

Opportunity Knocks

Reporting on OWU Community Service Learning & Opportunities in Delaware and Beyond
Martha Park ~ Editor In Chief

The Columbus Initiative...Entering a 3rd Decade of Promises Kept



Reading Together At Linden

This year, the Columbus Initiative began its third decade of continuous partnership with the Columbus City Schools. This partnership joins students from Ohio Wesleyan University in tutoring and mentoring relationships with inner-city children from one of the more economically-depressed areas of Columbus, Ohio. The mission of the Columbus Initiative is to help meet the needs of our public school partner, Linden S.T.E.M. Academy. To that end, Ohio Wesleyan students have tutored children in most subject areas, listened to children's concerns, dried tear-filled eyes, raised money for books, helped teachers create materials, cleaned the schoolyard, and helped keep peace in the hallways, lunchroom, and playground. When a new school was built, tutors helped pack the boxes and moved them to the new building. When teachers needed additional chaperones for field trips to the zoo or the pumpkin patch, the tutors

volunteered to help. Most importantly, the Columbus Initiative tutors have kept their promise to ***Be There*** – day after day, week after week, month after month, and year after year.

This partnership has provided hundreds of college participants an opportunity to engage in servant leadership; to work to promote change in the academic experience of urban children; to experience true civic engagement; and to think about and challenge their own ideas about the effects of poverty on education, the role of society as it relates to those who are in need, and the ongoing national conversations about school reform, immigration issues, and healthcare. Ohio Wesleyan provides transportation, tutor training, consistent on-site supervision, and allows students to access their Federal Work/Study funds while working for the Columbus Initiative. OWU also provides Institutional Work/Study for student participants who do not qualify for Federal funding.

A Final Note: In addition to their work with children, Ohio Wesleyan tutors also learn from one another. The demographics of the Columbus Initiative tutors is generally one third Minority-American students, one third Caucasian American students, and one third International students (usually with 10 – 15 different countries represented). So each Columbus Initiative bus is filled with a rich array of languages, cultures, and religious traditions. What a wonderful opportunity to for students to engage as citizens of the world and to work together to raise up the level of multicultural competency on the Ohio Wesleyan University campus!



Making New Friends!

Small Living Units Engage in Meaningful Service Projects

Ohio Wesleyan Small Living Units (SLUs) are a unique part of the campus culture. SLUs are themed, and members must complete at least one program per semester that relates to the theme of their house. These programs vary widely, from house bonding activities to volunteering; from on-campus viewings of documentaries, to attending conferences and vigils across the country. Many projects in the course of the last year have focused not only on the SLU and OWU community, but the Delaware, and to some extent, the global community, as well.

Gretchen Curry is a junior member of the Peace and Justice House. Last fall, for her house project, she was the primary organizer for the third annual Bodo Initiative Benefit Dinner. The dinner raises money for the non-profit Bodo Initiative organization started by Lydia Spitalny, an OWU alum and former Peace and Justice house member. Lydia started Bodo Initiative after a study abroad experience in Kenya. The non-profit exists under the umbrella of the Education for the Future Foundation. Bodo Initiative raises money to send students, mostly girls, to secondary school, as schooling in Kenya is free only through primary school. The dinner is free of charge, and a highlight of the evening is the performance put on by Tony West and the Imani Dancers, an African drum and dance group from the Greater Columbus Arts Council. Donations are taken up at the event, and is consistently successful. Gretchen says, "It's really quite incredible to think that in one dinner at Ohio Wesleyan we can provide a child with an education, and not just any child, but someone on the other side of the world! Every year after the event is over I have to take a step back and really reflect on what we at OWU are capable of accomplishing."



For her house project, House of Thought member Emily Knobbe is also thinking globally. She is asking for clothing donations for a yard sale to benefit Heifer International. She says, "Funds raised and donated to Heifer International will be used to purchase an animal such as a llama or sheep to send to a village elsewhere in the world. The wool will help to clothe the people in the community." Emily's ultimate hope is to raise enough funds to purchase the "Knitter's Gift Basket" which includes a llama, an alpaca, a sheep, and an angora rabbit—valuable animals for struggling communities. She is hoping to set up for the yard sale and begin taking donations around late February. She says, "I want this project to bring to light how fortunate we are to be able to clothe ourselves every day, and how over-indulgent we can become in material things without even realizing it."

