

The Agapé Center: *who we are*







CHAD FREY

Director of the Agapé Center for Service and Learning
Ext. 7255 • CFrey@messiah.edu

CELEBRATING A LEGACY OF SERVICE

Reflections from the Director

Since Messiah College’s inception in 1909, service and learning has been central to its institutional vocation. 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 projects, they raised funds for the financial and medical needs of local families. For several decades—from the 1930’s through the 1950’s—the College observed a campus-wide service day. Classes were suspended in order that students, faculty, and senior administration could work together on major campus maintenance and beautification projects. In 1991, Messiah’s first part-time director of service-learning was appointed, and only a few years later, President Rodney Sawatsky dedicated the newly-renovated Agapé Center for Service and Learning. Since that time, President Kim Phipps has made community engagement a distinctive part of a Messiah College education, and the Agapé Center has become nationally recognized for service-learning. Currently the Agapé Center engages 99% of the student body in some form of local, national, or international service and missions. It is my hope that in the following pages of this report, you too will become engaged through the images and stories of Messiah students, faculty, and community partners in partnership together. I consider it a privilege to continue this legacy of service at Messiah College as we build upon our distinctives of excellence, hospitality, engagement, and hope. I urge you to join with me in preparing students 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, learning-guided community service and missions contributing to the overall 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.”

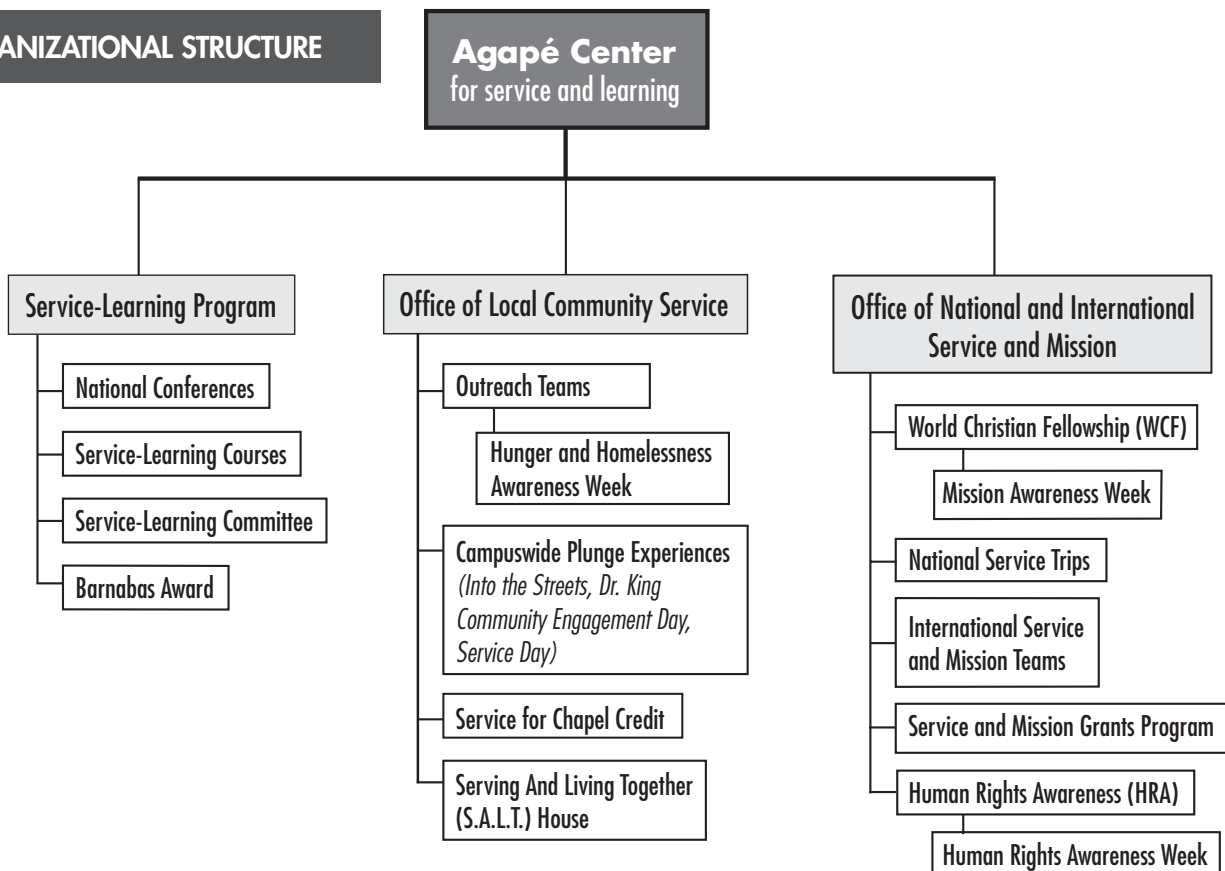
Excellence • Hospitality • Engagement • Hope

