

10-YEAR
ANNIVERSARY

THE AGAPÉ CENTER CELEBRATES 10 YEARS


AGAPÉ
CENTER
For Service And Learning
ANNUAL REPORT 2009





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CELEBRATING A LEGACY OF SERVICE

Community service and engagement have long been a tradition at Messiah College, and have become a distinctive part of students' education. As a result of this legacy, the Agapé Center for Service and Learning has not only become nationally recognized for service-learning, but continues to engage 99% of the student body in some form of local, national, or international service and mission. As the director of the Agapé Center, it is my hope that in the following pages of this report that you will be inspired by the images and stories of students, faculty, staff, and community partners as they have engaged in service with one another. In turn, I hope that you will join with me in facilitating students' preparation for lives of service, leadership, and reconciliation in church and society.

Sincerely,

Chad Frey
 Director of the Agapé Center for Service and Learning



MISSION STATEMENT

The Agapé Center for Service and Learning 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 by 1991 Messiah's first director of service-learning was appointed. The following summer, a team of Messiah faculty and administrators developed a comprehensive plan for strengthening service-learning across the curriculum.

Since then, further changes have been implemented to facilitate the growth of service-learning at Messiah. Among these changes were the dedication of the newly-renovated Agapé Center for Service and Learning on November 2, 1998, and the appointment of a full-time director. In addition, since the year 2000, Messiah College has 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 further integrated into academic programming.

Building upon this work, the Learning-Guided Community Service Task Force was appointed in 2007 to further institutionalize non-credit bearing service activities across campus. In addition, the Service-Learning Committee was appointed in the same year, and in turn, an institutional definition of service-learning was vetted. In recent years, the Agapé Center for Service and Learning has been recognized on the President's Honor Roll, and has been designated as a Community Engaged Institution by the Carnegie Foundation.

Messiah students, staff, faculty, and community partners continue to look forward to working together on initiatives, such as the development of a strategic plan to identify service-learning coursework in every major, as well as the establishment of relationships such as the Food for the Hungry C2C partnership with Rodeo, Bolivia.

Service-Learning has been gaining momentum at Messiah College for almost two decades. As time has passed, the earlier informal expressions of service have given way to a more institutionalized approach to service-learning.

2008-09 Highlights

- Coordinated Messiah College's service-learning program for more than 500 students and 17 full-time faculty.
- Involved 957 students through weekly Outreach Teams in local community service to Harrisburg, Carlisle, Mechanicsburg, Dillsburg, and Grantam communities.
- Awarded nearly \$60,000 in grant money to students traveling abroad during the summer months to serve beside international community partners.
- Recognized by U.S. Secretary of Education on the National Community Service Honor Role sponsored by The Corporation for National and Community Service.
- Provided campus-wide resources, as well best practices and risk management training for those engaging in service and learning experiences.
- Organized three Service Plunge Days that involved 1,867 Messiah College students.
- Educated the Messiah Community on local, national, and international service, mission, and justice issues by facilitating three Awareness Weeks.
- Offered the course, Foundations of Service, Mission, and Social Change (SERV 231/232), to orient students to the critical issues related to Christian community engagement through service.



AGAPÉ CENTER CALENDAR OF EVENTS



AUGUST

- Fall Student Leader 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
- Faith in Action Chapel
- Family Weekend



OCTOBER

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

NOVEMBER

- Mission Awareness Week
- Hunger/Homelessness Awareness

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
- January Term Local Service and Service-Learning



FEBRUARY

- January Term Service Trips
- Agapé Center Student and Staff Spring Retreat
- Jubilee Conference
- Cookies, Cocoa, and Community Service
- 30-Hour Famine

MARCH

- Spring Break Service and Mission Trips
- Service and Mission Trips CD/DVD Sale

APRIL

- Service and Mission Trips CD/DVD Sale
- Orientation Retreat for Summer Service and Mission Teams
- Service Day
- Ducky Derby

MAY

- Community Partner Appreciation

JUNE-AUGUST

- International Service and Mission Teams Trips
- Individual Grant Recipient Summer Service and Mission

“Service that we can do in the **name, love, and image** of Christ is **all around** us; we do not have to look long and hard to find it.”

