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ALIVE Center Going Green!

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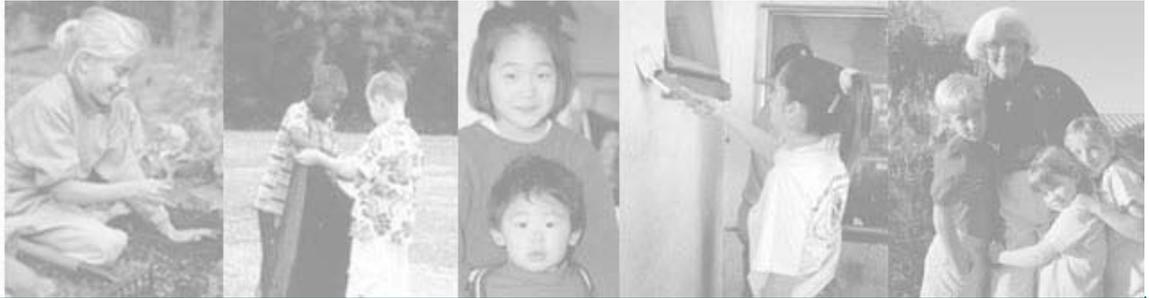


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ALIVE Center Going Green!

Solar Panel Installation

As of January 31st, 2008, the WKU ALIVE Center for Community Partnerships is the first Small Business Generation Partners solar installation site in Bowling Green! We have 12 panels providing 1850 kilowatts in electric energy, which is estimated to save us \$400.00 this year. We couldn't have done it without the help of BGMU, BG Green Partnership for a Sustainable Community, TVA, WKU and Ms. Nancy Givens who spearheaded the entire project. We're also deeply indebted to Mr. Joshua Bills of Sunbelievable Services out of Berea, KY. His and Ms. Givens' expertise and persistence in the face of many obstacles were responsible for the final product. Thank you, thank you, thank you! A community-wide Open House is planned for April 11th at 3:30pm. If you just can't wait to see what's been done, please feel free to drop on by the ALIVE Center at 1818 31W Bypass. We'd be happy to show you our new addition!



Quarterly Newsletter Goes Green

In addition to the new solar panels, the WKU ALIVE CCP is also working on other initiatives to go green this year.

This edition of the ALIVE Center quarterly newsletter will be the last printed edition sent through the postal mail. Beginning in June, the ALIVE newsletter will be available on our website. Faculty, staff, students and community partners are encouraged to download the newsletter or print as needed.

We will continue to send the edition through email at the beginning of the issued month. We will also continue our Nonprofit Spotlight in each edition.

Thank you to this month's spotlight: Big Brothers Big Sisters of South Central Kentucky and the Kiwanis Club of Bowling Green, Inc.

Solar Panel Installation Open House Monday, April 11th at 3:30pm



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Service-Learning: What, Where, How

Service-learning brings together community partners and WKU faculty, staff and students in order to tackle problems or issues affecting individuals or neighborhoods. Projects setup for Fall 2008/Spring 2009 involve the WKU Horticulture Club working as garden mentors for a community garden, a Chemistry class doing soil analysis for future Habitat for Humanity sites, and a Sociology class conducting neighborhood surveys to evaluate the effectiveness of youth development initiatives through the Kaleidoscope program.

We are actively seeking project ideas from community partners about ways WKU expertise can be utilized to meet their needs. The project can last one semester, or if the community partner and WKU class so wish, it can continue indefinitely. Biannual neighborhood surveys charting changes and trends would be an example of a continuous project. The WKU ALIVE Center staff are available to meet with you to discuss ideas you have and how best we can try and meet your goals.

We are also asking WKU faculty and staff to contact us immediately if they are interested in adding a service-

learning component to their curriculum. Again, the staff at the Center have access to resource materials and websites to assist in the creation of a service-learning plan. We are also more than happy to meet one-on-one to discuss ideas and their implementation.

For more information about service-learning, please contact Cheryl Kirby-Stokes, Service-Learning & Volunteer Coordinator at 270-782-0653 or at cheryl.kirby-stokes@wku.edu.

