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Spring 2012

UA23 Progression Through Partnerships

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Western Kentucky University ALIVE Center for Community Partnerships

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of the Western Kentucky University ALIVE Center for Community Partnerships*

Progression Through Partnerships

Spring 2012

Volume 7, Issue 1



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Public Achievement recognized for service at the nation's capitol

By Lindsey Ardrey and She'Rohn Draper



Lindsey Ardrey power maps with two youth in the Public Achievement program. Photo by Abbey Oldham.

Outstanding work hardly goes unrecognized, and Public Achievement of Kentucky is no exception. The most recent and notable recognition came in January 2012 during the White House's launch of *For Democracy's Future*. Public Achievement of Kentucky was noted as a national model for civic education and engagement.

After a year of guiding and working alongside Bowling Green's youth, WKU student coaches, school teachers, and counselors have upheld Public Achievement's core principles of power, diversity, public work, and teambuilding. Potter Gray Elementary school coach Bianca Brown, a WKU student, Kyle Norris, a T.C. Cherry Elementary School teacher and WKU alumnus, and Bowling Green High School junior Christian Crues attended the White House event. Upon return, Brown,

Norris, Crues, and all coaches were invigorated to invest their energy into the youth. Capitalizing on the elevated national platform from the White House initiative, the WKU's Institute for Citizenship and Social Responsibility hosted a workshop at the end of March inviting university coaches from Minnesota, Colorado, and eastern European countries to coalesce on effective public problem-solving techniques. The conference facilitated open dialogue between Public Achievement colleagues.

Committed to empowering their youth, the Bowling Green Independent School District has maintained a strong partnership with Public Achievement of Kentucky. So committed, in fact, that this academic year the school district has grown to include Parker-Bennett-Curry, Potter Gray, and another group at T.C. Cherry furthering their initiatives to advance the district-wide *Leader in Me* program, motivating youth to be proactive participants in their scholastic achievements. As a complement to Public Achievement goals, within the next academic year, Public Achievement of Kentucky plans to partner with *Leader in Me* to create a seamless and collaborative experience merging practice with theory.

As Public Achievement moves towards forging new partnerships and developing new ways to communicate with the community, its mission is never lost—training coaches in public problem-solving techniques to empower youth. This spring, 17 WKU students enrolled in the Public Achievement training class will coach their own team of students in the fall. Varying in age, major, race, and residency, these future coaches represent the diversity WKU offers. Through their efforts, Bowling Green Independent School District students will continue their opportunity to think critically about their world and feel empowered to change it.

Partnership created for water resources project

By Nadia De Leon

In the fall of 2010, Ritchie Taylor, Associate Professor in the department of public health, taught an Honors section of Intro to Water Resources. At that time, the cities of Millersville and Goodlettsville, TN, had received a citation due to e.Coli contamination in their water. Since that time, students have been working in collaboration with environmental and storm water management officials in those cities to resolve the problem. The work has involved environmental education, water quality monitoring, and reporting. This program is a great example of service-learning that addresses real community needs and leads to meaningful learning. Students have learned valuable skills: from proposal and grant writing, to working with partners and assessing community needs. As the partnership has developed and trust has been built, WKU now serves as a mediator between these communities and the governmental agencies involved. The students are acutely aware of the reciprocal relationship in this partnership.

"We have gotten a lot out of it, but we have been helpful to them too," explains student Ellen Barringer. "Our research ended up being based on what they needed."

Sustainability and capacity-building are also high on their list of priorities. "We don't want to be depended on," adds Barringer. "We need to know that they can continue after we leave."

Taylor emphasizes that students need to learn to collaborate, and that service-learning connects them to a world with real problems and real people. His program is remarkable in that it has also led to numerous research opportunities for entire classes as well as individual students. "Students begin by participating in the program and then they develop their own research questions," Taylor explains. Jacqueline Brown, for example, is currently writing her Honors thesis by examining correlations between water quality parameters and weather patterns in relationship to e.Coli indicators. "There are a lot of students teaching students, and it's not just about the theory on a textbook," Brown explains. At the same time, Barringer has been writing her Honors thesis on research she is conducting at Lost River Cave, which arose from what she learned from working in Tennessee.