Glenn Skiles, a member of Women's House, has been volunteering at Capital Care Women's Center in Columbus. She and other students go to the center to escort women from their cars into the clinic as a way of support and distraction from protesters. The center offers women's health services including pregnancy tests and abortions. Glenn explains, "Because these services are so controversial, protesters meet to hold signs, show grotesque images of fetuses and yell insults at the patients." She explains, "I wanted to take on the project of escorting at Capital Care Women's Center because I felt getting involved with the community was an important aspect of programming that is often overlooked. I wanted to do more than spread awareness, but actually get directly involved in supporting a woman's right to choose a safe and legal abortion. I also wanted to create an opportunity for others on campus to see the obstacles women face in getting even a legal abortion, as well as to put a face to individuals which need these services."

A senior member of the Peace and Justice House, Vanessa Lang's house programs have mostly dealt directly with community service. In the fall of 2009, she and two other P&J members sold handmade toys at the Delaware

Farmer's Market to raise funds for future P&J programming. She also volunteered at Grady Hospital in spring 2010. This program was meaningful to her for the connections it gave her to the Delaware community: "I was trained alongside local people from Delaware. While volunteering at Grady, I made connections through interactions and conversations with people, in turn making myself more than just a college student at Ohio Wesleyan, but a fellow volunteer and a person with a shared intent of helping." Last semester, Vanessa volunteered for Family Promise of Delaware. She produced a new brochure for them, and furthered her connection to the community as well as her understanding of service. "Activism stems not only from a global consciousness and knowledge of others, but also a local perspective and acknowledgment of one's direct impact to the immediate environment and culture they are a part of," she says.

Caitlin Kelly, a junior Tree House resident, has been working with AEP Ohio's Shari Zehala and Tim Wells on a CFL Fundraiser Project. The program involves contacting residents of low-income neighborhoods and directors of community facilities, especially those that serve the elderly or infirm, to set up times when students can replace incandescent light bulbs with more energy-efficient compact fluorescent light bulbs. Caitlin explained, "This project connects directly to the mission of the Tree House, for it not only reduces the amount of energy, as a whole, the community is using, but it seeks to help the most marginalized in society by reducing the amount of money they have to pay for their energy. Helping and working with people is my passion, and being able to couple that with environmentalism is a special and exciting opportunity. AEP is looking for OWU students to get involved with this program, which they hope will be on-going. If you're interested, contact Tim Wells of AEP at tjwells@aep.com. His phone number is (740) 368-7139.



These are just a few examples of projects created and taken on by members of the SLU community. There are many more and every year new members look for ideas and ways to get involved.

Volunteer in the parks and help Preservation Parks protect and preserve Delaware County's natural areas!

Here are just a few ways:

- **Help with the Osprey Homecoming celebration, April 17.** You can help with children's activities at Hogback Ridge Preserve, or assist with the spotting scopes along Alum Creek Reservoir.
- **Assist with the Park Safari Challenge, May 8.** We need volunteers at each station along this fun scavenger hunt that spans several parks! Your help those on "safari" interpret the clues and solve the puzzle at that park. Then join us for a picnic dinner afterwards.
- **Be a Nature Center Attendant** on weekday or weekend afternoons. You'll greet visitors and answer questions — AND you'll have time to do school work. There are 2-1/2 hour shifts available noon-5 p.m. every day at Deer Haven Preserve, and noon-5 p.m. weekends at Hogback Ridge Preserve.



For more information or to learn about other opportunities, contact Sandra McBrearty at 740-524-8600, ext. 6, or at saundras@preservationparks.com.

Visit www.preservationparks.com for information on parks, programs and events.