2007–2008 Agapé Center Highlights

- Involved 768 students through weekly Outreach Teams in local community service to Harrisburg, Steelton, Grantville, Chambersburg, Mechanicsburg, Dillsburg, and Grantham communities
- Donated \$314,206.75 (calculated at minimum wage) to local, national and international community partners through 43,945 hours of service at 157 different community organizations
- Awarded \$60,080 to 40 students traveling abroad during the summer months to serve beside 33 international community partners.
- Hosted educators from 41 different colleges and universities across the country at the Agapé Center’s National Faith-Based Service-Learning Conference featuring John Perkins and expert panelists on community-based research and international service-learning.
- Recognized with distinction by U.S. Secretary of Education, Margaret Spellings on the National Community Service Honor Role sponsored by The Corporation for National and Community Service.
- Provided campus-wide resources, best practices, and risk management training for service and learning experiences
- Organized three Service Plunge Days that involved up to 1,347 Messiah College volunteers at a time
- Educated the Messiah community on local, national, and international service, mission, and justice issues by facilitating three campus-wide awareness weeks
- Offered the course on the Foundations of Service, Mission, and Social Change to orient students to the critical issues related to Christian community engagement through service



ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE



AGAPÉ CENTER STAFF 2007–2008

Service-Learning

Chad Frey Director of the Agapé Center for Service and Learning
Office: Agapé Center, ext. 7255,
CFrey@messiah.edu

Pat Olcott Assistant to the Director
Office: Agapé Center, ext. 7255,
POlcott@messiah.edu

Jeff Waters Intern
Office: Agapé Center, ext. 3899,
AgapeCenter@messiah.edu

National and International Service and Mission (NISM)

Matt Hunter National and International Service and Missions Director
Office: Agapé Center, ext. 7235,
MHunter@messiah.edu

Local Community Service

Rebecca Owen Local Community Service Director
Office: Agapé Center, ext. 3891,
ROwen@messiah.edu

Agapé Center General Hours of Operation

Office hours: Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Agapé Center, ext. 7255
AgapeCenter@messiah.edu, www.messiah.edu/agape

Student Leaders

Agapé Center Workstudy Employees

Ben Fisher '08, *Administrative Assistant*
Vienna Vogelzang '08, *Administrative Assistant*

Outreach Teams

Tiffany Blackstone '08, *Creative Arts Ministries*
Vanessa Brubaker '09, *Tutoring and Literacy*
Esther Cervin '08, *Latino and Migrant Partnerships (fall)*
Jessanna Hall '09, *Youth Mentoring*
Todd Holtzman '09, *Director*
Shannon Keenan '09, *Youth Ministries (spring)*
Derek Leonard '09, *Youth Ministries (fall)*
Amanda McMillan '08, *Sustainable Agriculture*
Arelis J. Perez '09, *Latino and Migrant Partnerships (spring)*
Ashley Shank '08, *Companionship Ministries*
Jessica West '08, *Health and Special Needs*
David Young '10, *Housing and Development*
Courtney Zimmerman '08, *Hunger and Homelessness*

Local Community Service Workstudy Employees

Meghan Hoover '09, *Tracking and Program Assistant (fall)*
Vikki Kieffer '09, *Service for Chapel and One-Time Project Coordinator*
Alex W. Kreutter '09, *Tracking and Program Assistant (spring)*

