



ANNUAL REPORT 2011

AGAPÉ CENTER: WHO WE ARE





CHAD FREY

Director of the Agapé Center
for Service and Learning
Ext. 7255 • cfrey@messiah.edu

- messiah.edu/external_programs/agape/WhoWeAre.html

THE AGAPÉ CENTER: WHO WE ARE

Within this annual report, I hope you find many engaging stories and statistics that describe local, national, and international service-learning opportunities at Messiah College during 2010–2011. Before we begin, however, I'd like to share with you several reasons why service-learning has become so popular at colleges and universities across the nation. In light of these growing national trends, I hope to carefully situate what we do at Messiah College and perhaps even more importantly—why we do it.

Many public and private colleges have embraced service-learning for rich educational reasons. Very simply, experience and reflection can be a powerful way to teach and learn. Through service-learning, students situate theory in practice to meet both community and educational goals and objectives. At the Agapé Center, we use service-learning to:

- Cultivate experiential and reflection opportunities for students
- Contextualize theory into meaningful practice
- Deepen an awareness of who our students are and the many skills, talents and gifts that they have
- Appreciate the complexities of life beyond a traditional college campus
- Help clarify vocational purpose and long term goals while empowering them to tackle the complexities of living responsibly in a diverse and ever-changing world.

In addition to documented educational benefits, service-learning also has significant social, economic and political power in the United States. For instance, studies show that service-learning can meaningfully bring diverse groups of people together for the common good. In addition to strengthening communities which composes the fragile social fabric of our society, service-learning also offers significant economic benefits and advantages. College students volunteer millions of hours of their time saving taxpayers and governments precious financial resources. In light of these tremendous benefits, government leaders have championed service-learning and incentivized volunteerism at colleges and universities across the nation.

While these are all compelling reasons for colleges and universities to have robust service-learning programs, the Agapé Center at Messiah College does what it does first and foremost because we understand service and learning to be a faithful response to what the Lord requires of us. While these theological motivations might be foreign and sound strange to some, within the context of Christianity, service is perhaps best understood as a faithful response to love both God and neighbor. It is through this lens that I would encourage you to read about our work in the following pages of this report. Thank you and enjoy!

Sincerely,

Chad Frey, Director of the Agape Center for Service and Learning

MISSION STATEMENT

The Agapé Center's mission is to cultivate experiences with community partners to prepare individuals for lifelong service.

PURPOSE STATEMENT

The Agapé Center develops, administers, resources and coordinates programs of service-learning, community service, and mission, contributing to the mission of Messiah College to "educate men and women toward maturity of intellect, character and Christian faith in preparation for lives of service, leadership and reconciliation in church and society."



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SERVICE AND LEARNING AT MESSIAH COLLEGE

- messiah.edu/external_programs/agape/servicelearning/about.html

Since Messiah's inception in 1909, service has been part of the warp and woof of Messiah College. During the first decade of the College's history, a group of students began serving in the community under the leadership of C. N. Hostetter, Jr. Among other things, they raised funds for the financial and medical needs of local families. Similar projects continued in the decades that followed and a service day was even initiated for students, faculty, and staff.

As service projects continued to evolve throughout the College's history, the opportunity arose to begin integrating service into the curriculum. In 1989, the SVC 231 and 232 course sequence was conceptualized, and in 1991, Messiah was awarded a grant from the Fund for the Improvement of Post Secondary Education (FIPSE) which was the first of its kind for service-learning. With this prestigious award entitled "The Innovative Projects for Student Community Service," a team of Messiah faculty and administrators developed a comprehensive plan for strengthening service-learning across the curriculum.

Although that plan was not fully implemented as broadly as some had hoped, there were other important events that continued to facilitate the growth of service-learning at Messiah. Among these was the dedication of the newly renovated Agapé Center for Service and Learning on Nov. 2, 1998, and time allocations for the appointment of a director. In addition, since 2000, Messiah College has hosted the National Faith-Based Service-Learning Conference for educators from colleges and universities throughout the nation.

Since the appointment of the first full time director in 2006, Messiah College has been recognized with distinction on the President's Honor Roll for Community Service, designated as a Community Engaged Institution by the Carnegie Foundation, and short-listed by US News and World Report as one of the best service-learning institutions in the nation.

Messiah College's recognized commitment to service is grounded in its institutional mission to educate men and women for lives of service, leadership and reconciliation in church and society. Today there is a culture of service on campus that is evidenced in student body of which 98% participates in community service through the Agapé Center.

