



ANNUAL REPORT 2011

LOCAL COMMUNITY SERVICE





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MISSION

The Agapé Center cultivates experiences with community partners to prepare individuals for lifelong service.

MESSAGE FROM THE OUTREACH DIRECTOR

As an organizer of local community service, the Agapé Center encourages students to participate in service right where they are, sending students out to serve in Harrisburg and other locales near to Messiah College. Yet our office also challenges students to think about service beyond the bounds of our little corner of Central Pennsylvania. We continue to ask the question posed to Jesus by a teacher of the law, "Who then is my neighbor?" We invite students to explore this question while serving with our community partners. The hints of answers that emerge can be challenging, surprising, and even hopeful. My neighbor may not look or think the same way I do. My neighbor may have material or spiritual needs where I have abundance, or vice versa. We both may experience brokenness. And perhaps most surprising of all, we may be able to serve one another, receiving and giving our time, talents, and friendship. Our office is present to facilitate these opportunities for questioning, learning, and service. Plunge days of service often start the conversation that can be enriched by awareness events, and deepened through living in community through the SALT program or volunteering weekly with a team of fellow students. With every interaction, our local community and our neighbors become increasingly defined not by geographic boundaries, but, rather by our common bond to learn and serve together.

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Faculty and students join together to give thanks to over 30 Agapé Center community partners in an annual luncheon.

CONNECTING STUDENTS WITH THE COMMUNITY

Local community-based student programs offers a variety of programs to connect students with the local community. These programs are primarily in Harrisburg, but also in Steelton, Grantville, Chambersburg, Mechanicsburg and Dillsburg. Opportunities to serve are offered through a variety of programs facilitated by the Agapé Center:

- Outreach Teams provide ongoing support to more than 30 partnering agencies in the community.
- Three Service Plunge Days give students a one-day orientation in local service as they step out into the community and serve through Into the Streets, Dr. King Community Engagement Day and Service Day.
- Service for Chapel Credit is a program that enables activists to express worship through serving in place of regular chapel attendance.
- The S.A.L.T. (Serving And Living Together) program is held at the Harrisburg Institute on Derry Street. House members live in an intentional community that is committed to serving one another as well as their city community.

With increased involvement and interest, the Agapé Center hopes to continually refine how accessible and meaningful service can be conducted in the local community by:

- Increasing volunteer enrichment and training opportunities, focusing on personal and professional development;
- Developing a sustainable attendance tracking system for volunteers;
- Collaborating with offices and organizations across campus to provide a well-rounded, holistic approach to service.

“Service is when people work **together** to build relationships and help each other without reacting to social class, gender, race ethnicity, etc. Those differences should not be ignored, but they should not affect your service. Service is about **giving** and **receiving**; it’s not a one way street.”

— Emily H. '12



Plunge Days are short-term service projects aimed to cultivate long-term foundations in community service.



Each year, students participate in Service Plunge Days, which give them a one-day experience of stepping out into the community and serving.

OUTREACH TEAMS: WHAT IS GOOD SERVICE?: STUDENT RESPONSES

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

“Good service is not just providing a service—it is also relational. It is opening up and spending enough time to invest in someone’s life. To understand their talents and help them serve the community as well. Good service is knowing others.”

—Kimberly B. '13, St. Barnabas Volunteer



“The whole experience was so **memorable!** I appreciate the ability to delve deep into other cultures and be accepted and **engaged** by them wholeheartedly. You could tell that the children at the Boys and Girls Club needed someone to **help** them one on one with homework and to **play** and act like children with them.”

—Domenic A. '14, Boys and Girls Club volunteer



Messiah students engage with Migrant Ed. students during the annual retreat that is held on campus in Grantham.

