

Local *Community* Service



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Transformation Through Reciprocal Service

Reciprocity in service is integral to each service opportunity offered through the office of Local Community Service at Messiah College. Although many may set out with the mindset to change the world, volunteers return, changed themselves.

As Amanda, an Outreach Teams volunteer at the Catholic Worker House, reflected on how her perspective has changed through service, she commented, “One of the most important things to remember when getting involved in service is that we need to have the attitude that, while we do have something to offer to the less fortunate, we also have something to learn from them.”

As students experience new relationships, witness new ways of living and observe the brokenness of humanity and society, they wrestle with how they are to be agents of transformation, reflecting God through action. Students are given a glimpse of potential opportunities to serve and learn when they participate in the first year student “Into the Streets,” the campus-wide Service Day and Dr. King Community Engagement Day. Through these service plunge activities participants are challenged to step out of their comfort zones to see another perspective in society. Subsequently, many students continue to serve through Outreach Teams. It is through these experiences that volunteers are changed even more than their service can change those they serve.

The Center plans to refine existing programming so that students, faculty, and community partners are able to both serve and be served by one another. Some initiatives for the future include:

- Expanding training opportunities for volunteers in orientation and throughout the semester to prepare them for responsible, sensitive service.
- Providing a “clearance day” when volunteers can complete the required paperwork to begin service at area agencies.
- Nurturing efforts to increase reflection following service experiences to cultivate and resource the learning, engagement, and transformation of participants.
- Connecting community partners with professors and initiatives that could effectively collaborate on projects which are mutually beneficial.
- Increasing collaboration with related campus offices for a well-rounded approach to service.

The Agapé Center remains committed to connecting the student desire to serve with community expressed needs. We do this by partnering with organizations through mutually beneficial goals of learning and change for both students and community partners.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Agapé Center for Service and Learning develops, administers, facilitates, 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.” Students, faculty, and staff work with community-based partners in local, national, and international settings to address community needs, to provide holistic learning opportunities for students, and to encourage students toward an ethic of discipleship, service, and civic engagement.

“It is a beautiful thing when folks in poverty are no longer just a missions project but become *genuine friends* and family with whom we laugh, cry, dream, and struggle.”

—Shane Claiborne, author of *The Irresistible Revolution*



Harmony Robinson '08, an Outreach Teams Coordinator, plays with kids at Abba's Place, a Bible club for kids, in Harrisburg.



Danielle Books '07 (left) and Shannon Pollock '07, a S.A.L.T. House resident, transplant seedlings at the Joshua Farm, an urban garden serving at-risk youth.

Serving a Community . . . Being a Community

While many students at Messiah College faithfully visit surrounding communities to serve, the S.A.L.T. (Serving And Living Together) House is a place where such volunteers can commit to serving each other in community as well. This year 10 women lived in the house and participated in weekly service at churches, after-school programs, and an urban garden. By engaging in discussions and activities, they sought what it means to pursue justice, to serve a community in sustainable ways, and to embody Christ's message to people using actions. They learned and grew as a community in the community.

Although a S.A.L.T. House member's commitment is only for one year, a number from the '05-'06 house decided to continue living out this vision after graduation. Continuing relationships with community partners forged during their college years, several members are living in Harrisburg and serving at the Bethesda Youth Center, Migrant Education, and Paxton Ministries, among others. Messiah alumni can be found as youth mentor coaches, house-keeping staff, and program coordinators.

Fulfilling Chapel Credit Through Service

Whether singing, planting, or coloring . . . students worship

When visiting a resident at Seidle Hospital, one senior participant commented, "I can always count on Gladys to be sitting in the hallway by the nurses' station, ready to visit and color." Coloring became part of Sara's expression of worship. She spent time visiting someone who got few visitors and she reflected Christ's love by taking the time to listen to how her day went. All this Sara did as a service offering in worship to God—and it all started with some crayons and paper, coloring pictures with Gladys. As Christ calls us to communicate the gospel through action, students respond in service.

