

Opportunity Knocks

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

Spring Break Mission Teams Share their Experiences

Building and Rebuilding: Lakota Nation, South Dakota

The Lakota mission trip involved physical mission work, rich cultural experiences, discussion, and reflection. The team stayed in Mission, South Dakota on the Rosebud Indian Reservation. During the day, they volunteered at Tree of Life, a Christian organization providing volunteer work on various construction/renovation projects and a food pantry for the people on the reservation. Team projects included painting a church, as well as cleaning out and painting a building so it can be used as offices for a mental health group. When they weren't painting, they helped out at the food pantry, which gave them the chance to talk to people who live and work on the reservation.

Team leader Mary Slebodnik says, "Steve Tamayo, a professor at Sinte Gleska University who founded the Lakota Studies department, provided a substantial part of our cultural learning in the evenings. He taught us how to make baby moccasins and dream-catchers, play handgames, and he showed us around nearby Lakota museums." Mary adds, "The problems on the reservation are numerous and don't show signs of getting any better—89% unemployment, alcoholism, children joining gangs, heavy reliance on aid, and a high suicide rate. A large part of our discussions surrounded these topics. We experienced a culture partially Westernized, but committed to reviving traditional ways of living. The American policies of the past have tried to stamp out every bit of Native American culture. Some have brought back pride in their culture, but others have forgotten their traditional way of life, or never learned it. There is something special about the Lakota way of life – we all experienced a sweat lodge ceremony, a purifying ceremony that connects an individual with the Earth and facilitates spiritual growth. The Lakota people, and people of Native American descent in general, are a people forgotten by society, largely because we have trouble admitting our fault in their poverty and depression. This trip allowed us to better understand a people rich in culture that has been forgotten by mainstream society."



Making New Friends on the "Rez"

Washington, DC: At the Crossroads of the Powerful and the Powerless



Kami Goldin and Matthew Jordan's team went to Washington, DC to learn about how poverty and power interact in the capital of arguably the most powerful nation in the world. Kami adds, "Our hope as leaders and designers of the trip was to pack as much contrast as possible into our week." They were hosted by Christ House, a medical facility for the homeless, which arranged housing for them at a permanent residential unit for recovering patients. The DC team was able to have conversations with residents and many of the people who established and staff Christ House. The team served meals at two soup kitchens, visited the National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth, the National Law Center for Homelessness and Poverty, Howard University, as and many DC landmarks. They met with the Haitian Ambassador; sat down with the Chief of Staff to the Undersecretary of the Office for Democracy and Human Rights at the US Department of State; attended a book-reading for Terrence Roberts, one of the original Little Rock Nine; and spent time talking with day laborers from DC Jobs with Justice.

Kami stresses the lesson most often repeated to them was "homeless people are people too". She adds, "They are not so different from housed American citizens, and have all the same rights that we do. Unfortunately, those rights are not often honored. However, everyone deserves to be treated with dignity and respect, and so our lesson that we'd like to spread to the world is that no matter who or where you are, the kindness implicit in looking a stranger in the eye and acknowledging their existence is one of the best services that one can give to the world."

Matthew adds a point about the extreme power disparities in DC, "Perhaps one of the more interesting facts is that residents of Washington, DC, a city of more than 600,000, do not have representation in Congress despite paying federal taxes."

Re-New Orleans: Hurricane Katrina Recovery

Cali Cornacchia found the New Orleans experience one of contrasts and contradictions. She says, “It is a curious thing to drive through a neighborhood and imagine floodwaters infiltrating homes and reaching above rooftops. And it is worse to drive through a neighborhood and not have much to imagine because the caving walls and waterlines are still prevalent. Contrast this with beads and jazz and crowds of Mardi Gras, and you have the Re-New Orleans: Hurricane Katrina Recovery Team sent to New Orleans during spring break.”

The team worked mudding and sanding walls with the St. Bernard Project, whose mission “is to create housing opportunities so that Hurricane Katrina survivors can return to their homes and communities.” One particular moment of the week stands out says Cali, “One morning, a resident whose life had been uprooted by destruction came to our worksite to tell us how the St. Bernard project restored her life and to thank us for our work. Her genuine appreciation for us in spite of her hardships touched each of our hearts, and we gladly accepted her insistence to hug each team member.”

The team wrestled with the contrast of extravagant festivals alongside the struggles of residents who, after 5 years, still have not received the support they need to get their lives back together after Katrina. Cali concludes, “The city of New Orleans is dynamic and resistant, and our experience there cannot be captured in a single feeling, just like the problems from the hurricane cannot be dealt with in one simple solution. We are happy that we had the chance to be in the city during the unique tradition of Mardi Gras as well as to support the victims of the hurricane.”