"Service-Learning is a course-based, credit-bearing educational experience in which students participate in an organized service activity that meets a community need and reflect on their service activity as a means of gaining a deeper understanding of course content, a broader appreciation of the discipline, an enhanced sense of civic responsibility and/or a greater interest in an understanding of community life."

Spanish Majors Translate Materials



"We appreciate the effort to better serve our diverse community population."

*-Alisa Carmichael, Director
Bowling Green Public Library*

As part of a fall class on translation and interpreting, twenty Spanish majors participated in a service-learning project facilitated by the ALIVE Center. The students worked in groups translating materials into Spanish for the Bowling Green Public Library, Community Action of Southern Kentucky, and the Child Care Resource and Referral at Western. The translated materials will be used to inform the Spanish-speaking public about the services offered by the organizations.

This project gave the students an opportunity to apply their translation skills to authentic texts, as well as learn about working with clients in a professional setting. Students expressed satisfaction about overcoming the challenges represented by these texts and being able to contribute to the Hispanic community by making informational materials on a variety of services available to them in Spanish.

Community-based Research At Its Best!

Does offering incentive items for making healthy food choices change eating habits? That is the question to be answered...

It's official! The first phase of funding for the Healthy Weight Kids Card program was awarded by the Institute of Medicine through its Kellogg Health of the Public Fund to the WKU Department of Public Health through the Western Kentucky University Research Foundation.

The Healthy Weight Kids Card will offer a discount on HEALTHY food and beverage items at local participating restaurants for middle and high school age students using card-swipe technology. Students will accrue reward points relating to healthy food purchases that translate into incentive items such as free music downloads, movie tickets, and various door prizes including game systems, Ipods, etc.

The Healthy Weight Kids Coalition of Southern

Kentucky will work with the ALIVE Center and a team of students and faculty at Western Kentucky University to implement the first phase of the Healthy Weight Kids Card national pilot project.

This team of community partners will work together this spring to secure restaurant participation and conduct focus groups with junior high and high school students to determine factors that serve as barriers and incentives for making healthy food choices. Findings will be used to guide survey item development and incentive structures to be used during the implementation phase of the Healthy Weight Kids Smart Card Project.



Healthy Weight Kids Coalition of Southern Kentucky is a coalition of local health-related professionals and organizations with the goal of preventing and treating the serious problem of overweight in children. For more information about the Healthy Weight Kids Coalition, visit www.healthyweightkids.org.

Nominate a Deserving Young Person

The Kohl's Kids Who Care® Scholarship Program recognizes and rewards young volunteers (ages 6-18) who help make their communities a better place.

Qualifications

- The young person's actions must be described in detail and should document efforts that are above and beyond what is normally expected of a child his or her age.
- Volunteer efforts should have made a positive impact on others and occurred in the last 12 months.
- The activity cannot be performed solely to benefit a family member.
- Creativity, initiative, generosity, leadership and community outreach will all be given equal weight during the judging process.
- Applicants must not have graduated high school as of March 15, 2008.

Winners / Awards

Nominees will be divided into two groups (ages 6-12 and 13-18), and awards will be given on three levels.

- Store Winners: More than 1,900 store winners will be awarded a \$50 Kohl's Gift Card.
- Regional Winners: The 190 regional winners will be awarded \$1,000 scholarships toward their post-secondary education.
- National Winners: Ten national winners will be awarded \$5,000 scholarships and Kohl's will donate \$1,000 to a nonprofit organization on their behalf.

Applications can be filled out online at www.kohlskidswhocare.com

Advisory Council Meets



Following the completion of the regional forums held to assess needs throughout WKU's service region, the WKU Regional Stewardship Advisory Council (RSAC) was formed. The first two advisory council meetings were held in January, 2008. The members of the RSAC, who represent counties throughout the region, offered invaluable guidance toward our goal of submitting a strategic proposal to Kentucky's Council on Postsecondary Education. The WKU ALIVE Center for Community Partnerships plays an important role in facilitating the RSAC meetings and coordinating subsequent stewardship initiatives.

