

OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS

Reporting on OWU Community Service Learning & Opportunities in Delaware and Beyond

Kristen Lear ~ Editor In Chief

Bats, Science & Service Learning



A student in the bat workshop shows off his bat puppet.

“If you want to answer a question, you have to put your hands together by crossing your thumbs and flapping your hands like a bat.” This is how the elementary school students in our classes learned to make “bat hands” during our presentations on bats. I spent the summer in central Texas as a research assistant studying bat ecology and their impact on agriculture, namely the pecan industry in central Texas. When I applied for the position, I knew I’d be working directly with bats all summer, which would involve going out into the pecan orchards every night to catch bats with mist nets. Mist nets are large nets that look like hair nets and are used to catch small flying animals. I was excited to have the opportunity to work with bats, and I was even more excited when I learned that we’d also visit a local elementary school to present a workshop on bats. This was an opportunity to combine my academic background in science with my love for community service in a true “service-learning” experience. Most of the commonly held misconceptions about bats begin in childhood, so teaching a bat workshop to elementary students would provide a great way for us to help kids understand the importance and uniqueness of bats.

On the day of our first workshop presentation, the other three members of the “Bat Team” (as we became known in town) and I dressed up in bat t-shirts and our headlamps to show our “batty” spirits. We received skeptical, yet curious, looks as we entered the 3rd grade classroom. We set out all our equipment, including a mist net, a thermal imaging camera, and an acoustic detector, and then we began the workshop with a quick “quiz” about bats to see how much the kids knew. As expected, a lot of them held common misconceptions about bats, including that bats are blind. (They’re not.) We then gave a Power Point presentation on bats around the world and some common facts about them. The kids “oohed” and “ahhed” at all the vivid pictures of different types of bat species, and they especially loved the weird looking ones. Once the children got a better idea about the types and lifestyles of bats, we showed them how to make bat puppets out of paper bags. They loved this activity, especially the opportunity to personalize their bats by modeling them after their favorite species. At the end of the workshop we demonstrated how we use all of our equipment in our research. The thermal camera was a big hit as we panned it across the room to look at the thermal images of all the kids. When it was time to go, they begged us to stay and show them more.

We came back to the school the next day to present the workshop to the 5th graders. While they knew more about bats than the 3rd graders had, they were still fascinated by our work and our demonstrations. As we were leaving on the last day, we ran into a teacher at the school who had a son in our workshop. He told us how his son had come home the night before and told the family what he had learned about bats that day. When we walked out of the school, the kids on the playground ran up to us and yelled to their friends, “It’s the Bat Team!” Even the kids who hadn’t been in our workshops knew who we were! Our reputation had spread quickly. The kids who ran up to us began to recite some bat facts to their friends who had not been in the workshop, and they eagerly asked us more questions about our work. We had obviously made an impact!

Teaching bat workshops in a Texas elementary school was a true “service-learning” experience. Not only did the students learn some fun science, I also learned about the eagerness of kids to acquire new knowledge and pass it on to their friends. Our goal was to help dispel common misconceptions about bats in a fun, engaging way. After hearing the kids telling their friends and family about what they learned, I think it is safe to say, “Mission accomplished!”



Students use their “bat hands” to answer questions during the presentation.

~ Kristen Lear



Chi Phi Frights and Fundraises with Annual Haunted House

Chi Phi's Haunted House is an annual event run by the brothers which will be held on three consecutive nights:

Thursday, October 29th from 8-11pm; Friday, October 30th from 8pm-1am; Saturday, October 31st from 8pm-1am.

2009 marks the 25th Anniversary of the first Chi Phi Haunted House, and the brothers plan to make this one of the best yet.

Haunted House prices vary: **\$6.25 for adults, \$3.25 for children, and \$5.25 for students (valid OWU ID only).**

The money raised through cost of admittance is donated to Big Brothers Big Sisters, and donation of canned food (which merits a \$1 discount) benefits People in Need.

Stop by on Oct. 29th-31st for the nightmare at 216 N. Franklin Street and donate to a couple of good causes in the Delaware community.



Members of Chi Phi and friends prepare to scare at the 2008 Haunted House.



Hasani Wheat, (front right), and Bill Pasters help register participants at the 2009 Crop Walk.

Crop Walk 2009



In the midst of all the activities for Homecoming Weekend, about 125 Delaware residents and OWU students walked in solidarity with the world's hungry people. Together, they raised close to \$8,000 to benefit the work of Church World Service, a non-profit, non-denominational relief organization which provides food for the world's hungry. Twenty-five percent of the money raised on October 4th will come back to Delaware to support the work of our own hunger-fighting agency, People In Need.

