

OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS

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

Rachel Ramey ~ Editor in Chief

Winter Highlights: Service at a Glance

Nov. 5, Heritage Day at Ohio Wesleyan — To celebrate OWU's tradition of service, the campus community engaged in a Day of Service, building two sheds for Habitat for Humanity. Volunteers also made 20 sleeping bags and contributed \$500 worth of toiletries for the homeless in our community.

Nov. 7, Mr. OWU — Kappa Alpha Theta sorority held their annual talent competition. This philanthropy event raised over \$1,400 for Court Appointed Special Advocates of Delaware County.

Nov. 11, OWU World Cup: Soccer for Food Tournament — This new event raised more than \$1,000 for CARE, a humanitarian relief organization fighting global poverty. Students and faculty teams represented different countries in the spirited tournament. Organizers hope to make this an annual event.

Nov. 12, Operation Christmas Child — Freshman at Ohio Wesleyan assembled boxes of toys and hygiene items for underprivileged children around the world.

Nov. 29, Up 'Til Dawn — Ohio Wesleyan students wrote more than 1,300 letters soliciting donations for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. This national fundraiser is a major source of contribution for the hospital.

Nov. 29, Shack City — The Habitat for Humanity Chapter of Delaware County held its annual Shack City event on the Amato's patio. Participants slept outside in cardboard boxes to raise awareness about homelessness.

Dec. 5, PIN Holiday Clearing House — People In Need, Inc. of Delaware County held their annual Holiday Clearing House. The event provided food, new clothing, toys and gifts for 480 families. A total of 1,149 children, 738 adults, and 241 homebound seniors/disabled residents benefitted from this event.

Dec. 11, PIN Distribution Day — People In Need, Inc. of Delaware County packaged and distributed food, toys, and winter clothing to area families. (Note: During the 2011 fiscal year, PIN provided 108,844 meals to more than 12,300 residents of Delaware County.)

Dec. 11, COSO Holiday Concert — OWU volunteers helped staff and usher at the Central Ohio Symphony's holiday concert. A food drive was organized in conjunction with this event.

Dec. 29, Hoops for Hope — Ohio Wesleyan's 5th annual basketball tournament raised money for breast cancer awareness, education, and research.

Feb. 10, Cuisine Along the Ravine — Preservation Parks of Delaware County's annual Valentine's dinner and fundraiser was held at The Lodge at Deer Haven Preserve. Proceeds from the dinner and silent auction benefit the organization's ongoing efforts.

Feb. 11, Sweethearts Dinner — The Common Ground Free Store held its annual Valentine's dinner at the Andrews House. Proceeds from the event, staffed by volunteers, helped benefit the store.

Feb. 15, The "HAVE A HEART FOR SERVICE" Mini-Fair — Community Partners gathered in the Hamilton-Williams Atrium to showcase Winter/Spring 2012 volunteer service opportunities for Ohio Wesleyan students.

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ProgressOWU Winter Shoe Drive a Success

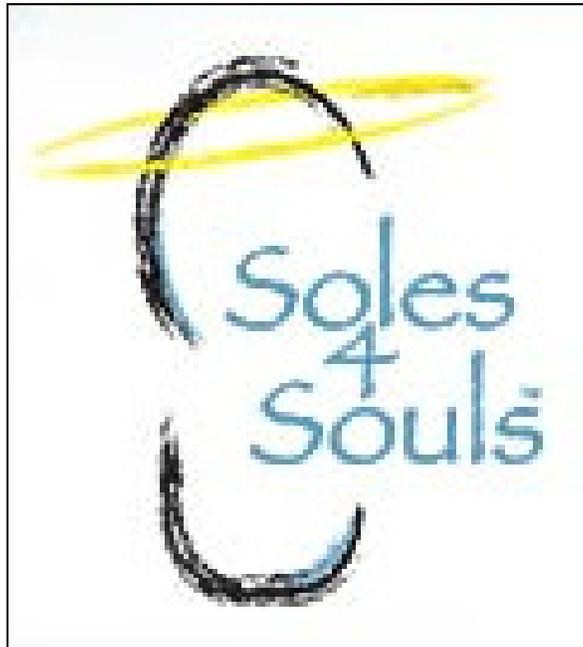
The ProgressOWU winter shoe drive collected 15 pairs of shoes for the Common Ground Free Store in Delaware and 50 for the organization Soles4Souls.

Donation boxes were placed around campus throughout last semester.

Members of ProgressOWU decided to do a shoe drive after receiving an email from Bonnie Ristau, former director of the Free Store, asking for surplus shoes to be donated to Carlisle Elementary in Delaware.

