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New Learning Approach

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New Learning Approach

Photo By: Miranda Pederson



By: Cheryl Kirby-Stokes

We had a great semester with lots of service-learning projects. Our very first service-learning course, Honors Colloquium–Community Approach to Service, did us proud with three highly successful projects. Divided into three groups of five students each, one group worked with Hispanic families teaching them English, another used the Reality Game at the Housing Authority to teach mothers and their children budgeting skills, and the last group will be partnering with Kaleidoscope youth in June to assist them with their summer project teaching Camp Happy Day participants Drum and Music classes.

Dr. Cheryl Davis' Biology 121 labs again provided public awareness information about lung cancer, but this time they put the information out there on podcasts!

Ms. Lisa Miller, English Instructor at the Community College, partnered with Ms. Geneva Brewer at Potter Children's Home in order to provide a unique reciprocal form of learning for both her students and the residents at Potter. While Ms. Miller's international students tutored Potter residents in math or science, the tutorees provided tutoring of their own to their instructors; English lessons! This is a great example of how service-learning provides instruction on BOTH sides.

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Lasting Experiences and Lessons



By: Lisa Miller

This course was a regular ENG 100 class specially designed for the needs of non-native English speakers who, although they had been through the ESLI program or taken ENG 051, did not yet feel comfortable enough to be “mainstreamed” in a composition course. Potter Children’s Home was chosen as the organization for our class to work. Potter Children’s Home is an organization that hopes to be a tool in the hands of supporting churches of Christ and individual Christians to deliver God’s justice and mercy to children and families in need.

While meeting with Ms. Brewer, Potter Children’s Home, to decide what shape the project would take, I decided that we would make ourselves available to do anything that was needed to meet the definitions of a service-learning project and meet the needs of the PCH staff and residents.

Each student and I had to obtain background checks in order to work with the children. Since the background checks took seven weeks to clear, we were not allowed contact with the residents for the first few visits.

We helped date and rotate stock in the pantry, reorganized shelving for anticipated new arrivals, entered book titles in the small library catalog, arranged sale items on display shelves for the new sales, and anything else that needed doing. As PCH receives numerous donations, they sometimes have items in excess of their needs. They had planned to offer these items to the public in weekly sales, but had not had the staff or volunteers to organize the sale room. We decided this would be an excellent

use of our time. I am happy to say that they did begin the weekly “Tuesday’s Treasures” sales this semester and raised over \$1,000 the first week.

After the background checks cleared, the residents were excited to meet young adults from other countries and learn about their cultures. We even had a Liberian in each group! After this, we mainly spent our time tutoring the residents with homework and pantry/warehouse work as needed. My students were doing their regular essay writing and journaling, along with occasional reflection papers on the experience.

“It was one of the greatest chances for me to register in this class (Eng 100). Although there were many Eng 100 classes, this was a little different because it was not only going help me with writing, it was going to give a wonderful chance to communicate with American,” one student said.

Another student commented, “As I am a foreign student, I think the experience of going to Potter Children’s Home is very important for all international students because it gives us a big chance to communicate with natives, and the most important part of this experience is the communication with children. The talking with children is the best way to improve your listening and speaking skill because they speak freely and they do not laugh at you when you make a mistake.”



Lisa Miller and her English 100 class pictured above at Potter’s Children’s Home

Student's Care Makes a Difference



Rachel Baumgardner, a recent Biology/Chemistry graduate at Western Kentucky University and Hardin County native, has a sincere desire to improve the climate of healthcare, both locally and globally.

As an example, she spends most Tuesday and Thursday nights screening patients at the Commonwealth Health Free Clinic in Bowling Green, in addition to giving free daytime hours to help file charts, type labels and perform other needed tasks.

In January of 2009, Baumgardner joined seven other WKU students and three local physicians on a trip to Kenya, spending two weeks treating over 1,000 patients at three clinics. Her work in Kenya rarely afforded a break, as there were lines of people waiting to be treated, many of whom had never even been to a doctor in their lifetime. She and her fellow students got hands-on experience with diseases and situations that many pre-med

students will never encounter.

