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Make a Holiday Difference

Paul N. Markham
Western Kentucky University, paul.markham@wku.edu

Aurelia Spaulding
Western Kentucky University, aurelia.spaulding@wku.edu

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“People in our area are giving people, and the holiday season is a reminder of how blessed we are and also a reminder that there are those in our community that are less fortunate,” Executive Director of HOTEL INC, Terry Shoemaker said.

A November 21st Associated Press article titled, “Americans still giving, despite economic meltdown,” states that between 69 and 72 percent of people give routinely, and telephone survey results found that people are more likely to give a charitable gift than a traditional present such as clothing or an electronic toy.

Local families are looking for ways to give while others are looking for ways to get assistance.

The WKU ALIVE Center for Community Partnerships corresponds with more than 400 representatives from nonprofit and civic organizations in the Bowling Green/Warren County area. Because of information the ALIVE Center houses on nonprofits, the number of phones calls for assistance and resources saw an increase during the latter part of November.

In addition to calls for information about utility bills or rent assistance, a number of calls dealt with where to go to get assistance with Christmas gifts. (continues on page 6)
In November 2008, the WKU ALIVE Center for Community Partnerships launched a new program that funds campus and community partnership projects throughout the WKU Service Region. We have been very pleased at the immediate and positive response from community partners and faculty, staff and students at WKU. The overall goals/outcomes of the incentive program are to:

- Stimulate engagement and partnership efforts across or within academic departments
- Address a wide variety of concerns – community needs and priorities
- Expand and improve understanding of partnership
- Link university and community assets

Faculty, staff, students, or members of the community can initiate partnership projects; however, a WKU employee must serve as project coordinator. Interdisciplinary projects are encouraged. Funds are restricted to personnel (faculty offload/release time, staff/student stipends, graduate assistantships, etc.) and limited project expenses. WKU discretionary spending policies apply. Questions regarding funding are to be directed to Paul Markham or Leah Ashwill at the WKU ALIVE Center for Community Partnerships.

Funding consideration is underway for the first group of applications, and applications for funding will continue to be accepted on a rolling, periodic basis. Primary consideration will be given to projects having measurable community impact. Specific funding requirements and application materials are available online at www.wku.edu/ccp.

The application process begins with a face-to-face meeting between the potential applicant(s) and an ALIVE Center staff member. The purpose of this meeting is to assist in proposal development and increase chances of project funding. To schedule a meeting, contact Paul Markham or Leah Ashwill. The Community Partnership Incentive program is made possible by the Council for Postsecondary Education’s Kentucky Regional Stewardship Program, which provides annual, recurring funds to support collaborative efforts that address local and regional needs.

Learn more at www.wku.edu/ccp
Western Kentucky University places great emphasis on instilling in students the importance of giving back to the community, whether it be their home state, county or their adopted community of Bowling Green. One student in particular, Jessica Tinnell, has taken this objective and incorporated it into her entire career here at WKU. It all began at M.A.S.T.E.R. Plan in 2004, an event to help students transition into campus life. The ALIVE Center’s volunteer sign-up table was set-up at the Information Fair for students, and on a whim, Tinnell decided to participate in the WKU Campus Chapter of Habitat for Humanity’s (HFH) shed build. Little did she know that this one activity would change her whole outlook on her career endeavors and herself. She is currently a Broadcasting major with a minor in American Humanics. She was certain her career path would lead her into a position at a television station either producing or anchoring, but over the past three and a half years, she is now looking at job possibilities in the nonprofit sector.

Tinnell explains that one of the reasons she has remained with WKU’s HFH is the people that surround her, especially her Faculty mentors Dr. Bryan Reaka and Dr. Gregory Mills, both with the Department of Architectural and Manufacturing Sciences. On her first day with WKU’s HFH, Dr. Reaka not only explained how to use the tools, he also explained to the volunteers who was receiving the help and why. It was then that Ms. Tinnell began to understand the depth of needs in this country. Volunteering had always been a means to an end during high school, something that needed to be accomplished in order to receive a grade. Volunteering is now a “calling,” something she needs to do in order to fulfill herself, and as she puts it, maintain her sanity. Her volunteer work has taken her to Arkansas, Georgia, Alabama, North Carolina, South Carolina, Mississippi and even to the Dominican Republic. Her international travel particularly affected her because she was able to witness first-hand a developing country’s living conditions and the overwhelming generosity and gratitude of people in dire straits.

