

Local *Community* Service





REBECCA OWEN
Local Community Service Director
Ext. 3891 • ROwen@messiah.edu

Letter from the Local Community Service Director

The Office of Local Community Service in the Agapé Center serves as a place to connect students with their surrounding community, primarily focused in Harrisburg with other partners in Steelton, Grantville, Chambersburg, Mechanicsburg, and Dillsburg. Opportunities to serve are offered through a variety of programs facilitated by the Agapé Center:

- Three Service Plunge Days give students a one-day experience to step out into the community and serve: Into the Streets, Dr. King Community Engagement Day, and Service Day.
- Outreach Teams provide on-going support to approximately 30 partnering agencies in the community through student service teams each week.
- Service for Chapel Credit is a program that enables students to express worship through service in place of the regular chapel attendance.

With increased involvement and interest, the Agapé Center hopes to continually refine how accessible and meaningful service in the local community is for students and partnering faculty in the next year by:

- increasing volunteer enrichment throughout the year to progressively assist volunteers in their work with necessary skills, perspectives, and personal development;
- working toward an accurate and sustainable attendance tracking system for volunteers;
- developing collaborative efforts with offices and organizations across campus to provide a well-rounded, holistic approach to service; and
- welcoming a new staff member to our team as the S.A.L.T. Program Coordinator

The Agapé Center remains committed to connecting the student's 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.

"The life of a servant goes *beyond* the pecking order that our social structure has set up and frees us to *live* together and *serve* one another out of inner joy and *peace*."

—Erin Hermansky '09

MISSION STATEMENT

"The Agapé Center for Service and Learning develops, administers, resources, and coordinates programs of service-learning, learning-guided community service, and mission 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.'"

"I was very *happy* to have John, [my Best Buddy], come and give a speech with me at Volunteer Development Day. He was personally so proud of *the day* and what he said. He loved being the spotlight and is still talking about how great it was and how well he did. I also was very happy to be able to *share* a part of what he means to me."

—Jess West '08, Best Buddies volunteer



Best Buddies volunteers with their Buddies on a hay ride during one of their monthly outings together.



"The Agapé Center is excited to welcome Brandon Hoover as the new S.A.L.T. (Serving and Living Together) program coordinator. Brandon comes to us as a '08 graduate of Eastern University with a B.A. in theological studies. Bringing his experience and passions in residence education, community involvement, outdoor leadership and sustainability initiatives he will have much to contribute to this growing program. Welcome, Brandon!"

Ext. 7255, bhoover@messiah.edu

Knowing God Better Through Service

Knowing God is a large concept to wrap one's mind and life around. This can be pursued through traditional worship services, singing, dancing, reading the Bible, or — as students who sign up for the Service for Chapel Credit program are charged — expressing what the Bible teaches through action. Students prepare to worship through service at an orientation chapel the beginning of each semester and come back together to share their challenges, doubts, and celebrations from their worship through service experience in a debrief chapel at the end of the semester. Worshiping God through acts of service, students discover new perspectives and depths of their faith.

SERVICE FOR CHAPEL STATS

fall	30 students
spring	28 students
TOTAL	58 students

A Hospitable Commitment

Offering milkshakes, tea, challenging conversations, movies, a safe space to be heard, and a place at the table for anyone who comes is the kind of hospitality the residents of the S.A.L.T. (Serving And Living Together) House offered this year. These four men and four women pursued communal living and radical hospitality with each other in a College-owned duplex known as the S.A.L.T. House.

This year's signature house activity was "DocumentarTeas" — getting together one night a week with other students, watching a documentary, and discussing it over tea. The residents of the house facilitated conversation — ranging from issues of environmental stewardship to social justice — urging deeper thought inspired by their Christian faith and their commitment to service.

"Ultimately, service is about building a relationship with someone as an equal in the eyes of God."