Baumgardner considers it a privilege to have had these various opportunities, and she says, "Working in Kenya and in the Bowling Green community only reinforces my desire to pursue a career in medicine, either in rural Kentucky or abroad with an organization like Doctors Without Borders."

Even while pursuing two majors, Baumgardner put in extra hours with many volunteer events and organizations located at WKU. As Chemistry Club President, she encouraged her group to participate in Relay for Life, a fundraiser for cancer research. She set a great example since she has participated in every Relay for Life event on campus since first becoming a student. She was also an organizer for Mya's Miracle, a combination event that allows participants to be screened as potential bone marrow donors and/or to donate blood.

Since August of 2008, Baumgardner has been working in the emergency room at the Medical Center in Bowling Green registering patients. She says she wanted, "a behind-the-scenes work experience that allowed me to see how insurance forms are dealt with and how a patient is processed in our medical system."

Baumgardner wants to become a, "leader in medicine, providing care for all people no matter their gender, background or insurance or financial status. I want to provide the kind of healthcare that all people deserve." She will be in Bowling Green over the next year while waiting for medical school to begin in Fall of 2010. She is anxious to provide further service to the Bowling Green community, hopefully in the capacity of a Big to a Little at Big Brothers Big Sisters. Baumgardner is applying for medical school as this article goes to press, so we wish her luck and are certain she will be a wonderful physician in the coming years.

"leader in medicine, providing care for all people no matter their gender, background or insurance or financial status."

Expanding Regional Directory

Photo By: Clinton Lewis



in 27-counties, along with their contact information and basic description. Over the past few months, these two have worked diligently and have completed nearly half of the counties in our region.

Our goal is to have the information available as a resource for faculty and staff to establish community partnerships throughout our regional area. We want to be able to connect our community with contacts for resources outside of our local area.

As the ALIVE Center strive to promote community development across Central Kentucky through campus and community partnerships, we want to be able to make connections that can also better our community.

For example, if an instructor in the Education Department wants his/her students to develop a literacy program in an area where literacy is an issue, we are able to identify the best location, make the connections, and establish a partnership, which can further develop our regional community.

If you are part of an organization that has branch, chapters or local offices in any of our regional counties, please feel free to email us their contact information, as well. You can email it to the ALIVE general email at alivebg@wku.edu.

In the ALIVE Center transformation from a local information and volunteer exchange to a center for community partnership, our definition of community expanded beyond the Bowling Green/Warren County community.

While it could take years and a larger staff to be able to provide information and referral, volunteer listing or community events information on all nonprofits in the 27-county region, we have begun to compile a general list of nonprofits in those 27 counties.

In February 2009, the ALIVE Center's graduate assistants, Amber Roberts and Nicholas Simmons, started compiling the list of nonprofit organizations



Annual Lemonade Stand Approaches



For the past four summers, the citizens of Warren County have shown their true character of being caring, hard working, and very generous. Warren County has raised nearly \$70,000 for pediatric cancer research through the Bowling Green Alex's Lemonade Stand Day event.

The Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation was founded by a little girl named Alex Scott who was diagnosed with neuroblastoma, a rare form of cancer, before her first birthday. Wanting to raise money for her hospital, Alex held a lemonade stand when she was just four years old. In her short eight years, Alex raised one million dollars!

Sadly, the disease took Alex's life, but her dream of finding a cure for pediatric cancer was not forgotten. Her parents started the Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation in her memory. Now anyone can host a lemonade stand to raise money for pediatric cancer research. Today, the foundation has raised more than \$25 million!

In 2005, Riley Miller wanted to have an Alex's Lemonade stand in Bowling Green in memory of her baby brother, Reid. In 2002, Reid received a bone marrow transplant at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia where Alex was a patient. After hearing Alex's story and meeting many other families effected by childhood cancer, Riley knew

the lemonade stand would be the perfect way to help. Her very caring friends and family were so eager to join the cause. The idea of one lemonade stand, grew to many stands all over town, and the first Bowling Green's Alex's Lemonade Day was held and was a great success! The community continued to understand the need for more pediatric cancer research so that new treatment and cures can be found. Each year, this community learns of more and more families affected by childhood cancer. Cancer is the leading cause of death by disease in children under the age of 15 in the United States. Despite this fact, pediatric cancer research is greatly underfunded. The Alex

Lemonade Foundation provides a way for people of all ages to get involved.

