

AGAPÉ CENTER: WHO WE ARE





CHAD FREY

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THE AGAPÉ CENTER: WHO WE ARE

Community service and engagement has long been a distinctive part of the rich legacy of living and learning at Messiah College. In many ways, the College's historic commitment to service flows out of her Brethren in Christ heritage that emphasizes service to God and neighbor as central to faithful living and learning within Christian community. Over the years, this implicit assumption has become more explicit through the service-learning program in both the curriculum and co-curriculum at Messiah. In fact, throughout the past year, a strategic plan was hatched to identify a service-learning course in every major and within the general education curriculum. I must mention that this effort is greatly indebted to the early work of Rebecca Birch-Basinger, Harold Heie, Jay Barnes, Terry Brensinger, Donna Dentler, Eldon Fry, Linda Parkyn, Bob Suggs and Jim Scroggin who did much at Messiah College throughout the late '80s and early '90s to lay a foundation that would create "integral relationships between learning and active forms of serving by building service components into rigorous credit-bearing courses..." (Heie, 1990). Building upon the work of these early visionaries, Vern Blackburn, Stephen Cobb, John Melton, Kim Yunez, John Eby, Cindy Blount, Jeff Rioux, Jenell Patterson, Greg Anderson and many others did much to continue to champion service learning at Messiah. However, the programs that you find within the pages of this report would not be possible without the support of the present Messiah community of educators, the exceptional work of professional and student staff at the Agapé Center, and the strong leadership of Kim Phipps, Randy Basinger, Richard Roberson, Ray Norman, Jerry Hess, Susan Hasseler and John Yeatts. Now, please take a moment and peruse some of the highlights and accomplishments at the Agapé Center last year. Enjoy!

Chad Frey
Director of the Agapé Center for Service and Learning



MISSION STATEMENT

The Agapé Center for Service and Learning cultivates experiences with community partners to prepare individuals for lifelong service. Toward that end, the Agapé Center team 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

Since its 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 academics at the College. 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, titled "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 November 2, 1998, and time allocations for the appointment of a director. In addition, since 2000, Messiah College has biennially hosted the National Faith-Based Service-Learning Conference for educators from colleges and universities throughout the nation. Furthering such conversations about service learning in higher education, the Service Learning Faculty Dialogues Project was inaugurated in 2003 to study ways in which contextual service-learning opportunities could be integrated into academic programming.

Building upon this work, the Learning-Guided Community Task Force was appointed in 2007 to further institutionalize non credit-bearing service activities across campus. In addition, the Service Learning Committee was appointed as a permanent

part of governance in the same year, and in turn, an institutional definition of service learning was vetted. 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!

2009-10 Highlights

- Not including Plunge Days, a total of 632 students and 21 educators were engaged in the College's credit bearing service learning program—an increased number of students involved in academic service-learning by 117.
- During the fall, 537 students and 518 students during the spring semester were involved through weekly outreach teams in local community service to the Harrisburg, Carlisle, Mechanicsburg, Dillsburg and Grantham communities.
- Nearly \$60,000 in grant money was awarded to students traveling abroad during the summer months to serve internationally.
- In partnership with the Harrisburg Institute, the center worked 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.
- Messiah was recognized as having one of the best service-learning programs in the country by US News and World Report.
- An estimated 98 percent of the 2010 graduating class participated in either curricular or co-curricular service learning.
- An estimated 1,300 students and educators volunteered their time during Service Day.
- 141 students and athletes were sent abroad for a total of 12,760 hours of international service and mission work in places like Northern Ireland, Mexico, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Peru, Bolivia, the Dominican Republic and Costa Rica.
- The United Way Employee Pledge Drive raised \$38,230 for non-profits in the Capital Region. (This was a 21.25 percent increase in giving from last year.)
- A significant qualitative research project was conducted on the experience of re-entry for four students who have participated in international service and missions.





