3-2010

Newsletter, March 2010

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The needs in Haiti are immense, but organizations in the Bowling Green area are participating in relief efforts to help meet those needs.

The American Red Cross, both the Bowling Green Chapter and internationally, continues to make progress helping earthquake survivors. American Red Cross teams are assessing ways to meet immediate needs and also how to provide long-term recovery assistance, such as continued provision of household supplies and addressing emergency shelter.

Locally, the South Central Kentucky Chapter is continuing to collect and process local monetary donations for the Haiti relief effort.

In Haiti, the American Red Cross is producing more than 1.2 million liters of water per day, enough for 300,000 people. Water distribution points are in 110 settlements with sanitation facilities in twelve settlements. Additionally, the American Red Cross has provided more than one million water purification sachets and containers that allow people to clean and carry water.
As some of you may know, I was fortunate enough to be placed on a federal grant that allowed me travel to China from December 28th through January 24th. The purpose of my visit was to establish volunteer and/or service-learning projects for WKU students participating in the Chinese Flagship Program. This program provides students with four years of intensive, accelerated Chinese language study, and by the end of the four year program, students will be able to read, write and speak Chinese fluently. This skill set will provide numerous job opportunities both nationally and internationally. In addition to language study, the program also provides overseas immersion opportunities during the Winter and Summer terms, and it is during these extended stays in-country that the program wants students to be interacting with the local community.

It was my job, then, on this first-time trip to China, to scout out potential community partners and identify ways in which students could interact with the community, a complicated and complex task considering the concepts of volunteerism and service-learning are unfamiliar to most Chinese. I was lucky, though, because after a class I taught about service-learning on the campus of Sichuan International Studies Institute, I had three very excited and passionate young women say they wanted to begin a volunteer program on-campus. They were also interested in partnering on the volunteer work with WKU students. Molly Wind, Chang Ping (my translator for this trip) and Jia Jia are now my team on the ground, and it’s with them I hope to complete this task successfully.

My first thought was to work at an elder care facility near campus. Chang Ping and I met the Director of the facility, but she let us know outright it would be difficult acquiring approval from the Chinese government (this was a state-run institution) to let American students work there, and she was also concerned the students would inadvertently offend the residents because they would be unfamiliar with the cultural norms. I also discovered in a meeting with an American student studying at SISU, Matt, that the type of volunteering we would be doing at the facility would actually take jobs away from people.

Time to move to another idea! Molly Wind and Chang Ping have told me how popular “English Corners” are in the city, and maybe we could start a new one. English Corners are literally corner spots in plazas or courtyards where anyone that wants to practice conversational English may do so. These English Corners are located all over Chongqing, and Molly Wind and Chang Ping said one was needed on the campus of SISU. English has become a very popular language in China, and college students, in particular, are eager to hone their skills. Our plan is to market our English Corner to not only SISU students, but the community surrounding the university, as well. There is much planning and preparation for this activity, but I have a great team on the ground, and since I was able to spend a full month with students from the Chinese Flagship Program, I know they are up to the task, too.
Engaged to be Educated

WKU faculty and staff have a long-standing tradition of engaging students in activities that allow them to address real world issues while drawing on their academic experience. Students at WKU not only get an affordable, high quality education in the classroom, they also graduate with skills that will benefit them in whatever setting they find themselves post graduation. Experiential learning and engagement activities at WKU provide students with the opportunity to practice skills imperative to any setting, such as working in multi-disciplinary teams, communicating effectively, problem-solving, and thinking critically to address issues. The added bonus? This type of learning provides the opportunity to demonstrate to students across any discipline how they can use the knowledge they gained at WKU to impact the greater good. It’s a win-win!

Homeless Resources

Jan Peeler, Instructor, Social Work Department
Ms. Peeler teamed up with Barren River Area Safe Space, a regional domestic violence shelter, and her Social Work students to develop a regional Homeless Rights and Resource manual that is accessible to homeless service providers in print and via web. This project was initiated as a result of a Homeless Forum held on January 15, 2008 in Bowling Green, at which it was evident that many in attendance were unaware of specific services for homeless individuals and families in our region. There was also limited information on the rights of the homeless that often proved to be major barriers in accessing housing, education, mainstream benefits, etc. The Homeless Rights and Resource manual was accepted by the Kentucky Housing Corporation and the Kentucky Inter-agency Council as an element of the state of Kentucky’s ten year plan to end homelessness.