In the Service for Chapel Credit orientation session, students are asked to think intentionally about how they honor God and what "counts" as worship. Instead of attending chapel gatherings on campus each week, participants fulfill their chapel requirement through the action of service and reflection. They begin to imagine and then experience tutoring a struggling student, visiting a lonely friend, planting seeds in a community garden, or even completing office tasks for a non-profit agency as worship to God.

fall	32 students
spring	31 students
TOTAL	63 students

OUTREACH TEAMS

A note from the student director Jenna Ness '07

Civil Rights leader Cesar Chavez said: "Once social change begins, it cannot be reversed. You cannot uneducate the person who has learned to read. You cannot humiliate the person who feels pride. You cannot oppress the people who are not afraid anymore." This statement reflects the vision of many Messiah College students as they readily engage in local service in order to make a positive impact on the lives of others. Through Outreach Teams, students are provided with numerous opportunities to dedicate their time in tutoring young children, teaching English to non-native English speakers, ministering to the elderly, and fostering friendships with members of the community.

Through building relationships of mutual respect, learning, and sharing, service enables students to be change agents in the world by living out their Christian faith through action. This often means engaging in the struggles of fellow brothers and sisters and working for positive change and social justice through relationships, love, and partnership within and across communities, cultures, and classes. Through this community engagement, many students not only gain a deeper understanding of the inequalities and injustices that cloud this world but they make connections with their faith and their calling to transform these inequities to be a part of bringing "heaven on earth."

OUTREACH TEAMS OFFER ONE-TIME, WEEKLY, AND MONTHLY SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES	
Outreach Teams	713 students
OUTREACH TEAMS MAJOR RETREATS AND EVENTS	
Migrant Education	24 MC students 31 Migrant Education students
Urban Promise	30 MC students 67 Participants
Hip Hop Outreach Concert Angel Tree	403 total attendance 30 Messiah College students and staff donated gifts to 38 children
Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week	campus-wide

OUTREACH TEAMS



The 2006-2007 Outreach Teams coordinators worked hard to connect students with volunteer opportunities in the Greater Harrisburg area.

Making Connections Across Campus

Collaboration was an important element this year as the Outreach Teams student leaders organized and created programming for the campus:

- With likeminded visions to pursue sustainable agriculture and environmental consciousness education on campus, Outreach Teams partnered with Campus Climate Challenge, an offshoot of EarthKeepers, to plan and start an organic garden on campus. With planting begun in spring 2007, this initiative is providing organic vegetables and a venue for education of ecological-friendly lifestyles.
- In an effort to train and equip volunteers and leaders to further understand issues of racism, structural inequali-

ties, and the gift of multiculturalism in service, Outreach Teams has collaborating with the Office of Multicultural Programs.

- In the fall of 2005, Messiah College received nearly \$700,000 in grant funding from the Department of Justice. In partnership with the Harrisburg Institute, Outreach Teams sent student volunteers to support the ArtsSmarts initiative to increase academic achievement and decrease truancy in the Harrisburg School District. Through our sub granted partners like the Institute for Cultural Partnerships, Gamut Theatre, and Quiet As Kept Productions, Messiah students served as mentors for youth.
- Professors seek service-learning opportunities through Outreach Teams as they integrate service into their class curriculum, giving students more ways to connect classroom concepts to real-life situations.
- To help defray the cost of clearances required by some volunteer opportunities, Outreach partnered with the Student Activities Board to sell concessions at their weekly film showings.

Over 1,000 students attend the annual Ice Cream Social to choose service placements in the fall. Thanks to Turkey Hill for donating the ice cream for this event!

Building Leaders and Critical Thinkers

From volunteer to team leader to Outreach Teams coordinator, students are provided with opportunities to reflect upon their service experiences in order to inspire personal development and depth in analysis around service. This year, the first Volunteer Development Day was held in the fall to increase awareness of Outreach Teams, build relationships among student coordinators and student volunteers, and equip students with skills related to service. Throughout the year, coordinators and team leaders followed up with their volunteers by engaging in reflection on their experiences. Weekly Outreach Teams meetings also provided space where coordinators were challenged by questions of power, privilege, and oppression. These conversations encouraged deeper analyses of structural injustices that create the need for service in the first place.

The skills developed through working as an Outreach Teams coordinator prepare students for various opportunities after college. Some of the graduates from the 2005–06 staff, went on to serve in U.S. cities as AmeriCorps VISTAs (Volunteers in Service to America), continuing their pursuit for sustainable community development.