Additionally, Cooperative Institutional Research Program survey data from 2009 indicates that Messiah College students are significantly more likely to participate in volunteer or community service work than our comparison institutions. Looking ahead, the Messiah College Strategic Plan includes the goal of increasing student participation in experiential and service learning. Currently a comprehensive initiative is underway to identify a service learning course in every major and throughout General Education.



Students cultivate the garden at the Sycamore House in Harrisburg during a service plunge day.

2011-12 Highlights

- Not including Plunge Days, a total of 603 students and 17 educators were engaged in the College's formal credit bearing service-learning program to total an estimated 12,060 hours.
- Involved 535 students in service during the fall and 394 students in the spring semester through weekly Outreach Teams in local community service to Harrisburg, Carlisle, Mechanicsburg, Dillsburg and Grantham communities.
- Awarded nearly \$60,000 in grant money to students traveling abroad during the summer months to serve internationally.
- Worked in partnership with the Harrisburg Institute to engage 25 students in the Serving And Living Together (S.A.L.T. Program) in regular community service within the heart of the city of Harrisburg.
- An estimated 98% of the 2010 graduating class participated in either curricular or co-curricular service-learning.
- Approximately 1,175 students and educators served a total of 9,400 hours during Service Day.
- Sent 32 students and advisors abroad for a total of 10,040 hours of international service and mission work in N. Ireland, Nicaragua, El Salvador and Bolivia.
- Coordinated the United Way Employee Pledge Drive that raised \$36,494 for non-profits in the Capital Region.

AGAPÉ CENTER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

“God tells us to **love** our **neighbors** as ourselves. This love can be shown through the **service** we do for those in our own **communities.**”

—Katherine A. '13



[Start Slideshow](#)

AUGUST

- Fall Student Leadership Training Week
- Into the Streets
- Opportunity Fair

SEPTEMBER

- Ice Cream Social
- Volunteer Orientation
- Passport Day
- Canoe-a-Thon

OCTOBER

- Fall Break Service Trips
- Agapé Center Open House
- Canoe-A-Thon

NOVEMBER

- United Way Employee Pledge Drive
- Mission Awareness Week

DECEMBER

- Social Justice Week
- Agapé Center Christmas Party

JANUARY

- Dr. King Community Engagement Day
- January Term Service Trips
- Spring Student Leadership Training

FEBRUARY

- Cookies, Cocoa and Community Service

MARCH

- Spring Break National Service Trips and International Missions
- Service and Missions Trips CD/DVD Sale
- Orientation Retreat for Summer Service and Missions Teams
- Friends of the Library Sale

APRIL

- Community Partner Appreciation Luncheon
- Service Day

MAY

- Ducky Derby

JUNE AND JULY

- International Service and Mission Trips

NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL SERVICE AND MISSION

Service Trips

- messiah.edu/external_programs/agape/national_international/NationalTrips.html
- Over each academic break (Fall, January Term, and Spring) Service Trips sends students to organizations throughout the nation. They partner with a wide variety of ministries: after school programs, homeless shelters, soup kitchens, sports camps, construction organizations. Through these partnerships, service trips expose our students to issues such as immigration, homelessness, poverty, and racism. Their hope is that through experience of these issues, students will be motivated to develop a lifestyle of service, a passion for a reconciled and just society and a commitment to working toward change in these areas through whatever vocation they pursue.

International Missions

- messiah.edu/external_programs/agape/national_international/InternationalService2.html
- International Missions seeks to involve students in cross-cultural service and ministry experiences by providing opportunities for students to serve together as a team. Spring break trips travel to El Salvador and Northern Ireland in long-term partnerships, and summer trips serve with Food for the Hungry. We aim to connect with existing local organizations that are involved in long-term establishments.

Human Rights Awareness

- messiah.edu/external_programs/agape/national_international/HRA.html
- Human Rights Awareness educates the student body about the injustices of the world, whether it is sex-trafficking or child soldiers, through our own annual programming and also with conjunction with our two partner organizations, Invisible Children and International Justice Mission.

World Christian Fellowship

- messiah.edu/external_programs/agape/national_international/WCF.html
- World Christian Fellowship is an organization which acknowledges the world's greatest needs while providing avenues for students to ask challenging questions. Students are challenged to contribute to global and local projects as well as organizations whose mission encompasses service, missions and social change.



Katie A '12 greets children in Rodeo, Bolivia.