AGAPÉ CENTER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

AUGUST

- Fall Student Leadership Training Week
- Into the Streets
- Student Leader Commissioning Service

SEPTEMBER

- Ice Cream Social
- Opportunities Fair
- Volunteer Development Program Orientation and Clearances
- Passport Day
- Canoe-a-Thon
- Family Weekend

OCTOBER

- Fall Break Service Trips
- Homecoming
- Agapé Center Open House
- Community Partner Service-Learning Opportunity Luncheons

NOVEMBER

- United Way Employee Pledge Drive
- Mission Awareness Week
- Hunger & Homelessness Awareness Week

DECEMBER

- Human Rights Awareness Week
- World AIDS Day
- Operation Christmas Child and Angel Tree
- Agapé Center Christmas Party

JANUARY

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

FEBRUARY

- Jubilee Conference
- Haiti Relief Kits Collected Through MCC
- Cookies, Cocoa and Community Service

MARCH

- Spring Break National Service Trips and International Missions
- Orientation Retreat for Summer Service and Missions Teams

APRIL

- Community Partner Appreciation Luncheon
- Community Partner Strategic Planning Meeting
- Service Day

MAY

- Ducky Derby
- Amazing Race

JUNE AND JULY

- International Service and Mission Trips
- Individual Grant Recipient Summer Service and Mission
- National Faith-Based Service-Learning Conference

“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



NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL SERVICE AND MISSION

The Agapé Center's National and International Service and Mission Office (NISM) exists to empower and coordinate campus programs that reach beyond the local area, allowing students to apply and exercise their faith and learning in transformative ways. Students can create their own experiences, which we support, or participate in existing programs such as:

- international service and mission trips over spring and summer breaks;
- Stateside Service Trips over fall, January term and spring breaks;
- World Christian Fellowship (WCF), a student group dedicated to increasing global Christian concern and facilitating student engagement in missions;
- Human Rights Awareness (HRA), a student-led coalition of on-campus human-rights organizations committed to advocating for and responding to human rights-related injustices in the world.

Additional NISM Programs

All international mission teams from the Agapé Center and individual mission grant recipients participate in the mission training program. While the Agapé teams have regular team meetings and monthly large-group trainings, a highlight of preparing students for their service and mission trips is the annual Cross-Cultural Ministry Orientation Retreat. The retreat focused on God's passion for drawing diverse people together into one, helping individuals to reconcile with one another and with God. Ben Homan, Food for the Hungry president, encouraged students and facilitated conversation about the goals of short-term missions. Other training topics from this year included:

- fundraising;
- introduction to Wholistic Community Development,
- sharing the Gospel in word,
- spiritual preparation for international service and mission.

Last year began the first full year of a community partnership with Rodeo, Bolivia, which was made possible through the **Food for the Hungry Community to Community (C2C) program**. The C2C program involves creating long-term relationships between communities in the developing world and in American churches or colleges.

Haiti Relief Efforts

The Messiah College Community and local community responded with compassion to the earthquake devastation in Haiti in January 2010. In total, more than \$5,500 was raised at Messiah alone.

- \$992 was collected in one offering after a chapel.
- More than 400 relief kits were donated and distributed by the Mennonite Central Community.
- "Rebuilding Haiti—A Community Fundraiser" took place on Broad Street in Harrisburg to involve the greater community in caring for Haitians hurt by the earthquake damage.



More than 200 students participated in national and international service and mission trips this year.

National and International Service and Mission at a Glance

National Service Trips	Total Participants
Fall Break	35
January Term Break	58
Spring Break	75

International Service and Mission	Total Participants
Spring Break	35
Summer Break	26
Summer Grant Awards	49

Human Rights Awareness Activities

- Alternate Chapels
- Bake Sales
- Fair Trade Coffee Sales
- Human Rights Awareness Week
- International Justice Mission Events
- Loose Change to Loosen Chains Fundraiser
- Prayer Vigil
- Community BBQ
- Rummage Sale
- World Food Day

World Christian Fellowship Activities

- Annual Himalayan Tapestry Sale
- Amazing Race Fundraiser for Summer Mission Trips
- Bake Sale
- Canoe-a-Thon
- Human Wrong Campaign
- Missions Awareness Week
- Salt and Light Elective Chapels

LOCAL COMMUNITY SERVICE

The Office of Local Community Service offers a variety of programs to connect students with the local community. These programs are primarily in Harrisburg but are 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 to 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) Institute is an intentional community-living experience where each member is committed to serving one another as well as the local community.



Students participate in three different campus-wide service days throughout the year, including Into the Streets, Dr. King Community Engagement Day and Service Day.