MasterMind Chess Conference

Dr. Doug McElroy, Assistant Vice President, Academic Affairs & Provost’s Office
Dr. McElroy is working with Samuel Hunt, a Graduate Assistant for Academic Affairs, to plan and implement the MasterMind Chess Conference, which is a comprehensive, four-part, hands-on workshop designed for educators and community members that will instruct participants in the art of intelligence and motivate participants to start-up, operate, and sustain successful scholastic and/or community chess clubs. The conference will also expose participants to materials that would allow them to introduce chess in the classroom as a cross-curricular tool to enhance learning math, science, and literacy in order to help improve students’ overall testing scores in these areas.

College Bound Communities

Martha Sales, Director, Educational Talent Search
Mrs. Sales established a program called College Bound Communities, which provides services to increase the postsecondary enrollment of 50 low-income, first generation students in grades 11 and 12 who are enrolled in one of two high schools in the Bowling Green-Warren County school districts and reside in or near the Housing Authority of Bowling Green community. The goal of this project is to (1) provide a campus member (faculty, staff, or students) to serve as a mentor to each program participant, (2) to increase the postsecondary enrollment of program participants, and (3) to provide program participants with advocacy opportunities in their communities and schools, as well as to regional faith-based organizations and Western Kentucky University communities.
"As people, we are all responsible for each other," Senior Susie Jonica Montgomery said.

Montgomery, Communications major with a minor in American Humanics, utilizes her belief in social responsibility throughout her involvement at Western Kentucky University. As a member of various organizations, she strives to expand beyond volunteerism.

Currently, Montgomery serves on the Relay for Life Committee at WKU, as well as the Multi-Cultural Committee for the Campus Activities Board. However, it is her involvement in Amazing Tones of Joy (student gospel choir) that has recently allowed her to expand her reach.

As president of Amazing Tones of Joy, Montgomery set a goal for the choir to serve in the community monthly. Through their involvement, the group has worked with Trinity Full Gospel Church, within a nursing home, as well as partnered with another group on campus for a blood drive.

One notable event includes the Amazing Tones of Joy (ATJ) Fall Concert. Each year, ATJ has a fall and spring concert to fundraise for the choir. However, this year, Montgomery met a young boy that changed the choir’s routine.

One choir member mentioned Caden Modaff’s story to Montgomery after she had heard of service dogs for autism. Montgomery learned of the Modaff’s quest to raise money for a service dog to help with Caden’s autism. The organization, 4 Paws for Ability, requires the family to raise $13,000 for the service dog through donations. Hearing this, Montgomery immediately wanted to help.

Amazing Tones of Joy agreed to give all the money raised from the concert to Caden’s efforts. On December 6, 2009, the choir raised $600. Caden’s father, Dan Modaff, Communication Department Head, attended the concert with his family.

Montgomery believes there is a movement taking place at Western Kentucky University where students are working to make things better.

"When you think of Western, you think of the Hilltoppers. You think of Big Red. But, maybe in ten years or so, when you think of Western you will think of it as the place that not only helps out the community, but somehow impacts the world."

In the fall of 2009, Montgomery participated in the Student Retreat sponsored by the Institute for Citizenship & Social Responsibility. At the retreat, Montgomery communicated with twenty other students with similar ideas of impacting the world through utilizing their own interests. Montgomery looks forward to students utilizing the public space of ICSR to grow their passions.
Each year, Southern Growth Policies Board starts a conversation in the South on a particular issue related to economic development. They hold community forums and moderated discussions in communities large and small across the region. In 2009, more than 2,300 Southerners participated in community forums, state policy dialogues and an online survey to share their thoughts and opinions on how communities could best take advantage of the economic opportunities associated with energy.

This year, Southern Growth would like your help in discussing how communities can respond to current economic challenges — ranging from job losses to home foreclosures to government cutbacks — while at the same time positioning themselves for success in the future.