NISM Workstudy Employees

Chris Irvin '09, *Team Coordinator*
Nancy Sharpe '08, *Individual Mission Coordinator*

World Christian Fellowship

Fall '07 Steph Nitschke '08, *Director*
Vienna Vogelzang '08, *MAW Coordinator*
Ashley Kriel '09, *MAW Coordinator*
Alicia Cameron '08, *Mentoring Coordinator*
Josh Mackin '08, *Canoe-A-Thon*
Joe Fang '08, *Worship Leader*

Spring '08 Liz Miller '09, *Director*
Ashley Kriel '09, *MAW Coordinator*
Sarah Bowman '10, *MAW Coordinator*
Lana Monroe '10, *Publicist*
Sarah Plumadore '08, *Chapel Coordinator*
Dave Laysen '10, *Worship Leader*

Service Trips

Amanda Pinkerton '08, *Director*
Farrah Amin '08, *Participant Coordinator*
Natasha Ferro '08, *Leader Coordinator*
Elizabeth Daugherty '08, *Agency Coordinator*

Human Rights Awareness

Meghan Donoghue '08, *Director*
Jessica Erichsen '09, *International Justice Mission Coordinator*
Caitlin Schneider '08, *Children's Issues Coordinator*
Cristina Hernandez '08, *Amnesty International Coordinator*

THE BARNABAS SERVANT LEADERSHIP AWARD

The Barnabas Servant Leadership Award promotes the ideals of service that substantially benefit others. This year the award was presented to Todd Holtzman '08 and David Vader, professor of engineering, who have demonstrated the following qualifications associated with the award:

- A high level of spiritual maturity and commitment to ministry and community service
- An integration of ministry and community service with academic work, faith, and sense of vocation
- An impact of ministry and community service on the community served and the ability to work well with co-workers

Each recipient receives \$500 and chooses a charity to receive \$500 for a total of \$1,000 per award. Each year, candidates are nominated because they have demonstrated significant contributions in the areas of ministry, community service, and leadership. Listed below are the recipients of the 2007 Barnabas Servant Leadership Award and a brief description about their volunteer commitments.

TODD HOLTZMAN, *Senior Student Award Recipient*

FIRST YEAR

- Participated in a service trip to South Dakota over spring break
- Participated in a summer service trip to West Virginia for a week with incoming Outreach Teams Coordinators

SOPHOMORE YEAR

- Worked in the Agapé Center as tutoring and literacy coordinator with Outreach
- Established a new community partnership with the St. Barnabas Center for Ministry.
- Volunteered regularly with Allison Hill Community Ministry and St. Barnabas Center for Ministry
- Worked over the summer as a staff member for Allison Hill Community Ministry's Summer Celebration program, designed as a summer camp which also incorporates educational opportunities for 24 kids in the Allison Hill section of Harrisburg. Taught science lessons and also trust building activities, and assisted with music lessons and other activities.
- Joined the board of directors of Allison Hill Community Ministry as the treasurer. Responsibilities included working with payroll, taxes, recording income and expenses, making deposits, and performing other accounting and bookkeeping functions
- Led service trips to Louisiana over spring break and the HAFT Ministry in North-Central Pennsylvania over January-Term Break.

JUNIOR YEAR

- Continued as treasurer for Allison Hill Community Ministries
- While studying abroad in the Middle East, engaged in weekly service at an orphanage in a section of Cairo known as Moqattam. In addition to working with kids and assisting with simple chores, Todd occasionally visited with prisoners assigned to life sentences for drug possession.



Todd Holtzman, student recipient of the Barnabas Award, while studying and serving abroad in the Middle East.

SENIOR YEAR

- Served as director of Outreach Teams
- Continued as treasurer for Allison Hill Community Ministries

Todd's gift was to Allison Hill Community Ministries to serve the people living in the South Allison Hill neighborhood of Harrisburg. This organization collaborates with other agencies in the community to provide a fiscally responsible, united, and effective impact in problem-solving that strengthens individuals, families, and the community. Todd's donation will go toward their:

- After School Program
- Summer Celebration Bible Camp
- Food Pantry
- Peer Helper Program
- Health Resource Library

"Todd's a very friendly, humble guy who puts others' interests ahead of his own. He's intentional about what he studies in school in an effort to apply it 'in the real world' in a way that will support *justice*, especially for those who don't have a strong voice of their own. He puts his whole self into relationships with those he *serves*, whether they be kids at an after school program or his peers whom he supervises in Outreach Teams. He makes himself *available* and is always open to contributions from everyone on the team."