“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	564
Community Partners	32

Dr. King Community Engagement Day:

Student Participants	55
Messiah Employee Participants	8
Community Partners	10

Special Olympics on Service Day:

Student Participants	770
Messiah Employee Participants	34
Community Volunteers	1140
Special Olympians	994
Off-Campus Community Partner Sites	88

OUTREACH TEAMS

Outreach Service in the Community:

Companionship Ministries	101 students
Creative Arts Ministries	134 students
Health and Special Needs	91 students
Hunger and Homelessness	134 students
Latino and Migrant Partnerships	101 students
Sustainable Agriculture	94 students
Tutoring and Literacy	116 students
Youth Mentoring	144 students
Total students:	915

Highlights of Outreach On-Campus Events:

- Urban Promise Retreat
- Hunger and Homelessness Week
- Fall Migrant Education Retreat
- Project Angel Tree
- Hip Hop Outreach Show
- Spring Migrant Education Retreat

SERVICE FOR CHAPEL CREDIT

Student Participants	44
Community Partners	18

S.A.L.T. INSTITUTE

Members:	22
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2009–2010 S.A.L.T. Activities:

- weekly engagement in community service activities
- household potluck meals
- First Friday Art Shows featuring school-age students, Messiah College students and local artists

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.



Credit-bearing Service Learning at a Glance

- 46** course selections involving service learning
- 21** service-learning professors
- 632** students in service-learning classes
- 564** through first-year seminar

HOW STUDENTS SERVED

- assisting with Vacation Bible School and various other children’s programs
- building relationships and ministering to individuals who are incarcerated
- developing phone applications for World Vision staff in Zambia
- 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

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 MELISSA LEWIS

Melissa Lewis is a senior nursing student from Grottoes, Virginia. During her time at Messiah, she has been afforded many opportunities to learn about what it means to love others and to live out the example of the servant hood of Christ.

Some of Melissa’s service activities include:

- volunteering at Messiah Village, where she meets weekly with the residents of the retirement community;
- cultivating an urban garden at Joshua Farm;
- volunteering with Harrisburg’s Salvation Army after-school program;
- knitting scarves and hats for homeless residents of Harrisburg through Tabitha’s ministry;
- partnering with a Special Olympics athlete on Service Days throughout her four years at Messiah College;
- serving food at the Grantham Church Eat-N-Run ministry;
- mentoring students as a peer group leader and resident assistant;
- living in the Social Justice House to inform fellow students of the needs of others worldwide.

Melissa Lewis’ Charity of Choice:

“I chose to use the Barnabas Award gift to purchase a heifer through Heifer International because I believe in their mission to provide a sustainable source for food and income. ‘Pass on the gift’ is the motto of Heifer International, and I love the partnerships that Heifer International forms between people around the globe as these gifts keep giving.”

“She is a nursing student, and whenever she comes home from practicals she always shares about a new need in the community where she is and how we can help. Then she organizes it. She has a close relationship with God and seeks to share His love and kindness with everyone she meets, especially as a nursing student.”



FACULTY AWARD WINNER ANGELA HARE

Dr. Angela Hare has been teaching at Messiah College since 1996 and is currently associate professor of mathematics and the mathematical sciences department chair. In 2006, she traveled to West

Africa with a Collaboratory team, and since then has committed herself to helping Messiah College students develop the skills of their major through partnership with the Center for the Advancement of the Handicapped in the village of Mahadaga in Burkina Faso. Hare and her students have written, produced and delivered books, games, technology and materials for the blind to this school for more than 200 children with disabilities. During the next three years, students in the Collaboratory Education group will work with local staff and youth to lead a one-month summer school program for children in Mahadaga, strengthening their literacy and arithmetic skills. Hare says that she has had a lot of new things to learn in this international partnership. The most important thing she has learned is that God honors small steps of faith and is faithful to go before us.

Angela Hare’s Charity of Choice:

Collaboratory summer
2010 Burkina Faso site
team

“She saw a way to use her passion for math education and involve students at Messiah College in this service work, and decided to start a math literacy project for the Center for the Advancement of the Handicapped in Burkina Faso.”

UNITED WAY PARTNERSHIP

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 been a Messiah campaign. It has grown from 34 employees to 658 within that time. This year, Messiah employees generously donated \$38,230 to the United Way; a 21.25 percent increase in giving from last year

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

—Moises M. '13



The Salvation Army Youth Center is one of the agencies supported by the United Way, which is also served by Messiah students through Outreach Teams.



Outreach team members serve at Paxton Ministries, which receives funding through the United Way.

“Last year, in the midst of the most severe economic downturn in 25 years, Messiah College responded with their most successful United Way fundraising effort ever... We’re grateful to our friends at Messiah and feel honored that they see our United Way as a way they express their caring and support for those in our community who have fallen on hard times.”