OUTREACH COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Abba's Place (15 years) **
Allison Hill Community Ministry (15 years) ****

Best Buddies (5 years) ⚙, ✦
Bethany Village (11+ years) **

Bethesda Mission (93 years)
• Men's Soup Kitchen *
• Mobile Mission ✦
• Women & Children's Shelter *
• Youth Center **

Big Brothers Big Sisters (11+ years)
• Boys and Girls Club (8 years) **
• Salvation Army (.5 year) **
• Breakfast & Lunch Buddies (11+ years) ⚙

Catholic Worker House (7 years) **
Capital Area Therapeutic Riding Association (12 years) *

Center for Champions (3 years) ****
Central PA Food Bank (9 years) ✦
Center for Employment, Education, and Entrepreneurial Development (.5 year) **

Fellowship House (7 years) ▲
Gamut Theatre (1 year) ⚙
Habitat for Humanity—Harrisburg (12 years) ✦

Institute for Cultural Partnerships (2 years) ⚙
Joshua Farm (1 year) **
Lincoln Intermediate Unit Migrant Education—Chambersburg (7 years) ▲
Messiah Village (29 years) ⚙
Morning Star Pregnancy Services (2 years) **

New Hope Ministries (11 years) **
• Mechanicsburg
• Dillsburg (.5 year)

Orchard Apartments Tutoring (1.5 years) **
Paxton Ministry (26 years) * ✦
Promise Place (9 years) *
Quiet As Kept Productions (.5 year) ⚙
Saint Barnabas Center for Ministry (2 years) ****

Schaffner Youth Detention Center (9 years) *
Seidle Hospital (12 years) ⚙
Silence of Mary Home (3 years) ⚙
Young Life Cumberland County (10+ years) ⚙

34 Community Partners

Other Affiliated Teams:

Teams perform as booked throughout the year

- Da Blazin' Footprints (2 years)
- God's Kingdom Steppers (1 year)
- Spirit Force (16+ years)
- Klowns for the Kingdom (16+ years)
- Puppets Praise (16+ years)

- * 1 team weekly
- ** 2 teams weekly
- *** 3 teams weekly
- **** 4 teams weekly
- ⚙ varied according to individual schedules
- ▲ retreats
- ✦ monthly teams

SERVICE DAY

Since 1990 Messiah College has hosted the Area M Special Olympic games each year on campus. With overwhelming participation in assisting the games, and in keeping true to its foundational commitment to service, the College declared an annual Service Day to take place in 1999. This year marked the ninth annual Service Day and seventeenth Special Olympics on Messiah's campus.

Since its inception, Service Day has expanded to also include off campus projects where students and employees can serve together at area churches and agencies to assist with maintenance work, preparation of area camps for their impending summer camper excitement, among many other projects.

In keeping with the legacy of service Messiah College hopes to honor, this year, one group pursued a project of remembrance. At the Silence of Mary Home, an Outreach community partner in Harrisburg, a memorial garden and playground was constructed in memory of Danielle Forney, a 2006 graduate of Messiah College who passed away in a car accident in the summer of 2006. Danielle was a woman of humble service who sought to be a voice for those whose voices were silenced. She spent much time at the Silence of Mary Home and other Harrisburg communities serving the homeless and hungry. The Messiah College community honors and seeks to maintain Danielle's vision for service and justice inspired by her faith in Christ. Service Day is one way we mark this commitment.