—Deanna Wozunk '09

"From beginning to end, God's grace is the *transforming* power in service. Flowing out of joy and *thanksgiving* to God, service for a believer is necessarily a response to God's *goodness*."

—Dawn Tobin '08



Top: 2008 S.A.L.T. House residents celebrate together after graduation. Bottom: Messiah tutors visit Allison Hill Community Ministries four days a week to help kids with homework, play and even learn to cook!

OUTREACH TEAMS

Note from Student Director Todd Holtzman '08

As Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. observed, "We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny." Grounded firmly in biblical principles, the Agapé Center seeks to act out the call toward shared humanity through the provision of a forum to live and learn in community, despite and through our own brokenness.

Within the Center, Outreach Teams recognizes the needs in Messiah College's figurative backyard, including real hunger, genuine pain, and torn families; Outreach strives to follow Jesus in addressing these needs. Each person that we come across is to be treated as a neighbor, as a friend, and as a brother or sister in creation.

Indeed, through the investment of time, Outreach Teams facilitates the formation of relationships, so that we might experience life as God originally intended. King also said, "Whatever affects one directly affects all indirectly." No human action ever occurs in isolation. Instead, through a mentoring relationship with a child or in taking the time to seek to understand a person with special needs, those who serve with Outreach Teams not only impact their local sphere of involvement, but also actively and humbly work as Christ's hands and feet toward the ultimate redemption of the world.

OUTREACH STATISTICS

<i>On-going Service</i>	
Outreach Teams	768 students
Hours served	8,497 hours
<i>Special Events</i>	
Urban Promise off-campus participants	60 participants 36 MC students
Fall Migrant Education Retreat participants	25 participants 17 MC students
Spring Migrant Education Retreat participants	13 participants 18 MC students
Angel Tree	46 recipients 32 MC students
Hip Hop Show	325 total attendance 140 off-campus participants
Hunger and Homelessness Week	Campuswide

OUTREACH TEAMS



Student Outreach Coordinators connect community partners with teams of college volunteers.

Outreach teams on campus

- Through Volunteer Development Day and individual information sessions, Outreach Teams provided focused training opportunities.
- With the initiation of Clearance Day, Outreach Teams allowed volunteers needing criminal background checks or child abuse history clearances to easily complete their forms on-site, facilitating a smoother and more rapid commencement of service opportunities.
- At monthly Team Leader meetings, students were equipped to lead their

groups in reflection with the goal of uniting service, faith, and daily life.

- Outreach Teams hosted youth on campus through Urban Promise and two Migrant Education Retreats, occurring in both fall and spring.
- Through a partnership between the Harrisburg Institute and the Agapé Center, students from William Penn High School in Harrisburg worked alongside Messiah volunteers on campus to create jewelry that was sold. All proceeds benefited children orphaned by AIDS in Africa, through The Amani Children's Foundation.
- Outreach Coordinators collaborated with numerous faculty members through service-learning opportunities, as well as other student organizations on campus to maximize effectiveness. These organizations included Human Rights Awareness, the Office of Multicultural Programs, the Collaboratory, the Grantham Garden, and others.
- Outreach Teams partnered with male Messiah students to host women from Messiah Village on campus for a Valentine's Day "dinner date," prepared by Messiah Catering.

All-encompassing servants

In addition to the weekly opportunities that Outreach Teams provide for students to consistently volunteer in the surrounding community, there is also an on-campus component. The foremost elements of the

Outreach Teams on-campus presence are various training opportunities to provide tools to be used by volunteers and team leaders to raise questions about their service experiences and deeper systemic issues at play.

Also, coordinators often hold themed alternate chapels or information sessions designed to raise awareness of their specific issue areas. For instance, during Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week, several Outreach Coordinators collaborated to bring people who have personally experienced homelessness onto campus, in order that they might educate students. This week included several other opportunities to inform students about the problems that exist right in our surrounding community, as well as how to fulfill God's call to action.