Tinnell also credits the American Humanics Program at WKU with inspiring her to pursue a possible career with nonprofits. American Humanics is a national alliance with colleges, universities and nonprofit organizations dedicated to educating, preparing and certifying professionals to strengthen and lead nonprofit organizations. The program works with Bowling Green-Warren County community partners to assist with activities ranging from fundraising to working directly with an agency’s clients. This year’s AH project has students helping with the Girl Scouts develop a badge for the girls and organize a spring event to raise revenue and awareness.

Tinnell will be taking one last trip with WKU’s HFH in December, the month she graduates, but she knows for certain this will not be her last stint with volunteerism.
Region Welcomes New Center

It was in 2005 that Dr. Darlene Applegate came on board to lend her expertise and support. Dr. Applegate, a 10-year member of Western Kentucky University’s Faculty in the Department of Folk Studies and Anthropology, has had a special interest in Eastern Native American cultures all of her professional career. She is particularly excited about the possibilities for students at WKU to get involved with the evolution of the Center through various learning experiences such as planning, organizing and researching other Centers nationwide. She has also been part of a state-wide survey for K-12 teachers asking them about the information they want to incorporate into their curriculums about Native American culture. It is hoped that by the end of the survey, course materials can be created and put online that instructors can download at their convenience.

The museum promises to be an exciting blend of the past and present. A site has been established for the Center in Carrollton, KY on 85 acres leased in General Butler State Park. The Center will house areas for permanent and traveling exhibits, a library with a research archive, an auditorium suitable for theatre and lectures, classrooms, and an art gallery and gift shop. Outdoor facilities will include an amphitheater for dance and performance, herbal and native plant gardens, nature trails, and a picnic area. In addition, the Center is designed to facilitate interactive education and interpretation centered around Native American history and cultures through the arts. Tribes represented in Kentucky include Chippewa, Creek, Seneca, Shawnee, Tuscarawa, Cayuga, Cherokee, Choctaw, Chickasaw, Sac, and Seminole, just to name a few.

For more information about the Kentucky Center for Native American Arts and Culture, please visit their website at http://www.kcnaac.org/ or contact Dr. Darlene Applegate at darlene.applegate@wku.edu.
Matthew 25 was created in 1996 by a group of church members from Zion United Church of Christ who had been personally affected by the HIV/AIDS virus. They wanted to see an organized effort in Henderson and the surrounding area to fight the disease and the stigma, to care for those infected and affected, and to provide education and prevention services for the larger community.

Matthew 25 offers comprehensive medical and support services to those with HIV and AIDS. It also provides prevention education, counseling, and testing. Medical care is provided by an HIV Specialist Nurse Practitioner who collaborates with an Infectious Disease Physician. This health care includes lab monitoring, treatment, referrals for specialty care, access to medications, nutritional support, mental health, and an adherence specialist.

The Kentucky program provides Care Coordinators in six regional sites and community-based organizations throughout Kentucky to aid the client in identifying and accessing needed services. These regional sites allow for statewide coverage and better local access to these services. Matthew 25 AIDS Services, Inc. covers the Green River, Barren River, and Lincoln Trail AD Districts. For Matthew 25’s patients in Logan, Simpson, Warren, Allen, Barren, Monroe, and Metcalfe counties, Carla Whitlow, MSW, provides care coordination services.

The intent of the Care Coordination Program is to facilitate the provision of quality care and services to HIV infected individuals and their families in a timely and consistent manner across a continuum of care. For more information, please refer to the Matthew 25 website located at http://www.matthew25clinic.org.

Carla Whitlow, MSW
Care Coordinator
1133 Adams Street
Bowling Green, KY 42101
270-843-3331 Phone
270-843-3353 Fax
877-842-3331 Toll-free
E-mail: matthew25@bellsouth.net
for families that cannot afford them.

“We see an increase in needs assistance due to the weather. This year we have seen a huge increase in requests for food and financial assistance that is larger due to the economy. With rising food prices and gas prices, there are lots of people on fixed incomes who can no longer buy their basic necessities,” Shoemaker said.

With the state of the economy, the number of those in need is vastly increasing. “If we graph the requests for financial or food assistance since the spring of this year, we have seen a rise monthly in those that we are helping. Our food bank has almost tripled in food distribution since the spring of 2008. Our requests for financial assistance for rent or utilities has increased, as well,” Shoemaker said.