Drywall Work With the St. Bernard Project

Jamaica: The Truth Behind the Tourism



Applying fresh paint at the Shelter

The Jamaican Mission Team fused faith, social justice, and cultural immersion and applied it to their service experience. The team worked for a week at the Marie-Atkins Night shelter, a homeless shelter in the heart of downtown Kingston. Sydney Parms says, “The walls of the shelter were in horrible condition, and the shelter had a feeling of hopelessness and monotony. Much of the walls had extensive water damage, and the shelter had not been painted since 1993, at the latest. We had the opportunity to strip off the old faded paint in all the rooms and repaint them with vibrant, lively colors which we hoped would project a vibe of optimism and hope for the residents.”

While painting, the team got the opportunity to interact with the inhabitants of the shelter. They learned that many of those living in the shelter grew up abroad in the U.S. or England, for example, but were deported back to Jamaica where they had no family or contacts. Others lost their homes in one of many hurricanes that devastated the island. The faith-based mission focused on the intersection of social stigmatism and justice, and the help which was displayed in the form of social services for the poor. Some of the homeless chose to work alongside the team to help fix the shelter, and it was in this way that they formed deep bonds with the residents.

Sydney says, “Being in Kingston also allowed us to explore Jamaica’s unique culture and history. Despite poverty and homelessness, Kingston is a city that is vibrant with national and local pride, and is steeped in various cultural traditions that make it a truly unique place. This is the first year that this team has been proposed, and those at the shelter asked if we would be return next year. Overall,

witnessing homelessness in the backdrop of this cultural gem of an island was an experience that, through the inhabitants of the shelter, opened our eyes to the power of humility, joy and thankfulness.”

Ann Merrell On “Bike & Build” ~

This summer, I will be biking from Providence, Rhode Island to California (“P2C”) along with 29 other young adults through the organization Bike & Build! We will be departing from Providence on June 11th and arriving in Half Moon Bay on August 20th. I will be biking on average 70 miles a day, through 17 states, for a total of 4,166 miles. Along the way, we will be making scheduled stops to help build affordable homes with organizations like Habitat for Humanity and Rebuilding Together. We will also be spreading awareness about the affordable housing crisis by meeting with members of the communities we pass through, giving presentations about this nation-wide problem and how people can get involved.

You can learn more about this [Bike & Build] organization, check out my personal profile, and view my route “P2C” by going to www.bikeandbuild.org Click on Routes, then Prov. to San Francisco (which will show the states and cities we will be biking through) and lastly 2011 Roster (where you will find my picture). In order to participate in Bike & Build, each cyclist must raise a minimum of \$4,000. The proceeds from the trip will be used to fund young-adult driven affordable housing projects all across the country. If you would like to sponsor me, you can make your tax-deductible donation via credit card at www.bikeandbuild.org/donate select “Ann Merrell” under the drop-down menu and continue on with the instructions.



Family Promise of Delaware County ~

Volunteers are needed for the popular Italian Dinner Fundraiser scheduled for the evening of Wednesday, March 30th at St. Mary’s Church. In addition to the dinner, there is a 50/50 raffle and silent auction. To volunteer, call Connections at (740) 363-5000, or e-mail Suzanne Pingrey at spingry@helplinedelmor.org

GLOBAL VILLAGE COLLECTION



Claire Everhart, an intern at Global Village, (and 2010 OWU Grad), ran 250 miles across Ethiopia in January to raise funds to build schools.

She, as part of a team of 10, ran the distance in 10 days, raising over \$200,000 to build 3 schools in impoverished areas of Ethiopia.

Come hear about Claire’s experience on Wednesday, March 30th at 6:30pm at Beehive Books



**American
Red Cross**

**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



April 2nd, Saturday, 10am-noon - Non-Toxic Cleaners - A home is more than a shelter- it's a sanctuary for our families. Keeping chemicals out of our homes is an important step in promoting a sustainable world and keeping our families safe. In this class, you'll learn how to make inexpensive cleaners that are safe for your home and the environment. Bring 2 spray bottles and one small jar with a tight fitting lid so that you can make cleaners to take home. Many recipes will be provided. Taught by Terri Litchfield. (minimum 4, limit 10) \$20

April 8th, Friday, 8:30pm - Vernal Pool Monitoring - Join us one hour after sunset to monitor the swamp as part of a state-wide preservation effort. We'll hike to the edge of the swamp, listening for mating calls and looking for salamanders, frogs and toads. What an exciting adventure, searching the dark swamp, flashlights in hand, for any sign of movement! Bring the whole family on this late-night adventure. Wear mud boots and bring a strong flashlight for each person attending. \$3/person or \$6/family.