—director, Local Community Service

“Dr. Vader is one of the few *unique* people who not only profoundly care for others but have the ability to effectively act on and embody a transformative *vision* in such a way as to inspire others to join his or her *mission*. He is a courageously indomitable man with a humble *integrity* who has inspired me simply to be a better person.” —Daniel Barlow '09

DAVID VADER, Faculty Award Recipient, Founder and Director of the Collaboratory for Strategic Partnerships and Applied Research at Messiah College, and Professor of Engineering

After receiving his Ph.D. in mechanical engineering from Purdue University, David worked in IBM’s Advanced Thermal Laboratory in Poughkeepsie, NY, for five years, where he co-authored numerous U.S. patents and other invention disclosures on cooling technologies for electronic packages.

He came to Messiah in 1993, was chair of the Department of Engineering from 1997 to 2004. In 1999-2001, he was the Clarence Hottel Chair of Engineering—a two-year endowed scholarship chair that enabled him to develop international service-learning opportunities for his students. The Technology Council of Pennsylvania named him co-winner (with Donald Pratt) of the 2001 Post-Secondary Educator of the Year Award for co-founding the Collaboratory —part of Messiah’s School of Mathematics, Engineering and Business which brings together students, educators, and professionals from multiple disciplines to work on projects that foster justice, empower the poor, reconcile adversaries, and care for the earth. In 2001 David received the Dr. Robert and Marilyn Smith Award for Outstanding Teaching, and in 2003 received his first Barnabas Award for service leadership, both from Messiah College. He has written and presented on service-learning as a means of developing professional excellence in students and mentoring them toward lives of servant-leadership.

David appreciates the opportunity to prepare young Christian disciples to love God and share the Gospel of Jesus by using their intellectual, academic, and professional abilities to serve others, especially those suffering poverty and persecution. He and his students have designed solar electric power, and water and transportation systems to support medical and other missions’ ministry for persons with disabilities in Burkina Faso, West Africa.

David’s gift went to support the work of Messiah College and Collaboratory alum Craig Frey ’05 who is working with New Mission Systems International in Mozambique and Zimbabwe to help develop local businesses and agricultural efforts.



NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Fifth Biennial Faith-Based Service-Learning Conference

While many faith-based colleges have strong service-learning programs, there are many others who want to develop new programs or strengthen programs that already exist. Other institutions want to move from strong community volunteer service programs to academically-based service-learning. Focusing on the critical issues for service-learning at faith-based colleges and universities, the Agapé Center hosted “Building on Our Strengths,” the Fifth National Faith-Based Service-Learning (FBSL) conference at Messiah College on May 30–June 1, 2008. Close to 100 educators and practitioners from over 40 different colleges and universities from across the nation gathered to discuss the particular strengths that faith-based programs bring to service-learning. This year’s theme focused conversations on community engagement from an asset-based perspective in contexts like international service-learning and community-based research and development. Sponsored by the Lilly Foundation, Beyond the Books, Campus Compact (CC), the Council for Christian Colleges and Universities (CCCU), and the John M. Perkins Foundation, this year’s conference stimulated countless conversations and received overwhelming positive evaluations. Speaking of his experience at the conference, one participant shared via email, “I can’t tell you how fantastic the conference was for us (and me). In the van ride home there was non-stop conversation about things we learned, conversations we had, and ideas that were generated.”

