

10-YEAR
ANNIVERSARY



ANNUAL REPORT 2009

LOCAL COMMUNITY SERVICE





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A MESSAGE FROM LOCAL COMMUNITY SERVICE DIRECTOR

Service is a hallmark of Messiah College. Students serve through classes, with clubs, in groups of friends, and as individuals. Although students typically know the community surrounding Messiah College as their own for only a brief time, they have a lot to give and much to learn from the those they serve. By volunteering in local organizations and neighborhoods, Messiah College students get some on-the-ground training for how to invest in the places they will become rooted in after graduation. Some fall in love with the people and opportunities of the Harrisburg area so much while serving that they choose to stay!



Students engage in local community service through Outreach Teams, Service Plunge Days, Service for Chapel Credit, as well as through the S.A.L.T. House.

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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CONNECTING STUDENTS WITH THE COMMUNITY

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.

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.



Creative Arts Ministries teams, such as Klowns for the Kingdom, put their performance skills to use as they serve others.



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

“Don’t let a day pass without stopping to ask the Lord what He has planned for you in that day. When we position ourselves to be used as sacred and able vessels for His **kingdom**, there is no doubt that God will present us with **opportunities** to **serve** and love others. Everything we have is a **gift** from God, and when we truly view life in that way, there is nothing else to do but to try to give back to the Lord by **lavishing love** on His beloved children.”

—Jessanna H. '09

OUTREACH TEAMS: A MESSAGE FROM OUTREACH TEAMS DIRECTOR

Jesus clearly calls us to serve “the least of these”—the oppressed and marginalized of society. Yet all too often Christian service is done haphazardly, with people lacking understanding and sensitivity towards those they are serving. Outreach Teams strive to model healthy and sustainable Christian service by cultivating mutually beneficial partnerships with local community organizations and preparing students to serve well. Service should be a transformative experience, so we work to provide opportunities for further education and reflection to help students learn and grow through their service. The work that we do is imperfect and incomplete, but still has much value for those who are serving and those who are being served. To echo the late Archbishop Oscar Romero: “This is what we are about: We plant seeds that one day will grow. We water seeds already planted, knowing that they hold future promise.”

—Amanda A. '09



“Service is . . . about supplying for someone else the **needs** they have. Those needs may be building, painting, or cleaning or they may be **giving** of your time and **listening, sharing,** and **conversing.**”

—Messiah College student, feedback from service evaluation



Messiah Outreach Teams visit residents of Bethany Village.

OUTREACH TEAMS AT A GLANCE

Outreach Service in the Community:

	Fall	+	Spring	=	
Companionship Ministries	61	+	64	=	125 students
Creative Arts Ministries	99	+	68	=	167 students
Health and Special Needs	42	+	38	=	80 students
Hunger and Homelessness	33	+	64	=	97 students
Latino and Migrant Partnerships	29	+	34	=	63 students
Sustainable Agriculture	46	+	40	=	86 students
Tutoring and Literacy	77	+	43	=	120 students
Youth Mentoring	43	+	42	=	85 students
Youth Ministries	71	+	63	=	134 students
Total students				=	957 students

Outreach Service through On-Campus Events:

Urban Promise Retreat	50 Urban Promise children and staff 10 Messiah students
Hunger and Homelessness Week	14 community participants 286 Messiah students
Fall Migrant Education Retreat	37 child participants 19 Messiah student hosts
Project Angel Tree	77 gift recipients 73 Messiah student sponsors
Sustainability Week	5 community participants 90 Messiah students
Careers in Aging Week	3 community participants 21 Messiah students
Hip Hop Outreach Show	200 community partners' children and staff 100 Messiah student performers/volunteers
Spring Migrant Education Retreat	32 child participants 15 Messiah student hosts

OUTREACH TEAMS: PURPOSE AND ACTIVITIES

The purpose of Outreach Teams is to encourage the expression of faith through action by partnering with local community organizations; assisting them in fulfilling their needs and facilitating student learning and growth. In addition, Outreach Teams seek to:

- Help meet needs in the local community by organizing teams of volunteers.
- Enhance the learning experience of service by offering educational opportunities.
- Shape student growth through a process of orientation, reflection, and evaluation.
- Nurture volunteers in embracing a life-long commitment to service.
- Break down barriers by creating transformative relationships between volunteers and the community.
- Develop the leadership capacity of students within Outreach Teams.

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, including:

- Hunger and Homelessness Week included a showing of *The Pursuit of Happyness*, a presentation by people who have experienced homelessness, and information about homelessness in Harrisburg. Students also participated in a student-led discussion and a Hunger Banquet.
- A chapel was held to educate students about issues surrounding the incarcerated and their families.