WKU’s College of Health & Human Services, the ALIVE Center for Community Partnerships, and the Center for Entrepreneurship & Innovation is co-hosting the Southern Growth Policies Forum in Bowling Green on Monday, March 29th, 2010 at the Bowling Green Area Chamber of Commerce from 11am-1pm. Lunch will be provided.

Citizens and professionals across South Central Kentucky are encouraged to attend. Seating is limited, and participants are encouraged to RSVP by March 15th to Leah Ashwill at leah.ashwill@wku.edu or 270-782-0812.

The Southern Growth Policies Forum in Bowling Green was initiated locally by Dr. John Bonaguro, Dean of WKU College of Health & Human Services. When asked what he hoped would come out of this forum, Dr. Bonaguro replied, "The Southern Growth Policy Board is concerned about the economic development throughout a 13 state region including Kentucky. This forum is important to document how economic recovery measures are impacting our region. The comments and data gathered will be shared with other forums in the 13 state region, and a final report will be presented at the Southern Growth Policy Board annual meeting hosted by Governor Beshear in Lexington, KY, June 7-8, 2010."

Just as important, and as stated by the Southern Growth Policies Board, this forum can be a tool to galvanize action in your own community. Forum participants often report the forums have led to new networks, a better understanding of the issues, and the start of serious thinking about their community’s future.

Bonaguro added, "We hope to gather information about the status of economic recovery in various sectors of our community such as automobile industry, sales, schools, health care, housing and others."

Participants of the forum can expect to come and engage in an open but structured dialogue about their personal experiences with the various economic challenges affecting their jobs, their homes, and their communities. Participants will be given the opportunity to review and deliberate possible approaches to economic recovery. Participants will then begin working through tensions or conflicts between the shared approaches and begin moving towards a shared purpose. The forum will end with an opportunity for both individual and group reflections.

It is important to note this forum is not a debate. It is a time of planning and productivity in working towards our community’s future. That work will be accomplished through deliberation. For questions or information on the Southern Growth Forum in Bowling Green, contact Dr. John Bonaguro at john.bonaguro@wku.edu or 270-745-7003.

For more information about the Southern Growth Policies Board, visit http://www.southerngrowth.com/about/about.html.
Maybe you can’t afford childcare for your three year-old. Maybe you have been having difficulty raising your children and could use the support of other parents. Maybe you are a child looking for a safe place to turn. The Family Enrichment Center may be the place to find the resources you need.

Celebrating 30 years of service in Bowling Green, the Family Enrichment Center offers eight programs to local residents, as well as those individuals throughout the region who utilize their services.

Those eight programs include: Wee Care Nursery, Parents as Teachers, Parenting Education, Visitation Services, Parent Support Group, Adoption Resource Center, Child Abuse Community Awareness Program, and Safe Spot.

Through the eight programs, the Family Enrichment Center’s mission has been to empower families and prevent child abuse by providing education, social support, crisis intervention, and a safe environment for children and families.

One parent says, ”I am always amazed by the care and concern expressed by the staff and their dedication to the children.”

The Wee Care Nursery provides parents with affordable childcare for children ages six weeks to five years of age. Wee Care also allows drop-in service to families 10 hours a week per child depending on space. Executive Director, Nikki Jones, says the Family Enrichment Center is able to provide affordable childcare because of the United Way funding they receive.

In addition to Wee Care, Family Enrichment Center offers a number of programs to promote healthy family functioning through assistance and treatment of the entire family.

“Since having my children here, I have been able to finish my Bachelor’s Degree in Nursing. Our family is completely off assistance and is totally self-constrained,” one parent notes.

Another parent reports, ”We have enough time to work and study. We are glad to see our daughter happy every day.”

The Parenting Education program works as a twelve-week session where parents attend weekly parenting classes. In addition, a smaller number of families may participate in the Parents as Teachers program that takes place in the home.

Utilizing the eight programs, the Community Awareness Program plays a major role in informing the community of child abuse awareness, as well as FEC services. Family Enrichment Center strives to increase public awareness, knowledge and sensitivity toward child abuse and neglect so that full community support and involvement may be enlisted to eliminate abuse. FEC hosts events in April and works throughout the year with businesses, schools, and other agencies to promote awareness.