Besides addressing hunger, Church World Service also provides disaster relief, refugee relocation, and sustainable projects such as access to clean water, building schools, medical clinics, support for agriculture, fish hatcheries, and micro-loans for small business start-ups.

Students wishing to learn more about the work of CWS are invited to contact Nick Kiger via e-mail at nkiger@churchworldservice.org. Nick is our campus liaison from the Columbus Church World Service Office, and he is available for programs, speaking engagements and ideas for special projects to continue OWU's support of Church World Service.

"We Walk Because They Walk"

www.churchworldservice.org

What a difference a day can make!



**Saturday,
October 24, 2009**



Connections Volunteer Center of Delaware County is in urgent need for volunteers for Make a Difference Day Ohio from 8-12 noon, Saturday, October 24th. We need two groups to paint non-profit agency facilities and help with special events. We also need volunteers to complete outdoor projects for seniors who live in their own homes, but need help with leaf raking, gutter cleaning, & window washing. Volunteers will be provided a free breakfast at the Delaware Area Career Center N Campus at 1610 St Rte 521 in Delaware at 8 am. Work projects will be from 9-12 noon. Following your service, lunch coupons will be distributed as a thank you. You can't lose...free breakfast, free lunch and a way to help your community. Please spread the word and set time aside to be a part of this wonderful service event. Call Margie or Suzanne at Connections with your questions or to register...740-363-5000.

<p>Location:</p> <p>Delaware Area Career Center North Campus</p> <p>1610 State Rte. 521 Delaware, Ohio 43015</p>	<p>Event Times:</p> <p>8:00 am to 8:45 am : Enjoy a complimentary breakfast and kick off ceremony</p> <p>9:00 am to noon: Roll up your sleeves and work, work, work! (and have fun).</p>
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To register a volunteer project or for project ideas, contact Connections at 740.363.5000 or e mail mwest@helplinedelmor.org



MEN CAN STOP RAPE INC
CREATING CULTURES FREE FROM VIOLENCE

HelpLine of Delaware & Morrow Counties is seeking college men to volunteer as facilitators and members of an organization called **MEN of STRENGTH (MOST)**. This organization is committed to ending violence against women and promoting healthy masculinity. MOST Club is a nationally recognized program established by Men Can Stop Rape. We will be working with local adolescent males serving probation in order to encourage leadership, responsibility, social action, and violence prevention.

To learn more about the MOST Club please visit the Men Can Stop Rape website at www.mencanstoprape.org. To learn more about HelpLine visit our website at www.helplinedelmor.org. If you wish to join or need more info, please contact Okpara Newsum at 740-363-1835 or ookafor-newsum@helplinedelmor.org.

BASKETBALL COACHES **NEEDED**

Special Olympics of Delaware County is in need of 2 basketball coaches for our Men's Div 4 basketball team and an assistant coach for the Women's basketball team. The commitment for this would be 2 nights a week for practice beginning the 1st week of November, off for the holidays and then games/practice twice a week January through February or end of March, depending on tournament games. All practices and most home games are at Willis Middle School in Delaware.

Please contact Sharon Taylor at 740-272-2575 if you are interested.

(WS)² is a collaboration between the William Street United Methodist Church and Willis Intermediate School. The program is facilitated by the Literacy Coalition of Delaware County, and we are looking for energetic volunteers to assist 5th and 6th graders with homework. (WS)² sessions occur every Monday and Thursdays from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. at the William Street United Methodist Church.



Responsibilities include supervising students through snacks, games, homework and clean up. Educational opportunities such as teaching activities, creating and implementing your own lesson plans can be arranged! We look forward to meeting you!

Interested parties should contact Abby Ward (740) 816-1898, or ws2help@yahoo.com



Global Village Collection - 37 N. Sandusky Street
www.globalvillagecollection.org

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.

e-mail: volunteers@globalvillagecollection.org
Phone: (740) 363-6267

The Literacy Coalition of Delaware County

The Literacy Coalition has multiple internship opportunities for the 2009-2010 school year. Interns will work closely with a Coalition Board Member and activities will include supporting the (WS)² after school homework help program, (see ad above), assisting with book drives and distributions, promoting literacy to the community, and assistance with research and evaluation of programs.

Hours are flexible and can be worked around the interns' schedules. Opportunities are ongoing. Submit a resume and one letter of recommendation to tinayliteracy@gmail.com

Tina Younoszai, Vice President
Board of Directors
The Literacy Coalition of Delaware County
4565 Columbus Pike
Delaware, Ohio 43015

740-816-3514

People In Need, Inc.