- A three-part Educational Inequalities Film Series featuring "Freedom Writers" challenged students to recognize the inequalities that exist in the educational system and discuss how they can be remedied.
- In preparation for the Special Olympics on Service Day, a series of films about persons with special needs were shown followed by discussions.
- Sustainability Week, put on in collaboration with other environmentally-concerned groups on-campus, focused on the acronym S.O.F.A. (Sustainable Opportunities For Action). Students learned about sustainability issues from guest speakers and local experts, and through the Sustainability Forum and Sustain-a-Fest.

Additional events were designed to bring volunteers and community members together to foster transformative relationships, such as:

- Kids tutored and mentored by Messiah students were brought to campus for pool parties, meals in the cafeteria, games out on the lawn, and scavenger hunts around campus throughout the year. A Hip Hop Outreach Show was also held at the end of the year.
- Residents from Messiah Village came to campus to enjoy Thanksgiving dinner with volunteers. Messiah College men continued the tradition of hosting Messiah Village women for a special Valentine's Day dinner—and were promptly invited by the ladies for lunch over at "their place!"
- "Best Buddies" from Paxton Home enjoyed special events each month to connect with their Messiah College "buddies"—from sharing Christmas dinner together to watching "Finding Nemo" to touring the Oakes Museum.



These nine student outreach coordinators worked hard all year to connect teams of volunteers with different community partners in Harrisburg and the surrounding area.



Outreach Teams seek to meet community needs by organizing teams of volunteers.

OUTREACH TEAMS: COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Companionship Ministries:

- Bethany Village (13+ years)
- Messiah Village (31 years)
- Maplewood (2 years)
- Promise Place (11 years)

Creative Arts Ministries:

- Da Blazin' Footprintz (4 years)
- God's Kingdom Steppers (3 years)
- Spirit Force (18+ years)
- Klowns for the Kingdom (18+ years)
- Puppets Praise (18+ years)

Health and Special Needs:

- Best Buddies (7 years)
- Capital Area Therapeutic Riding Association (14 years)
- Morningstar Pregnancy Center (4 years)
- Paxton Ministries (28 years)

Hunger and Homelessness:

- Bethesda Mission (95 years)
 - *Mobile Mission*
 - *Men's Shelter*
 - *Women and Children's Shelter*
- Habitat for Humanity (14 years)
- Silence of Mary Home (5 years)
- Tabitha's (4 years)

Latino and Migrant Partnerships:

- Center for Education, Employment, and Entrepreneurial Development (2.5 years)
- Danzante (7 years)
- Lincoln Intermediate Unit Migrant Education Program—Chambersburg (9 years)

Sustainable Agriculture:

- Catholic Worker House (9 years)
- Grantham Community Garden (3 years)
- Joshua Farm (3 years)

Tutoring and Literacy:

- Allison Hill Community Ministries (17 years)
- Center for Champions (5 years)
- St. Barnabas Center for Ministry (4 years)

Youth Mentoring:

- Bethesda Mission (95 years)
 - *Bethesda Youth Center*
- Big Brothers Big Sisters (13+ years)
- Boys and Girls Club (10 years)
- Salvation Army (2.5 years)

Youth Ministries:

- Abba's Place (17 years)
- New Hope Ministries (13 years)
 - *Dillsburg*
 - *Dover*
 - *Mechanicsburg*
- Schaffner Youth Detention Center (11 years)
- Young Life Cumberland County (12+ years)

Community Partners Total: 34



Messiah student Ashley N. '10 serves at Messiah Village through Companionship Ministries.



Messiah students volunteer with Joshua Farm through Sustainable Agriculture.

“Volunteering at Paxton is such a great, **rewarding experience**. The relationships that are formed at the home, as well as the **good conversations** during the commute, are all very **worthwhile**.”

—Messiah student volunteering at Paxton Ministries this year

SERVICE PLUNGE DAYS: INTO THE STREETS

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 the first textbook is opened or the first lecture heard, students have the opportunity to build relationships with their peers while learning about the surrounding community and serving those in need.

Into the Streets is a nationally recognized program. This year, the Agapé Center celebrated its 10th anniversary sponsoring this first-year student event. While students spend time building relationships with their peers, the purpose of this day is to inspire students to continue investing their time and talents into their community. As students serve others in need, they also learn a great deal from those in the community. The hope for this day is that this experience is reciprocal; students are served as they are serving and it sparks a desire to make service a priority during their college career and beyond.

“The ‘Into the Streets’ program is one of the most **innovative** and **positive** programs in which I have ever been involved!”

