Kappa Phi & OWU Community Service Learning

[www.churchworldservice.org](http://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, <[smpaster@owu.edu](mailto:smpaster@owu.edu)>, Lisa Ho, <[llho@owu.edu](mailto:llho@owu.edu)>, or Kim Davis, <[kmdavis@owu.edu](mailto:kmdavis@owu.edu)>, to learn how you can make a difference!



**SNOOPY DOGFEST**  
PRESENTED BY CANINE COMPANIONS FOR INDEPENDENCE

**Sunday, October 12, 2008**  
**11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.**

Coffman Park Pavilion  
5200 Emerald Parkway • Dublin, Ohio

A Pet-Friendly Walkathon, Costume Party  
and Community Celebration!  
A Fun Event for the Entire Family!



**CANINE COMPANIONS**  
FOR INDEPENDENCE®

For information call (740) 548-4447 or  
visit [www.cci.org/snoopydogfestohio](http://www.cci.org/snoopydogfestohio)

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**United Way**  
of Delaware County



**Support the United Way!**



**GLOBAL VILLAGE**  
COLLECTION

**Global Village**  
**Adopt-A-Shift Program**  
37 N. Sandusky Street

If you are not familiar with us, we are a non-profit, volunteer-staffed retail store filled to overflowing with amazing and unique hand-crafted Fair Trade items. Our main goal is to promote Fair Trade practices and to improve the economic welfare of Third World artisans and farmers by marketing their handicrafts. Purchases made at our store help provide a sustainable and fair economic system for the artisans and farmers who would not otherwise have access to our marketplace.

Fair trade is not about charity. It is a holistic approach to trade and development that aims to alter the ways in which commerce is conducted, so that trade can empower the poorest of the poor. Fair Trade Organizations seek to create sustainable and positive change in developing and developed countries.

As we are volunteer staffed, we are looking to fill some of our shifts with members of service organizations such as yours. This typically works for weekend shifts—Saturday shifts are 11-1 p.m., 1-4 p.m. and 4-6 p.m. Sunday shifts are 12-2 and 2-4 p.m. In the past, we have had organizations “adopt” a shift—say Sundays from 2-4—and commit to filling it with two of their members on a rotating basis. This could also be done in conjunction with another organization.

We would appreciate your consideration, your feedback and your assistance! Please contact me so we can discuss the possibility of this exciting partnership. I look forward to hearing from you!

Thank you!

Tuesday Trippier  
Director of Communications  
Global Village Collection  
37 N. Sandusky St.  
Delaware, OH 43015  
740-363-6267 or 740/815-7638

e-mail: [volunteers@globalvillagecollection.org](mailto:volunteers@globalvillagecollection.org)

website: [www.globalvillagecollection.org](http://www.globalvillagecollection.org)



## Help Celebrate "Lights On!"



~ Thursday, October 16th is the national rally day designed to raise awareness about after school programs. All Delaware City Schools School Age Child Care Program sites will participate in this special "Lights On" event, each in

their own unique way.

~ All are welcome to drop in as we work to "shine a light" on after school and its' role in supporting children and communities.

~ The program runs from 3pm - 6pm at Delaware City Elementary and Middle Schools.

~ Questions? Contact Cathy (Silver) Sheets Delaware City Schools 21st Century Community Learning Center & Volunteer Coordinator

<silverca@dcs.k12.oh.us> (740)833-1854

## Preservation Parks Needs YOU!

**Nature Center Attendants Wanted** - Treat yourself to a relaxing afternoon at Hogback Ridge Preserve or Gallant Woods Preserve. Nature Center Attendants greet park visitors, answer questions and promote park activities. Weekend shifts are available from 12 noon to 5 pm at both nature centers and weekday shifts are available at Gallant Woods Preserve. Call Sandra Sklar McBrearty at (740) 524-8600, ext. 6 for more information.



## Help Preservation Parks of Delaware County PASS a Levy this November 4th!

How YOU can help:

- ◆ Make Phone Calls
- ◆ Go Door to Door
- ◆ Hang Signs
- ◆ Dress in funny costumes & stand at Polls
- ◆ Vote!

Call (740) 524-8600, ext. 6 to get involved!  
YOU Can Make A Difference for the Environment!  
visit [www.preservationparks.com](http://www.preservationparks.com)

## Be A Willis Big Brother!!

We are in desperate need of male volunteers for the Willis Big Brothers program who can be friends and role models for Willis Intermediate School boys. The Willis Big Brothers program doesn't require much. All you need is to be free on Tuesday afternoons from 3:15 to 5:15. A typical day starts with homework and snacks, followed by games in the gymnasium. Willis Intermediate School, (5th and 6th grade), is within easy walking distance of campus on W. William Street, adjacent to Dominoes Pizza, across from Tim Horton's.

Applications are available in the Community Service Learning Office in Ham-Will room 407, or via e-mail. For obvious reasons, there is a required background check and program orientation session.