National and International Service and Mission at a Glance

National Service Trips Total Participants

Fall Break	48
January Term Break	30
Spring Break	61

International Service and Mission Total Participants

Spring Break	18
Summer Break	14

Human Rights Awareness Activities

- Alternate Chapels
- Bake Sales
- Fair Trade Coffee Sales
- Social Justice Week
- International Justice Mission Events:
 - Loose Change to Loosen Chains Fundraiser
 - Community BBQ
- Rummage Sale
- World Food Day

World Christian Fellowship Activities

- Annual Himalayan Tapestry Sale
- Canoe-a-Thon
- Friends of Library Book Sale
- Missions Awareness Week
- Salt and Light Elective Chapels

LOCAL COMMUNITY SERVICE

Outreach Teams provide ongoing support to more than 30 partnering agencies in the community.

- messiah.edu/external_programs/agape/local_service/OutreachTeams.html

Service Plunge Days give students a one-day orientation to local service as they step out into the community and serve through Into the Streets, Dr. King Community Engagement Day, and Service Day.

- messiah.edu/external_programs/agape/local_service/ServicePlunge-Days.html

Service for chapel credit is a program that enables activists to express worship through serving an Outreach Team in place of regular chapel attendance.

- messiah.edu/external_programs/agape/local_service/Servicefor-ChapelCredit.html

The **Serving and Living Together** (SALT) House in the Harrisburg Institute is an intentional community-living experience where each member is committed to serving one another as well as the local community.

- messiah.edu/external_programs/agape/local_service/Housing.html



Students engage the local community by supporting MLK Day of Service at Danzante.

“Volunteering is more than making an impact a **child’s life**, but about how they **impact you.**”

—Abba’s place Messiah student volunteer

LOCAL COMMUNITY SERVICE AT A GLANCE

SERVICE PLUNGE DAYS

Into the Streets:

First-Year Student Participants	708
Participating Educators	7
Community Partners	36

Dr. King Community Engagement Day:

Student Participants	66
Messiah Employee Participants	5
Community Partners	3

Service Day:

Student Participant	1051
Messiah Employee Participants	124
Special Olympians	1078
Off-Campus Community Partner Sites	70

OUTREACH TEAMS

Outreach Service in the Community:

Companionship Ministries	107
Creative Arts Ministries	157
Health and Special Needs	31
Hunger and Homelessness	65
Latino and Migrant Partnerships	141
Sustainable Agriculture	65
Tutoring and Literacy	109
Youth Mentoring	93
Youth Ministries	161
Total	929 Students

Highlights of Outreach On-Campus Events:

- Fall Migrant Education Retreat
- Social Justice Week
- Urban Promise Campus Visit
- Tutoring Fall Fest
- Companionship Thanksgiving Dinner
- Spring Migrant Education Retreat
- Project Angel Tree
- Hip-Hop Outreach Show

SERVICE FOR CHAPEL CREDIT

Student Participants	42 (fall) + 25 (spring)
Community Partners	21 (fall) + 16 (spring)

S.A.L.T. HOUSE

House members	23 (fall) + 16 (spring)
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2010-2011 House Activities

- Weekly engagement in community service activities
- Book study of Jacobsen’s Sidewalks of the Kingdom
- Household potluck meals
- First Friday Art Shows featuring school-age students, Messiah College students, and local artists

Curricular Service Learning at a Glance

- 41 course selections involving service learning
- 17 service-learning professors
- 603 students in service-learning classes

HOW STUDENTS SERVED

- Assisting with Vacation Bible School and various other children's programs
- Building relationships and ministering to individuals who are incarcerated
- Engaging in Outreach Team events and programs
- Participating in medical missions
- Serving as summer interns
- Serving in international missions to Uganda and Latin America
- Spending time with elderly individuals
- Tutoring and mentoring in Harrisburg schools

SERVICE-LEARNING RESOURCES

- Agapé Center Service-Learning Library
- Assistance with course development (i.e., syllabi construction, student placement, directed reflections, project logistics)
- Agapé Center website: www.messiah.edu/agape
- Biennial National Faith-Based Service-Learning Conference hosted at Messiah
- Faculty development opportunities, including workshops and seminars
- Information about service opportunities in every academic major
- Service-learning grants

SERVICE-LEARNING

Service-learning is a type of pedagogy that intentionally integrates academic learning with community service in a credit-bearing academic courses and co-curricular experiences. Students participate in an authentic service activity that meets needs identified by the community (designed within the framework of a mutually beneficial relationship), and then critically reflect on that experience. Through service-learning students gain a deeper understanding of course content, a commitment to socially responsible citizenship and skills and understanding needed to contribute to civic well-being.

