

Opportunity Knocks

A Newsletter of the University Chaplaincy and Community Service Learning Office
Sarah Kieta, Editor

Hundreds of Ways To Support Local Schools ...And Learn A Lot In The Process!

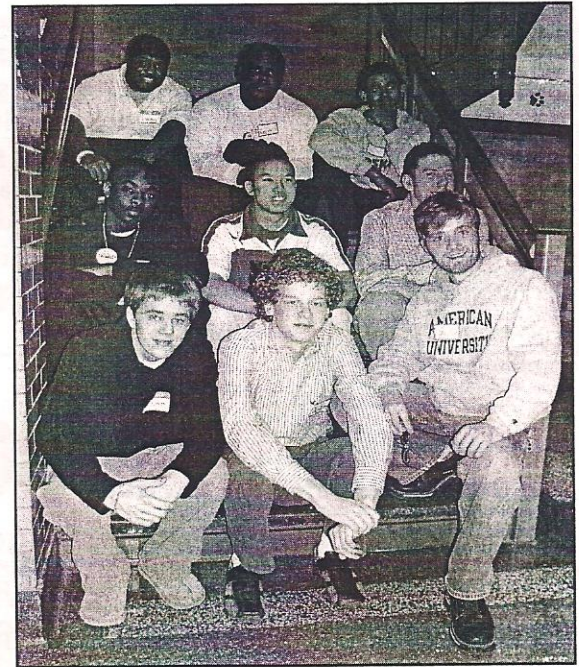
When it comes to community service learning, one of the most logical options for college students is anything that involves helping children to succeed in school. In fact, many are taking this option and running with it! Ohio Wesleyan has two long-standing service learning programs that involve tutoring children: The Columbus Initiative which partners with Linden Elementary School in Columbus, and Buckeye Valley Reads which takes place at Buckeye Valley East Elementary School in rural Ashley, Ohio. Through these two programs alone about 110 OWU students tutor approximately 279 children per week. But did you know that there are countless ways that Ohio Wesleyan students can, and do, support children right here in Delaware? And many of these options are within easy walking distance of campus.

Bishop Buddies, a group started in 2003, was established with the goal of getting OWU students involved in the local schools. Bishop Buddies partners with Big Brothers/Big Sisters and Conger Elementary School. They also participate in "Family Fun Nights" which take place at various area elementary schools and are sponsored by the 21st Century Learning Program and Action for Children. In December, the Bishop Buddies helped out at the PTO "Secret Santa" event at Conger Elementary. Here, the OWU students acted as "shopping elves"—browsing gifts for sale in the gym with children and helping them pick items for their siblings, parents, grandparents and friends while staying within the child's shopping budget. The Bishop Buddies also helped with running the cake walk, taking pictures with Santa, and making art projects in the craft room. It was hard to tell who was having more fun, the Conger kids or the Bishop Buddies!

Another partnership with The Delaware City Schools and Big Brothers Big Sisters is the new Willis Big Brothers program. Ten men from OWU have recently signed on to be Willis Big Brothers, having undergone background checks and training. The site-based after school mentoring and tutoring program is scheduled to begin on February 14th.

Speaking of Willis Intermediate School, FIJI Fraternity has been very active there helping children learn after school at "Study Island", or what the FIJIs have come to refer to as "The Willis Initiative." Service Chair, Matthew McGuire, helped to start the program so the brothers could give something back. For more than four hours each week, FIJIs tutor students in the Willis library media center and help run a computer learning program called ELO. Matt says, "It is very rewarding. The brothers enjoy helping, and the students really value the assistance we give them. In fact, recently a young gentleman invited me to his birthday party!"