Faculty serve as examples of public scholars

By Nadia De Leon and Caroline Culbreth

If faculty in your department participate in service-learning or community-based research, please contact Nadia De Leon, Community Engagement Coordinator, at nadia.deleon@wku.edu for information on being featured in one of our publications.

Shahaz Aly

**Assistant Professor
Architecture and Manufacturing Sciences Department**

Originally from India, where she completed her undergraduate degree, Shahnaz Aly came to the U.S. in 1997 to complete her Master of Architecture degree at Texas A&M University. After ten years of professional experience in the field, Aly accepted her first teaching position within WKU's department of architecture and manufacturing sciences in 2009. Since then, she has taught both introductory and upper-level courses, focusing on graphics, design, BIM, and construction documentation. As demolition and new construction have tremendous environmental impacts, the department faculty decided to implement a new course with the goal of providing students experience in the adaptive reuse of structures. Aly partners with Laura Dotson on these projects. Along with the City of Bowling Green, the faculty identify city buildings that are vacant or not being used effectively and has its students, who are mostly seniors, apply their experience from prior classes to examine and evaluate the structures. Based on their findings, they then create a design proposal for how the buildings could be successfully readapted. They then present these to a board of top-ranking city officials. The situation is ideal for both city officials, who get a quality assessment and design ideas, and students, who get practical experience in a professional environment. Regarding the course, Aly says, "Students usually end up exceeding our expectations because they are motivated by the significance of the endeavor." The projects have been highlighted in local media, and city officials were so impressed with the class's work one semester that they wrote a letter of appreciation to President Ransdell himself.



Nicole Breazeale

**Assistant Professor
Sociology Department**

Dr. Nicole Breazeale is an Assistant Professor of Sociology with a teaching appointment in Glasgow. While she is originally from Lexington, her interest in rural development led her to the University of Wisconsin at Madison, where she completed her doctorate in rural sociology. Since coming to WKU in the spring of 2011, she has taught Contemporary Social Problems, Marriage and Family, Introduction to Sociology, and Poverty and Social Inequality. Breazeale has been experimenting with various ways of integrating the community into the classroom by incorporating a community-asset mapping project into her course on social problems. The goal of the project was not only to teach students to examine the local dimensions of broader social issues but also to empower them to identify community assets that could be used to create solutions to these problems. The students worked in groups which are each assigned a different realm of social issues, such as educational access for Latinos or drinking and domestic violence.



The groups first collected county-level statistics on the extent of these problems in Barren County. They then identified resources that could be used to address the issues, which they mapped in order to discern where there were gaps between needs and assets. "What they found," explains Breazeale, "was that there were already lots of community organizations and assets working on similar issues that could be brought together to solve the problem." Since last semester was her first experience teaching a course of this kind, Dr. Breazeale did not have the students present their findings to the community, but her subsequent courses will build on the knowledge that was gained. This semester she is incorporating a more traditional service-learning component into her Poverty and Inequality class as well as working with undergraduates in Glasgow on a research project that examines economic development in Kentucky through rural entrepreneurship.

Hill House students plan homelessness simulation

By Nadia DeLeon



The 2011-2012 Hill House cohort is currently planning their final group project: a homelessness simulation that will be open to all WKU students. "A Day in the Life: 24-hour Homelessness Simulation" will take place in Bowling Green on April 20th and 21st.