—Deb F, Community Partner



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: 528

Community Partner Participants: 37

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Bethesda Mission
Borough of Carlisle Parks and Recreation*
Brethren Community Ministries
Camp Sertoma
Canine Rescue of Central PA
Capital Area Pregnancy Center
Carroll Citizens for Sensible Growth
Center for Champions
CPARC*
Cross, Inc.
Cumberland Crossings
Cumberland Valley Relief Center
CURE International*
Danzante
Dillsburg Area Public Library
Faith Chapel
Falling Spring Nursing and Rehabilitation
Harrisburg Brethren In Christ
Helen O. Krause Animal Foundation
Joshua Farm*
Leukemia and Lymphoma Society
Lower Paxton Department of Parks and Recreation*
Mechanicsburg Area Parks and Recreation*
Morning Star Pregnancy Services
Neighborhood Center of the United Methodist Church
Northern York County Historical and Preservation Society
Paxton Ministries
Pride of the Neighborhood Academies
Project S.H.A.R.E.
Promise Place
Schaffner Youth Center
Silence of Mary Home
The Shared Ministry
UCP: Hope Springs Farm*
Volunteers of America (Mechanicsburg)
Volunteers of America (Paxton)
West Shore Evangelical Free Church
YWCA Carlisle

*These groups were registered but did not receive teams on the day of Into the Streets.

SERVICE PLUNGE DAYS: DR. KING COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT DAY

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.

This year, MLK Day activities began with a cultural tour of Harrisburg. Following the tour, students had lunch at SciTech High School in Harrisburg, which was provided by Camp Curtin Bar-B-Que Station. This was followed by a message from speaker, Mr. Frederick Jones, an eighth grade teacher at Camp Curtin Elementary School, and a presentation of an excerpt from one of Dr. King's speeches by a student from the school. The day then involved participation in a number of service projects, such as working at a food pantry, helping to reorganize and renovate a building, and becoming involved in worship activities. The day concluded with a debriefing dinner where students engaged in a time of reflection and discussion.



Students participated in a number of service projects with local community partners.

MLK DAY ACTIVITIES

- Students and faculty participated in a worship service at Abba's Place with testimonies from community members related to their experiences and visions for the community.
- Messiah representatives helped to reorganize the food pantry and assisted with painting and cleaning for the Allison Hill Community Ministry.
- At the Bethesda Mission Youth Center, participants helped with organizing and cleaning needs.
- Participants helped to clean at the Center for Champions.
- Students and faculty members assisted in renovating a building that will soon become a group home for Paxton Ministries.



Dr. King Community Engagement Day included a cultural tour of Harrisburg.

MLK DAY AT A GLANCE

Students	48
Employees	9
Community partners	5

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

- Abba's Place is a children's club for elementary through high school students hosted by the New Jerusalem Christian Church.
- Allison Hill Community Ministry is housed in the Derry Street United Methodist Church and serves the Allison Hill community with an after-school program, food pantry, and summer day camp.
- Bethesda Mission Youth Center is an after-school program in Harrisburg.
- Center for Champions is an after-school program in Harrisburg.
- Paxton Ministries is a Christian, non-profit community home serving adults who may be challenged with social, mental, or emotional needs.

SERVICE PLUNGE DAYS: SERVICE DAY

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 3,000 individuals participated in Service Day on campus and throughout the region. In all, nearly 1,000 Special Olympians came to Messiah to enjoy a day of athletic games, joined by more than 700 Messiah students and employees and numerous community volunteers. At the same time, just as many students and employees went out into the community, working with partners on a variety of alternative service projects. In addition, Messiah College was honored with the Pennsylvania Special Olympics School of the Year Award for its commitment to hosting the Area M Special Olympics over the last 20 years.



Messiah College was honored with the Pennsylvania Special Olympics School of the Year Award.

Service Day at a Glance

SERVICE DAY PARTICIPANTS

Messiah Students	1291
Messiah Employees	142
Messiah Total	1433
Community Volunteers	1004
Olympians	994
Community Total	1998
Off Campus Community	
Partner Sites	85