The 21st Century After School Learning program at Conger Elementary is also co-sponsored by Big Brothers/Big Sisters. Monday through Thursday, Hayes High School student volunteers called "Pacer Pals" are matched up with children, helping them with homework and acting as mentors to the younger students. OWU student volunteers attend the program as mentors for the high school students. The OWU students also monitor the matches, ensuring that they are a good fit for both the older and younger students, and serving as mediators if the need arises. The OWU students are also involved in the program...helping with homework, reading stories during free time, and creating projects at different

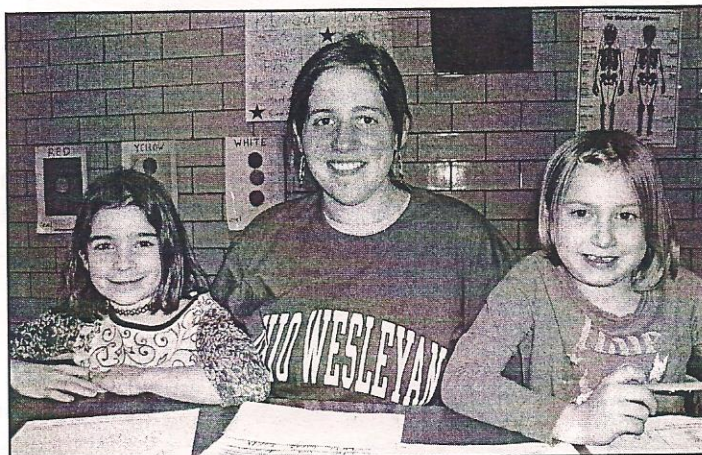


The Willis Big Brothers take time out for a photo-op during a recent training session.

centers set-up for the after-school care program students. They have even been known to play a game (or two) of scatter in the gym at end of the day. This program is unique because it allows the college student to interact with their peers, the Pacer Pals, as well as with the elementary children.

Sophomore Sarah Goldhammer has been tutoring in the 21st Century After School Learning Center at Woodward Elementary for two years. Twice a week she visits Woodward, helping children ranging from kindergarten through 4th grade with their homework. She also provides help in reading and math. During their free time, Sarah enjoys playing games and working on crafts with the kids. According to Sarah, "This is a program that helps provide children with many different opportunities."

These are just a few of the ways that students are getting involved. Many students have also helped out with ESL (English as a Second Language) classes at Woodward and Willis, tutoring children who need help with their various subjects while also learning English. Individual members of the OWU community, countless Education Majors, fraternity's, sororities, and other campus organizations are getting involved in the local schools, and the experience is rewarding for all. Details about these and other opportunities can be found below.



Sarah Goldhammer tutors every week at Woodward Elementary.

How you can get involved!

- **After School Learning Centers**-Tutors are being recruited to work with children at Woodward Elementary and Conger Elementary School. Monday through Friday (choose one or more days) from 3:30-5:30 p.m. The Conger program involves working with Hayes High School students as tutors for the children, and is only held Monday through Thursday. Contact program director, Kathy McWatters at 548-7880, x 3464 or via e-mail, kathy_mcwatters@duesc.org. Woodward is located 2 blocks South of Campus at 200 S. Washington Street. Conger is East of campus just off of Route 36/37 at 10 Channing Street.
- **Woodward & Willis ESL Program**-Tutors are needed for English as a second language classes for children at Woodward Elementary and Willis Intermediate School. OWU volunteers help children with vocabulary, reading and conversation skills, etc. Contact ESL teacher, Liz Diemer at ldiemer@earthlink.net.
- **Willis Intermediate School Tutoring Programs**-Many opportunities are available to help with 5th and 6th graders throughout the day. Contact Guidance Counselors, Viviane Bushong at 833-1713, or Alison McLeskey at 833-1715, to get matched. Willis is located at 74 W. William Street, across from Tim Horton's.
- **Willis (LMC) Library Media Center**-There is an opportunity to help shelve books and perform other basic duties necessary to operating a school library. Contact LMC Director, Patti Goldsmith at 833-1723 or via-email at goldsm-pa@dcs.k12.oh.us.
- **Willis Big Brothers** - Contact Sue Pasters, (HWCC-407), smpaster@owu.edu to apply for this all male, site-based mentoring program sponsored by Big Brothers Big Sisters.
- **And Many, Many Other** unique, individualized opportunities helping to meet needs of children...from those with special needs to those who are academically gifted. Each can be arranged on a case-by-case basis through the Community Service Learning Office (4th floor of the Hamilton-Williams Campus Center).