With the increase in need, others call the ALIVE Center to find places to donate and give assistance for the holiday season.

Jennifer Capps, Executive Director for the American Red Cross, agrees there has been an increase in need but sees a lower response in giving over the holiday season. “We are obviously seeing with our food pantry increased numbers--people needing assistance with food. In terms of (monetary) gifts, with our holiday donations, we are seeing lower donations.”

Capps notes that with all the activities surrounding the holidays such as Christmas parties and celebrations, they also receive fewer blood donations during this time of the year.

If you give routinely or you would like to make a difference this year, please feel free to read the following pages with ways you can make a difference locally this holiday season.

For more information about HOTEL INC, call 270-782-1263. To give to the local American Red Cross, contact 270-781-7377.

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Ways to Make a Holiday Difference

• Volunteer at a soup kitchen.  
  Meals are served three times a day at the Salvation Army in Bowling Green.  
  270-843-3485

• Donate children's books.  
  Books can be donated to Phoenix House.  
  270-796-1764

• Visit a nursing home and sing holiday carols.  
  Some nursing homes include Colonial Manor, Rosewood, and Fern Terrace.

• Donate canned goods or nonperishable items.  
  Nonperishables can be donated to HOTEL INC, American Red Cross, Salvation Army, St. Vincent De Paul, and a number of local churches.

• Send cards telling people why they’re special.  
  Holiday cards can also be sent to soldiers:  
  Holiday Mail for Heroes  
  P.O. Box 5456  
  Capitol Heights, MD. 20791-5456

• Donate blood.  
  Blood can be donated at the American Red Cross every Friday from 10:30am-4:30pm.  
  270-781-7377

• Shovel your neighbor's walkway or driveway.  
  If you don't have a neighbor's yard, volunteer at Potter Children's Home.  
  270-843-3038

• Anonymously pay someone's dinner bill.  
  Keep in mind some restaurants have special nights where a portion of the proceeds go to charity.

• Donate gently worn winter coats.  
  Donations can be taken to your local Family Resource Center or Youth Services Center at area schools.

• Buy a tree for a family that can't afford one.

• Invite an acquaintance over for the holidays who doesn't have family close by.

• Buy a coffee or bottled water and give it to a construction worker.

General bulleted list provided by Deb Folsom
Gamma Sigma Sigma National Service Sorority will be collecting nonperishable items for a family in need for Christmas dinner. The group will collect items for the meal until December 15th.

The sorority is also collecting “Socks for Soldiers” and expired coupons for soldiers until December 5th. If you would like to donate either of the above items, please contact Aurelia Spaulding at aurelia.spaulding@wku.edu or bring them by the ALIVE Center.

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The Institutional Advancement Division of WKU is collecting gifts for a few families this holiday season. They are adopting a family from the Housing Authority, a Purple Angel, and a family from a local church. Once they complete their shopping, they will gather as a division for a gift wrapping party on December 6th. Families will receive their gifts by December 12.

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Used cell phones can be dropped off at WKU ALIVE Center for the Barren River Area Safe Space (BRASS). The Center is a drop-off for the cell phones all year long.

Anyone wanting to donate to BRASS can also donate new clothing for women, new toys, and new household items. BRASS serves 30 families, 15 of which are homeless. For more information on BRASS donations, contact Twila at 270-781-9334.

The Biology Graduate Student Organization is collecting non-perishable food items to be donated to the American Red Cross between now and Christmas break. The items are being collected on the 2nd floor of TCNW just in front of the elevators. If anyone has any questions, please contact Kerstin Edberg at kerstin.edberg963@wku.edu.

The Department of Housing and Residence Life is participating in two collection efforts for those in need this holiday season. HRL has partnered with one of the campus service sororities, Omega Phi Alpha, to collect canned goods to be donated to the Salvation Army. In addition, for the fourth year in a row, new toys for the Toys for Tots campaign are being collected in the individual residence halls for children in need. They will be collecting items from the residents in the halls through the end of the semester.

Please note that Western Kentucky University will be closed for break beginning December 15, 2008 and will reopen on January 5, 2009. During this time the WKU ALIVE Center will also be closed.

Groups with reservations in our large and small conference rooms will be contacted regarding arrangements for the room use. For further arrangements, please contact 270-782-0082 or alivebg@wku.edu.
The Capitol Arts Youth Theatre is collecting donations for Toys for Tots!