In working toward the achievement of all-encompassing servant lifestyles, Outreach Teams believe that it is crucial for students to serve others in order to build relationships in their communities. Of equal importance, however, is the journey toward personal transformation where each person involved in service moves toward integration of service and faith, of action and reflection, seeking to discover an appropriate balance of doing and simply being. Through Outreach Teams, service is not something that can be performed one day each week and then forgotten about, but rather includes the interactions that each individual has with peers on campus.

OUTREACH COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Abba's Place (16 years) **

Allison Hill Community Ministry (16 years) ****

Best Buddies (6 years) ❖ ❖

Bethany Village (12+ years) **

Bethesda Mission (94 years)

- Men's Soup Kitchen *
- Mobile Mission ❖
- Women & Children's Shelter ❖
- Youth Center ***

Big Brothers Big Sisters (12+ years)

- Boys and Girls Club (9 years) ****
- Salvation Army (1.5 years) ****

Catholic Worker House (8 years) *

Capital Area Therapeutic Riding Association (13 years) *

Center for Champions (4 years) ****

Center for Employment, Education, and Entrepreneurial Development (1.5 years) **

Central PA Food Bank (10 years) ❖

Danzante Arts Program (6 years, 2-year hiatus 2005–07) **

Habitat for Humanity—Harrisburg (13 years) * ❖

Institute for Cultural Partnerships (3 years) ⚙

Joshua Farm (2 years) ****

Lincoln Intermediate Unit Migrant Education—Chambersburg (8 years) ▲

Messiah Village (30 years) ⚙

Paxton Ministry (27 years) * ❖

Prison Fellowship Ministries, Project Angel Tree, seasonal

Promise Place (10 years) *

Saint Barnabas Center for Ministry (3 years) ****

Schaffner Youth Detention Center (10 years) *

Silence of Mary Home (4 years) *

Young Life Cumberland County (11+ years) ⚙

Other Unaffiliated Teams:

- Da Blazin' Footprints (3 years) ❖ *
- God's Kingdom Steppers (2 years) ❖ *
- Spirit Force (17+ years) ❖ *
- Klowns for the Kingdom (17+ years) ** *
- Puppets Praise (17+ years) ❖ *

*	1 team weekly
**	2 teams weekly
***	3 teams weekly
****	4 teams weekly
⚙	varies according to individual schedules
▲	retreats
❖	monthly teams
❖	weekly rehearsals
*	various performances

29 Community Partners

INTO THE STREETS

New streets to discover

New classes, new friends, new room, new professors, new community . . . there's a lot to learn about in those beginning days on campus as a first-year college student. Into the Streets gives students a chance, the day after move-in, to build relationships with other students in the same class before term papers, homework assignments, and lectures begin — all while learning about the surrounding community and lending a hand.

Into the Streets is a nationally recognized program organized by hundreds of college campuses for first-year student service. In addition to the relational benefits for students as they enter a new community, the purpose and hope of this day of service is to inspire students to invest in those communities, using what they gain in the classroom to contribute to society. Conversely, students learn how much they can receive from other perspectives in their community and end up being served as they are serving!

"Into the Streets was really a great time for me. I got to *serve, meet, and connect* with new friends, and had a fun time doing work . . . I would be open to doing similar things in the future."

— student participant



Left: The first "hard work" of college done through service. Right: Great conversations and memories are shared while painting a mural at a garden that serves the Harrisburg community through the Silence of Mary Home.

"From our perspective, the day was a valuable *community service* program, and we hope it sparks future *volunteerism* for the students!"