“In blessing where we have been blessed, we pass on God’s love to the next person, and the chain can continue.”

—Emily W. '10

There are numerous national and international service opportunities for students and faculty who wish to engage in service learning.



THE BARNABAS SERVANT LEADERSHIP AWARD

The Barnabas Servant Leadership Award is named for the New Testament servant-leader Barnabas, who sold land in Cyprus to buy food for the post-Pentecost crowd in Jerusalem, recruited Paul for ministry, worked with Paul as a missionary, mentored John Mark and led a multicultural pastoral team in Antioch.

The name Barnabas means “son of encouragement.” The award, in association with the Barney II and Moore Foundations, recognizes those who have shown extraordinary dedication to service, which has in turn benefitted others.

Each year, this award is given to one student and one faculty member. This

year, the student award was presented to Melissa Lewis, and the faculty award was presented to Dr. Angela Hare. Each award winner received a wheel-thrown basin and \$1000. Half of this award, or \$500, was given to a charity selected by the award winner.



STUDENT AWARD WINNER **KARISA MARTIN**

Karisa Martin (pictured left) is the senior recipient of the Barnabas Servant Leadership Award and will be honored throughout the 2011–2012 school year. She was nominated by faculty and peers

because of her commitment to service, leadership and reconciliation throughout her four years as a Messiah student. Karisa served with the Collaboratory group on campus and abroad to improve water quality for the people of Nicaragua and Honduras. She served the local community through groups like Allison Hill Community Ministries, Boys & Girls Club, Bethesda Mission, the Amani Bead Project, and through the Agape Center as Youth Mentoring Coordinator and Outreach Director. In addition, Karisa regularly served within her local church, a Spanish-speaking church, as a translator and co-director of children’s ministries, as well as working on campus as a resident assistant in Grantham Residence Hall. Her scholarship, encouraging smile and gentle strength were appreciated greatly by those that nominated Karisa, in combination with her persistent servant heart.

“Karisa is a deeply caring individual, who is committed to her family and friends. I have seen Karisa deepen her love for people through serving her faith community and significantly investing in the Messiah community during her time as a student.”

—Roanna Martin ‘11



FACULTY AWARD WINNER **JENNIFER FISLER**

Jennifer Fisler is the faculty recipient of the Barnabas Servant Leadership Award and will be honored throughout the 2011–2012 school year. She was nominated by her peers because of her

commitment to contributing to the growth and development of others. Jennifer served within her local church in the areas of small group youth leadership and as an elder. She served the local community through groups such as the Amani Bead Project and the West Shore Partnership. Most of note, Jennifer commits a large portion of her service to education students at Messiah College through co-leading an annual Leadership Conference as well as through developing relationships with students. Her empathy, effective listening ear and work toward restoration were appreciated greatly by those that nominated Jennifer, in combination with her persistent servant heart.

“Jenn leads by an example of consistent excellence. She is willing to sacrifice her time in order to engage other in ways that encourage personal growth and I have experienced this attribute first hand.”

—Amanda Sigel, Messiah employee

UNITED WAY PARTNERSHIP

- messiah.edu/external_programs/agape/local_service/UnitedWay.html

The United Way of the Capital Region touches many Central Pennsylvanians who are in need by funding important programs administered by local nonprofit organizations. Many of the organizations supported by the United Way are also served by Messiah students through their service and learning activities with the Agapé Center.

For more than 10 years, College employees have been encouraged to donate to the United Way during the United Way Employee Pledge Drive. Starting in 1995, the employee pledge drive has grown significantly from the initial 34 participating employees. This year, 142 Messiah employees donated \$36,494 to the United Way of the Capital Region. It is important to note that the United Way of the Capital Region reported a 50% increase in the number of people needing food assistance since 2008 and a loss of 20,000 jobs in the region in the last year. All of these conditions challenge Messiah to live out its commitment to community service in very real ways. It should also be mentioned that in addition to the financial gifts of our employees to community partners through the United Way, the number of student volunteer hours each year totals well over \$1 million based on minimum wage.

“After tutoring a couple of children, I realized that their smiles and happiness is my joy!”

—Moises M. '13



Christina F '13 participates in an Outreach Team and Service-Learning course with Paxton Ministries, which receives funding through the United Way.



“I’ve had the opportunity, as past pledge drive chair, to visit several local agencies where United Way financial assistance supports the volunteer efforts of our students. As a United Way Fund Distribution Committee member, I’ve seen the stringent program assessment process that each program partner undergoes in requesting that financial assistance. In this time of high need, I am confident that the United Way will make informed, judicial decisions on how best to allocate my donation.”