The Safe Spot program utilizes the partnership between local businesses, law enforcement, and schools by designating locations in the area for youth to go in case of abuse or frightening situations.
While recognizing how each program of the Family Enrichment Center works together, Jones says one of their most important programs is the Adoption Resource Center. FEC actively works to find a safe and permanent home for youth. The Adoption Resource Center provides education resources, classes, and recruitment with the adoption process.

Each Family Enrichment Center program is grant funded, and their major fundraisers play an integral part as well. The three main FEC fundraisers include the Buckets of Hope campaign within the school system, Funniest Kids Around, and the Total Fitness Connection Run & Walk for Children. This year, the Run & Walk for Children takes place on March 27, 2010. The day will start off at Basil Griffin Park in Bowling Green, KY. All participants will receive a t-shirt, “goody bag” and free on-site massages.

Companies, organizations, athletic groups, church groups, and friends/family are encouraged to run or walk together to show their team spirit while supporting a good cause. There will be a Pasta Party on March 26th from 5:00p.m. - 8:00p.m. at Total Fitness Connection on Three Springs Road with children’s activities, the Pump portion of the 5K Pump and Run, and an Expo with vendors.

For more information about Family Enrichment Center or participating in this event, visit the Family Enrichment Center’s website at www.FamilyEnrichmentCenter.com or call (270)781-6714. Racers may also register directly at Active.com.
Distributions of food and relief items (blankets, kitchen sets, hygiene kits, buckets, water containers, laundry soap/detergent, and mosquito nets) have reached nearly 37,000 families (or 185,000 people), but shelter and sanitation remain urgent needs. The Red Cross is working to provide a range of immediate shelter assistance, and they also are working on a strategy to meet ongoing and long-term housing reconstruction needs. In addition, Red Cross Mass Sanitation teams are working to build latrines as quickly as possible in Port-au-Prince and Leogane. More than 150 latrines have been constructed to date.

A local event that helped provide Haiti relief was the We Care Benefit spearheaded by Mr. Alan Simpson. His call to Ms. Karen Hume at the Capitol Arts Theater on Sunday, January 10th produced what turned out to be a fun evening which also raised a good amount of money for the American Red Cross Haiti Relief. The event took place on January 16th at the Capitol. As a sponsor, the Bar Association made a donation that covered production costs, and several companies and individuals gave in-kind donations and their time. The band line-up was Andy and the Rockers, Tyrone Dunn Experiment and Skip Bond and the Fugitives. The event raised almost $13,000.

Monetary donations for the American Red Cross can still be sent to 430 Center Street, Bowling Green, KY 42101 or by calling 270-781-7377.
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Community Engagement

Campus & Community Continues Efforts

HEARTS FOR HAITI

A conglomeration of activities and opportunities began Feb. 1st to fundraise for an initiative called Hearts for Haiti. Overall, the activities are being sponsored by Housing & Residence Life but supported through each Residence Hall on campus, Residential Staff Association (RSA), Residential Hall Association (RHA) and any other interested and willing parties. 100% of the money being raised is going to the American Red Cross for the Haiti Disaster Relief Fund.

The primary activity includes "hearts" sales for $1 in the Residence Halls, in which students can display their name or short message. The hearts then are posted in common areas. In addition, several halls have hosted bake sales, penny wars, pancake dinners, and evenings of dinner and dance.

Organizers for Hearts for Haiti are currently in the planning stages for a larger-scale event that will be open to the entire campus community, but details have yet to be finalized. Within the next couple weeks, RSA will begin selling red bracelets in the residence halls and in Downing University Center that have the saying "Hearts For Haiti" on them. McLean Hall Director Jennifer Ballard said, "We originally intended the effort to go throughout the month of February, but now see it as a continual effort through the semester.”

RSA and RHA submitted a bid for the 2011 Kentucky Leadership Conference to be held on WKU's campus and were able to secure that honor. Part of their service component will be to extend the primary event of selling "Hearts" to other institutions within the state of Kentucky so it will have a long-term and lasting impact.

WKU Leadership & Volunteerism

WKU’s Leadership & Volunteerism Department collaborated with several groups to collect items for the supply drive for Haiti. Items collected included school supplies and hygiene products for youth.