**Habitat
for
Humanity**

Soups for Shelter

Thursday, February 23rd ~ 4:30 to 7:30 pm

St. Mary's Religious Education Center ~ 66 E. William Street
\$5.00 for Soup Supper ~ \$10 for Soup Supper & Handmade Bowl

Free Musical Entertainment! & MORE!

All Proceeds Benefit Habitat for Humanity

ABLE (Adult Basic Literacy Education)

We need help transcribing an audiotaped evaluation interview with participants from a pilot program (90 minutes long). Please call 363-1993 x2267 with interest and questions.



Alpha Group

Alpha Group is a non-profit organization located off London Road at 1000 Alpha Drive. Their mission is to work cooperatively with individuals with disabilities to provide social and recreational opportunities, related services and supports necessary to enhance the individual's quality of life. They look for mentors who are able to commit to one-on-one time, as well as to help/participate in group outings.

To learn more, contact Becky Farmer at (740) 368-5810, x183; or via e-mail at beckyfarmer@alphagroup.net

Language Exchange Alliance of Delaware

Also known as LEAD, this program is a campus/community partnership which matches native Spanish speakers with native English speakers with the intent of creating mutually beneficial learning experiences.

Do you want to improve your language skills? Are you willing to teach at the same time you are learning? Contact Prof. Donna Donnelly to learn more, 368-3686, or via e-mail at dmdonnel@owu.edu.

Take part in your community:

Keep Delaware Beautiful

Volunteers Needed for Litter Index

The litter index looks at roads throughout Delaware County to determine how littered they are. We need volunteers to help rate the roads!

Date: Sat., March 25, 2006

Time: 8:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Place: 1 West Winter St.

Contact Becky Chandler
Becky@delawarehelath.org
(740) 203-2077

Delta Gamma

Anchor Splash



WHEN-Friday, March 31

TIME-6-9 pm

ADMISSION- \$3 or 3 Campbell's
 Soup Labels or pair
 of old glasses

There will be a raffle at the event. If you wish to donate to this cause, or to learn more information about entering a team (consisting of 8 people plus entry fee) contact Rachel Ryan at rmryan@owu.edu.

ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT SERVICE FOR SIGHT



**American
 Red Cross**

Together, we can save a life

Become a Red Cross Volunteer!

Scheduled Volunteer Orientation Sessions:

7 p.m. Thurs, March 2, 2006

7 p.m. Thurs, May 4, 2006

Look for upcoming events including Save-A-Life in March and an April Family Event! Contact the American Red Cross Office at (740) 362-2021 or (740) 548-7300 to register or for more details!

People In Need

We need a new sign for our Sandusky Street office. If anyone/group is interested in designing, building, and installing, please contact us.

(740) 363-6284
peopleinneed@rroho.com

Volunteers are always needed. Call to see how you can get involved with PIN!

Preservation Parks of Delaware County



Volunteer in Preservation Parks' NATURE CENTERS!

Preservation Parks is looking for enthusiastic and reliable volunteers to staff our Nature Discovery Center at Gallant Woods Preserve. This facility is open from noon until 5 p.m. every day of the week. We want reliable people eager to schedule regular days each week or month to volunteer at the Nature Discovery Center at Gallant Woods Preserve.

"Earth Day Celebration"

Preservation Parks will host a public Earth Day Celebration at the Boy Scouts of America Camp Lazarus on Saturday, April 22nd, 2006. Volunteers are needed to assist planning and during the event itself.

contact Volunteer Coordinator, Sandra Sklar
(740) 524-8600, ext. 6.