The role of the RSAC is to: (1) approve a prioritized list of strategic need areas derived from the regional forums, (2) develop and approve a strategic plan to address these areas through collaborative campus/community partnerships, and (3) serve as an advisory council regarding the implementation of the strategic plan.

The four strategic need areas approved by the RSAC include:

(1) nurturing communities, (2) education, (3) healthcare, and (4) economic development. Projects arising from WKU's stewardship initiative will address one, or a combination of, these areas. It is the goal of the university and the RSAC to support initiatives that will impact communities throughout our region.

If you are interested in receiving a copy of the summary document for the WKU Regional Forums, visit our website at www.wku.edu/alive.



Advisory Council

Nick Brake

President, Greater Owensboro Economic Development Corporation

Phyllis Causey (Ex-Officio)

Field Representative, Congressman Ron Lewis

Tom Davenport

Dean of Workforce Development & Continuing Ed, Elizabethtown Community & Technical College

Stacy Edds-Ellis

Director of Discover Challenge, Owensboro Community & Technical College

Sheila Enyart

Mayor, City of Radcliff

James Flynn

Superintendent, Simpson County Schools

Karen Foley

Neighborhood Action Coordinator, City of Bowling Green

Arthur Green

Judge Executive, Todd County Fiscal Court

Renaee Harrison

Coordinator of Adult & Community Education, Hardin County Schools

Debbie Livingston

City Executive, BB&T, Glasgow

Tonya Matthews

Vice President, Bowling Green Area Chamber of Commerce

Linda McCray

Executive Director/Member, Bowling Green Human Rights Commission

Crissy Rowland

Director of Health Information, Barren River District Health Department

M. Douglas Smith

Secretary, Audobon Area Community Services Council, AARP Chair

Diane Sprowl

Regional Coordinator, South Central Kentucky Get Fit

Carol Sullivan

Director - Technology Training Center, Campbellsville University

New Season at ALIVE

The WKU ALIVE Center for Community Partnerships (CCP) has a new name and an expanded mission beginning this year! Although many of the ALIVE Center's duties remain the same, e.g., volunteer opportunities, information and referral for nonprofits in Bowling Green-Warren County, we've extended our services both programmatically and geographically. Our increased focus on community-based research, teaching, and service will enhance our ability to facilitate collaborative campus and community projects.

In addition, by serving as a key coordinating point for the Kentucky Regional Stewardship Initiative, the ALIVE Center will be involved in facilitating community-based projects throughout our 27-county service region.

The ultimate aim of the WKU ALIVE CCP is to promote community development across Central Kentucky through campus and community partnerships. We do this by focusing on four main areas: (1) service-learning, (2) community-based research, (3) volunteerism, and (4) information referral. We recognize that when the resources of the university are joined with the expertise in the community, many great things can be accomplished.

If you are interested in addressing local and/or regional needs through a campus and community partnership, we want to hear from you! Our staff is prepared to work with you in order to facilitate collaborative projects between your agency and WKU faculty, staff, and students. While we understand that we will not be able to address every need, we are excited about the good work that can be realized through this type of relationship.

We will be offering ongoing workshops for community partners in order to provide additional information and training. We plan to have our new website up and running by May. This site will feature a variety of helpful resources including handbooks on service-learning for students, faculty/staff and community partners, examples of community-based research projects, and an extensive volunteerism database.

Please feel free to contact any of the staff listed to the right with questions or ideas regarding this new endeavor.

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Kiwanis Club of Bowling Green, Inc.



*...a global organization of volunteers
dedicated to changing the world, one child and one community at a time.*

The Kiwanis Club of Bowling Green, Inc is a nonprofit civic organization whose primary mission is to serve young children. The B.G. club was chartered in 1923 and is a part of Kiwanis International, which serves the children of the world. It is comprised of men and women of all ages and all walks of life.

As a local service organization, the Kiwanis Club of Bowling Green typically raises \$80k - \$100k annually through its many service projects, and then distributes those funds to local children's organizations and community projects. The club's most recognized service projects include the BB&T Soap Box Derby, National City Thunderfest, BB&T Goblin' Asphalt Soap Box Race, Girls' Inc Reverse Raffle, Emergency Services Award, Salvation Army Bell Ringing, and organizing quarterly Red Cross Blood Drives.