—Brittany B. '09



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 grants recipients participate in the mission training program. While 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. This year, the retreat focused on God's passion for drawing diverse people together into one, helping individuals to reconcile with one another and with God. Other training topics from this year also included:

- Fundraising
- Introduction to Wholistic Community Development
- Sharing the Gospel in Word
- Spiritual Preparation for International Service and Mission

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

- Messiah alum Chris Putnam '09 began an internship with Food for the Hungry (FH) in Bolivia to assess service opportunities with Rodeo.
- Biology professor Erik Lindquist and his family planned a trip to Bolivia to help FH start a study-abroad program called Go-Ed Andes.
- The Senior Gift Committee selected a water project in Rodeo for the senior gift and the Class of 2009 gave over \$4000—The largest senior gift ever!
- Food for the Hungry president, Ben Homan, along with six other representatives, visited campus this year to talk about partnership opportunities.
- Professor Erik Lindquist and Agapé Center for Service and Learning director, Chad Frey, presented at the Food for the Hungry Conference in Arizona.



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	90
January Term Break	35
Spring Break	98+

International Service and Mission	Total Participants
Spring Break	20
Summer Break	26

Human Rights Awareness Activities

- Alternate Chapels
- Bake Sales
- Congo Awareness Event
- 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
- Concert Fundraiser for JesusPolitik
- Mission Awareness Week
- Salt and Light Elective

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 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) House 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.

“Service is not about doing a thing, it is about **investing the time** in a person to **make a difference.**”

—Steven B. '08

LOCAL COMMUNITY SERVICE AT A GLANCE

SERVICE PLUNGE DAYS

Into the Streets:

First-Year Student Participants	528
Community Partners	37

Dr. King Community Engagement Day:

Student Participants	48
Messiah Employee Participants	9
Community Partners	5

Service Day:

Student Participants	1291
Messiah Employee Participants	142
Community Volunteers	1004
Special Olympians	994
Off-Campus Community Partner Sites	85

OUTREACH TEAMS

Outreach Service in the Community:

Companionship Ministries	125 students
Creative Arts Ministries	167 students
Health and Special Needs	80 students
Hunger and Homelessness	97 students
Latino and Migrant Partnerships	63 students
Sustainable Agriculture	86 students
Tutoring and Literacy	120 students
Youth Mentoring	85 students
Youth Ministries	134 students

Total: 957

Highlights of Outreach On-Campus Events

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

SERVICE FOR CHAPEL CREDIT:

Student Participants	44
Community Partners	16

S.A.L.T. HOUSE

House Members:	10
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2008-2009 House Activities:

- Weekly engagement in community service activities
- Participation in weekly community meals
- Weekly hosting of DocumentarTea, watching of documentary films, followed by group discussions

SERVICE-LEARNING

Service-learning is a type of curriculum that intentionally integrates academic learning with community service in a credit bearing academic course. Students participate in an authentic service activity, which meets needs identified by the community (designed within the framework of a mutually beneficial relationship), and then they critically reflect on that activity. Thus, students gain a deeper understanding of course content, a commitment to socially responsible citizenship, and develop 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.



Service-Learning at a Glance

- 35 Classes involving service learning
- 17 Service-learning professors
- 515 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
- 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 Barnabas, who as a servant leader 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, takes his name as it recognizes those who have shown extraordinary dedication to service, that 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 Jessanna Hall, and the faculty award was presented to Dr. James Krimmel. 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 JESSANNA HALL

For the past four years at Messiah College, Jessanna Hall has been actively living out her strong faith and her heart of compassion through service and ministry. Some of Jessanna's service activities include:

- Serving as Prison Ministries Coordinator, Coordinator for Angel Tree, and Youth Mentoring Coordinator at the Agapé Center.

