Learning Outside the Classroom

by Andrew Snyder

Dr. Mary Howard, Associate Professor of Sociology and Anthropology here at Ohio Wesleyan, has been incorporating service learning into the classroom setting for several years. Howard came to O.W.U. in 1985 as a part-time professor and was hired full-time in 1986. For her first three years on campus, she also taught Women’s Studies in addition to her Sociology/Anthropology classes.

Regardless of subject matter, though, Howard has continually incorporated community service learning into her classes. I was able to experience this firsthand in 1992 when, as a high school sophomore at Delaware Hayes High School, I participated in the O.W.U. Carribbean Seminar. For the first several weeks of the semester we learned about the countries of the Carribbean, and then during Ohio Wesleyan’s spring break, we traveled to the Dominican Republic. While there we stayed in rural villages and built latrines for the local residents. I can remember the experience being quite an eye-opener for me. As a middle-class white who had never really traveled outside the U.S., it was a sobering experience to visit a country where I had more in my suitcase than many people had in their whole house. Dr. Howard agreed, saying that it gave her great joy to see largely affluent white students break down boundaries that had been constructed around them by encountering people of a different background and culture. Un-fortunately, this cross-cultural experience is no longer possible due to the inherent risks when traveling to politically unstable countries and possible resulting lawsuits.

Though the Carribbean Seminar is no longer available, many students at Ohio Wesleyan have experienced service learning because of Mary Howard. For her “Health and Illness” class, students were required to do a project relating to either mental or physical health care. Students were involved in projects ranging from working in a cancer clinic for children, to working one-on-one with AIDS patients, to working in nursing homes for the elderly. Dr. Howard has also had students work at the Open Shelter, a warehouse that has been converted into temporary housing for homeless men. Male students have camped out in the shelter or worked there on a volunteer basis. No textbook can match the learning from experiences like these.

Dr. Howard’s involvement in social awareness and community service stems in part from her background in the Human Services field. She worked for 16 years in that area before coming to Ohio Wesleyan. Dr. Howard said that her work involving students in the programs helps her maintain relationships she had established in that field and to “plant the seeds” in those students to work for social change.

When asked why she felt it was important to incorporate service learning with classroom learning, Dr. Howard replied that when she was in school, her academic life was more dynamic and more important to her when it was integrated with community involvement. By involving her students and making them aware of the world around them, she hopes to make their learning experience as dynamic as hers.

Dr. Howard is a past recipient of the Sherwood Dodge Shankland Award for Encouragement of Teachers in recognition of her efforts.
Family Matters

Volunteers are needed to help with the Food SHARE program. March 28, April 25, May 30, June 27, July 25, August 29, September 26, October 24, November 21, and December 19. Volunteers will be unloading food from a truck and distributing food to families. Time commitment is from 9:00AM to 11:00 AM. Location: JVS North.

Volunteers are needed to provide child care during family meals at the Andrews House on March 13, and April 10 from 6:00 - 7:00 pm. People are also needed to watch children during Family Night at Andrews House on March 13 and April 10 from 7:00 - 8:30 pm during parent programs.

Volunteers are needed to provide child care during parent workshops from 7:00 - 8:30 pm on March 3 at the Andrews House, April 7 at Conger Elementary, and May 5th at Smith Elementary. Any questions, call Peggy Kroon Van Diest at 368-1732.

Boy Scouts of America

There are almost 1200 youth involved in the Boy Scouts of America in Delaware County. It takes a lot of volunteers, 375 currently, to provide the programs of leadership, character, development, and civic service that are the foundations of the organization. Whether your interests are aviation, medicine, child development, outdoor education, community service, youth leadership or simply gaining resume material, you can help. There are positions available that use your specific talents, and on a one-time basis if you don’t want to commit to a semester or year. If you are an Eagle Scout, you are especially aware of what the programs of scouting can offer. Please take a moment to call Delaware District Executive Andrew Oswalt at 1-800-433-4051, extension 212 for more information.