STATS AND SUCCESSES 2007–2008 BY THE NUMBERS

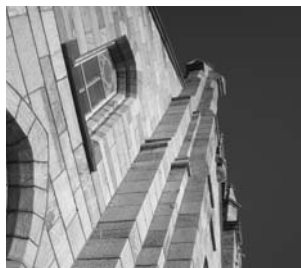
- 777 first-year and transfer students served on Into the Streets
- 1,374 served on Service Day
- 62 Dr. King Community Engagement Day
- 203 Served on national service trips
- 76 served on international missions trips this spring break and summer (68 students/8 staff)
- \$101,732.27 funds raised and donated for summer and spring break service and missions
- 25 service-learning classes
- 14 service-learning professors
- 10 states served
- 768 students involved in weekly outreach teams
- 38 student leaders
- 1 intern
- 43,945 hours of service

2007–2008 AGAPÉ CENTER CALENDAR OF EVENTS



AUGUST

- Fall Student Leader Training Week
- **Into the Streets** (fall orientation)
- Student Leader Commissioning Service



JANUARY

- **Dr. King Community Engagement Day**
- J-Term break service trips
- Limited J-Term local service and service-learning



SEPTEMBER

- Ice Cream Social (introduce service opportunities)
- Begin weekly local service for service-learning, Outreach Teams, and service for chapel credit participants
- Volunteer Development Day
- Faith in Action Chapel



FEBRUARY

- Begin weekly local service for service-learning, Outreach Teams, and service for chapel credit participants
- Agapé Center student/staff spring retreat
- Cookies, Cocoa, and Community Service (service sign ups)
- **Human Rights Awareness Week**
- Jubilee Conference



OCTOBER

- Canoe-a-thon
- Fall Break service trips
- Community Partner Service Learning Opportunity Luncheons



MARCH

- Spring break service and mission trips
- Spring break international service and mission teams CD sale



NOVEMBER

- Service and mission teams selected and begin meeting
- **Mission Awareness Week**
- **Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week**



APRIL

- 30 Hour Famine
- Orientation retreat for summer service and mission teams
- **Service Day**
- Ducky Derby



DECEMBER

- Agapé student/staff Christmas party
- Wrap-up of local service, service for chapel credit, and service-learning for the semester
- Operation Christmas Child and Angel Tree
- World AIDs Day Panel



MAY

- Wrap-up of local service, service for chapel credit, and service-learning for the semester
- Community Partner Appreciation



JUNE–AUGUST

- International service and mission teams in service
- Individual grant recipient summer service and mission
- Biennial Faith-Based Service-Learning Conference

WHERE WE'RE GOING

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

The staff at the Agapé Center has many reasons to celebrate the 2007–2008 academic year. Hundreds of students have shared thousands of stories as they served beside our community partners each week. Our partners, in turn, have consistently told us how impressed they are by the commitment of our students, to both generously share their gifts and live out their faith through serving in tangible ways. The work our students have done to engage the community throughout the year was also recognized at the highest levels of government. Our staff was humbled by the distinction conferred on Messiah College by U.S. Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings. As we look to next year, I anticipate that we will continue to build upon our distinctive service by emphasizing, excellence, hospitality, engagement, and hope.

To effectively advance the work of the Agapé Center, we will begin a comprehensive program review during 2008–2009. Throughout this assessment year, we will be strategically strengthening and positioning the Agapé Center for the future. Particular attention will be given to our new service-learning program christened this spring. It promises many new opportunities to engage our students in an ever increasingly diverse world. Another highlight will be our learning-guided community-service program. Throughout the program review, we will make plans to implement best practices for engaging service, content and reflection developed throughout this past year. Finally, we will explore ways to make students aware of the many volunteer opportunities in the community through our community service program. Through redesigning our website, we hope to create new opportunities for community partners to post volunteer opportunities for the Messiah College community to get involved.

If you would like to support the work of the Agapé Center, please don't hesitate to visit us online at www.messiah.edu/external_programs/agape or contact us at (717) 796-1800, ext. 7255. I look forward to partnering with you as we respond to our vocation of educating men and women for service to Church and society.

Sincerely,



Chad Frey
Director of the Agapé Center for Service and Learning



AGAPÉ CENTER TEAM



Director
CHAD FREY



Assistant to the Director
PAT OLCOTT



Assistant to the Director
FAITH MINNICH
Summer



National and International
Service and Mission Director
MATT HUNTER



Local Community
Service Director
BECKY OWEN



Intern
JEFF WATERS



Joining us in the fall of 2008:
S.A.L.T. Program Coordinator
BRANDON HOOVER

A graduate of Eastern University, Brandon is joining the Agapé Center in the fall of 2008 to give direction to the Serving and Living Together program. In partnership with the Coalition for Christian Outreach, Brandon will work to engage our students in opportunities for urban community engagement, environmental stewardship, and intentional community living as they grow in intellect, character, and Christian faith.