The elementary school regularly sends shoes to Soles4Souls. Sara Zeller, a representative of ProgressOWU, said she became interested in the S4S organization after this, and wanted to do a drive at the university.

“When we first announced the drive on the OWU Daily, I received several emails from faculty and students asking where they could drop off shoes,” Zeller said. “It was really exciting.”



The first collection day was at the House of Thought’s Connect the Dots event, where they collected 20 pairs of shoes.

Zeller said the organization also paired with the Sustainability Task Force in order to help the shoe drive.

She said ProgressOWU focuses on alleviating poverty by volunteering for local organizations

such as the Free Store. The group also takes on national and international projects, like their 2010 Doctors Without Borders Nutrition Event and this Soles4Souls shoe drive.

Soles4Souls is a Nashville-based charity which collects and distributes shoes to people in need worldwide. The charity was influenced by the 2004 tsunami in Southeast Asia and officially established while distributing shoes after Hurricane Katrina.

The organization has donated more than 16 million pairs of shoes since its founding. For more information on the charity and how to get involved, go to the website at www.soles4souls.org.

Other ProgressOWU events from last semester included a photography exhibit in HamWil.

For a list of ongoing service projects, information about ProgressOWU partner organizations, or additional information, please email Victoria Schlaudt at vaschlau@owu.edu.

HelpLine of Delaware & Morrow Counties www.helplinedelmor.org

HelpLine of Delaware & Morrow Counties is seeking college students to volunteer as SARN (Sexual Assault Response Network) and/or Prevention Volunteers.

Our SARN Program is committed to serving survivors of sexual assault with immediate crisis intervention and referral services. Our prevention educators provide education on preventing violence to all school-aged children and pre-school-aged children. To learn more about HelpLine, visit our website.



Contact Shilo Gall at (614) 507-5703
or email: sgall@helplinedelmor.org

HaitiOWU Relationship Continues to Build

HaitiOWU continues its fundraising efforts to support the Pwoje Espwa orphanage in Les Cayes, Haiti.

The HaitiOWU initiative, formed in 2010, is a partnership between Ohio Wesleyan University and Pwoje Espwa (Project Hope) orphanage.

One of the current fundraising initiatives is selling pieces of art which were made by the children at the orphanage.

“All of the money raised from sales goes directly back to the orphanage,” said senior Gretchen Curry, one of the original HaitiOWU members. “The money makes no stops between here and the orphanage.”

The art sale, in addition to a fundraising luncheon, which took place on Feb. 17, are the two major fundraising initiatives of the year.

Curry said one of the main goals now is to form another team for a return trip to the orphanage.

“We want to get more OWU students back down to Espwa,” she said.

Curry said the organizers are



Photo provided by Gretchen Curry

Above: Children at the Espwa orphanage in Haiti. This photograph was taken on the most recent HaitiOWU trip.

working on ways to make this trip happen, but there are no set plans.

The current HaitiOWU team is made up of people who went to the orphanage last May for 10 days, including 9 students and 2 staff members.

In addition, Curry said Sean Kinghorn, OWU energy conservation and sustainability coordinator, is now a member of the HaitiOWU project.

“He has been actively involved in trying to add a sustainability component to the project,” she said.

The orphanage houses approximately 800 children. The majority of the children are male. There are currently six schools located on the compound.

The center provides housing, education, food, and clothing for the children who live there. It also provides outreach and meals to children in the surrounding area.

Ongoing efforts at Ohio Wesleyan are continuing to link the university to the orphanage.

“We would love for other people to show interest and help in any way, in terms of fundraising or ideas that they have,” she said. “We’re taking names of interested people.”

For more information on how to get involved with HaitiOWU or for donation information, contact HaitiOWU@owu.edu.

Connections Volunteer Center - 39 West Winter Street

www.delawarecountyvunteers.org

Connections Volunteer Center is the key local source for matching volunteers to meaningful opportunities throughout all of the communities in the Delaware County area.

Opportunities include one-time commitment, ongoing service projects, and individual and group volunteering. Our goal is to bring people together to meet the needs of community programming. Call us to find your perfect opportunity.

Follow us on Facebook: facebook.com/ConnectionsVolunteerCenter

Phone: (740) 363-5000



Central Ohio Symphony - 24 E. Winter Street**www.centralohiosymphony.org**

The Central Ohio Symphony Orchestra is seeking volunteers for concert assistance on **Sunday, March 4th, 2012**. Volunteers are needed to help set-up the stage before Gray Chapel performances and rehearsals, decorate the stage and lobby for special events, move musical equipment, stuff programs, usher and take tickets, and clear the stage after concerts.