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Abraxas Youth and Family Services
 Allison Hill Community Ministry
 American Cancer Society
 Ann E. Sterling Library
 Borough of Mechanicsburg
 Boys and Girls Club of Central PA
 Brethren Housing Association
 Caitlin Smiles
 Camp Curtin School
 Capital Area Pregnancy Centers
 Carlisle Family YMCA
 Carlisle Parks and Recreation
 Carroll Citizens for Sensible Growth
 Cathedral Parish of St. Patrick
 CATRA
 Central PA Food Bank
 Cumberland Crossings
 Cumberland Valley Habitat for Humanity
 CURE International
 Danzante
 Daybreak Church
 Deer Valley/YMCA of Pittsburgh
 Derry Presbyterian Church
 Dover Library (York County)
 Faith United Lutheran Parish
 Firm Foundation
 Freedom Valley Worship Center
 Friends And Neighbors
 Friendship Community Outreach Church
 Good News Free Methodist Church
 Grantham Community Garden
 Hans Herr House and Museum
 Harrisburg Brethren In Christ Church
 Help a Neighbor
 The Loft
 Joshua Farm
 Keystone Area Council, BSA
 Kings Gap Environmental Education Center
 La Academia
 Living Word
 Lower Paxton Township (Friendship Center)
 Mechanicsburg Area Parks and Recreation
 Department
 Messiah Village
 Migrant Education Retreat
 Morning Star Pregnancy Services
 Neighborhood Center of the United
 Methodist Church
 Northern York County Historical
 and Preservation Society
 Operation Wildcat—Mechanicsburg School District
 Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church
 Outdoors Club
 Paxton Ministries
 Pennsylvania Regional Ballet
 Pride of the Neighborhood Academies
 Project SHARE Food Bank
 Ronald McDonald House of Hershey
 Save-A-Lot
 Silence of Mary Home
 Slate Hill Mennonite
 St. Barnabas Center for Ministry
 Ten Thousand Villages
 The Arc of Dauphin and Lebanon Counties
 The Collaboratory
 The PROGRAM for Female Offenders, Inc.
 The Salvation Army Harrisburg Capital City Region
 Tri-County OIC
 Trinity Lutheran Church
 UCP Central PA
 Visiting Nurse Association of Central Pennsylvania
 Volunteers of America
 Wellness Center
 West Shore Evangelical Free Church
 Whispering Pines Home
 YWCA of Greater Harrisburg — Camp Reilly
 YWCA of Greater Harrisburg/Weed and Seed



More than 3,000 individuals participated in Service Day on campus and throughout the region.

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 on campus. In place of attending chapel services, students serve the local community through Outreach Teams, read articles relevant to community development and faith development, and write reflections from their experiences.

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.



Many of the service opportunities for Service for Chapel Credit are organized through Outreach Teams.



Kirsten R. is the Joshua Farm Project Manager, a community partner involved with Service for Chapel Credit.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Abba's Place	Joshua Farm
Allison Hill	Messiah Village
Community Ministry	Paxton Street Home
Bethesda Mission	Promise Place
CATRA	Spirit Force
CEEED/ESL	Silence of Mary
Center for Champions	St. Barnabas Center for Ministry
Danzante	
God's Kingdom Steppers	

“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

S.A.L.T. HOUSE 2008-2009 (Serving and Living Together)

The S.A.L.T. House is an intentional community living experience where each member is committed to serving one another as well as the local community. 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. The mission of the S.A.L.T. House is to cooperatively work toward a holistic vision and lifestyle which integrates service into every area of life.

S.A.L.T. HOUSE ACTIVITIES

The S.A.L.T. House practices three main programming elements. The first is service. Through the Office of Local Community Service and Outreach Teams, S.A.L.T. students commit to weekly service with a community partner. Students serve in a variety of capacities from being a 'buddy' with a resident at an elderly home to gardening in urban Harrisburg with the local CSA (Community Supported Agriculture). By serving through the S.A.L.T. program, students better connect with their neighbors and reflect more effectively in group contexts.

The second part of the program is community meals. On a weekly basis, each S.A.L.T. member is asked to show off his or her culinary skills by preparing a meal for the house to share. The main objective of eating once a week as a community is to remember the sacredness of each other and of the day. If students were asked what the best weekly S.A.L.T. House activity was, their response would most likely be community dinners.

The third piece of programming is DocumentarTea. On most Sunday nights, the house is bustling with students eager to watch and discuss whichever documentary is on the agenda. As the living room is filled with enthusiastic minds, hot water is brought out accompanied by an assortment of teas; providing hospitality to all who stop by.



This year, Brandon Hoover was the director of the S.A.L.T. House, an intense and intentional living community.

“Living at the S.A.L.T. House, I am constantly **replenished**. My personal passions are kindled by the complementary passions of the **wonderful people** with whom I live. It seems so right to senselessly giggle and gravely discuss with the same people, and there is something immensely **comforting** about sitting down to dinner with those with whom I have served earlier that day. In other words, I’ve found that the S.A.L.T. **community**, in which we both live and **serve alongside each other**, provides me with the support I find so vital to **nurturing** passion, concern, and hope.”

—S.A.L.T House member reflection



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