2007 Service Day Project Locations

Allison Hill Community Ministry	Habitat for Humanity—	Pride of the Neighborhood
Bellevue Park Grounds	Lebanon County	Academics, Inc.
Commission	Harrisburg BIC Church	Project S.H.A.R.E.
Bethel Assembly of God	Head Start	Promise Place
Community Outreach Center	Helen O. Krause Animal	Safe Harbour
Bethesda Mission Youth Center	Foundation	Saint Paul Missionary
Borough of Mechanicsburg	Hidden Valley Boy Scout Camp	Baptist Church
Brethren Housing Association	Hope Station Homework Club	Schaffner Youth Detention
Caitlin's Smiles	(YWCA Carlisle)	Center
Camp Sertoma (The ARC of	Joshua Farm	Seidle Hospital
Dauphin and Lebanon Counties)	King's Kids Camp	Shenk's Ferry Wildflower
Canine Rescue of Central PA	Lewisberry UMC	Preserve
Carlisle YMCA	Life Choices Clinic	Silence of Mary Home
Catholic Worker House	Linglestown Life UMC	Swatara Church of God
CATRA (Capital Area Therapeutic	Lourdhouse Maternity Home	Ten Thousand Villages
Riding Association)	Mechanicsburg BIC Church	The Collaboratory
Center for Champions	Nursery School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy projects • Joshua Farm • Mobility group • Transportation group • Water purification group
Central PA Food Bank	Mental Group Home	The Leukemia and
CROSS, Inc.	Messiah College	Lymphoma Society
Cumberland Crossings Retirement	Messiah Village	Wellness Center
Community	New Cumberland First	West Shore Evangelical Free
Daybreak Church	Church of God	Church
Dillsburg/Carroll Township	New Hope Ministries	Whispering Pines
Eastern Museum of Motor Racing	Northern High School	YMCA of Pittsburgh/
Fort LeTort (Carlisle Parks	Our Lady of the Blessed	Deer Valley Family Camp
and Recreation)	Sacrament Roman	
Friendship Community Center	Catholic Church	
Global Outreach Christian Center	Outdoors Club (Yellow Breeches	
Habitat for Humanity—	and White Rocks)	
Cumberland Valley	PA Game Commission	
Habitat for Humanity—Harrisburg	Paxton Ministries	
Habitat for Humanity—Lancaster		

**75 projects took place
at 68 sites**



Top: Approximately 50 college students and employees joined in a Service Day project to remember Danielle Forney, a 2006 graduate. Bottom: Hundreds of students, employees, and community volunteers gather in the Buddy Corral to meet their Special Olympian buddy for the day.

Service Day

Special Olympics	582 students
	137 employees
Off Campus	538 students
	184 employees at 68 sites

TOTAL 1441 participants

INTO THE STREETS

New students take service "Into the Streets"

The first day on campus for a Messiah College student is filled with new things — a new room, new friends, new classes, and a new community. "Into the Streets" is designed to introduce first-year students to one part of the community surrounding the campus through participating in a service project with their First Year Seminar class. Part of the annual student orientation program, this day brings Messiah College's value of service to the forefront of the student experience.

Through volunteering at a community partner site in the Harrisburg area, students learn about the agency's mission and purpose for action in the community. Students are encouraged through guided discussion led by their peer group leader and community partner to reflect on what may have surprised them about their experience and to consider investing in consistent on-going service activities during their college years. Community partners are often excited to tell us that students sign up to serve with them after their "Into the Streets" experience.



Students get to know each other and their community through service.

"I think the 'Into the Streets' program is a wonderful opportunity for students to become *acquainted* with the *community* and its various organizations. It is also a great opportunity for us to *share* what we do and to have your students work with our elementary age children. I am glad we have had the opportunity to be *partners* and look forward to future relationships."

— community partner

2006 "Into the Streets" Community Partners

Abba's Place
Allison Hill Community Ministry
Arc of Dauphin and Lebanon Counties/
Camp Sertoma
Bethany Village
Brethren Housing Association
Camp Hope Renewal Center
CATRA
Carlisle Family YMCA/ New Frontiers Day Camp
Carroll Citizens for Sensible Growth
Center for Champions
Central PA Literacy Council
Christian Churches United HELP Ministries
Cumberland Crossings
CURE International
Domestic Violence Service of Cumberland and
Perry Counties
Harrisburg BIC
Helen O. Krause Animal Foundation
Hidden Valley Boy Scout Camp
Joshua Farm
King's Kids' Camp
Leukemia and Lymphoma Society
Messiah Village
Migrant Education Program
Morning Star Pregnancy Services
Neighborhood Center of the United
Methodist Church
New Hope Ministries
Pride of the Neighborhood Academies
Project S.H.A.R.E.
Promise Place
Ronald McDonald House
Seidle Hospital
Silence of Mary Home
St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church
Tri-County OIC
United Methodist Home for Children
Wellness Center
West Shore Evangelical Free Church

Into the Streets

759 first-year and transfer students
38 community partners

DR. KING COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT DAY

“And so even though we face the difficulties of today and tomorrow . . . I still have a dream.”

—Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

A *Cause for Hope* was the theme of Messiah College’s second annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Commemoration Week and hope is what students, faculty, and staff set out to find on Dr. King Community Engagement Day 2007. Rather than taking the day off, participants were eager to commemorate this day in remembrance of one man’s dream through action, service, and learning.

Getting a new perspective on the qualities and needs of the city and what can be learned from its history was a powerful gesture by which to honor Dr. King’s hopeful dream. Thanks to a grant from Sovereign Bank, more were able to participate in this day of learning and action. Beginning with an educational tour of the city, moving into a panel discussion of community leaders organized by the Harrisburg Institute and hosted by the Grace United Methodist Church in Harrisburg, and concluding with afternoon service projects at area agencies, participants thought-fully engaged with their community. Each group gathered for dinner to reflect on their day’s experience.

A highlight for many was the Harrisburg tour, led by fellow students. This served as an introduction to responsible service through exploring the community. Attention was brought to the invisible boundaries of segregation caused by economics, legislation, race, and class. Permeating today’s society, these barriers go unnoticed by the casual observer. Students appreciated this opportunity to see the city through a lens of community engagement rather than tourism, restaurants, and shopping.

WGAL News 8 rode along with student leader Amanda Arbour’s tour group to cover the day’s activities on the 5 o’clock news that evening. Amanda brought leadership to revising the script and training student tour guides in collaboration with a representative from the City of Harrisburg. In part for her leadership efforts for this day, Amanda was recognized as a state finalist for the Campus Compact National Swearer Award.

Commenting on the city tour, one student said, “It showed me that MLK’s vision is still not complete even today as seen in the segregation of neighborhoods and most churches.” Dr. King recognized that his dream would not be realized overnight. The deep brokenness of people and systems would take time to heal, but he still pursued his dream. This day aspires to ignite the same hope Dr. King had, founded in Jesus Christ, that healing is possible for all people.

“MLK’s message is not one to idolize but to idealize—we can live out his vision for equality only 30 minutes away from Grantham.”

—student participant



Surrounded by walls of donations in the Bethesda Mission Donation Center, volunteers sorted and delivered supplies to Bethesda ministries.

Dr. King Community Engagement Day

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

St. Barnabas Center for Ministry

Paxton Ministries

Silence of Mary Home

Bethesda Mission Men’s Shelter

Harrisburg Brethren in Christ Church

PANELISTS:

Drew Hart, *Pastor at Harrisburg Brethren in Christ Church*

Patty Kim, *Harrisburg Councilwoman*

Lisa Rathje, *Institute of Cultural Partnerships*

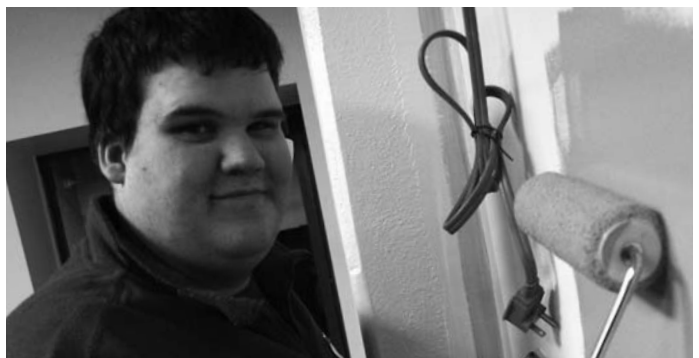
Cedra Washington, *Pastor at Harrisburg Brethren in Christ Church*

Byron Walker, *Lawyer at Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency*

Dr. King Community Engagement Day

61 participants

5 community partners



Bright colors were used to paint while others assembled new shelves for the food pantry at the Harrisburg Brethren in Christ Church.



AGAPÉ CENTER

For Service And Learning



Office of Local Community Service



AGAPÉ CENTER FOR
SERVICE AND LEARNING

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