COSO is also seeking OWU students who may want to intern at this non-profit. The intern would assist in the areas of marketing and development.

rbrulotte@centralohiosymphony.org**Phone: (740) 362-1799****Council for Older Adults - 800 Cheshire Road****www.growingolder.org**

This organization offers in-home services for senior citizens and their caregivers. The services are offered in an effort to maintain seniors' independent living status .

Volunteers are needed to deliver hot meals to older adults as a Meals on Wheels driver or assistant; distribute seniors' Farmers' Market vouchers, literature and council information at county farmers' markets; assist older adults at the dining centers; and help with mailings and other clerical work in the organization's central office.

E-mail: amyb@growingolder.org**Phone: (740) 363-6677****Global Village Collection - 27 N. Sandusky Street****www.globalvillagecollection.org**

Global Village is a non-profit, volunteer-staffed retail store with unique hand-crafted Fair Trade items. The store's 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 the store help provide a sustainable and fair economic system for the artisans and farmers who wouldn't otherwise have access to the marketplace. Fair Trade isn't about charity; it is a holistic approach to trade and development, aiming to alter the ways commerce is conducted, so trade may empower the poorest of the poor.

Service learning and volunteer opportunities are available for Ohio Wesleyan students interested in gaining hands-on skills in non-profit management, fair trade and social entrepreneurship.

E-mail: info@globalvillagecollection.org

Volunteer in the parks and help Preservation Parks protect and preserve Delaware County's natural areas! Here are just a few ways:

- **Assist with hound hikes.** Do you have a dog and like to take it on walks? Bring a friend and become a hound hike leader! Hound Hikes are public programs held two Sunday afternoons a month, at 4 p.m. Here are upcoming dates: Feb. 12 & 26.
- **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.
- **Are you handy with power tools?** Volunteers are needed at two bird box building workshops where families will build and take home bird boxes for Bluebirds and Carolina Wrens. Workshops will take place at Deer Haven Preserve on March 7th (Bluebirds) and 14th (Carolina Wrens) from 7-8:30 PM. Volunteers familiar with using power drills and other tools are encouraged to assist with these sessions. Sign up online to help.



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



Willis Big Brothers Big Sisters

You can make a difference in a child's life by giving as little as two hours a week to this school-based mentoring program. Big Brothers Big Sisters provides training and on-site supervision. Willis Intermediate School provides the little brothers and sisters and match support.

Applications for the Willis Big Brothers Big Sisters program are available at the Community Service Learning Office, Ham-Will room 407.

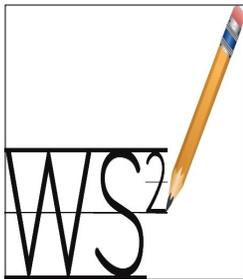
Questions? Contact the BBBS program director, Kerri Robe at (740) 369-2447 or e-mail: krobe@bbbscentralohio.org.

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.

Contact Patty Cram at (740) 833-2678 or e-mail pcram@co.delaware.oh.us

You can help make a difference to a child. Background Check required



(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 is seeking volunteers to help tutor grade school students after school.

Responsibilities include supervising students through snacks, games, homework and clean up.

The Literacy Coalition of Delaware County also has other volunteer opportunities available. Hours for most positions are flexible. Specific responsibilities may be targeted to an individual's interests and background. Depending on the program and responsibilities, a background check may be required.

Interested parties should contact:
 (740) 816-3514 or
info@delaware-reads.org



Delaware City Schools
School Aged Child Care
 21st Century
 After School Learning
 Centers

OWU Students are sought to serve as after-school tutors for elementary and middle school students at Conger Elementary, (10 Channing St.); Woodward Elementary, (200 S. Washington St.); and Dempsey Middle School, (599 Pennsylvania Ave.). Volunteers may be matched with a single student or a small group of 2-3 students as they go through their afternoon.

Program details and applications are available at the Community Service Learning Office.

Contact: Beth McDaniel, SACC assistant director, at (740) 833-1852 or email: mcdanibe@delawarecityschools.net

The Common Ground Free Store

Clean underwear, solid shoes, blankets, and a warm cup of coffee... Simple items, but they make a world of difference. For many, it's a struggle to obtain these things for themselves and their families. But on the not-so-far side of Delaware, quite literally across the tracks, the Common Ground Free Store sits nestled on a corner of Central Avenue, waiting to offer these essentials to new arrivals.

Beth Trigg, assistant director of the store, started as a volunteer more than four years ago.