April 9th, Saturday, 10am-noon - Organic Gardening - Gardening without chemicals is nothing new; humans thrived on naturally-grown food for centuries. In this class, you'll learn the basics of composting, companion planting, crop rotations, pest control and more. Expect to be inspired to begin planning your 2011 vegetable garden! Taught by Christa Hein, Stratford's Education Director. (minimum 4, no limit) \$20

April 9th, Saturday, 1pm-2pm - Vegetable Variety Seeding - This hands-on workshop will supply you with an organic seeded flat, ready to be nurtured to transplanting size. We'll supply the certified organic soil and seeds. You simply choose the vegetables you'd like to grow in your garden and seed them into a flat. The basics of seed starting will be covered and you'll leave with a flat of 72 soon-to-be plants. Children welcome! (minimum 4, no limit) \$25/family + \$15 for each additional flat.

April 16th, Saturday Guided Tours - 10am-noon - Bring your family or friends out to the farm for a Farm and Field Trip around Stratford. Meet the animals, visit the gardens and greenhouses, and explore the forest. Now's your chance to get the same type of hands-on experience that school groups, scout troops, and garden clubs have enjoyed for years. Led by our experienced Farm and Nature Guides. (minimum 4, no limit) \$6. Tours are the 3rd Saturday of each month (April - October).

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

**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.



Acclaim Hospice

& Palliative Care

Defining Quality Care At The End Of Life

Flexible volunteer opportunities to provide friendship & companionship for hospice patients in Delaware.

Please call **877-890-9740** for more information.

Be the change you wish to see in the world—Gandhi

Connections is the central clearinghouse for volunteers and can connect you to over 100 nonprofit organizations within Delaware County. Call us at 363-5000 or email us at spingry@helplinedelmor.org.

Visit delawarecountyvolunteers.org



Film Festival and Discussion Forum on Homelessness in Delaware and Central Ohio ~ Sunday, April 10th at 1 pm ~ The Strand Theatre, 28 E. Winter - Admission is free; donations accepted for Concerned Citizens Against Homelessness and Family Promise of Delaware County

Featured Films:

- ◆ "Swept Out" by Dr. Mary Howard of the OWU Sociology/Anthropology Dept.
 - ◆ "Turkey Day" by local filmmaker Louie Cowan.
- Followed by a Discussion with: The Filmmakers, Homeless Outreach Worker, Ken Andrews and Executive Director of Concerned Citizens Against Homelessness, Rosie Porambo.



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

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

- 1). Help with the Osprey Homecoming celebration, April 17. Help with children's activities at Hogback Ridge Preserve, or assist with the spotting scopes along Alum Creek Reservoir.
- 2). 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
- 3). 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 sandras@preservationparks.com.

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



~ April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month & Child Abuse Prevention Month ~
OWU "Take Back the Night" is April 6th. For more information, contact sgall@helplinedelmor.org



APRIL 16, 2011

OHIO WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY

REGISTRATION AT 11:30 A.M.
WALK AT NOON

FOR MORE INFORMATION
VISIT US ON FACEBOOK
OR CALL 740-201-3608

A WALK THAT EMPOWERS MEN TO JOIN THE EFFORTS OF WOMEN IN MAKING THE WORLD A SAFER PLACE.

PRESENTED BY THE DELAWARE COUNTY COALITION OF VICTIM SERVICES & THE DELAWARE COUNTY SEXUAL ASSAULT RESPONSE TEAM

www.walkamileinher shoes.org 

Help Stop Human Trafficking...Attend A FREE TRAINING WORKSHOP

Sponsored by HelpLine, this workshop offers 2 free CEU's for counselors and social workers and is open to the public to increase awareness on a local level.

Featured Presenter: Brent Currence, Director of the Ohio Missing Children's Clearinghouse Of The Ohio Attorney General's Office, a person on the frontlines of the fight against human trafficking.

Tuesday, APRIL 26th, 6-8pm

Please call Connections Volunteer Center to register at [740-363-5000](tel:740-363-5000)!