E.C.H.O. "Meal of Chance"

On Friday, March 27th from 6 to 8 pm in the Benes Room, the OWU Economic Cultural Humanitarian Organization will be sponsoring a “Meal of Chance.” Much of the world’s population does not enjoy equal distribution of wealth or resources. A Meal Of Chance” will be an unusual banquet. While only a few people will leave with satisfied stomachs, all will go away filled with a new understanding of the problem of world hunger. The event is open to the public, but reservations are required. Interested parties should contact Pierre Tchetgen or Ermiass Mengistu at 368-2629.

Meals on Wheels

Meals on Wheels is delivering 50 - 60 meals per day to shut-ins throughout Delaware. All of the routes are currently covered; however, tray favors for shut-ins with notes, art, or holiday greetings are always needed and appreciated. Call Beverly Reiner at 369-4024 if you are interested in helping.

HelpLine

We are looking for volunteers to help with PhoneFriend, Hotline, and Child Assault Prevention.

Hotline Crisis Line Training times are from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 on Monday and Wednesday for five weeks on April 13 & 15, 20 & 22, April 27 & 29, May 4 & 6, and May 11 & 13.

Child Assault Prevention teaches children useful strategies in a fun and relaxed atmosphere to be safe, strong, and free. Child Assault Prevention training dates are March 20 from 6:00 - 9:00 pm, March 21 from 9:00 am - 3:00 pm, March 27 from 6:00 - 9:00 pm, and March 28 from 9:00 am - 3:00 pm. If you have any questions, call Mary Damico at 369-3316.
OWU Annual “CleanUp For Hunger” is Saturday, April 18th

For the third year, Ohio Wesleyan will be participating in the annual Hunger CleanUp, a one day work-a-thon to benefit the National Student Campaign Against Hunger and Homelessness. For the first time though, the event will be co-sponsored by IFC and Panhel. Student teams participate by raising pledges before providing much needed work at various local service sites. As in past years, members of the OWU Alumni Board will be joining teams at work sites during the afternoon. Money raised from the event benefits local and national hunger fighting programs; People In Need is the designated local recipient of 50% of all monies raised. Student organizers of the event are: Amy Long, (524-6801), Sara Gebhart, (363-9825), and Robbi Helser, (x2628). Team registration and site application forms are available below, or through the Community Service Learning Office, (HWCC-406), 368-3084. Team Leaders should bring their registration forms to the required Team Leader training session on Friday, April 3rd at noon in HWCC room 304. The deadline for Agencies to turn in their CleanUp site application forms is Friday, March 27th.

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1998 OWU Hunger CleanUp Team Registration

Team Leader ____________________________

Box # _______ Phone # _______

Organization ____________________________

Team Members:

________________________

________________________

________________________

Bring registration form to Team Leader Training on Friday, April 3rd at noon in HWCC-304.

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1998 OWU Hunger CleanUp Site Application

Location ____________________________

Agency Contact ____________________________

Address ____________________________

Phone # _______

Work to be done:

________________________

________________________

________________________

Number of people needed ____________________________

The above agency will supply all tools or materials needed to successfully complete the requested task(s), and an on-site supervisor to answer questions, etc.

Signed ____________________________

Return Form to: OWU Community Service, HWCC-406
Delaware, Ohio 43015

Deadline: Friday, March 27th, or Call Sue Pastors at 368-3084.
You Can Be A Book Buddy!

It's as simple as this:
For a donation of $5.25, you can sign a book plate. Later, when the books are distributed to the children, one lucky child will discover that you are their Book Buddy.

Call Jon Toretta at 368-2806 for more details.

Book Buddies is co-sponsored by the Interfraternity Council of Ohio Wesleyan University and the Literacy Coalition of Delaware, Union, and Morrow Counties.

Ohio Wesleyan University
Making A Difference!