Please drop off your donation of a new, unwrapped toy for ages 8-14 Monday through Friday from 9:00AM – 4:00PM at the Capitol at 416 E Main Street. Thanks for all your help!

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National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI)
The Bowling Green Chapter will be having their 23rd Christmas Party for members and their families. The event is on December 8, 2008 at St. Joseph Church, beginning at 4:00PM.

We can use 6 or 8 volunteers to help serve food, drinks, cake, and to help clean the kitchen so that we can leave it as clean as we found it.

We will feed an average of 250 people a complete dinner, have a band, and provide door prizes. Here is where the Giving comes in. We usually give each person who attends a Christmas gift of $10.00. We need people or organizations looking for a way to make Christmas a real Christmas with a gift of these dollars. With help from the community, we can do this.

For more information, please contact Marty Harrison, Treasurer for National Alliance for the Mentally Ill, P.O. Box 176, Bowling Green, KY 42101 or at 488 Finney Rd., Rockfield, KY 42274.

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The Salvation Army’s biggest need right now is food for the pantry. Anyone wishing to hold a food drive or donate food, please bring items to 400 West Main St.

The Salvation Army is also signing up volunteer groups to do bell ringing at 14 different locations. Volunteers are needed from November 14th-December 24th. Contact Kathy at the Salvation Army at 270-843-3485.

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Standing Stone Ministries, Inc. needs volunteers to help serve refreshments for the Historical Downtown Lights Up on Thursday, December 4th from 5:00PM to 7:30PM at Fountain Square.

If anyone would like to help us serve refreshments, setup, or breakdown, their help would be most appreciated. Also, Standing Stone Ministries, Inc. is hosting a food drive for HOTEL INC. the same night as Downtown Lights Up. Anyone wanting to contribute canned food items, (see list at www.hotelinbg.com) can bring items that evening to the event.

For more information, please contact Robin Baldwin at StandingStone@insightbb.com or 270-746-2988.
Each year, the Housing Authority of Bowling Green has families who are unable to purchase Christmas gifts for their children. In order to assist these families, we ask for donations of new or very gently used toys, clothes, or gift cards/cash. In order to make sure we have what we need for these families/children, we are now accepting donations. All donations are tax-deductible. For more information, please contact Oshkea Offutt at 270-467-7153, ooffutt@habgflc.org or Kathy Garmon at 270-467-7141, kgarmon@habgflc.org.

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A Gift of a Different Kind: Puppy Raising

If you’re thinking a puppy would be the perfect holiday gift this year, we have an alternative idea: why not become a puppy-raiser for an animal that will go on to become a blessing to a child with Autism.

Blessings Unleashed Foundation is a local nonprofit agency that pairs service dogs with children that have autism.

The minimum commitment to raise a puppy can last as long as 12-18 months. Regular training sessions throughout that time are required. Each potential puppy raiser must fill out an application and pass a home inspection. Blessings Unleashed can reimburse puppy raisers for costs associated with raising the dogs, or money spent on the animals can be a tax deduction.

One of the biggest advantages our puppy raisers have is the ability to take the dog wherever they go once they have learned basic manners. Legislation has given the disabled person the right to bring their service dogs into any establishment, regardless of its policy on pets. That same right has been extended to the dogs in training to become service dogs.

Please contact Blessings Unleashed for more information on becoming a Puppy Raiser. Dana Emmitt-Hall, Director, can be reached at 270-678-5908 or visit www.blessingsunleashed.org.

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Henry Moss Middle/Rockfield Family Resource and Youth Service Centers have several children who have not been sponsored for the holidays. They are needing all kinds of food, including turkeys and hams, and also anything like CDs, lotions, jewelry, clothing of all sizes, and toys to use as fillers for families.

Please contact Lynn Vincent at 270-843-2172 or email Lynn.Vincent@warren.kyschools.us.

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Holiday Wish List for the Barren River Area Child Advocacy Center: The mission of the Barren River Area Child Advocacy Center is to reduce trauma to child sexual abuse victims by providing one safe, child-friendly location where teams of professionals work together to pursue justice and offer treatment.

In the face of dwindling funding at all levels, but increasing demand for specialized services, the...
Giving Back this Holiday Season

The Foster Grandparent Program wants to make Christmas day a little brighter for our volunteers this year. You can help make that happen by sponsoring a Foster Grandparent volunteer for the Christmas holiday.