Training will be held in Delaware County



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 bonniefs@columbus.rr.com. On the Web: www.commongroundfreestore.com

~ Delaware "GREEN EVENTS" in April ~
 Sponsored by Sustainable Delaware,
 The City of Delaware, local businesses, and
 the OWU Sustainability Task Force

Delaware Water Treatment Facility Tour

Date: April 16, 9am - 10:30am
Venue: Water Treatment Facility, 225 Cherry St

The Annual River Cleanup (see adjacent ad)

Date: April 16, 1pm - 3pm; April 23 (rain date)
Venue: Starting at the William St Bridge & following the river to the south

Earth Day Film

Admission: Free, (donations accepted)
Film: "Dirt, the Movie," 80 minutes
Date: April 20, 7pm - 9pm
Venue: Schimmel/Conrades Science Center at OWU
Panel Discussion & Light Refreshments to follow

For more information, visit our web site: www.sustainabledelawareohio.org

**Olentangy River Cleanup ~
 Saturday, April 16th 1-3 pm**

The City of Delaware will be holding a River Cleanup on the Olentangy River in partnership with the Delaware County General Health Department's *Keep Delaware County Beautiful* program and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Recycling and Litter Prevention. The Cleanup will be held on Saturday April 16th from 1:00 till 3:00pm starting at the William Street Bridge and heading downstream.



The rain date for the event will be Saturday April 23, same times & locations. Participants should expect to be collecting general trash & litter. River banks will vary from flat floodplain to relatively steep sections of river bank. Trash bags, gloves, and litter sticks will be available.

If there are any questions, or if you need additional information please feel free to contact Upper Olentangy River Watershed Coordinator, Brian McCombs: blmccombs@delawareohio.net (740) 203-1905.

Please register in advance if possible. Additional details will be made available closer to the event, and will be posted on the City of Delaware's website: <http://www.delawareohio.net/>



**Annual Food Pantry "CAN"paign
 Thru May 20, 2011**

Food and Taxable Items Most Needed in the Food Pantry

Canned Meats/Fish	Dry Milk	Toilet Paper**
Canned Pasta	Coffee-Instant/Perked	Feminine Napkins**
Noodles/Macaroni	Tea Bags	Paper Towels**
Cereal-Cooked/Dry	Hot Chocolate Mix	Napkins**
Pancake Mix (Complete)	Syrup	Diapers** (Medium/Large)
Peanut Butter	Jelly	Razors**
Pudding Mixes	Jell-O	Kleenex**
Canned Fruit	Soups	Shampoo**
Boxed Dinners	Saltine Crackers	Laundry Detergent**
Graham Crackers	Spaghetti Sauce	Bar Soap**
Potatoes - Boxed/Instant	Cake Mixes	Dish Soap**
Frosting Mixes	Canned Vegetables	Shaving Cream**
Macaroni & Cheese	Muffin Mixes	Toothbrushes**
Canned Fruit Juices		

****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/>

On Sunday, March 20th, the OWU Track and Field team got together in Branch Rickey and spent an hour placing school supplies into bags, counting the bags, and loading them for distribution to families by People In Need, (PIN). They were able to pack 238 bags. This means that at least 238 children will be able to complete their school year with pencils, pens, notebooks, and other supplies necessary for effective learning.

The OWU Track and Field team has partnered with People In Need before. Last year the team raised \$500 for PIN. When asked about PIN, Sharif Kronemer said, "We believe in their cause and results. We feel that giving back to the community, [of Delaware], that provides us with a healthy environment to learn is both meaningful and important."



Dates To Remember

Now thru May 20th - (Page 7)
People In Need "CAN"paign

March 30th - (page 3)
OWU Red Cross Blood Drive
Family Promise Spaghetti Dinner
Run Across Ethiopia Event

March 31st - (page 4)
Council for Older Adults Open House

April 1st - (see adjacent story)
Lunch for OWU Japan Relief

April 3rd - (page 5)
"Yoga Outreach Columbus" at OWU

April 10th - (page 5)
Homelessness Film Festival

April 16th
"Walk A Mile In Her Shoes" (page 6)
Olentangy River Cleanup (page 7)

April 20th - (page 7)
"Dirt, The Movie"

April 28th
OWU Last Day of Classes

May 8th
OWU Commencement

HELP JAPAN!



Please Join Ohio Wesleyan as We Respond to the Tragedy in Japan...

A fund-raising lunch will be held at noon on Friday, April 1st in the Ham-Will Campus Center, Benes Rooms A, B, and C.

The lunch will feature Japanese food and a presentation by faculty and students. Tickets, (\$5) are available at the noon hour in the Ham-Will Atrium, or from committee members named below. All proceeds will be sent to the Red Cross.

This event, and others yet to be announced, are being planned by a committee of faculty, staff and students. To learn more, contact Eri Takeuchi, Hiroki Suzuki, Hairong Jiang, Aki Sato, Shannyn Kitchen, Guanyang Yang, or the Chaplain's Office, (740-368-3083).

If you cannot attend these events, donations can be made on-line directly to the Red Cross.



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