—Joseph Capita, president and CEO of the United Way of the Capital Region

LOOKING FORWARD

It is our hope that within the pages of this report you were able to get a taste for some of depth and breadth of service and missions work at Messiah. However, it is impossible to capture all that is happening in these areas at the Agapé Center—much less at the College. Working behind the scenes are extraordinary students leaders and professional staff members, many of which were new this year.

While this was the first year for Keith Jones-Pomeroy as the Agapé Center administrative assistant, he is no stranger to many of the local and international programs that have been faithfully running at the Center for years. As a student at Messiah, Jones-Pomeroy was involved in outreach through Mobile Mission and Alison Hill tutoring and lived in the S.A.L.T. House. Additionally, he also participated in a service and missions trip to Honduras and took the Agapé Center Foundations of Service, Mission and Social Change course that prepared him for work as the assistant director to a spring semester in Thailand, where he engaged college students from all over the United States in short-term service during the summer.

We also invited Amanda Arbour to join our leadership team this year as the interim coordinator for local community service. Having previously served as the director of outreach teams, Arbour was intimately familiar with the local initiatives of the Agapé Center and her community partners. Quickly adapting to her new role, Arbour provided excellent support and leadership to outreach teams, Plunge Days and Service for Chapel Credit, among other things. However, Arbour's position was only temporary. In April, she accepted a position as the assistant legislative liaison in the department of aging in the governor's office.

Fortunately, Becky Conte, our first graduate intern from Shippensburg was very capable and willing to provide additional support in bringing our local programs to completion without a hitch. Throughout the spring semester, Conte worked beside our staff to collect qualitative information for her master's thesis to better understand the phenomena of student re-entry from international short-term service and mission experiences.

A gifted educator, Matt Hunter, director of national and international service and mission has trained, educated and engaged hundreds of students over the past three years at Agapé Center in partnership with the Coalition for Christian Outreach. As a Ph.D. candidate at Temple University, Hunter contributed a sophisticated perspective on American civil religion to our team. Additionally, as an alumni of the Biblical and Religious Studies Program at Messiah, Hunter brought many pastoral gifts to his role as he mentored students through the complexity of unpacking cross cultural experiences. Unfortunately, Hunter will also be transitioning out of his work at Messiah next year.

In the midst of any major staffing changes there can be several obvious challenges, but I've also learned that there are many subtle opportunities, which, if carefully leveraged, can strengthen existing programs and create ways to restructure responsibilities for more efficient and effective program management and community engagement. Throughout 2010–2011, I covet your prayers as we work to realize these opportunities at the Agapé Center.

Chad Frey

2009–2010 AGAPÉ CENTER STAFF

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Agapé Center Student Work-Study Staff:

Christina Miles
Alison Smith (fall)
Melissa Hardy (spring)
Christina Fuji (spring)

Local Community Service Work-Study Staff:

Kate Abel
Sarah Gehman (spring)
Amy Newton

National and International Service and Mission Work-Study Staff:

Chris Irvin (fall)
Ashley Kriel (fall)
Peter Grames (spring)

Agapé Center Student Staff

HUMAN RIGHTS AWARENESS:

Ext. 5098
Director: Steven Spicer
Assistant Director: Victoria Falkner
Health and Survival Coordinator: Emily Brantner
International Justice Mission: Jessica Harpel
Abolition and Deliverance Coordinator: Ashley Neff

OUTREACH TEAMS:

Ext. 5097
Director: Vanessa Brubaker
Companionship Ministries: Amber Rhine
Creative Arts Ministries: Hope Hess
Health and Special Needs: Cjloe Vinoya
Hunger and Homelessness: Katie Dell (fall) and Phil Wilmont (spring)
Latino and Migrant Partnerships: Katie Argueta (fall) & Charity Roberts (spring)
Sustainable Agriculture: Emily Scheffler
Tutoring and Literacy: Shannon Keenan (fall) and Jackie Glessner (spring)
Youth Mentoring: Karissa Martin (fall) and Kristy King (spring)
Youth Ministries: Leigh McCauley

WORLD CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP:

Ext. 5098
Director: Elizabeth Miller
Publicist: Henok Begashaw
Fundraising Coordinator: Lana Monroe
Missions Awareness Week: Jane DeBoer, Zachary Richardson, and Nicole Amper
Worship Coordinator: David Laysar
Salt & Light Chapel Coordinator: Andy Yong
Chapel Coordinator: Sarah Plumadore

Service Trips

Ext. 7082
Director: Amy Leonard
Agency Coordinator: Whitney Moore
Leadership Coordinator: Miriam Fiorentino
Participant Coordinator: Scott Edwards



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