Countless numbers of Ohio Wesleyan students have been making a difference through service to the campus and/or community, and it's about time we did something to recognize them! These students are invited to place their names on the new "interactive" banner hanging in the HWCC Atrium. To learn more, pick up an info-sheet in the Student Activities, Residential Life or Community Service Learning Offices. We want your name on the banner!
THE DELAWARE CITY/COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

The Delaware City/County Health Department is always seeking volunteers to help with special events, mailings, and ongoing programs. It is a great opportunity to learn about public health and various health care professions. Please call Jan Smeltzer at 368-1700.

If you are interested in reducing the number one killer of kids, get involved with the Delaware County SAFE KIDS Coalition. Volunteers are needed to help plan spring safety events. If interested, call Beth Wolpert at the Delaware City/County Health Department at 368-7055.

Project Clean and Beautiful works to promote recycling and litter prevention in Delaware County. Volunteer opportunities this spring include two appliance drives, a clean-up on the Big Walnut Creek, and much, much more! Please call Roger or Jennifer at 368-1700 for more information.

People in Need, Inc.

Located at 247 N. Sandusky Street, volunteer opportunities include: sorting, stacking, and packing food orders for the Food Pantry; assisting with fund raising; and helping with the Christmas Clearing House which involves the Delaware and surrounding communities in various ways. For more information, call Kevin, Lulamae, or Carolyn at 363-6284.

ergon.../The Alpha Group/Delaware County Board of Developmental Disabilities

March is “Disabilities Awareness Month.” Several activities are planned to educate and inform our community about various disabilities and the achievements of disabled individuals in our county. Call Gary Lowe at 368-5820 for more information.

CONNECTIONS

The Delaware County Volunteer Center maintains a database that has many volunteer opportunities. The opportunities really vary. If you like working with kids, how about Junior Great Books, or if you like to interact with Seniors, how about volunteering at Heritage Day Health Care Center as a Senior Companion. If you have a hobby, skill, or talent, call and see what volunteer opportunity may be suited to your particular interest. For more information call Shari Furay at Connections, (740) 363-5000.

American Diabetes Association

Nearly 750,000 Ohioans have diabetes, and the American Diabetes Association helps to raise diabetes awareness and raise money to help fight this disease. To learn more about events such as Walktoberfest, American Diabetes Month, or Tour de Cure, call Mandi Jedlicka at 1-888-342-2383.

Support Katie’s Run!

Senior Katie McGee is training to run in a marathon for the first time in her life. Why? To support the work of the Leukemia Society to find a cure for this devastating form of cancer. Katie became inspired when she volunteered at Children’s Hospital and saw the courage of the children who were in treatment there. In fact, she is dedicating her run to the memory of one of those children. Katie’s personal goal is to raise $3,000 by June 21st, when the marathon takes place in San Diego. There will be an “Eat to Beat Leukemia” spaghetti dinner to help raise support on Tuesday, March 31st from 6-8 pm in the Benes Room. (Cost is $5 - Tickets will be sold by members of Delta Delta Delta Sorority.) To help Katie achieve her goal, send your donations to Katie McGee, HWCC Box 908, Ohio Wesleyan University, Delaware, Ohio 43015. All checks should be made payable to the Leukemia Society.
Bowl For Kids’ Sake ‘98

Twelve teams from Ohio Wesleyan participated in this year’s benefit for Big Brothers/Big Sisters. At press time, OWU teams had turned in a total of $1,638.31 to support this wonderful cause. The trophy winning organization from OWU was Phi Delta Theta Fraternity which collected more than $500 in pledges!

It’s not too late to make a difference in a child’s life. You can support the work of Big Brothers/Big Sisters by becoming a “Big”, by serving on the board or a committee, or by making a donation. To learn more, call Sally Hinshaw at 369-2447, or mail your donation to:

Big Brothers/Big Sisters
P.O. Box 367
Delaware, Ohio 43015

Upcoming Dates and Events

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