HABITATalent Show

Saturday, February 26, 2011, 7pm
At Ohio Wesleyan University's Gray Chapel
\$5 General Admission ~ \$3 Students
Open to the Entire Delaware Community!
Benefiting Delaware County

Habitat for Humanity
For more information, or to purchase tickets,
contact Event Coordinator Kristen Kalinowski
(Habitat Intern & OWU Senior)
at kekalino@owu.edu or (612) 991-5962





2nd Annual Spring Fling-Mardi Gras Style!

People In Need, Inc. of Delaware County Ohio

Media Sponsor Event Sponsor Corporate Sponsors

The Delaware Gazette **Byetta** **GREIF** **Grady Memorial Hospital OhioHealth** **Council on Aging** **Council on Older Adults**

It's the second annual Spring Fling to benefit People In Need, Inc. of Delaware County Ohio.

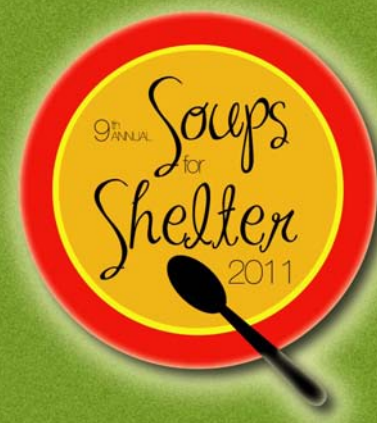
Thursday, March 3, 2011
6:30 pm

Brookshire
405 Greif Pkwy, Delaware

Gourmet Creole Buffet • Live Auction
• Silent Auction • Mask Contest •
Music by The John Minnich Dixieland Band

Tickets are just \$35 and are on sale through February 21, 2011. Please contact People In Need, Inc. at 740.363.6284 for more information.

Tickets must be purchased in advance.




Delaware Habitat for Humanity

Thursday, 03.10.2011
4:30p - 7:30p
St. Mary School Commons
66 E. William St., Delaware, OH

\$15 Homemade soup, bread, dessert, beverage, & a beautiful handmade ceramic bowl
\$10 Soup meal only
free Children 5 and under

For tickets, to volunteer, or learn more, contact Valerie Wighton at Delaware County Habitat for Humanity
vwighton@habitatdelawareco.org, 740.363.9650, Ext 225
Designed by: Priscilla Wolfe | wolfe.priscilla@gmail.com or 614.506.3730




"OWU Bowl for Kids' Sake 2011"

Friday, March 18th

9pm to Midnight ~ Delaware Lanes

Annual all OWU event to benefit

Big Brothers Big Sisters

Advance Team Registration Required

Contact Sue Pastors to learn more:

smpaster@owu.edu ~ 740-368-3084

Games! Trophies! Prizes! Fun!



VIVA

“Salsa for Education”

March 25th

8pm to Midnight

Tickets are \$8/Individual

\$12/Couple

\$50/Group of Ten

Dance featuring Son del Caribe

a twelve piece salsa band from Cincinnati

Benefiting: NicaHOPE, HaitiOWU

supporting **Project Hope Orphanage** in Haiti, and **On the Ground.**

Hosted by **VIVA** and **Global Village Collection.**



2011 OWU Relay for Life

**March 25 & 26
6pm to noon**

Branch Rickey Complex

Come join the fight against cancer! Relay for Life is an all-night event where 100% of the funds raised go to the American Cancer Society to help find a cure for cancer. 1 in 3 people are affected by cancer; everyone can find a reason to Relay!

To Participate at OWU :

Find us on Facebook or log on to the American Cancer Society Relay for Life Web Site



**Red Cross Blood Drive:
Ohio Wesleyan University
Hamilton Williams Campus Center
Benes Room**

Wednesday, March 30th

10 AM – 4 PM

To schedule an appointment

Call: 1-800-RED CROSS (733-2767)

or go to: **www.redcrossblood.org/**

If you last donated on or before February 2nd,
you may be eligible to donate

**Get a free Red Cross
Car Magnet!**

Stratford Ecological Center

3083 Liberty Road ~ Delaware, Ohio



Volunteer Opportunities

Messages from the Earth/ Sunship Earth

Instructors (Spring –Tuesdays; Fall – Monday through Friday) ~

Engage 5th grade students in the wonders of the Earth through these highly experiential activities that facilitate deep understanding of how the world works. Structured activities (such as going inside a giant leaf to learn photosynthesis) will engage students in the learning as they become the water cycle, make soil and so much more. Training is provided.