—Kathy Castonguay, Messiah College employee

LOOKING FORWARD

As I anticipate the 2011–2012 academic year, perhaps one of the most encouraging highlights is our very gifted professional staff leadership team. As he did this past year, Keith Jones Pomeroy will again provide leadership to all four of our Executive Student Organizations. Keith's successful restructuring of our Service for Chapel credit program in partnership with Campus Ministries this past year promises to continue to provide a strong foundation for most of our Outreach Team leaders. Additionally, Keith has coordinated with our student directors to introduce a class for all Agapé leaders throughout the upcoming fall semester. I expect that these two programs, alongside many others, will significantly improve the effectiveness of the service, content, and reflection strategies that the Agapé Center employs with many on and off campus partners.

Additionally, the administrative day to day operations of the Agapé Center throughout this past year have largely resided in the capable hands of Kerrie Taylor. As the Interim Administrative Assistant, Kerrie's strong interpersonal and organizational skills have positioned us to confidently transition into this next year.

Much of my energy will be focused on continuing to identify a service-learning course in every major, throughout General Education, and across the co-curriculum. As chair of the Service-Learning COE Committee, I've had the privilege of working beside several faculty colleagues to architect better systems and programs for faculty to submit service-learning course proposals, online service-learning transcripts and participation tracking for students, and web-based solutions for community partner service-learning project proposals. Throughout the upcoming year, I'm looking forward to bringing many of these systems together with the expert help of colleagues in ITS. Throughout 2011–2012, I covet your prayers as we continue our collective work toward realizing a clear and coherent service-learning program that spans both the curriculum and co-curriculum at Messiah College.

Chad Frey



2011–2012 AGAPÉ CENTER STAFF

- messiah.edu/external_programs/agape/local_service/AgapeStaff.html

AGAPÉ CENTER STAFF



Chad Frey

Director of the Agapé Center for Service and Learning
Phone: Ext. 7255 • Email: cfrey@messiah.edu



Keith Jones Pomeroy

Interim Program Manager
Phone: Ext. 7255 • Email: kpomeroy@messiah.edu



Kerrie Taylor

Administrative Assistant to the Agapé Center
Phone: Ext. 7255 • Email: ketaylor@messiah.edu

Agapé Center Student Work-Study Staff:

Christina Fuji
Jackie Keefer (Fall)
Kira Wenger (Fall)
Tannia Nieto (Spring)
Allan Mathew (Spring)

Local Community Service Work-Study Staff:

Justin Wright (Fall)
Caroline Hoffman (Spring)
Sarah Gehman
Amy Newton

National and International Service and Mission Work-Study Staff:

Peter Grames

Agapé Center Student Staff

HUMAN RIGHTS AWARENESS:
Ext. 5098

Director: Victoria Falkner (Fall) & Morgan Lee (Spring)
Assistant Director: Victoria Falkner
Health and Survival Coordinator: Emily Brantner
Invisible Children President: Erin McRae
International Justice Mission: Mallory Wood/Victoria Farone (Fall) & Anastasia Keith
ACTS President: Stephanie Miller

OUTREACH:

Ext. 5097
Director: Karisa Martin
Companionship Ministries: Lauren Nickell
Creative Arts Ministries: Hope Hess (Fall) & Kristen Nohelty (Spring)
Health and Special Needs: Leah Mortimer (Fall) & Glenn Jones (Spring)
Hunger and Homelessness: Phil Wilmot
Latino and Migrant Partnerships: Charity Roberts (Fall) & Katie Blozenski (Spring)
Sustainable Agriculture: Katie Todd
Tutoring and Literacy: Kara Ratliff
Youth Mentoring: Amie Miller (Fall) & Kelsey McCauley (Spring)
Youth Ministries: Stephanie Shenk

SERVICE TRIPS

Ext. 7082
Director: Amy Leonard
Agency Coordinator: Gina Sheehan
Leadership Coordinator: Aaron Reynolds
Participant Coordinator: Kelly Stride

WORLD CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP:

Ext. 5098
Director: Elizabeth Miller (Fall) & Dawnique Shury (Spring)
Publicity Coordinator: Issac Won
Mission Awareness Week Coordinator: Nicole Amper (Fall), Holly Diegel (Spring)
Salt & Light Chapel Coordinator: Andy Yong



**AGAPÉ
CENTER**
For Service And Learning



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P.O. Box 3027
One College Avenue
Grantham, PA 17027

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