City Year 2006-2007



Before going on to graduate school or beginning a career, become the positive social change that you wish to see in this world ... start by getting involved with City Year.

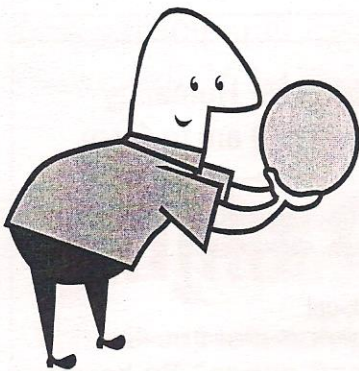
City Year's mission is to **build democracy** through **citizen service, civic leadership, and social entrepreneurship.**

City Year is an international non-profit civic leadership and community service network. A proud member of **Ameri-Corps**, we seek individuals from all majors interested in serving in a paid volunteer role providing literacy tutoring and mentorship to Columbus Public School students. Individuals who take part in City Year Columbus projects are distinguished by their commitment to empowering youth and their desire to demonstrate that a small group can initiate powerful, lasting change. Visit us on the web at: www.cityyear.org. OR speak with us during our campus visit on **February 14th**.

**We'll be conducting on-campus interviews on this date.
Visit Career Services for more Information.**

Contact the **recruitment team** to learn more about our program and application process for our 2006—2007 service term at (614) 586-1434.

OWU Bowl for Kids' Sake 2006!



What is it?

- A fund-raiser to benefit the Delaware County Chapter of Big Brothers/Big Sisters*.

When and Where is it?

- The 8th Annual "All Ohio Wesleyan Night" will be held on Friday, March 24th - 9:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. at the Delaware Lanes Bowling Center.

To Register a Team:

- Call Sue Pasters at x3084; visit the Community Service Office in HWCC-407; or e-mail: smpaster@owu.edu Thank You!

*Big Brothers/Big Sisters is a non-profit organization which matches children with caring adults. Their goal is to make sure that every Delaware County child who needs a Big Brother or Big Sister gets one. To volunteer, or to learn more about this special program, call 369-2447.

OWU students needed!

Two students are needed to supervise the after school "Pacer Pals" program at Conger Elementary school. There are openings for Monday and Tuesday afternoon from 3:30-5:30. If you are interested **contact Kerri Robe** at (740) 369-2447 or krobe@bbbscentralohio.org.

Stratford Ecological Center
A Great Place to Get in Touch with Nature!



We need:

- **Environment Education Guides for both Fall and Spring Semesters—no training necessary!**
- **More opportunities and information online at www.StratfordEcologicalCenter.org**

Located just South of town @ 3083 Liberty Road
 Contact Volunteer Coordinator, Nicole Love
 363-2548 ~ secvolunteer@aol.com

Turning Point

Programs for Victims/Survivors of
 Domestic Violence

**Volunteers needed to help with
 structured child-care**

Contact Donna Thomas
 (740) 382-8988



Delaware County Office of Victim Services

- Victim Services is currently offering a wide range of internships and volunteer opportunities especially appropriate for Sociology, Pre-Law, Political Science, Psychology and Women's Studies majors. **Class Credit Is Available**
- Interns and volunteers will assist in providing help to victims of crime throughout the criminal justice system, and work on special projects for the Delaware County MADD Chapter.
- Victim Services will provide training for the participants. This is an excellent service learning experience.

Interested students should contact Tabitha Bonifas at
 833-2710 or tbonifas@co.delaware.oh.us

Victim Services is a division of
 the Delaware County Prosecuting Attorney's Office.
 located in the Hayes County Office Building
 140 N. Sandusky Street—3rd Floor

Delaware ReStore – Building Materials Resale Center – To Benefit Habitat for Humanity 305 Curtis Street – Delaware, Ohio – (740) 363-9950 – Retail Sales Saturdays 9 am to 1 pm

Bathtubs, cabinets, doors, faucets, hardware, sinks, tools, windows, tile, fencing, ceiling fans, light fixtures, plumbing, ceiling tile, insulation, roofing, siding, newer appliances, paint, vents, stair parts, new carpet, lawn and garden, shower stalls...