She said all of the wonderful volunteers are what makes the Free Store operate, but the patrons make it worthwhile. The store is open to any individual or family, with no questions asked. Pay stubs, social security cards, and proof of welfare aren't necessary for seeking help here.

"All of God's people are welcome," Trigg said. "The stories that turn out well are few and far between, but we have a relationship with these people. They're not just a number."

Trigg said many of the store's guests either don't have cars or money for gas, so they walk. While the organization doesn't own the corner brick building, she said they're hopeful that expansion and purchasing a building are in the future.

A short walk through the store highlights the necessity of expansion. Christopher Parsons, my assigned guide through the racks and bins, has been a volunteer with the store for

about a year and has been working with homeless individuals in the Columbus area for about four years.

"It's amazing how many families we're able to serve," he said, illustrating his point by showing me the line at the checkout station. "It's a good social practice. It lets people see the other side of the street."

Wanda Davenport, another volunteer, said the organization is always in need of donations. Primarily, these donations come from local churches and individuals.

"This really is the coolest place," she said. "The first day is confusing, but after that you'll love it. When you think about the services we offer, it makes you realize that without us, some of these people would have nothing."

Volunteers like Trigg, Parsons, and Davenport have helped the store function and grow, but a variety of events entice shoppers to come together for community bonding several times a month. A monthly bingo night is held for registered shoppers. The bingo prizes are provided by sponsoring churches, which also offer babysitting services during the event, and are items which can't be purchased with food stamps. On the third Sunday of every month, the store also offers an open church service.

Trigg's passion for the bingo night and the Sunday services is clear. She beamed with pride when she informed me that no one is discouraged



from attending or sharing at these services. Anyone with a message in their heart is welcome to share.

For Trigg and others, the store is a window into the lives of those who need assistance. It is a vehicle of change in the community and a helping hand for those in need. For those who ask, help will always be given at the store. Shoppers, volunteers, churches, donors, and community members come together on the common ground this space has created. This is a place of love, caring, and acceptance.

Perfectly located where it may do the most good, the store opens its doors and stretches out its arms, calling for all to come enjoy the benefits of a warm coat and a hot meal.

The store is located at 193 East Central Avenue in Delaware, Ohio. For more information on how to get involved, call (740) 369-FREE.

The store is seeking volunteers to process donations, stock the store, greet customers and help staff the kitchen. Additionally, the center is seeking donations for the following items:

- Coats
- Blankets
- Crib sheets
- Gloves
- Pants
- Sheets
- Diapers
- Hats
- Socks
- Pajamas
- Shoes
- Sweaters

Soups for Shelter ~ March 1, 4:30-7:30 p.m.

The Delaware County Habitat for Humanity will host the 10th annual Soups for Shelter event. All proceeds from the event will go towards Habitat for Humanity.

Tickets for soup, bread, dessert, beverage, and a handmade ceramic bowl are \$15; the soup meal only will cost \$10; and children under age 12 eat for free. A silent auction and raffle will be held at the event.

The event will take place at the St. Mary School Commons, 66 East Williams St.

For more information, to volunteer or to purchase tickets for the event, please contact Valerie Wigton at (740) 363-9950, ext. 225 or vwigton@habitatdelawareco.org.



Bowl For Kids' Sake ~ March 30, 9 p.m.



Above: Members of the 2011 Bowl for Kids' Sake winning team.

The Delaware County Chapter of Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Central Ohio will hold its annual Bowl for Kids' Sake. Proceeds from the event will go to Big Brothers Big Sisters.

Ohio Wesleyan students and Delaware residents gather for this event each year. Teams which raise the most money will be awarded trophies.

For more information, contact Sally Leber (ssleber@owu.edu) or visit the Ohio Wesleyan Service Learning Office in HWCC 407

Home Run 5k Run/Walk ~ April 7, 10 a.m.

Register today for the Delaware County Habitat for Humanity 5k at Alum Creek State Park's Main Beach (3400 Lewis Center Rd., Lewis Center). The event features a runner-friendly course.

Entrance is \$20, and all participants receive a Habitat "Home Run" t-shirt. Proceeds will benefit the Youth United House at 135 S. Liberty St. in Delaware. Register at www.habitatdelawareco.org.

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program Seeks Volunteers

Community Action Organization of Delaware, Madison & Union Counties Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program assisted low income tax filers and returned over \$1,000,000 to our 3-county area last year.

Volunteers are needed to help prepare taxes for working families making less than \$60,000 annual income. Volunteers are trained and IRS certified as tax preparers. Training may be completed in a one-day session or online. Flexible hours are available to accommodate the volunteer's schedule. Greeters and site coordinator assistants are also needed. These volunteer options do not require any certification.