In the meantime, each Hill House graduate student is finalizing their individual research projects. Jacquelyn Skaggs, a social work student, is working with HOTEL INC. to help them develop a better understanding of the clients they serve through gathering and analyzing demographic information. Amelia Harshfield, who is finishing her Master's in applied economics, has been examining the correlation between Kentucky counties remoteness and various economic indicators. Elcin Celik, a sociology student, has been conducting interviews for a qualitative study on the adjustment process of Bosnian refugees to life in Bowling Green. And, John Roberts, who will complete a Master's in student affairs, has been studying service-learning at benchmark higher education institutions with the Community Engagement Carnegie Classification.

The Hill House program is currently accepting applications for four new Hill House graduate assistantships for the 2012-2013 academic year. The assistantship will include up to \$12,000 stipends and tuition waivers. Students live at the Hill House on 11th St., conduct community development work, and apply their academic learning to individual community-based research projects. For more information on the applications or to register for the simulation, please visit www.wku.edu/alive/hillhouse.

A Day in the Life: 24-Hour Homelessness Simulation

April 20-21st
6:00pm-6:00pm

Ever wonder what it would be like to be homeless?
This is your chance!

This unique simulation is designed to help educate participants about the realities of poverty in the world and in our own local communities. This simulation will stretch participants outside their "comfort zones" to face their own materialism and cultural values.

The weekend is designed with a structured experiential learning approach.

**View the simulation details.
Register online at**

www.wku.edu/alive/hillhouse

WKU departments partner for A Brush with Kindness

By Brittany Ryan



A Brush With Kindness planning committee visited homes during March to determine which houses will be transformed during National Volunteer Week.

Western Kentucky University's ALIVE Center for Community Partnerships and Student Activities Leadership & Volunteerism office are teaming up again to encourage campus and community members to volunteer and celebrate volunteers during National Volunteer Week. This year, WKU will celebrate National Volunteer Week

from April 23-27, one week after the national celebration. This year's theme is *Project Transform*, and there are activities planned for different days of the week, from fighting cancer to providing exterior home renovations.

The ALIVE Center and Leadership & Volunteerism will partner with Habitat for Humanity of Bowling Green/Warren County to kick-off the exterior renovations through a new program titled *A Brush with Kindness*. This program will meet the home improvement needs of six families in the Bowling Green area. Through *A Brush With Kindness*, students, faculty, staff, and community will come together to provide exterior home renovations. Mindy Johnson with Leadership & Volunteerism stresses the importance of students volunteering in the community by stating, "Being able to provide opportunities to our students is rewarding and reassuring. It's rewarding in knowing that they are doing a good thing and reassuring that this possible one time opportunity could be life changing. It only takes one experience for an individual to become a lifetime volunteer and find passions within that they may have not realized before. *Project Transform* is a true community event that brings WKU and Bowling Green together."

For more information on how to get involved, please visit www.wku.edu/projecttransform.

Reception set to honor community and students

By Danielle Adams

The WKU ALIVE Center will host the 2nd Annual President's Volunteer Service Award reception on April 19th. This year, the reception will recognize over 70 individuals and four groups for their outstanding service in the Bowling Green community. The President's Volunteer Service Award program is a way to thank and honor members of our community who, by their demonstrated commitment and example, inspire others to engage in volunteer service.

This year the staff at the ALIVE Center are honored to be presenting the prestigious President's Call to Service Award to Ray Grudzielanek for dedicating over 25,750 service hours over his lifetime. Volunteering with various organizations including the Special Olympics: where he helped train, encourage, and mentor young athletes with special needs. He also worked with the Kentucky Association for the Mentally Disabled organizing Fun Nights for the mentally disabled. Currently Grudzielanek oversees operations at the St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery. There he handles all funeral arrangements and organizes and assists with landscaping and plot maintenance.

For these contributions, as well as working with the Knights of Columbus Council and United Way, Grudzielanek's commitment to service has made significant contributions to the betterment of the Bowling Green/Warren County community. We are proud to recognize this citizen leader.



In 2011, a number of volunteers for the L&N Depot received recognition for their service to the area.