HOLIDAY CLEARING HOUSE 2009 **FOOD, New TOYS and New CLOTHING Drive** **DELAWARE CO. FAIRGROUNDS COLISEUM** **SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2009**

9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Donations will be accepted at

- ** Delaware Co. Fairgrounds Coliseum - 236 Pennsylvania Ave.
- ** Delaware City and Delaware County Fire Departments
- ** Hayes Colony Apartment Complex – 470 McKinley Ln., Delaware
- ** Londontown Apartment Complex – 300 Chelsea St., Delaware

PLEASE NOTE: All children must be accompanied by and/or supervised by
Troop Leaders, Organization Leaders, Parents or Guardians at all times.

For further information call **HOLIDAY CLEARING HOUSE** at 363-6528 (Dec. 5th) or **PEOPLE IN NEED, Inc.** at 363-6284



People In Need Is a United Way Agency
138 Johnson Drive - P.O. Box 962 - Delaware, Ohio 43015

People In Need, Inc. Board of Directors and Staff are not responsible for injuries or lost articles.



*Located at 193 E. Central Avenue, **Common Ground Free Store Ministries** is a partnership between Delaware churches, businesses, civic organizations and caring citizens. They believe that God's mercy doesn't come with a price tag. They have established a warm and welcoming store which is run by volunteers, and 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 service opportunities for OWU students at Common Ground. The Free Store is either open, or shifts are available to work on Mondays, from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm; Thursdays from 3:00 pm to 8:00 pm; and Saturdays from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. To sign up for a specific shift to work, contact Bonnie Ristau at (740) 369-3733, or bonniefs@columbus.rr.com. Typical tasks include helping to run the store, sorting clothing, restocking racks and shelves, greeting shoppers, or helping to serve food.

Donations are accepted on Saturdays between 10:00 am and 2:00 pm. (Due to limited space, out-of-season items cannot be stored.) All donated items should be clean and in good condition. Kitchen ware, small appliances, towels, curtains, bed linens, dishes, glasses and silverware are always welcome donations.

<http://www.commongroundfreestore.com/>

Let Us Help You, Help Others.....

The Council for Older Adults will design an Internship to fit you!



The Food and Nutrition program provides hot meals daily to older adults in their homes. The program delivers over 190,000 meals per year throughout the county on 39 different routes. Volunteer drivers are needed from 11-1pm either long term any day Monday through Friday.

Volunteers are also needed as kitchen assistants to help label and get meals ready. You can volunteer one day per week between 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

The Council for Older Adults is also in need of people or groups who can provide help for small household chores and yard work. Also, you can design an **internship** with the Council. We also have an opportunity to assist with chores at COA the first Saturday of each month.

To learn more, contact Amy Brown at amyb@growingolder.org or (740) 203-2355.



Delaware City Schools Celebrate Lights On Afterschool!

October 22 is *Lights On Afterschool!*, the national day to raise awareness and celebrate afterschool programs. Delaware City Schools SACC will be holding a district-wide celebration at Dempsey Middle School between 4 & 6:30. Nearly 400 students will participate in a program that includes outdoor activities such as carnival games, sack races, tug of war, giant bowling, kick croquet, and human pinball. The rain date will be Friday, October 23. To volunteer, contact Cathy Sheets, Volunteer Coordinator at 740-833-1854 or email sheetsca@dcs.k12.oh.us.



OWU Winter Blood Drive

Wednesday, December 2nd ~ 10am-5pm ~ Ham-Will Benes Rooms

Go to www.givelife.org to schedule an appointment...

Or contact OWU Circle K Service Chairs Caitlin Kelly & Heather Werling.

Volunteer with Preservation Parks!

Trick-or-Treat Trail October 25 at Gallant Woods Preserve

Volunteers wanted between 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. to help set up an enchanted trail and maze, assist on the hay ride, oversee pumpkin decorating, host concession station, and be stationed at various locations along the treat trail during the event. Come dressed up in your kid friendly Halloween costume and help us make this Trick-or-Treat Trail unforgettable for hundreds of children!

Nature Center Attendants wanted at Deer Haven Preserve and Hogback Ridge Preserves

Greet visitors, answer questions, and distribute information about Preservation Parks while enjoying quality time relaxing with nature. Each shift is from noon–5:00 p.m. Attendants build their own schedules using an on-line scheduling system.

Contact Sandra McBrearty at (740) 524-8600, ext. 6, e-mail saundras@preservationparks.com,

or complete a volunteer application on-line at our website www.preservationparks.com



VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance)

We need your help to prepare tax returns for tax payers in your County. Your contribution will help bring thousands of hard earned dollars back into the budgets of low-moderate income individuals and families.

The VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) program was developed to assist tax filers in preparing tax returns for FREE. With the help of certified volunteers we can maximize credits to obtain the highest refund possible.

By volunteering you can enhance your resume with tax preparation and volunteer experience, and allows you to apply your tax and accounting training to real world situations. Free tax training and certification can be taken in a classroom setting or online at your convenience.

VITA is supported by The Internal Revenue Service and operated at multiple sites donated by local businesses and social service organizations.

To volunteer please contact Diana Rice @ Community Action 740-369-3184



The Humane Society of Delaware County

The Humane Society recently rescued a very large number of domestic rabbits from an over-crowded, inhumane environment. They are requesting assistance in fostering these rabbits still waiting to be placed into loving homes. Help is also needed for funding animal cruelty investigations in Delaware County. Donations can be made through the mail or in person at the Humane Society, 4920 State Route 37 E. - Delaware, Ohio 43015.

Phone: (740) 369-7387 - e-mail: humanehsrc@live.com - Web Page: www.HSDCOhio.org.

Volunteer with the Humane Society of Delaware County!

- Volunteers are needed to help collect supplies and sponsorships for The 2009 Fur Ball HSDC's silent and live auction fundraiser being held on December 5th

Remember, you can also support the work of the Humane Society by joining OWU Pet Pals!



American Cancer Society ~ OWU Relay For Life

The Ohio Wesleyan Chapter of Colleges Against Cancer is seeking volunteers for the 2010 OWU Relay For Life event. Individuals interested in being a part of the volunteer planning committee should contact Jennifer Williams, <jmwillia@owu.edu> or Adrienne Found <amfound@owu.edu>. For more information please visit www.relayforlife.org/owu.

Ohio Wesleyan University
Community Service Learning
40 Rowland Avenue
Delaware, Ohio 43015

<http://service.owu.edu>

DATES TO REMEMBER

October 14-18
OWU Mid-Semester Break

October 21st
PIN Night At Buffalo Wild Wings

October 22nd
Lights on After School, (see page 6)

October 24th
Make a Difference Day
(see page 3)

October 25th
Trick-or-Treat Trail at Gallant Woods
Preserve, (see page 6)

October 29-31
Chi Phi Haunted House
(see page 3)

November 21-29
OWU Thanksgiving Break

November 26th, 12-2 pm
Free Community Thanksgiving Meal
William Street United Methodist

December 2nd - 10 am-5 pm
OWU Red Cross Blood Drive
Ham-Will Benes Rooms, (page 6)

December 5th
People In Need Holiday Food,
New Toys & New Clothing Drive
(see page 5)

Humane Society Fur Ball, (page 7)

December 11th
OWU Last Day of Classes

December 11-17
OWU Final Exams

January 11, 2010
OWU Classes Resume

Please recycle



(Left) Members of $\Delta\Delta\Delta$ Sorority prepare to walk.

Delaware Crop Walk 2009



(Right) Members of Kappa Phi Sorority prepare to serve something yummy to the walkers.



Welcome back from Mid-Semester Break!

Our all-too-short mid-semester break is over and school is back in session, which means the opportunities for service at Ohio Wesleyan and the Delaware/Columbus area have arrived again! September and October were full of service events, including the Delta Zeta Jello Tug-of-War, Circle K's District Service Project, the Crop Walk, and the Red Cross Blood Drive.

Ohio Wesleyan is full of campus programs and organizations that participate in service on campus and in the greater community. Delaware offers many opportunities to get involved in off-campus organizations and social justice causes. So get out there and explore the options to find a cause that interests you! Whether it be children, hunger, homelessness, the environment, or any other service opportunity, take action and find out what you can do to give back to our community. If you're not sure where to start, take a look at past articles of "Opportunity Knocks," which can be found at the Community Service Learning Center website, <http://service.owu.edu>. The web site and the newsletters are full of service opportunities and announcements, so you'll be sure to find something that interests you. If you would like to advertise a service opportunity, provide a story about a project, or just want to chat about service, email me at opknocks@owu.edu.

I'm looking forward to continuing this service-filled year, and I hope you will join me in giving back to the community!

Yours in Service,
Kristen Lear, Editor

Photograph correction: On the back page of the September 2009 issue, the student featured speaking with Keri Robe is Carleton Levert, not Carlton King.

If you would like to advertise a service opportunity or provide a story about a project, email Kristen Lear at opknocks@owu.edu.