- Volunteering at Messiah Village, where she meets weekly with the residents of the retirement community.
- Sharing in a weekly Bible study with women at the Promise Place Halfway House.
- Volunteering weekly at the Bethesda After-School Program where she works with and tutors the children.
- Spending six weeks in India where she managed a two-week children's conference and taught English and art to groups of children.
- Participating in summer mission trips to Mexico in 2004 and 2005.
- Interning at the Bair Foundation, a foster care agency where she assisted foster care families with home visits.
- Assisting with various fundraising and awareness events for International Justice Mission, managing fundraising projects that researched local funding opportunities.
- Working on a Community Research Project for New Hope Ministries with a team of social work students to research a new service area for the agency.
- Serving as a member of Phi Alpha National Honor Society and the Social Work Club.
- Working as a Sunday School assistant in her home church.

“Jessie is a student with a genuine passion and heart for others, and has found her niche in service. She lives out the call of Christ to love and serve and she is an exemplary model of putting Christian faith into action.”

—Audrey M. '09

Jessanna Hall's Charity of Choice

Jessanna Hall chose to support Melanie Rissler, a missionary with WEC International. WEC International works in more than 70 countries to bring the gospel of Jesus Christ to the remaining unevangelized peoples with utmost urgency; to demonstrate the compassion of Christ to a needy world; to plant churches and lead them to spiritual maturity; and to inspire, mobilize and train for cross-cultural mission.



FACULTY AWARD WINNER JAMES KRIMMEL

James Krimmel is an associate professor of accounting at Messiah College. In recent years, professor Krimmel has used his love of teaching and his experience as a practicing certified public accountant and certified fraud examiner

in order to provide fraud training and analysis for World Vision and Hope International. Some of professor Krimmel's recent service activities include:

- Working with an alumnus and accounting majors to develop a week-long workshop on fraud prevention and detection.
- Spending two weeks in the summer of 2005 with a team in Ghana, providing a workshop for 30 World Vision finance officers from 18 African nations. The team also worked with the Ghana National Office of World Vision to develop internal controls.
- Assembling a team and delivering a workshop in the Ukraine for Hope International staff in 2006.
- Traveling to the Ukraine and the Philippines to conduct accounting fraud detection workshops for local staff members of Hope International in 2008.

James Krimmel's Charity of Choice

Professor Krimmel has selected HOPE International to be his charity of choice. HOPE International is a network of microfinance institutions operating in 14 countries around the world, with a purpose of empowering men, women, and families to break the cycle of physical and spiritual poverty through the provision of loans, savings services, basic business training, mentoring, and discipleship.

“Together, the quality of Jim's work, his character, and his spiritual willingness to grow form a personal and powerful model for Christian service within our MEB School and the College.”

—Angela Hare, associate professor of mathematics at Messiah College

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. This year, Messiah employees generously donated \$31,000 to the United Way; an 8.28% increase in giving from last year.

With the natural partnership between the Agapé Center and the United Way, new programs and activities are planned for the future. For instance, the Agapé Center is looking forward to hosting a joint United Way/Agapé Center benefit in September 2009. This will involve a “movie on the green” in front of Eisenhower Campus Center during Family Weekend.

“I thought that I would be going there to minister to them, but it has been eye opening to see that God has really been using them and their stories to minister to me.”

—Abigail G. '11, Messiah College student who volunteers with Paxton Ministries



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.

“I have fostered so many wonderful relationships at the center and have been able to show God’s love to children who just want to know that someone cares about them. . . . (I) am thankful that the program is able to reach out to so many children who would otherwise have no place to go.”

—Emily S. '11, Messiah College student who volunteers with the Salvation Army Youth Center.



Outreach Team members also serve at Paxton Ministries, which receives funding through United Way.

LOOKING FORWARD

Perhaps it goes without saying, but it is just simply impossible to capture the scope of service that happened last year within these few short pages of our annual report. Our students, faculty, and staff have spent literally thousands of hours laboring beside community partners around the world sharing countless reflections with each other about how to make the world a better place.

Suffice it to say, that coordinating such an effort requires a dedicated and exemplary leadership team of both professional staff and student leaders. As in years past, we will experience a significant turnover of our student leadership. In addition, we will also be saying goodbye to Becky Owen as she leaves our staff to raise Micah, her beautiful baby boy who was born on Easter Sunday. Additionally, we will feel the loss of Brandon Hoover's contributions to the Serving and Living Together (S.A.L.T.) Program as he prepares for future graduate studies.