OUTREACH TEAMS AT A GLANCE

Outreach Service in the Community:

	Fall	Spring	
Companionship Ministries	58	+ 49 =	107 students
Creative Arts Ministries	77	+ 80 =	157 students
Health and Special Needs	16	+ 15 =	31 students
Hunger and Homelessness	35	+ 30 =	65 students
Latino and Migrant Partnerships	89	+ 52 =	141 students
Sustainable Agriculture	39	+ 26 =	65 students
Tutoring and Literacy	68	+ 41 =	109 students
Youth Mentoring	52	+ 41 =	93 students
Youth Ministries	101	+ 60 =	161 students
Total students		=	929 participants
			served an estimated
			10,219 hours in
			the local community

Outreach Service through On-Campus Events:

Fall Migrant Education Retreat	39	Child participants
	30	Messiah students
Social Justice Week	116	student participants
	7	community partners
Companionship Thanksgiving Dinner	24	Messiah Village Residents
	24	Messiah students
Tutoring Fall Fest	35	Messiah students
	85	child participants
Project Angel Tree	165	gift recipients
	77	Messiah student sponsors
Hip Hop Outreach Show	120	children and staff
	70	Messiah student performers and volunteers
Spring Migrant Education Retreat	29	Child participants
	25	Messiah student hosts

OUTREACH TEAMS

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

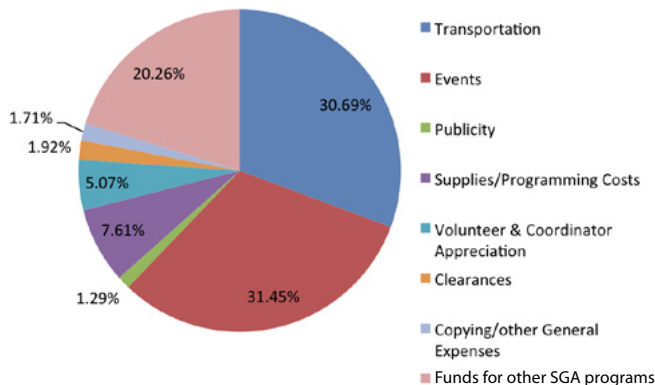
The purpose of Outreach Teams is to: Express faith through action by partnering with local community organizations to assist in fulfilling their needs and to facilitate student learning and growth. This is accomplished through pursuance of six key objectives:

1. To help meet needs in the local community by organizing teams of volunteers.
2. To enhance the learning experience of service by offering educational opportunities.
3. To shape student growth through a process of orientation, reflection, and evaluation.
4. To nurture volunteers in embracing a life-long commitment to service.
5. To break down barriers by creating transformative relationships between volunteers and the community.
6. To develop the leadership capacity of students within Outreach.

Raising awareness about issues surrounding service and social justice is a key part of Outreach Teams, and this year numerous events were held to enhance students' knowledge and understanding of a diverse set of issues through alternate chapels. Additional events were designed to bring volunteers and community members together to foster transformative relationships, such as:

- Residents from Messiah Village came to campus to enjoy Thanksgiving dinner with volunteers. Messiah students and Messiah Village senior citizens join together to give thanks for their time and friendship.
- Migrant Education retreats brought middle and high school students to experience a taste of college life while also encouraging students to embrace their cultural heritage within their studies.

Outreach Budget 2010–2011



Student Outreach Coordinators work hard all year to connect teams of volunteers with different community partners in Harrisburg and the surrounding area.



Community Garden workers prepare for spring planting.

OUTREACH TEAMS: COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Companionship Ministries:

- Bethany Village (15+ years)
- Messiah Village (33 years)
- Maplewood (4 years)
- Promise Place (13 years)

Creative Arts Ministries:

- Footprintz (6 years)
- God's Kingdom Steppers (5 years)
- Spirit Force (20+ years)
- Puppets Praise (20+ years)

Health and Special Needs:

- Capital Area Therapeutic Riding Association (16 years)
- Morningstar Pregnancy Center (6 years)
- Paxton Ministries (30 years)

Hunger and Homelessness:

- Bethesda Mission (97 years)
 - Mobile Mission
 - Men's Shelter
 - Women and Children's Shelter
- Silence of Mary Home (7 years)
- Tabitha's (6 years)