This summer, Alex's Lemonade Stands will be set up all over Warren County on Saturday, June 27th. The locations vary from many neighborhoods, to schools, parks, businesses, and more. The lemonade is free, but donations for Alex's Lemonade Foundation will be accepted. No donation is too big or small- all are greatly appreciated. There will be a celebration closing grand stand at Simpson and Compton Orthodontics on the Bypass from 4-7pm. This great event, supported locally by Simpson and Compton Orthodontics and Independence Bank, will be a great family time with activities including inflatables, face painting, games, Chaney's ice cream, and much, much more. All activities are free. A representative from the Alex's Lemonade Foundation will also be present.

Look for banners, tents, and t-shirts with bright lemons all day on June 27th and then come out to Simpson and Compton Orthodontics from 4-7 p.m. to show your support.

If you would like more information on how to host your own stand or help with this event, email alexlemonadebg@insightbb.com or call 270-842-7452. Visit us also at <http://www.alexlemonade.org/Bowling-Green>.

Local Community Events

Nonprofit Community Calendar June-August

- 06/05 American Red Cross' *Blood Drive*
- 06/10 Community Education's *Stand for Children Day*
- 06/11 Holy Trinity Lutheran Church's *My Old Kentucky Home*
- 06/15 Bowling Green Gallery Hop
- 06/16 Warren County Public Library's *Special Guest Carlton Jackson to speak at Fireside Chat Book Club*
- 06/19 Foster Grandparent Program's *A Mid-Summer Night's Dance*
- 06/01 Kentucky Library & Museum's *Photograph Exhibit* begins and runs through August 30th
- 06/27 *Old Stone Run for P.R.I.D.E.*
- 06/30 Warren County Public Library *J.P. Johnson Bagpipe performance and history*
- 07/21 Bowling Green High School Purple Pride Readifest
- 07/27 Warren Central High School Back to School Bash
- 07/28 Drakes Creek Middle School Back to School Bash
- 07/30 Warren East High School Back to School Bash
- 08/04 Warren County Schools *first day of classes*
- 08/04 Bowling Green City Schools *first day of classes*
- 08/07 Orchestra Kentucky's *Beatlemadness*
- 08/11 NAACP General Meeting
- 08/15 Union District Congress of Christian Education *Back to School Bash*
- 08/23 M.A.S.T.E.R. Plan begins at WKU
- 08/27 Big Red's Blitz
- 08/31 WKU *first day of classes*

For more upcoming events, please visit
www.wku.edu/alive

**Save the Date for the 12th Annual
AMERICAN BANK & TRUST/BOWLING GREEN KIWANIS CLUB**

Stand for Children Day

Wed., June 10, 9:00—11:30 a.m.



Western Kentucky University,
South Lawn, in front of Preston Center

We will accept donations of canned foods for
the local food banks!

Everybody CAN make a difference—Everybody
CAN HELP!



HELP, HOPE, and HOOPS Community Day We're Taking It Back

1 Samuel 30:7

Saturday, June 6, 2009 All events begin at 9 a.m.

**Roland Bland Park and the Kummer-Little Center
225 East Third Ave.
Bowling Green, KY 42101**

Asking for basketball teams to enter in tournament.
Entry fee is \$65. Registration is no later than May 30, 2009.

There will be a single elimination basketball tournament, food,
fun, fellowship, and a worship celebration.

For more information, please
contact Minister Curtis Johnson
(270) 438-6438



Now's the time to start thinking about your service-learning projects for the Fall semester!

Do you need:

- Information about what service-learning is, how it's done and its benefits in the classroom?
- Ideas for service-learning projects?
- Ideas for creative reflection exercises?
- Information about how to incorporate service-learning into your course curriculum?
- Links to community partners that would like to work with WKU faculty, staff and students?
- Information about how to get your service-learning projects published?
- Survey tools for your service-learning projects?

The WKU ALIVE Center for Community Partnerships can provide you with these services and more. Please contact Cheryl Kirby-Stokes at 270-782-0653 or at cheryl.kirby-stokes@wku.edu to set-up an appointment to meet and discuss your needs.



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