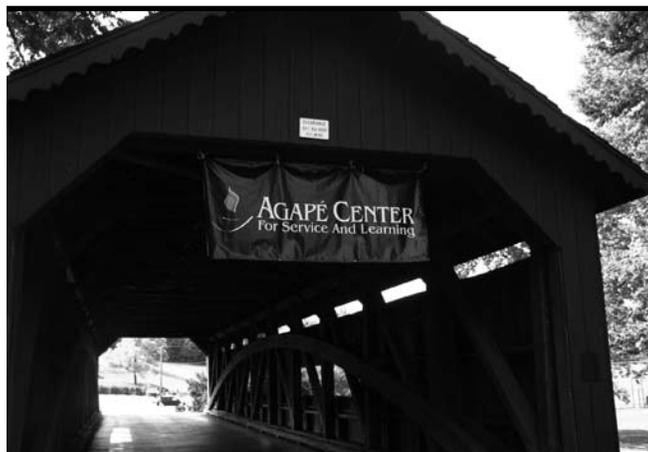
In light of these transitions, I'm excited about who God will bring to the Agapé Center leadership team next year. The energy and passion that accompanies this new vision and expertise will be critical to advancing a coherent and cohesive service and mission program at Messiah College. Toward this end, we will be working with colleagues on campus to strategically identify service-learning courses in every major. In Harrisburg, we will more than double the number of students that are involved in the S.A.L.T. Program by expanding to facilities at the Harrisburg Institute. Abroad, we will continue to strengthen our emerging partnership with the Community to Community (C2C) program with Food for the Hungry. I anticipate that this partnership will continue to rapidly expand across campus as the Internship Center, Epi-Center, Collaboratory, and Student Government engage in this partnership as well.

As we embark on a new year, we covet your prayers and invite you to join us in our work with students. Please visit our Web site at www.messiah.edu/external_programs/agape to see how you might get involved.

Thanks to each of you!



Chad Frey



2008-2009 AGAPÉ CENTER STAFF

AGAPÉ CENTER STAFF



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Kate Adams
Quinn Dillon
Alison Smith
Heather Smith
Amber Winter

Local Community Service Work Study Staff:

Kate Abel
Vikki Kieffer
Alex Kreutter

National and International Service and Mission Work Study Staff:

Chris Irvin
Ahley Kriel

Agapé Center Student Staff

HUMAN RIGHTS AWARENESS:

Ext. 5098

Director: Heather Cotignola

Assistant Director: Elizabeth Vasant

Student Relations Coordinator:

Nadia Shafer

International Justice Mission:

Marisa Porter

Governance Issues Coordinator:

Kelsey Tokar

World Diseases Coordinator:

Christine Ochieng

Compassion International/
Children's Issues Coordinator:

Ashley Neff

OUTREACH TEAMS:

Ext. 5097

Director: Amanda Arbour

Companionship Ministries:

Jacquelyn Glessner

Creative Arts Ministries: Bethany Kline

Health and Special Needs:

Stephanie Thiesen

Hunger and Homelessness: Derek Leonard

Latino and Migrant Partnerships:

Arelis Perez

Sustainable Agriculture: Elizabeth Stabler

Tutoring and Literacy: Vanessa Brubaker/

Shannon Keenan

Youth Ministries: Emily Jane Seitz

Youth Ministries: Christy Hutcheson

WORLD CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP:

Ext. 5098

Director: Elizabeth Miller

Publicist: Lana Monroe

Fundraising Coordinator: Josh Mackin

Missions Awareness Week: Ashley Kriel

Missions Awareness Week:

Sarah Bowman

Worship Coordinator: David Layser

Chapel Coordinator: Sarah Plumadore

Service Trips

Ext. 7082

Director: Vikki Kieffer

Agency Coordinator: Amy Leonard

Participant Coordinator: Scott Edwards

Leadership Coordinator: Natasha Ferro



 **AGAPÉ
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