March 1st, Tuesday, 9am-2pm - Messages from the Earth Training at Stratford Ecological Center - Cycles and Change - (Part 1 of 2)

Messages from the Earth is a new program for 5th graders. You will learn this engaging curriculum in order to lead groups of 10 students on day-long immersive experiences. On March 1st, you will experience the program as a student. (On March 3rd, you will practice instructing the activities). The Messages from the Earth brochure is available online at www.StratfordEcologicalCenter.org and will give you more information

March 3rd, Thursday, 8am-3pm - Messages from the Earth Training at Stratford Ecological Center – (Part 2 of 2) – In Part 2, you will practice instructing the activities. (In Part 1, you experienced the program as a student.)

Contact Jane Walsh at 740-363-2548 or SECVolunteer@aol.com

Or visit www.StratfordEcologicalCenter.org to see a Comprehensive list of Special Events and Volunteer Opportunities

Ashley Manor Assisted Living

445 Ashley Road ~ Ashley, Ohio*

Michael & Debbie Fox, Owners

Ashley Manor is looking for a few good volunteers, particularly students who are interested in assisting residents with activities designed to keep the capacities that they still have.

Most have dementia and forget from one minute to the next, however they have not forgotten how to laugh and have a good time. Activities can include games such as Bingo. With help, the patients do enjoy making things and using what mobility they have. There is also a need for help with exercise activities. Creative programs such as music are also very welcome.

Volunteer Hours are very flexible. More details are available on the table outside the OWU community service learning office, Ham-Will room 407 or...

Contact Debbie Fox at (614) 402-8249, or via e-mail at dfox@fourstarliving.com

*Ashley is located 12 miles north of Delaware via Route 42



Common Ground Free Store Ministries - 193 E. Central Avenue - 740-369-3733

The place to donate your clean, gently used clothing and household goods to benefit others. Student Volunteers are welcome to help with staffing the store during shopping hours, re-stocking shelves, sorting donations, and helping to serve meals. (Register in advance, please.) Store hours are Mondays 10 am to 3 pm; Thursdays 3 pm to 8 pm; and Saturdays 10 am to 3 pm. Donations are accepted on Saturdays. To learn more, contact Bonnie Ristau at bonniefr@columbus.rr.com. On the Web: www.commongroundfreestore.com

OWU STUDENTS ~ IF you are interested in volunteering at Grace Free Clinic, a medical clinic located within walking distance from campus...

Volunteers are needed for help with **SET-UP** (5:00-6:00 p.m.) and **TEAR-DOWN** (8:15-9:45 p.m.) each **Wednesday**.

This is a great way to get in volunteer hours, to learn the value in serving others, to practice Spanish, and to get opportunities for patient contact!

Contact Pre-Health Club President Chris Brooks , <cdbrooks@owu.edu> or Chloe Hamrick,<cfhamric@owu.edu>, if you're interested.

It's Spring... Time to Get **GROWING** with Us!

The Council for Older Adults is growing by leaps and bounds and would like you to grow with us!

Come to our no-obligation open house and see what volunteering is all about —

March 31, 4 to 6 p.m.
Center for Older Adults
800 Cheshire Rd.

- Talk with current volunteers
- Explore volunteer opportunities and have your questions answered
- Enjoy refreshments
- Take a tour of the Center

Council for Older Adults
OF DELAWARE COUNTY

RSVP to Amy Brown at 740/203-2355 or amyb@growingolder.org.



MAKE A
DIFFERENCE

Yoga Outreach Columbus



Sunday April 3rd, 2011 ~ 1-3pm
Hamilton Williams Campus Center
Benes Rooms

Join yoga instructors from Central Ohio for a massive vinyasa yoga class to benefit Local and International charities.