A tribute to Adrian Wilson



(Left to right) Francis Eanes, Adrian Wilson, and friends from their summer service experience in Spain

Adrian Wilson '09, beloved Messiah College student and friend, passed away while swimming off the coast of Spain on July 4, 2008. He and fellow Messiah student Francis Eanes were spending part of their summers serving with the international organization Worldwide Opportunities on Organic Farms in rural Spain, after having spent the previous summer helping to start Messiah's own community garden. As we mourn with the Wilson family this loss of son, brother, student, and friend, we celebrate Adrian's life through these remembrances shared by fellow gardeners Eanes and Dan Webster at Adrian's memorial service.

Adrian E. Wilson reflected the arduous task of living daily in the present moment. He was a dutiful worker, an attentive listener for his friends, and an active believer that home was actualized in the space he inhabited at any given moment. While I personally find such a practice mentally exhausting, this philosophy came naturally to him. Hence, he left his spirit and material belongings (few there were) in those places we (family, friends, and acquaintances) shared with him.

Thus, we cannot fully separate the lifeless body of Adrian from his spirit. His fellow gardeners see him toiling away in his khakis and black Reeboks (always), picking weed after weed without complaint during hot summer days and nights. We visualize the intensity of his concentration as we shared with him our hurts of the present and hopes for the future. And finally, we can faithfully confirm that wherever he is now, he is at home for the time eternity.

While he would protest our lingering in the past, forgetting our commitment to

the present and future as we dwell on our time with him, I trust he would recognize our grief over no longer being able to experience him in our temporary home. No longer hearing his infectious laugh, no longer observing his constantly maturing spirit, yet knowing we will encounter him daily: at the Grantham Community Garden, around Messiah's campus, in the Bahamas, or elsewhere, where we once would greet that thoughtful and knowing smirk of Adrian E. Wilson.

—Daniel Webster '09

To this day, Adrian Wilson remains one of the only people I've encountered who can drink an entire pitcher of orange juice-from-concentrate (straight from the pitcher, of course) while simultaneously philosophizing about the meaning of and lessons to be learned from cleaning Sollenberger toilets and dorm rooms 40 hours a week. But if anyone could find teachable moments in menial tasks or minor injustices, Adrian was always the first. His matter-of-fact "well, that's just the way it is," or "maybe I'll never know the reason for . . ." imbued a trusting sense of cosmic peace upon my oft-frustrated sense of what seemed fair in a particular situation.

Though he came to college at sixteen—admittedly unready for the leap from home to self-sufficiency—he matured rapidly to the point where I'd often forget the two years that separated him from my friends and me. He would often dispense his well-processed musings on girls, Eastern spirituality, and garden tomatoes late at night, stopping by my room and inevitably staying up a couple hours later than planned. Only in the

occasional formal document or fleeting memory of our freshman year did his true age bleed through his genuine guise of maturity beyond years; on those occasions, we would gleefully remind him that two long post-graduation years would pass until he could legally enjoy a beer with the rest of his friends.

But like most attempts to joke on him, he'd respond with a hearty and distinctly Adrian laugh that would leave him doubled over. Such was the nature of his friendship with me and so many others: keen observations of events and advice shared with his friends, cobbled together with a jocular appreciation for everything lighthearted and remotely humorous. Such wisdom I will forever carry in my head, doubtlessly useful and meaningful. Such laughter I will always hear in my ears, feel in my throat, and carry in my being.