For more information log onto www.bgkiwanis.org, www.kiwanis.org or better yet, be a guest at one of the lunch meetings! Meetings are held at noon every Wednesday in the community hall of the First Christian Church at 1106 State Street.

*Kiwanis meetings are held at
12:00pm every Wednesday in the
First Christian Church
in the Community Hall*



Big Brothers Big Sisters

On the morning of his school play, Braydin woke up with a cough. His grandmother told him he didn't have to go to school if he didn't feel well, but Braydin got out of bed and promptly told his grandmother, "I have to go to school, Ms. Barbara is coming to see me today."

Barbara is currently a volunteer "Big Sister" in the Big Brothers Big Sisters' School-based mentoring program, but prior to being matched, she had heard about Braydin as this little boy in third grade who was not motivated to attend school or do his schoolwork, so she wanted to help him. Every Thursday, "Little Brother" Braydin can rely on Barbara to leave her office to come eat lunch with him at his school. Barbara has talked to Braydin's teachers about his schoolwork, attended his school play, and met his friends. They have developed a special friendship. As Braydin's grandmother happily puts it, "All I ever hear is Ms. Barbara this, and Ms. Barbara that..." It has been a blessing to Braydin's grandmother that Braydin no longer fights getting up for school, and he even looks forward to attending, especially on Thursdays when Ms. Barbara comes to visit.

Braydin's story is one of the many success stories Big Brothers Big Sisters hears every day. The mission of Big Brothers Big Sisters of South Central Kentucky is to help children reach their potential through professionally supported, one-to-one mentoring relationships for all children who need



and want them, contributing to brighter futures, better schools, and stronger communities. The local agency has been bringing stability to children's lives for 35 years, and they currently assist children, ages six to eighteen, in Warren, Allen and Barren counties and are impacting over 500 children's lives through their Community-based and School-based mentoring services offered in this three-county area.

For more information on how you can make a difference in a child's life, call Big Brothers Big Sisters of South Central Kentucky at (270) 781-1180 or visit www.bbbsky.com.



Big Brothers Big Sisters
of South Central Kentucky

Little Moments. Big Magic.™



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March - May Nonprofit Community Calendar

- | | | | |
|-------|--|------|--|
| 3/1-2 | Big Brothers Big Sisters Bowl 4 Kids Sake | 4/19 | Area Five Special Olympics Track & Field |
| 3/3 | Bowling Green Chamber Orchestra <i>A Night With Oscar...The Sequel</i> | 4/19 | WKU Clinical Education Complex Autism Awareness Walk |
| 3/4 | Kaleidoscope Voices4Justice Performance | 4/19 | Southern Kentucky Book Fest |
| 3/14 | Capitol Arts Youth Theatre Spring Break Lock-In | 4/21 | Bowling Green Chamber Orchestra <i>West Side Story: The Concert</i> |
| 3/24 | Kentucky Library & Museum Spring Break Day Camp begins and runs through 3/28 | 4/24 | Fountain Square Players <i>The Exact Center of the Universe</i> . This event runs through 4/26 |
| 3/27 | Girl Scouts of Kentuckiana Cookie Dessert Extravaganza | 4/26 | March of Dimes March for Babies |
| 3/30 | Bowling Green Western Symphony Orchestra <i>The St. Louis Brass Quintet</i> | 5/1 | Riverview at Hopson Grove <i>A Victorian May Day Luncheon</i> |
| 4/4-5 | American Cancer Society Youth Relay for Life | 5/10 | Riverview's Annual Charity Affair Fund raiser |
| 4/11 | ALIVE Center Solar Installation Open House | 5/23 | Kentucky Library & Museum Kentucky Heritage Quilt Society Annual Show |
| 4/12 | Total Fitness Connection's Run & Walk for Children to benefit the Family Enrichment Center | | |
| 4/17 | WKU Libraries Far Away Places presents <i>Vietnam</i> | | |

For a complete list of our community events, visit www.wku.edu/alive