Anne Grubbs, an Athena Award winner, is known for her service in the Bowling Green community through organizations like the Kiwanis Club and Community Education. Grubbs will provide the keynote address during the program. She will speak on how service to others has impacted her life. In addition, the reception will also include Tony Rose as the Master of Ceremonies, and a special message from Mayor Bruce Wilkerson.

WKU students support cause important to them

If students in your department participate in meaningful service, please contact Aurelia Spaulding, Communications & Marketing Coordinator, at aurelia.spaulding@wku.edu for information on being featured in one of our publications or the Spirit of Engagement blog.

Kelsey Beach

By Emily Borgmeier

Many of us have a passion in life, something deep in our hearts, which makes us strive for more. Bowling Green senior Kelsey Beach has a passion for people. More specifically, she wants to help individuals affected with cancer and with special needs.

Active as Relay for Life's co-chair, Alpha Xi Delta's philanthropy chair, and with the Kelly Autism Program, she stays busy by putting other people first. "People are a big passion of mine. I get drawn to them," she said. Volunteering has surrounded Beach her whole life, as both of her parents are active in the community. "I've never really thought about when I started volunteering, but ever since I was little, the Bible verse, '...as you did it to one of the least of these, my brothers, you did it to me.' (Matthew 25:40) really stuck out to me."

Relay for Life is especially significant to Beach's heart as her father, grandmother, grandfather, and uncle have all been affected with cancer. "I'm so lucky they've all survived," Beach graciously states. "Something I want to get across as co-chair for Relay for Life is educating people that anyone can get diagnosed with cancer, regardless of their age." Beach further explains that there are many nonprofit organizations targeted toward childhood cancer and older adults, but not within the "invincible" age range of college students. She and her Relay for Life team are currently planning the Relay for Life event, which will be held at WKU Houchens Industries Stadium on April 27th from 7:00pm-7:00am. "We want people to come and stay the whole time because cancer never sleeps."



Morgan Mickelson

By Leah Baird

Why are you passionate about the sustainability of our environment? Morgan Mickelson, a Lexington senior at Western Kentucky University, answers this complex question with a concise, perfect answer: "Our future depends on it."

Morgan will graduate this May with a double major in geography and German. She became a geography major her freshmen year of college because she was drawn to the idea of sustainability. Early on in her college career, she dove into a variety of projects that involved the "Go Green" movement, and currently, she works at the recycling department on campus. Her recent trip to Germany made her realize that in our country there seems to be a disconnect with nature when compared to other countries. She concluded that this could be why our country seems to lack in environmental sustainability. Morgan claims that it is the simplest things that can help the environment – riding your bike and not using unnecessary forms of public transit. She wants to help the community of Bowling Green reconnect with nature and make it a more sustainable environment.

The month of April is going to be month full of different activities to support Earth Day. Morgan is helping coordinate the WKU Earth Day Festival, which will take place on April 20 from 11-4pm in DUC courtyard. She claims, "The different events on this day will help students learn how to make a difference." There will be a variety of booths set up with food, giveaways, guest speakers, and much more. Everyone is welcome to attend. For more information, please visit www.wku.edu/sustainability. Morgan is excited for this purposeful month, stating, "This is the easiest way to start and learn how to make an impact in this community."



Camp offers opportunities for low-income youth

By Aurelia Spaulding



Twenty minutes outside of Bowling Green sits 110 acres of land where 400 youth gather each summer to participate in artistic, athletic, and team-building programs. Different from many other camps, the youth at this camp engage in activities that allow them to build relationships with other youth from different racial, cultural, and socio-economic backgrounds. Barefoot Republic Camp is a multicultural camp focused on reconciliation and diversity.