Foster Grandparent Program, which is sponsored by Community Action of Southern Kentucky, engages seniors age 60 and older throughout the ten county area to serve as volunteers assisting children with exceptional and/or special needs. Volunteers qualify to become a Foster Grandparent according to federal income guidelines. In return for their services, the volunteers receive a $2.65 per hour stipend, mileage reimbursement, and a meal during each day they serve.

Foster Grandparent volunteers are individuals who have very little income, and many struggle to pay for even the most basic necessities each month. Each year at this time, our staff strives to ensure all Foster Grandparents have a gift to open on Christmas morning, whether it’s something they need or an item they would just “like to have”.

We are asking for sponsorships of $25 per volunteer for the cost of gifts from their personal wish list. Sponsorship is easy, and you can choose how you can do that:

1) You can request the Wish List of the Foster Grandparent volunteer and experience the joy of shopping and wrapping the gifts;

2) Or you can mail us a check for $25, and our staff will shop for the items requested.

Gifts must be in our office no later than Friday, December 12. If you would like to help but don’t have the extra $25 in your holiday budget, ask a family member, friend, or co-worker to sponsor a volunteer with you.

Please give us a call at 270-782-3162 to make arrangements for sponsorship or to make a donation to the Foster Grandparent Program. Thank you for your continued support of the Foster Grandparent Program.

Center must find new ways to raise the funds and resources needed to continue its important mission. The BRACAC is a private, nonprofit, 501(c)3 agency. All contributions benefit the BRACAC and are tax deductible. Holiday Wish List items include:

Multi-purpose copy paper (8 ½ X 11), Glossy photo paper (8 ½ X 11), Postage Stamps, Bathroom Tissue, Paper Towels, 3 Ring Binders Black or White (2” or 3”), and “Baby” Laundry Detergent.

Ink cartridges needed: Cannon pgI 5BK, Cannon cli 8C (cyan), Cannon cli 8M (magenta), Cannon cli 8Y (yellow), HP 21 (black), HP 22 (color), HP 96 (black), HP 97 (color), Epson T60120 (black), Epson T60220 (cyan), Epson T60320 (magenta), Epson T60420 (yellow), Epson T09201 (black), Epson T02021 (color), Dell 3110CN-K (black), Dell 3110CN-Y (yellow), Dell 3110CN-M (magenta), Dell 3110CN-C (cyan), HP 56 (black), HP 57 (color), and HP 58 (Photo ink).

For more information please contact Cathy Schutte at c.schutte@bracac.org or 270-783-4357.

If a new cell phone is on your Christmas list this year, be sure to give your old cell phone to BRASS. A list of drop-off locations are featured at www.wku.edu/alive.
### December Upcoming Events

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<tr>
<td>12/4</td>
<td>Bowling Green Symphony Orchestra <em>Holiday Pops</em></td>
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<td>12/5</td>
<td>Shaker Museum <em>Christmas at Shakertown</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>12/5</td>
<td>WKU Campus Chapter of Habitat for Humanity <em>End of the year reception</em></td>
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<td>12/11</td>
<td>Warren County Public Library &quot;<em>A Tale of Christmas Past</em>&quot;</td>
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<td>12/15</td>
<td>American Red Cross <em>Adult, Child &amp; Infant CPR &amp; First Aid Course</em></td>
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<td>12/17</td>
<td>Riverview at Hobson Grove <em>Tea with Mrs. Claus</em> (runs through 12/19)</td>
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<td>12/26</td>
<td>Martin Luther King Planning Committee <em>Night at the Apollo</em></td>
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<td>12/30</td>
<td>American Red Cross <em>Donorama Blood Drive</em></td>
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<td>Vision Multi-Agency Council meeting</td>
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<td><em>Fireside Chat Book Club</em> at Kirby Branch</td>
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<td>1/22</td>
<td>Warren County Public Library <em>Big Read Kick Off</em></td>
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<td>1/30</td>
<td>American Red Cross <em>Adult, Child &amp; Infant CPR &amp; First Aid Review Course</em></td>
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<td>Family Enrichment Center’s <em>Funniest Kids Around</em></td>
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<td>2/19</td>
<td>Bowling Green Symphony Orchestra <em>Hilltop Virtuosi</em></td>
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<td>2/28</td>
<td>Big Brothers Big Sisters <em>Bowl 4 Kids Sake</em> in Bowling Green (runs through 3/1)</td>
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For more upcoming events, please visit [www.wku.edu/alive](http://www.wku.edu/alive)