Latino and Migrant Partnerships:

- Center for Education, Employment, and Entrepreneurial Development (4.5 years)
- Danzante (9 years)
- Lincoln Intermediate Unit Migrant Education Program—Chambersburg (11 years)

Sustainable Agriculture:

- Catholic Worker House (11 years)
- Grantham Community Garden (5 years)
- Joshua Farm (5 years)
- Project SHARE (2 years)

Tutoring and Literacy:

- Allison Hill Community Ministries (19 years)
- Center for Champions (7 years)
- St. Barnabas Center for Ministry (5.5 years)
- Bethesda Mission (97 years)
 - Bethesda Youth Center

Youth Mentoring:

- Boys and Girls Club (12 years)
- Salvation Army (4.5 years)
- Amani Bead Project (2 years)

Youth Ministries:

- Abba's Place (19 years)
- New Hope Ministries (15 years)
 - Dillsburg
 - Dover
 - Mechanicsburg
- Young Life Cumberland County (14+ years)

Community Partners Total: 34



Dr. Ramey and Janice S. '13 plant seedlings at Joshua Farm, an organic farm in the heart of Harrisburg.



Kira W. '12 works one-on-one with a student at CEEED to teach English as a second language.

“Good **service** means understanding that servants are not micromanagers. As servants, we must be **humble** and **willing** to learn from the organizations that are asking to work **alongside us.**”
—Charity R. '11

SERVICE PLUNGE DAYS: INTO THE STREETS

• messiah.edu/external_programs/agape/local_service/IntotheStreets.html

College is the beginning of a brand new adventure for hundreds of incoming Messiah students. In the midst of orientations, placement exams, and settling into dorm rooms, the second day of orientation week is set aside to expose first-year students to life beyond the Messiah College campus. Before syllabi are distributed or textbooks open, students have the opportunity to build new relationships with their peers while being immersed in the surrounding community and serving those in need.

Into the Streets is a nationally recognized program. This year, the Agapé Center celebrated its 12th anniversary sponsoring this first-year student event. The hope of this program is to simultaneously inspire students to invest their time and talents in the community while also reflecting and considering what the community can teach them.

“Into the Streets introduces **service-learning** to students, enabling them to participate firsthand in a primary way that Messiah College understands and worships Christ. On their first full day of life as college students, students are familiarized with the college’s larger **context** and **responsibility** beyond the campus and into the lives of individuals living in the larger Harrisburg region, not only working for different NGOs in the area but also spending time debriefing and **thinking** critically about their actions.”

—Morgan L. '12, *Into the Streets* Coordinator



First-year students take time to reflect on their expectations of service at Messiah College.



Into the Streets takes place during first-year orientation, introducing students to service opportunities at Messiah.

INTO THE STREETS AT A GLANCE:

First-Year Students	708
Messiah College Educators	7
Community Partner Participants	35

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

- Mechanicsburg Area Parks and Recreation Department
- The Silence of Mary Home
- Cross, Inc.-Cumberland Vista
- Firm Foundation of Pa. Inc.
- Central Pennsylvania Food Bank
- Project SHARE of Carlisle
- Brethren Housing Association
- Carroll Citizens for Sensible Growth
- SAFE HARBOUR
- The Program “It’s About Change” Promise Place Site
- Allison Hill Community Ministry
- Lower Paxton Township Parks and Recreation Department
- Historical Society of Dauphin County
- Shalom House
- Paxton Ministries
- West Shore YMCA
- The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society
- Faith Chapel Church
- Danzante
- Central Pennsylvania Literacy Council
- Helen O. Krause Animal Foundation Inc.
- The Arc of Dauphin and Lebanon Counties
- Capital Area Pregnancy Centers
- New Cumberland First Church of God
- Bethany Village
- The Salvation Army
- Joshua Group/Joshua Farm
- West Shore Evangelical Free Church
- Bethesda Mission
- Morning Star Pregnancy Service
- Center for Champions
- Neighborhood Center of the United Methodist Church
- Boys and Girls Club of Central PA
- Dillsburg Area Public Library
- NYCHAPS

“Service is when we put on the skin of other people and walk around with it.”