Barefoot Republic Camp intentionally unites students from diverse backgrounds. Youth in grades 3-12 participate in overnight camp sessions, and youth in grades 1-5 participate in day camp sessions. Barefoot Republic divides the youth into different "republics", and they take part in activities like basketball, football, soccer, skateboarding, canoeing, hiking, film, drama, dance, songwriting, and music production to name a few. Using these activities as a platform, the camp staff helps students from different backgrounds build friendships and discover common ground.

Executive Director Tommy Rhodes said that they intentionally reach out to all youth, but especially those from lower-income levels to participate in the camp. "A lot of stereotypes that the world has told us are not necessarily true," Rhodes said. "After participating in the camp, the youth may hear a stereotype about another person and say, 'Now wait a second. I spent time with other kids like him at camp and that stereotype is not true.'"

Rhodes grew up in a multicultural family. His parents divorced when he was young, and he met his drug-addicted father for the first time at age 19. Soon after, working as a summer camp counselor, he saw how his story could be used to impact others.

"I had in my heart to do this camp," Rhodes said. So, he sold his baseball card collection for \$18,000 on eBay and started the camp in 2000 after a successful career as a research scientist at Vanderbilt.

Rhodes is strong in his beliefs, and the camp encourages youth to start talking about their neighborhood and beliefs. Campers choose two specialty tracks for the week and one elective to try each day.

Professionals and interns lead the activities at the Barefoot Republic Camp. They visit the camp for a week to teach, and the ratio is typically one adult for every two campers.

In order to help low-income youth participate in the camp, Barefoot provides scholarships to assist. Fifty to 75% of the youth attend because of scholarships. If someone is interested in sponsoring a child, a full scholarship is \$350.

For more information about volunteering or attending Barefoot Republic Camp, please visit their website at www.barefootrepublic.org.

Eat Up a Toe honors life of young Bella with swing-a-thon

By Brittany Ryan



Bella Shoemaker was an amazing, awesome, and adorable little girl. On October 6, 2005, at the age of 4 1/2 months old, Bella was diagnosed with a desmoplastic infantile astrocytoma – a rare type of pediatric brain tumor. Even through all of her surgeries, chemo, and various therapies, Bella charmed all those who knew her. Bella's mother, Jennifer Shoemaker, recalls Bella's impact on the lives of others, "With Bella, the thing that amazed me the most was the way she drew people into her. As her mother, I knew she was special, but to see how she affected others just blows my mind." Sadly, Bella's fight ended on March 27, 2011, but her spirit lives on in the people she touched and who love her.

Despite her tumor and the doctors' prognoses that she would be developmentally challenged, Bella walked, talked, and sang her way into everyone's hearts. She loved saying the alphabet and singing Avett Brothers' songs. She had a few key phrases that she would say to everyone: "amazing, awesome, adorable" and "eat up a toe." While no one knows exactly where "eat up a toe" came from, it became a signature "Bella-ism."

The Eat Up A Toe Foundation, Inc. is the brainchild of Shoemaker. As a single mom, Shoemaker experienced the generosity of friends, family, and organizations that helped her financially. With Bella's passing she felt the best way to remember Bella was to help other families who are experiencing the unimaginable of having a child with a life-threatening, life-limiting, or terminal illness. The Eat Up A Toe Foundation plans to offer assistance to these families so they do not have to worry about

financial matters like house payments, utility bills, or other payments that may need to be made while the child is in the hospital.

This April, The Eat Up A Toe Foundation will hold its first public fundraiser. Another of Bella's favorite things to do was swing at the park. She loved it so much that there was a memorial tree planted next to the swing set at Kereiakes Park. When Shoemaker was thinking about the perfect fundraiser for The Eat Up A Toe Foundation, she immediately thought of a swing-a-thon. The Swing & Fling event will be held on April 28th from 9:00am to 5:00pm at Preston Miller Park. There will be a disc golf tournament and a swing-a-thon going on simultaneously during the day. Then, from 6:00pm – 8:00pm, there will be live music and food vendors as a finale to the day-long event.

