

## ABOUT THE AGAPÉ CENTER

**THE AGAPÉ CENTER FOR SERVICE AND LEARNING** develops, administers resources and coordinates programs of service-learning, community service and missions. Students, faculty and staff work with community-based partners in local, national and international settings to address community needs, to provide holistic learning opportunities for students, and to encourage students toward an ethic of discipleship, service and civic engagement.

The Agapé Center serves as a hub for service learning—both curricular and co-curricular—in local, national and international settings. With a team of professionals and students coordinating educational programs and opportunities for students to serve, the Agapé Center buzzes with student passion for their community, for marginalized and vulnerable populations, and for pursuing Gospel-centered living in our world.



2015–2016 Agapé Center student leadership team

Students engaged in credit-bearing service-learning courses; “plunge” days; initiatives with Downey School in Harrisburg; programming about current human rights issues and trends in the global

church; local community service; justice-related conferences; and international and domestic service trips.

## DOMESTIC SERVICE TRIPS

“It was such a blessing to go to Camden during fall break and the Bronx for J-Term and spring break. *Service trips have been a great way to use my time, energy and gifts for the purpose of sharing God’s love with others and ultimately to glorify Him.* Service brings me to a humble place and opens my eyes to see how others, whose experience is different than mine, are living. I’ve learned about new cultures and beliefs and used my gifts serving in schools... while also being challenged in my faith. Our teams have been able to live

out Matthew 28:19-20 while speaking truth and loving those we interact with while learning from those we serve. I’m thankful for the deep friendships with other students too. Service trips help you to reflect more on the world, how you make decisions, your character and faith, and your interactions with others. I can’t wait to go on more trips in the future.”

— **MADISON GROFF '18**  
*Priority One*



Above: Students play games in an after school program at Fellowship House (Camden, NJ).

Top: Students help sort shoes at Priority One (Bronx, NY).

### 2015–2016 SERVICE TRIPS AT A GLANCE:

- The Agapé Center partnered with 13 domestic and two international organizations.
- Trips took place during fall, J-Term and spring breaks.
- 166 students and 16 employee advisors worked with organizations in New York, Pennsylvania, Washington, D.C., Florida, Maryland, New Jersey, Kentucky, West Virginia, Northern Ireland, Fiji and Nicaragua.

# AGAPÉ CENTER FOR SERVICE AND LEARNING



Above: Liz Arias '16 with one of the students in Nicaragua

Top Right: Megan Harbert '16 works on homework with kids at Lurgan School in Northern Ireland.



## INTERNATIONAL SERVICE TRIPS

**THIS SPRING, THE AGAPÉ CENTER COORDINATED THREE INTERNATIONAL SERVICE TRIPS** in conjunction with long-term partnering organizations. During spring break, students served in Lurgan, Northern Ireland at a school, a church and a media center—and were hosted by a loving church community. In May, students served with Food for the Hungry at a school in Nicaragua, working with the

children, praying for the local community and assisting with the construction of a cafeteria. Learn more about the Nicaragua team ([agapeinnicaragua.weebly.com/blog](http://agapeinnicaragua.weebly.com/blog)) and the Northern Ireland team ([lightoflurgan.weebly.com](http://lightoflurgan.weebly.com)). Lastly, the Agapé Center facilitated two small teams to Fiji with Clean Water and Sawyer products in which students used GIS software to map areas in need of clean water.

## LOCAL OUTREACH

**STUDENTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO ENGAGE LOCALLY WITH LONG-TERM COMMUNITY PARTNERS** working with a range of community issues. From tutoring children in after-school programs to working in urban gardens, students have the opportunity to build relationships within their community.

This year, 413 Messiah students served with Amani Beads, Bethany Village, Messiah Lifeways, Promise Place, Project Share, Catholic Worker House, Paxton Ministries, CATRA, Morning Star, Salvation Army After School and Breakfast Program, Bethesda Youth Center and Men's Mission, Boys & Girls Club, Tabitha's, New Hope and Center for Champions. Students

reported learning about their faith, systemic issues impacting the community and relationships with people different than themselves.

Messiah College also partnered with Migrant Education to host two "RISE" (Refugee & Immigrant Service for Empowerment) Retreat days for 42 middle school and 46 high school students from refugee and immigrant families. Students experienced a college class, learned about the college application process and preparing for college, played games with AROMA, ate with Messiah students in Lottie Nelson, and participated in an film showing and discussion.



A student works in the garden at Catholic Worker House.

"Through weekly outreach service this past semester at the Boys & Girls Club of Harrisburg, *I have learned a lot from the children themselves, in addition to coming to a deeper understanding of how a person's childhood and past can greatly impact the outcomes for their future.* A number of children come from low-income families, in which services and resources are scarce. I realize just how privileged we are, especially as Messiah College students, and this social and economic disparity that exists between us and them breaks my heart at moments when I really take a moment to stop

and contemplate it. But the attitudes, high energy and warm hearts of these children demonstrated to me this semester the truth of the matter: that we are all worthy of love and affection, and that ultimately, there is still hope in this world and people to love on them. I was really thankful and humbled to serve them, and I hope that they have been as touched and impacted through our interactions as I have."