—Daniel A. '14

SERVICE PLUNGE DAYS: DR. KING COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT DAY

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

In 1994, the King Holiday and Service Act was passed by Congress, designating the King Holiday as a national day of volunteer service; the purpose of which is to encourage Americans of all backgrounds and ages to celebrate King's legacy by turning community concerns into action. In order to celebrate the life and legacy of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., students, faculty, and staff at Messiah College are given an opportunity to join others throughout the nation as they participate in a day of service.

Classes are cancelled to celebrate the amazing life of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. On that day, students, faculty, and staff are given an opportunity to represent Messiah College by volunteering on MLK Day. This year the Agapé Center partnered with the newly-formed MLK Day Committee in Harrisburg. We sent Messiah Students to 5 of the projects registered on the Harrisburg MLK Day database, which contained a total of 30 projects. Students from Messiah were involved in three projects at Camp Curtin School, King's Kamp at the YWCA in Carlisle, and Danzante.

MLK DAY AT A GLANCE

Students	66
Employees/Admin	5
Community partners	3

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

- Paxton Ministries is a Christian, non-profit community home serving adults who may be challenged with social, mental or emotional needs.
- Bethesda Mission Women's Shelter houses single women and their children while also providing support groups and classes on parenting, nutrition and budgeting. Students help prepare food for the shelter as well as work to organize the food pantry.
- Allison Hill Community Center offers services to low-income families in the Allison Hill neighborhood including a food bank, health resource center, computer literacy classes, and an after-school program. Students worked cleaning and organizing the food pantry.
- Catholic Worker House is a group of individuals who work to meet needs in the local community through food and clothing distribution, short-term housing, hosting community events, urban gardening and community art initiatives. Volunteers assisted with food and clothing distribution.
- Silence of Mary Home is a safe haven for people from the Allison Hill neighborhood to live in a caring family atmosphere when they have nowhere else to go.
- The National MS Society supports and advocates for persons with multiple sclerosis across the country. In the local chapter's program, "What a Difference a Day Makes," students assisted in the homes of clients to help with their individual needs.



A mural of Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. was completed by piecing together individual tiles.



Messiah College students worked with other community members to paint a dance studio at Danzante

SERVICE PLUNGE DAYS: SERVICE DAY

- messiah.edu/external_programs/agape/local_service/service_day/index.html

Service Day was officially founded in 2000 as a result of the strong student support of the Area M Special Olympics games held on campus each year. Because so many students requested to be excused from class that day to help out, it just made sense to take the day off as an institution to give everyone the opportunity to serve. Today, students, faculty, and employees are also given the option to serve off-campus on various projects with local churches and organizations.

This year was a tremendous success, as more than 1,600 Messiah students and staff participated in some capacity. Messiah College was proud to host 1,078 registered Special Olympians while also sending 611 Messiah students and staff to off-campus projects in the local community.

Service Day at a Glance

Messiah student buddies	529
Messiah Employees	35
Messiah total	564
Community Volunteers	924
Special Olympians	1078

An estimated 4,512 hours were served by Messiah College students and staff at Special Olympics.

Off Campus Community Partner Sites	70
Off campus student participants	522
Off Campus Faculty, Staff, and Alumni	89
Total Messiah College Participation	611