Registration will begin at 8:00am on April 28th for both the swing-a-thon and the disc golf tournament. Cost for swinging is a minimum \$10.00 donation and time spent swinging is determined by the participant. Shoemaker just wants people to be on the swings for the duration of the event. The disc golf tournament will cost \$20 to enter and there will be prize packages for the winners. Shoemaker is hopeful for many participants at the event honoring Bella by doing something she loved so much, "[Bella will] be right there with us – smiling down on us; watching us do what she enjoyed most." For more information, please contact Shoemaker at theeatuptoe@gmail.com or visit the Foundation's Facebook page.



ALIVE Center expands to serve refugee families

By Leah Ashwill



celebrations or events to showcase the culture and history of particular refugee groups within our community, as well as a community-wide Refugee Crafts Cooperative (a partnership between the WKU Students in Free Enterprise, ALIVE Center, WKU Department of Folk Studies & Anthropology, CEDARS, Bowling Green International Center, and various local churches).

The Empowerment Services Program (through CEDARS) will provide direct services to local refugees to facilitate self-sufficiency.

The WKU ALIVE Center for Community Partnerships, in collaboration with CEDARS (Center for Education, Development, Acculturation, and Resolution Services), has been awarded funding from the Kentucky Office of Refugees to enhance and expand work with the refugee communities in Bowling Green. This partnership consists of two programs: The Community Integration Program and the Empowerment Services Program.

The Community Integration Program focuses on outreach for community inclusiveness and adjustment, cultural awareness and sensitivity, and relationship-building. Advocacy will be an important aspect of this work in order to achieve collaboration and policy negotiations with relevant organizations and businesses as needed. Cultural awareness and sensitivity training will also be integral for employers, service providers, and other interested community members. Family mentoring services will also be coordinated by partnering local volunteer families with refugee families. Additional volunteer opportunities providing refugees with basic assistance will also be encouraged.

As a service-learning hub for WKU, the ALIVE Center will have the opportunity to expand our multicultural service-learning opportunities through this grant. Working with refugees and immigrants is a highly sought-after service-learning opportunity, and now students will have even greater opportunities to partner with local refugees to learn from each other, assist with adjustment processes, and foster community integration. Additional Community Integration Program components will include cultural

Activities within this program will include lifeskills education such as parenting support, financial literacy, or household maintenance. Theoretical and practical driver's education and assistance obtaining driver's permits and licenses will also be provided. Acculturation services such as group counseling for teenagers and adults and assistance learning how to access resources will also be important. Cultural development services will also be provided to enhance knowledge of U.S. culture and provide guidance in the cultural adjustment process. Civic development opportunities such as active community participation, volunteerism, and increased understanding of citizenship and United States law will also be encouraged.

The Bowling Green International Center, Community Action of Southern Kentucky, and Bowling Green Technical College will also partner with the ALIVE Center and CEDARS to expand services to refugees in Bowling Green. As the Bowling Green International Center continues to provide refugee resettlement services, the ALIVE Center and partnering agencies will have the opportunity to assist with service coordination for refugees relocated in BG for one to five years. Community Action will focus on career counseling and employment services for refugees, and Bowling Green Technical College will expand ESL classes for local refugee families.

The ALIVE Center looks forward to expanding our partnerships with refugee families and supporting organizations! For more information, contact Nadia De Leon at 270-782-0966 or nadia.deleon@wku.edu.

Starbucks serves community by supporting various causes



During the year, Starbucks takes an active role in collecting items for different drives for the community. After the Joplin tornado, Starbucks employees and customers donated countless items for tornado relief efforts.

"Getting involved in the community and making a difference" is how Starbucks stands apart according to Maria Jones, the store manager of the Scottsville Road location. Her store has been getting involved with the Bowling Green community in many different ways over the last few years.

This July will be the Starbucks staff's fourth year participating with Tony Rose for *Stuff the Bus*. The staff that volunteers at the event hand out bottles of water and keep inventory of the donated items. At the store, they hold a school supply drive.