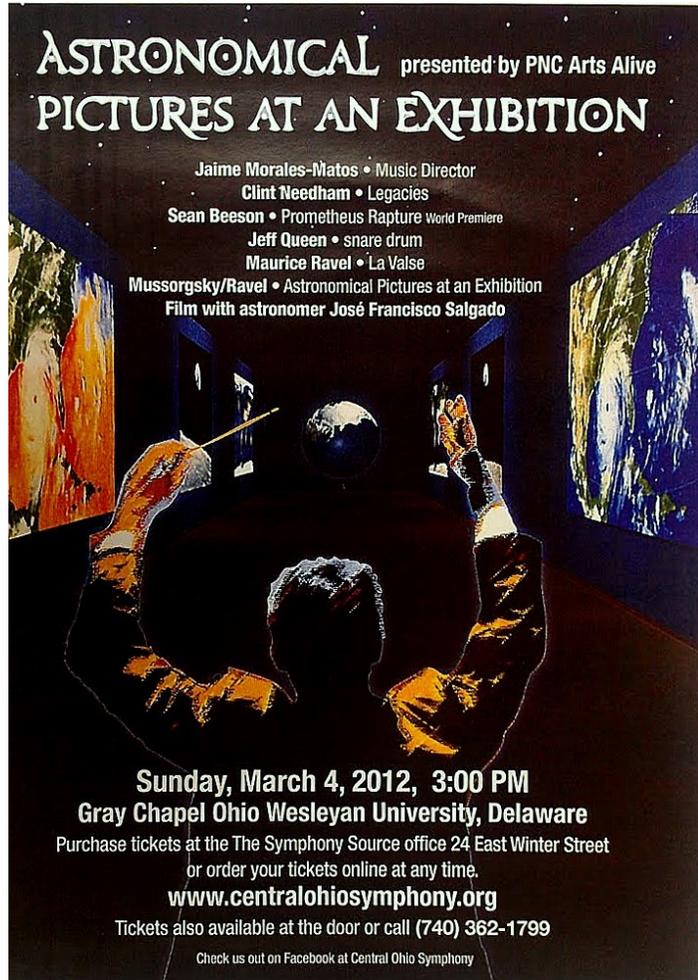
The VITA program is made possible through funding from United Way of Central Ohio and United Way of Delaware County. For more information, please contact Diana Rice.



Email: vitamanger@caodmu.org
(740) 369-3184

Ohio Wesleyan University
Service Learning Office
40 Rowland Avenue, HWCC 407
Delaware, Ohio 43015

WE'RE ON THE WEB!
SERVICE.OWU.EDU



ASTRONOMICAL presented by PNC Arts Alive
PICTURES AT AN EXHIBITION

Jaime Morales-Matos • Music Director
Clint Needham • Legacies
Sean Beeson • Prometheus Rapture World Premiere
Jeff Queen • snare drum
Maurice Ravel • La Valse
Mussorgsky/Ravel • Astronomical Pictures at an Exhibition
Film with astronomer José Francisco Salgado

Sunday, March 4, 2012, 3:00 PM
Gray Chapel Ohio Wesleyan University, Delaware
Purchase tickets at the The Symphony Source office 24 East Winter Street
or order your tickets online at any time.
www.centralohiosymphony.org
Tickets also available at the door or call (740) 362-1799
Check us out on Facebook at Central Ohio Symphony

DATES TO REMEMBER

March 1st — Soups for Shelter

March 4th — COSO Concert

March 12th-16th — OWU Spring Break

March 23rd — Relay for Life

March 30th — Bowl for Kids' Sake

April 7th — Habitat 5k Run/Walk

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Please recycle



Second Ward Community Initiative pairs with Central Ohio Symphony Orchestra

The SWCI will be hosting COSO's next Community Rehearsal at the Second Ward Community Center. The center is located at 50 Ross St., Delaware. The rehearsal will take place from 7-10 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 22.

Community members are invited to sit and listen to this free rehearsal in an effort to bring the arts closer to home. Desserts will be served during the rehearsal break, and guests will have a chance to meet the musicians. This is a casual event, and guests may come and go as they please.

COSO is rehearsing for "Astronomical Pictures at an Exhibition." Conducted by Jaime Morales-Matos, the full concert will take place at 3 p.m. on Sunday, March 4, in Gray Chapel of Ohio Wesleyan University.



For more information on SWCI, please visit swci.org or "Like" us on Facebook at <http://tinyurl.com/7kxk66y>

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