An estimated 4,888 hours were served at off-campus sites in the local community.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Abraxas Youth and Family Services	Hans Herr House and Museum
Allison Hill Community Ministry	Harmony Bethel Church of God
Area residents (Development office)	Harrisburg Christian School
Blue Mountain Outfitters	Herb & Charlotte Moyer
Caitlin Smiles	Joshua Farm
Camp Eder	Keystone Area Boy Scouts
Capital Area Pregnancy Centers	Klowns for the Kingdom
Carlisle Parks and Recreation	Mechanicsburg Borough
Carlisle YMCA	Messiah College Early Learning Center
Carroll Citizens for Sensible Growth	Messiah College-Painting Brubaker
CATRA	Morning Star Pregnancy Services
Center for Champions	Nativity School of Harrisburg
Collaboratory-Biodiesel Project	New Cumberland First Church of God
Collaboratory-Burkina Summer Enrichment Program	Northern York County Historical and Preservation Society
Collaboratory-Filtration and Purification Alternatives	On Campus Encouragement
Collaboratory-KWHR Meter Project	Operation Wildcat
Collaboratory-Light Sport Aircraft Project	Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Roman Catholic Church
Collaboratory-Mali Water and Disabilities Study	Outdoors Club-Simpson Park
Collaboratory-Mobility Project	Paxton Ministries
Collaboratory-Solar Commuting Vehicle	Reconciliation House
Collaboratory-Solar Scholars	Ronald McDonald House Project
Collaboratory-VWOS	Safe Harbour
Collaboratory-WERC	Schaffner Detention Center
Cumberland Crossings	Shalom House
Cumberland Valley Relief Center	Silence of Mary
Cumberland Vista	Silence of Mary Home
Deer Valley YMCA Camp	Slate Hill Mennonite
Derry Presbyterian Church	Ten Thousand Villages
Faith United Lutheran Parish	The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society-Central PA
Freedom Valley Worship Center	Theatre Harrisburg
Friendship Center	Tri-County OIC
Good News Free Methodist Church	Trinity Lutheran Church
Grantham Community Garden	Visiting Nurse Association of Central PA
Habitat for Humanity of the Greater Harrisburg Area	Volunteers of America (Harrisburg)
Hampden Elementary Green Team	Volunteers of America (Mechanicsburg)



Messiah College hosts the Area M Special Olympics

SERVICE FOR CHAPEL CREDIT

One opportunity for sophomore, junior and senior students to serve locally is through the Service for Chapel Credit program in partnership with the College Ministries Office. In place of attending chapel services, students serve as team leaders for the local community through Outreach Teams, and lead reflections with their peers.

This opportunity intends to:

- Offer an alternative worship option to fulfill chapel credit.
- Provide opportunities to serve in the community.
- Engage in spiritual formation through action and reflection.
- Enhance students' self-awareness and their development of a worldview.
- Encourage service as a lifestyle during college and beyond.

S.A.L.T. HOUSE 2010-2011

Currently home to the SALT program (Serving and Living Together) at Messiah College, the Institute is now witness to 22 socially-conscious and servant-minded students seeking to engage with their community.

Its squarely steel-framed windows reflect the surrounding cityscape are an unchanging presence since the satellite's establishment in 2002. In contrast to the enclosing reinforced concrete, the Institute is shifting—academic dynamics that is. The service time and energy required of each participant should not be underestimated. Each week, house members spend a significant amount of time in house activities, informal discussion, and fellowship which significantly impacts their faith and lifestyle. House members engage in activities such as potluck dinners to join together in food, friendship, and fellowship. In addition, 3rd in the Burg is a series of art shows monthly to host the work of local community artists and can be displayed within the Harrisburg Institute. The mission of the S.A.L.T. House is to cooperatively work towards a holistic vision and lifestyle which integrates service into every area of life.



Craig Dalen, S.A.L.T. Program Director, talks to attendees at the Mentoring on the Move event in Strawberry Square in downtown Harrisburg.



Roanna M. '11 served at the Joshua Farm in a variety of roles including team leader and a summer internship.

“Service builds **community** by bringing everyone together, striving to solve issues that need to be solved, **giving love** to those who feel unloved and bringing **happiness** and **Christ's love** to all.”

—Student feedback from student participating in Service for Chapel Credit



“This space is still Messiah College. The Institute is a Messiah ‘footprint’ in the city of Harrisburg.”

—Craig Dalen, S.A.L.T. Program Director



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SERVICE AND LEARNING

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