In December 2011, Starbucks hosted SAM 100.7's Teen Angel Radio-a-thon from 6:00am to 5:00pm. Teen Angel supports the children that are too old to be part of The Salvation Army's Angel Tree by helping provide them with gifts during the Christmas season. Teen Angel collected \$751 because of the event held by Starbucks and SAM 100.7.

Maria and the rest of the Starbucks staff have also gotten involved with the Family Enrichment Center Run/

Walk, Community Education's adult spelling bee, Spell-a-bration, March of Dimes, Hospice of Southern Kentucky's Chocolate Festival, and ringing the bell for the Salvation Army during Christmas.

The store regulars are like an extended family to Maria. The customers know and help support the staff and the community by donating and supporting the different drives. After the tornados in Joplin, Alabama, stores across the nation came together to help out and what Maria thought would be a small box of personal hygiene items turned out to be truckloads of bottled water, personal hygiene products, and pet food. The outpouring of kindness and generosity was incredible.

Starbucks supports local nonprofit events by donating coffee and pastries. If you would like to request a coffee donation or get involved in events in the community as a Starbucks volunteer, contact Maria Jones at the Scottsville Road location or call 270-746-0136.



Starbucks employees volunteered and take part with the *Stuff the Bus* project coordinated by SAM 100.7 last year..

Stand for Children Day



Stand for Children Day: Being Good Neighbors
 June 20th
 9:30am-11:30am
 Bowling Green Ballpark

June is just around the corner, and that means the 2012 American Bank & Trust/BG Kiwanis Club Stand for Children Day is quickly approaching. This year's date is Wednesday, June 20th, 9:30 -11:30 am. The rain date is Thursday, June 21st. They have a great new venue for 2012: the Bowling Green Ballpark. This year's overall theme for Stand is "Being Good Neighbors." Come out for terrific prizes for the children, music, games, entertainment, and much more!

For more information, please contact Anne Grubbs at 270-842-4281 or email at agrubbs@commed.us.



Area 5 Spring Games
 April 21st
 8:30am-3:30pm
 Bowling Green High School

Area 5 Special Olympics will be hosting its annual Spring Games competition on Saturday, April 21st. This competition will feature 120+ athletes from this area competing in track and field events. The event will be held at Bowling Green High School from 8:30am-3:30pm. Approximately 100 volunteers are needed to make this event a success. If the opportunity presents itself, Brent Belcher would be happy to speak to you or your group directly about their potential involvement.

For more information, please contact Brent Belcher at 270-393-3584 or email at brent.belcher@bgky.org.



Looking for summer activities for youth?

The ALIVE Center has information posted at www.wku.edu/alive/summerfun regarding camps, events, and a number of youth activities. Visit the Summer Fun for Kids page online.

Also, please attend the Summer Activities Fair in April.

8th Annual Summer Activities Fair

Sponsored by Community Education, Bowling Green High School Youth Services Center and Natcher Elementary Family Resource Center

The 8th annual Summer Activities Fair will take place the evening of Monday, April 23 in Bowling Green High School's arena. The purpose of the fair is to provide parents with children in grades K-12 a one-stop shop opportunity for information on the activities, camps, or other programs offered during the summer in our community. The event takes place from 5:30pm-7:00pm. Vendors can set up between 4:00pm-5:00pm.

If your agency/organization/business/church has summer programs/camps/activities and you would be interested in having a person at the fair to register children or at least have information available, please contact 270-842-4281. Participants must sign up by Friday, April 7th.

Each group represented at the fair will be included in a listing to be handed out to parents as they enter the fair.

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ALIVE Center for Community Partnerships
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Support ALIVE Center Programs

Support WKU ALIVE Center programs and services that enhance student learning and benefit communities locally and abroad. For more information, contact Leah Ashwill, Director, at 270-782-0812.

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