Proceeds benefit "Off the Mat, Into the World" Mid-Ohio Food Bank and People In Need, Inc.

Pre-Event Donation:

Tickets are \$20 ~ \$15 for Students

Tickets are available in the OWU Community Service Office in Ham-Will 407 & from Kelly Krunkleton '12



People In Need, Inc.
of Delaware County Ohio



Annual Food Pantry "CAN"paign March 21 thru May 20, 2011

Food and Taxable Items Most Needed in the Food Pantry

Canned Meats/Fish
Canned Pasta
Noodles/Macaroni
Cereal-Cooked/Dry
Pancake Mix (Complete)
Peanut Butter
Pudding Mixes
Canned Fruit
Boxed Dinners
Graham Crackers
Potatoes - Boxed/Instant
Frosting Mixes
Macaroni & Cheese
Canned Fruit Juices

Dry Milk
Coffee-Instant/Perked
Tea Bags
Hot Chocolate Mix
Syrup
Jelly
Jell-O
Soups
Saltine Crackers
Spaghetti Sauce
Cake Mixes
Canned Vegetables
Muffin Mixes

Toilet Paper**
Feminine Napkins**
Paper Towels**
Napkins**
Diapers** (Medium/Large)
Razors**
Kleenex**
Shampoo**
Laundry Detergent**
Bar Soap**
Dish Soap**
Shaving Cream**
Toothbrushes**

****Items not available with Ohio Direction Benefit Card**

People In Need, Inc. ~ Serving the Delaware County Community Since 1981

138 Johnson Drive ~ Delaware, Ohio 43015 ~ 740-363-6284

<http://delawarepeopleinneed.org/>

I (and Delaware County) Need Your Help, OWU!

Much of my work here in Delaware concerns issues of local homelessness and poverty alleviation. To that end, I am working with Rosie Porambo, (a non-traditional student here at OWU), the director of Concerned Citizens Against Homelessness and Jennifer Dunkle, director of Family Promise of Delaware County. We are planning a **Homelessness Awareness Film Festival**, to be followed by a **48 Hour Homelessness Challenge** where students and community members will take on the role of being homeless for two days. We will kick off the challenge with the Film Festival on April 10th at the Strand, where we will have movies touching on issues of homelessness, including Dr. Mary Howard's own documentary, *Swept Out*, followed by a panel discussion. After the film festival, those who are interested will begin their 48 hour homelessness experience

This challenge will be taking place over Monday and Tuesday, April 11th and 12th. Of course, we encourage you to go to your classes and participate as a student. Homeless individuals still work, attend classes, and more. It won't be easy, but if we get even five people to do this event we will be happy. The reason Rosie also chose Monday and Tuesday is because those are the days when most of the agencies in town offer their services. For example, there are no opportunities for free meals on weekends in Delaware. If you are a student of Dr. Mary Howard's, please be aware that this can be an opportunity for extra credit for you if you assist with this event. We hope that you will join us and help in whatever way you can to make this opportunity a reality.

If you are interested in learning more, please contact me or stop by my office in room 407, in the Hamilton-Williams Campus Center.

Mery Kanashiro '10 - <mmkanash@owu.edu>
Ohio Campus Compact AmeriCorps/VISTA Volunteer

Dates To Remember

February 26th - (page 3)
HABITATalent Show

March 3rd - (page 4)
People In Need "Spring Fling"

March 5th-13th
OWU Spring Break

March 10th - (page 4)
Habitat for Humanity
"Soups for Shelter"

March 18th - (page 4)
"OWU Bowl for Kids' Sake"

March 25th-26th - (page 5)
"OWU Relay for Life"

March 21st-May 20th - (Page 7)
PIN "CAN"paign

March 30th - (page 5)
OWU Red Cross Blood Drive

April 3rd
"Yoga Outreach Columbus"

April 10th-12th
Homelessness Film Festival and
48 Hour Homelessness Challenge
(see adjacent story...)



To advertise a service opportunity, or to provide a service-related story or picture, email Editor, Martha Park at opknocks@owu.edu.