— community partner

Into the Streets 2007 Community Partners

Abraxas Youth and Family Services
Allison Hill Community Ministry
Brethren Housing Association
CATRA
Canine Rescue of Central PA
Capital Area Pregnancy Center
Carlisle Family YMCA/
New Frontiers Day Camp
Carroll Citizens for Sensible Growth
Catholic Worker House
Center for Champions
Central Allison Hill Community Ministry
Children's Family Center
CPARC
Cross, Inc.
Cumberland Crossings
CURE International
Danzante
Falling Spring Nursing and Rehabilitation
Firm Foundation of PA
Furry Friends Network
Harrisburg BIC
Helen O. Krause Animal Foundation
Joshua Farm
Messiah Village
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.
Ronald McDonald House
Seidle Hospital
Silence of Mary Home
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
The DELTA Community
The Shared Ministry
Tri-County OIC
Volunteers of America
Wellness Center
West Shore Evangelical Free Church

Into the Streets

777 first-year and transfer students
38 community partners

DR. KING COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT DAY

Revealing

In his 1968 speech supporting sanitation workers in Memphis, Tennessee, Dr. King spoke these weighty words: "Be concerned about your brother . . . either we go up together, or we go down together." This philosophy of a common responsibility and ownership of our neighbor's well-being was the central theme of this year's third annual Dr. King Community Engagement Day focusing on economic justice.

On this holiday commemorating Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s legacy, students and employees are given the option to sign up for a day of service and learning in the city of Harrisburg. Starting off with a tour of Harrisburg, many students experienced the city for the first time. In addition to finding the state capitol, parks, museums, and restaurants, participants also found economic disparity, beautification projects, new business endeavors, and newly built as well as run-down houses.

With images of contrasting neighborhoods, participants came to a panel discussion with representatives who are actively engaged in the Harrisburg community today. After hearing directly from people who live, work, preach and/or serve in and for the very communities seen on the tour, participants had the opportunity to ask questions and eat lunch with the panelists before driving to partnering organizations to complete service projects.

Signing up for a day of service may conjure up images of painting walls, raking leaves, or organizing donations, but sometimes the best service we can give is to listen to those we set out to help. Dr. King Community Engagement Day provides an opportunity for history to be heard and new chapters to be revealed. By listening, stereotypes can be broken, mistakes can be avoided, and foundational relationships can be formed. That is true service!

This day is made possible through the sponsorship of Sovereign Bank in partnership with the Agapé Center and the Office of Multicultural Programs of Messiah College.



Students from the planning committee with their advisor at the debrief pizza dinner after a long and fulfilling day.

Dr. King Community Engagement Day

January 21, 2008

62 student participants
5 community partners

"I never took very much time to *reflect* on this holiday before, and it was nice to get a chance to see what some places in Harrisburg are doing to *fulfill* [King's] vision."

—2008 student participant

What students learned:

"Racism still exists."

"I didn't realize he [Dr. King] was interested in economic issues"

"How cool a place Harrisburg is"

"Great chasms and divides between rich and poor economic justice"

"Opportunities to help bring about change"

"All the needs in Harrisburg . . . the full potential that Harrisburg has, and the involvement that I can have in Harrisburg"

Dr. King Community Engagement Day

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Paxton Ministries

Silence of Mary Home

Allison Hill Community Ministries

Harrisburg Brethren in Christ Church

DELTA Community

PANELISTS:

Nate Gadsden, *life-long Harrisburg resident and activist, life skills coach, poet, poet therapist, minister, and motivational speaker*

Ann Lyon, *civil rights activist whose parents posted bail to release Rosa Parks from jail in 1955.*

Pastor Lavette Paige, *pastor at Martin Luther King Jr. Baptist Church—born and raised in Steelton, Pa.*

Craig Peiffer, *president of the Board of Directors for Historic Harrisburg Association, and director of property development at McKissick Associates Architects*

SERVICE DAY

Take a day and serve

“BIG CHANGE starts small” followed by “Take a day and serve!” was the text found on the back of each off-campus participant’s t-shirt on Service Day. One day of service may be small, but the work that a team can accomplish together and the contagious inspiration to continually invest in the community are two valuable outcomes of Service Day. With off-campus project host and volunteer participation growing every year, an increasing number of students and faculty are able to step off campus and learn from their neighbors in the surrounding Harrisburg area. Becoming familiar with life off campus, community action initiatives, and how the classroom connects with both are valuable components of Service Day, besides team and community building within college relationships.