All donations are tax-deductible – Call 363-9950 to schedule a drop-off or pick-up!
 All proceeds from the public sale of donated items benefit Delaware County Habitat for Humanity in their efforts to eliminate sub-standard housing.

Andrews House Has Service Opportunities!

General Maintenance Volunteers are needed with the upkeep of the house. Lawn and grounds maintenance, as well as general house-keeping tasks!



The Computer Learning Center at Andrews House needs volunteers to teach introductory computer skills as well as to monitor the computer room during our open access computer times.

Andrews House is located on the corner of N. Franklin at 39 W. Winter Street. Call Jill Lee at 369-4520 to learn more.



TEAM Mentoring Program

A Program of Delaware County Juvenile Court

Do you like to play games, go out to eat, and hang out with kids? If you do, and you can spare 2 hours a week to be a mentor, please contact Patty Cram at 833-2678. She can give you more information and talk about the benefits of being a TEAM Mentor. This is an exciting service learning program offered by the Delaware County Juvenile Court. Some of the youth are court-involved, but many are not. Either way, you can make a valuable difference in a child's life.

Call Patty Cram at 833-2678.

GRADY MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

Volunteer Opportunities Available for both adult and teen Women and Men!

You can help out as a **Front Escort**. This service provides an escort to assist patients in wheelchairs to and from medical departments. They also deliver other items within the Hospital. This position requires a lot of walking.

The **Information Desk** needs volunteers to greet visitors and provide patient room numbers. Experienced volunteers provide training.

The Grady **Coffee Shop Volunteer** duties would include waiting on customers, running the dishwasher and cash register and clearing tables.

The **Patient Registration Escort Service** takes patients to Hospital Departments, pickup/deliver specimens and paperwork.

As members of the Grady Professional Family, volunteers receive orientation, training, and special benefits. Contact **Shari Furay** in the Volunteer Services Office at **368-5155** for more information!

Get your organization advertised!

Missed out on promoting your service activities in this issue of

Opportunity Knocks?

Make sure you are included in the next issue!

Send your ads to:

smpaster@owu.edu or sekieta@owu.edu.

People In Need, Inc. Food Pantry "CAN"paign

- ◆ April 3-June 1
- ◆ Canned good/non-perishable food products, taxable will be accepted at the PIN location:
274 N. Sandusky St., Delaware, OH



Questions? Contact Lula Mae Downerd at
(740) 363-6284

In 2005 the PIN Food Pantry assisted over 4,500 individuals with over 40,500 meals



OWU Calendar

February is Black History Month

February 22-Community Service RoundTable
Noon-Benes Room "A"

February 23- Habitat for Humanity Soups for Shelter

March 5-Swim for Diabetes

March 11-Sunday, March 19- Spring Break!

March 24-OWU Bowl for Kids' Sake

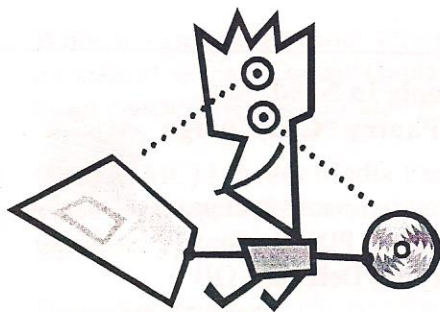
March 31-Delta Gamma Anchor Splash



Some lucky Bishop Buddies got to meet Santa during the PTO sponsored "Secret Santa" Event at Conger Elementary School in December.

OHIO WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY
Community Service Learning, HWCC-407
Delaware, Ohio 43015

<http://service.owu.edu/>



Sarah Kieta, Editor