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



Amir & Jessica Recruit OWU Bigs at the Service Fair

**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 Abby Ward or Teresa Milner at (740) 816-1898, or [ws2help@yahoo.com](mailto:ws2help@yahoo.com)

**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.

**Arthritis Foundation Fall Fundraiser Seeks OWU Volunteers**

- When? Friday, October 3rd and Saturday, October 4th - Noon to 4:00 pm both days for set up tasks; Event begins on Saturday, October 4th - 7:00 pm
- Where? Foertmeyer and Sons Greenhouse.
- What? “Party With A Purpose” Showing the OSU Wisconsin Game on a 10 foot screen Buffet, Silent Auction, etc.
- Tasks? Set up Tables, Greeters, Registration Table Workers, Silent Auction Monitors, and several other easy volunteer jobs. All volunteers are welcome to partake of the buffet
- Why? All proceeds will benefit the Arthritis Foundation.

Interested Groups/Individuals should contact Kathy Blakeslee, Branch Director—Delaware County Branch Arthritis Foundation 740-362-8400 [del.arthritis@verizon.net](mailto:del.arthritis@verizon.net)

**Turning Point Domestic Violence Shelter**

[www.turningpoint6.com/](http://www.turningpoint6.com/)

*Help Increase Awareness ~ Help Save Lives*

Contact Joyce Johnston 740-382-8988, [jjohnston@turningpoint.com](mailto:jjohnston@turningpoint.com)



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.





## Stratford Ecological Center ~ 3083 Liberty Road

Stratford is an organic working farm devoted to environmental awareness and appreciation. Among its many goals is the implementation of an environmental education program.

To volunteer contact Jane Walsh at 363-2548 or email [SECVolunteer@aol.com](mailto:SECVolunteer@aol.com)

### Saturday, September 20th - 10:00am to 5:00pm - Harvest Fair at Stratford Ecological Center

Stratford's biggest event of the year is one you won't want to miss! Family-centered in every way, the farm is transformed into a playground and celebration of the season. Puppet shows, entertainers and storytellers take over our picnic area on the main stage. Big kids are occupied as the pasture becomes "Kid's World" and is active with kites, stilts, face painting, and a giant earth ball. Little tykes are kept active in our hay bale toddler area with farm toys. Kids of all ages can climb on a tractor, make apple cider, ride on a horse-drawn wagon, make paper, grind grain, and so much more! Old-fashioned games involve the young and the young at heart!

Stratford sells home-grown food for lunch and volunteers provide a great array of baked goods for sale. The Harvest Fair is a celebration of Stratford and a celebration of down-home family fun! \$5/adults, \$3/children (2-12 yrs.)

Contact Christa at 740-363-2548 or [treebeing@aol.com](mailto:treebeing@aol.com) or visit [www.StratfordEcologicalCenter.org](http://www.StratfordEcologicalCenter.org)

### The Delaware Senior Nutrition Program and the Council for Older Adults Need Help

The Senior Nutrition program 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 congregational 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](mailto:amyb@growingolder.org) or call (740) 363-6677.

**OWU Pet Pals** is a group of pet-loving students who volunteer at the Humane Society of Delaware County (HSDC) every day of the week. At the HSDC we help keep the animals healthy and happy and finding them the perfect home.

**Scrubbing Dogs to Save Lives**, is a dog wash held at Bark Til Dark Dog Park—located at 1277 Hills-Miller Rd. The event is combined with an adoption event called Mingle with Our Mutts, where dogs up for adoption get the run of the park and those looking for a pet can come mingle with the dogs in a comfortable environment. Join us **Sunday, September 28, from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m.** We are always looking for more scrubbers and minglers! Please email [pet\\_pals@owu.edu](mailto:pet_pals@owu.edu) for more information



COMMON GROUND  
FREE STORE MINISTRIES

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, especially on Mondays – 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 [bonniefs@columbus.rr.com](mailto:bonniefs@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.

## DATES TO REMEMBER



Vote Out Poverty Week  
Mon. 9/22 -- Sat. 9/28

Mon. Noon Poverty in  
Perspective Panel  
by OWU Professors, Ham-Will

Tue. 7:30pm documentary  
film "Swept Out"  
by Prof. Mary Howard

Wed. 9 Noon Chapel  
Service in Peale Chapel  
Ham-Will 3rd floor

Thur. 7:30pm "Bridges Out  
of Poverty," lecture  
by Phil DeVol

Fri. 9pm Presidential  
Debate Screening  
Ham-Will

Sat. 8am Liberation  
Conference - Methodist  
Theological School of Ohio

### Oct.

10/5 Crop Walk Sunday  
See page 3 for details

10/8 Community Service  
RoundTable - Noon  
Ham-Will, Benes-A

10/25 Make a Difference  
Day Ohio call (740) 363-5000  
for more information

### Nov.

11/4 Election Day - VOTE!



**On line Bonus!**

**Pictures from the  
2008 Service Fair**



## *A Note From the Editor...*

Dear Readers,

Opportunity is always knocking, and it's waiting for readers like you to answer. If you have not already committed to a community service effort or two, do yourself, and someone else a favor; pick a cause, any cause, and try it out for a month. Give your service work the best you've got and you may be surprised by the outcome. Peruse our articles and advertisement pages for ideas about how you can help. If you would like to advertise a service opportunity please send your announcement to [cgoodrum8@ameritech.net](mailto:cgoodrum8@ameritech.net).

Don't forget to pick up next month's edition where we'll investigate the burning question: "Where are all the male volunteers?"

Sincerely,

Ben Goodrum  
Editor-in-Chief  
Opportunity Knocks