As hundreds of students traveled off campus, hundreds more stayed on campus to host the annual Area M Special Olympics. With 1,096 Special Olympians competing in the Area M games this year, there was an all-time high of community volunteers joining with campus volunteers to cheer on each participant and celebrate new friendships. Planned by a collaborative committee composed of students and community members led by EDS volunteers, Special Olympics was the original inspiration for the College to take time out each year for Service Day.

Service Day

Special Olympics	516	students
	128	employees
Off Campus	571	students
	159	employees
TOTAL	1374	participants

2008 Service Day project locations

AdventureZone Playground	Habitat for Humanity	Pride of the Neighborhood
Amani Project	Habitat for Humanity of	Academies, Inc.
American Cancer Society	the Greater Harrisburg Area	Project S.H.A.R.E.
Hope Lodge	Hospice of Central Pennsylvania	Ronald McDonald House
Bethesda Mission	Joshua Farm	Silence of Mary House
Borough of Mechanicsburg	Keystone Area Council, BSA	Slate Hill Mennonite Church
Brethren Housing Association	Mechanicsburg Borough	Southern Community Services
CATRA	Morning Star	Ten Thousand Villages
CHANNELS Food Rescue	Muscular Dystrophy Association	The Collaboratory,
Caitlin Smiles	New Hope Ministries	Communications Group
Camp Eder	New Song Community Church/	The Collaboratory, Disability
Canine Rescue of Central	Shining Light Ministries	Resources Group
Pennsylvania	Northern York County Historical	The Collaboratory,
Capital Area Pregnancy Centers	and Preservation Society	Education Group
Carlisle Parks and Recreation	Northern York County Historical	The Collaboratory, Energy Group
Carlisle YMCA	and Preservation Society	The Collaboratory, Microeconomic
Cathedral Parish of St. Patrick	(construction)	Development Group
Catholic Charities Interfaith	Northern York County Historical	The Collaboratory,
Shelter for Homeless Families	and Preservation Society	Transportation Group
Catholic Charities, Immigration	(Cleaning)	The Collaboratory, Water Group
and Refugee Services	Northern York County Historical	The Leukemia and Lymphoma
Catholic Worker House	and Preservation	Society
Cumberland Crossings	Society (Kitchen)	The Wellness Center
Daybreak Church	Ocean Gate Elementary School	Tri-County OIC
Derry Presbyterian Church	Operation Wildcat—	United Methodist Home for
Dillsburg Area Public Library	Mechanicsburg School District	Children, Inc.
Engle Center—Messiah College	Our Lady of the Blessed	Weed and Seed/YWCA
Faith United Lutheran Parish	Sacrament Roman	Whispering Pines of York Springs
Firm Foundation of Pa, Inc.	Catholic Church	Wildwood Lake Sanctuary and
Freedom Valley Worship Center	Pathways Institute for Lifelong	Nature Reserve
Friend of College	Learning (Messiah Village)	Yellow Breeches Clean-Up
Good News Free	Paxton Ministries	YMCA of Pittsburgh/
Methodist Church	Personal friend	Deer Valley Camp
Grantham Community Garden	Pinnacle Health	
Greater Harrisburg Youth	Planned Parenthood of the	
For Christ	Susquehanna Valley (PPSV)	



Hosting athletes, students, teachers, parents, spectators, and community volunteers, Special Olympics fills the fields with laughter, cheering, smiles, and hugs on Service Day.



AGAPÉ CENTER

For Service And Learning



Office of Local Community Service



AGAPÉ CENTER FOR
SERVICE AND LEARNING

P.O. Box 3027
One College Avenue
Grantham, PA 17027
717.796.1800, ext. 3891

www.messiah.edu/agape