— EMMA BARBAGALLO '16  
Boys & Girls Club

## HUMAN RIGHTS AWARENESS

**STUDENTS INVOLVED IN HUMAN RIGHTS AWARENESS (HRA)** partner with organizations and faculty to educate fellow students on the many human rights issues around the world. Ranging from the Syrian refugee crisis, to immigration reform, to the Flint water crisis, HRA coordinated two six-week chapel series and three evening speakers to raise awareness of current social justice issues. Ruth Famini, director of the resettlement programs at World Relief gave an insightful and motivating presentation on the refugee crisis as part of HRA's chapel series, "Walk the Line: Exploring the divide between justice and faith." HRA also partnered with International Justice Mission to host a speaker and a film raising awareness of human trafficking, both locally and internationally. Dr. Samir Abboud, author of "Syria," spoke to 164 students about the history and context of the Syrian Refugee Crisis in November.

## WORLD CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

**WORLD CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP (WCF) IS THE OLDEST STUDENT ORGANIZATION AT MESSIAH COLLEGE,** motivated by the mission to raise awareness about the global church and missions. Through prayer nights, chapels, Missions Awareness Day, the Canoe-a-Thon, and the Reconciliation Retreat, WCF pursues faith-centered programs that remind us of our global faith.

"It was a very influential session of reflection and discussion that helped us reveal our unconscious racial biases... and then consciously discussing what it meant personally and as a student leader on campus. It was powerful for me to examine my own experience and see the need for—and beauty of—the hard work of reconciliation."

—SHANNON PEDERSEN '18



Twenty-two students participated in the Reconciliation Retreat, a training for rising student leaders on racial reconciliation.

## THE BARNABAS AWARD

**THE BARNABAS SERVANT LEADERSHIP AWARD** is named for Barnabas, a servant leader in the Bible who sold land in Cyprus to buy food for the post-Pentecost crowd in Jerusalem. Barnabas recruited Paul for ministry, worked with Paul as a missionary, mentored John Mark and led a multicultural pastoral team in Antioch. The award, in association with the Barney II and Moore Foundations, promotes the ideals of service that substantially benefit others and is given annually to one student and one employee.

### 2016 STUDENT RECIPIENT Addison Hurst, Economic Development



Addison Hurst is a sophomore economic development from Lancaster, Pennsylvania and has had many opportunities to travel abroad, including a Discipleship Training School in New Zealand, and India through Youth With A Mission. Since then, Addison has had a heart for service which is shown through

his involvement locally and internationally, as well as on campus in the worship community, LOGOS Bible Study, and as a resident assistant. Addison received a monetary gift award and selected Food for the Hungry as his charity of choice.

### 2016 EMPLOYEE RECIPIENT Dr. Angela Hare, Dean of the School of Science, Engineering, and Health



Dr. Angela Hare serves as the Dean of the School of Science, Engineering and Health. She earned her undergraduate degree in mathematics from Wheaton College, her master's in applied mathematics from Drexel University, and her Ph.D. in mathematics education from American University. For 20 years she has taught all levels of mathematics at Messiah College. She also serves as a project advisor for the Collaboratory education group, in which she works with Messiah students and with nonprofit client organizations in West Africa to develop curricular materials

that build abstract thinking and literacy for children in Burkina Faso. Dr. Hare received a monetary gift award and selected Burkina Faso Outreach as her charity.

### NOMINATIONS

The community service that the Barnabas Award seeks to reward is unpaid service that is done off-campus through community partners. The following factors will be given priority in selecting the recipient:

- Spiritual maturity and commitment to ministry and community service
- Integration of her/his ministry and community service with other aspects of her/his life and work including academic work, faith perspectives and sense of vocation
- Impact of the ministry and community service on the community in which she/he served and her/his ability to effectively work with and respect persons with whom she/he worked



Messiah students served as buddies for athletes at Special Olympics.

## PLUNGE DAYS

**EACH YEAR, MESSIAH COLLEGE SPONSORS THREE LARGER “PLUNGE” DAYS OF SERVICE** for students and employees to engage the community as a one-day experience. This year, 777 first-year students served with Harrisburg schools and partnering organizations for Into the Streets, an introductory day of service during Welcome Week. For Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, we partnered with Harrisburg elementary schools and 84

students served through painting and cleaning projects.

Founded in 2000, our annual Service Day in April allows students and employees to serve in the community or with Area M Special Olympics, hosted by Messiah College. This year, 918 students and employees volunteered with Special Olympics and 536 students and employees with an off-campus project.

### 2015–2016 PLUNGE DAYS AT A GLANCE:

- **Into the Streets:** 777 student volunteers
- **Martin Luther King, Jr. Day:** 84 student volunteers
- **Service Day:** 1,454 total student and employee volunteers

## TOGETHER FOR TOMORROW

**IN ITS THIRD YEAR OF PARTNERSHIP, MESSIAH COLLEGE AND DOWNEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL** participate in a White House initiative called Together for Tomorrow. The aim of the initiative is to improve student achievement, specifically: academics, behavior, course completion, employability and college access. Downey School welcomes our student teachers and partners with the College on programs geared toward these goals. Students volunteer with the Salvation Army after-school program, painting projects, and programs like the Block Party and Downey Days. The Block party brought together over 30 community partners who gave information to families about educational opportunities, health and wellness resources, and assistance available through local and state offices. Illustrating the partnership between Messiah College and Downey School, the Block Party inspires family and community involvement at the school.

Another Together for Tomorrow initiative is Downey Days in which Downey Elementary students visited Messiah College as a way to introduce children to college at a young age. The students participated in many activities throughout the day including a campus tour by Messiah College’s Admissions



Office, story time with education majors, lunch with Messiah students, a visit to the Oakes Museum and games with AROMA Sports. Overall, the day was a success for both Downey and Messiah, truly strengthening this partnership and renewing our commitment to be “Together for Tomorrow.”



Messiah College students partner with Downey Elementary through Together for Tomorrow. Projects include mural painting and their annual block party.