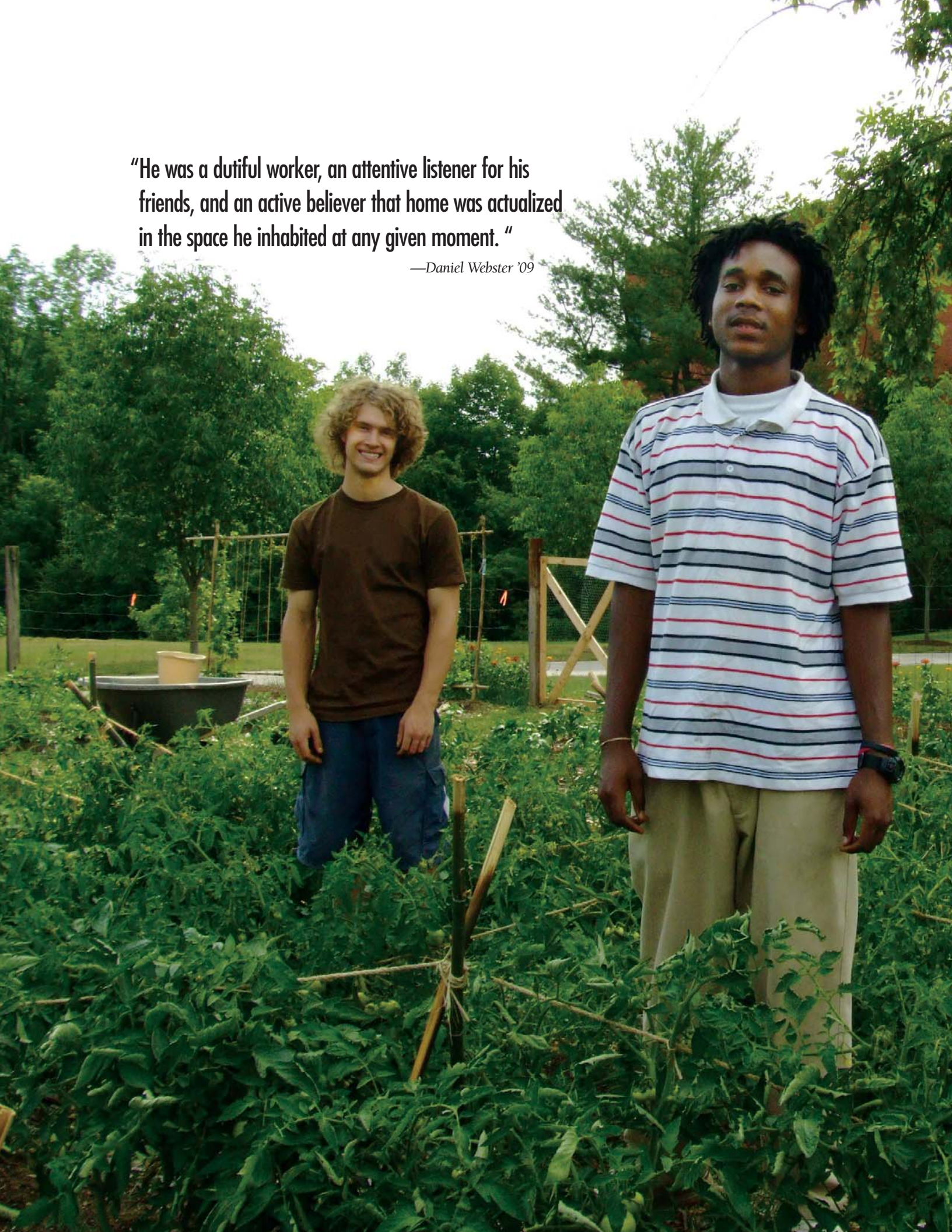
—Francis Eanes '09

"Whether he was digging for truth in the garden, in the classroom or on the streets of Philadelphia, Adrian just naturally seemed to worked with and care for the people around him. He had a special way of making people feel at home in almost any context, a gift I think he received from his family. Adrian gave generously, and I believe that he has inspired many at Messiah College to do the same."

—Chad Frey, Director of the Agapé Center for Service and Learning

"He was a dutiful worker, an attentive listener for his friends, and an active believer that home was actualized in the space he inhabited at any given moment. "

—Daniel Webster '09





AGAPÉ CENTER

For Service And Learning



AGAPÉ CENTER FOR
SERVICE AND LEARNING

P.O. Box 3027
One College Avenue
Grantham, PA 17027
717.766.2511, ext. 7255

www.messiah.edu/agape