The groups L&V collaborated with included: WKU Athletics Department, WKU South Campus, WKU Greeks, Briarwood Elementary, Primary School Supplies company, and there were a number of small donations from various schools, faculty, and students.

Graduate Assistant Andrew Rash says, the Haiti drive collections exceeded well over 10,000+ items. "A big thanks goes out to Chris Patterson of St. James United Methodist Church. His church collected the items and created support bags which would be sent. Chris proved to be very welcoming for our relief efforts,” Rash said.

The L&V drive lasted until the end of January 2010.

Omega Phi Alpha National Service Sorority

Omega Phi Alpha is participating in Haiti relief efforts through bake sales and participating in the Hearts for Haiti. Service Vice President Kayla Clausen says donations from the bake sales will go to the American Red Cross Haiti Relief Fund. The Hearts for Haiti that are raised within the Greek organizations will be displayed with the names of the donors on a banner during Greek week.

OPA will also be organizing their 2nd Annual Poker Run this spring. Proceeds from the event will go toward Haiti Relief Efforts.

Gamma Sigma Sigma National Service Sorority

Gamma Sigma Sigma National Service Sorority collected donations for Haiti Relief during their Black History Week events during the last week of February. The sorority held a Hair Show in Garrett Ballroom on February 24th. Proceeds collected from the event were set to go toward Haiti Relief Efforts.

This information about WKU efforts for Haiti Relief can also be found on our website at www.wku.edu/alive. If your department or organization would like their efforts included, please send the information to alivebg@wku.edu.
The Institute for Citizenship and Social Responsibility (ICSR) will have its Grand Opening on Thursday March 25th at 11am in the Garrett Conference Center. Yet, many may still wonder just what is the Institute all about?

The ICSR is a newly formed organization directed by Dr. Paul Markham, Dr. Saundra Ardrey, and Dr. Eric Bain-Selbo. The ICSR seeks students who think critically, serve generously and lead responsibly.

The ICSR is dedicated to engaging and challenging students to be agents of change in their communities, and to working with the entire university community to advance the public value of higher education in Kentucky.

Students who are interested in getting involved in their communities are just the type of students who are part of the ICSR. The future of our university and our society largely depends on students who are learning to become effective citizen-leaders.

Currently, students, faculty, and staff take part in the ICSR Third Tuesday Tea. The T3 meetings are a place to create dialogue exploring citizenship, democracy, and social responsibility. Discussions usually take place at 4pm at the ICSR space in Garrett.

In the spirit of engagement, students learn that there are things they could be doing right here, right now to affect change. Students learn by doing and being involved in hands-on activities. Such experiences are a valuable addition to the textbooks and lectures which are part of the university experience. Through active learning, students are able to see how their work can have a lasting impact on WKU and on our society at large.

The ICSR currently provides courses which teach students how to be socially responsible. Courses currently taught include Grass Roots Resistance in the 21st Century, Silent Spring 2010, WKU at Conservative Political Action Committee, and Slow Food vs. Fast Food. Each course under the ICSR heading includes an examination of current social problems or issues and often includes organizing for direct action within our local communities.

The ICSR emphasizes the WKU institutionalization of civic engagement and helping students understand how they might be instrumental in making positive changes. As our campus and communities work together, we produce graduates who have the tools to create a more just and sustainable world.

For more information on ICSR, visit www.wku.edu/icsr.
Nonprofit Community Calendar 
March-May

3/01 VSA arts of Kentucky art exhibit *Side by Side* (runs through 03/31)
3/05 Builders Association of South Central Kentucky *Home Expo*
3/06 Junior Achievement 2010 *Penguin Plunge*
3/07 Riverview at Hobson Grove *Timeless Manners for Children*
3/09 NAACP *Financing Your Future* workshop
3/12 New Beginnings Therapeutic Riding *NARHA Regional Conference*
3/13 Big Brothers Big Sisters of South Central Kentucky *Rivendell Bowl For Kids’ Sake Highlander Bowl, Glasgow*
3/25 WKU Career Services *Spring Job Fair*
3/27 Family Enrichment Center *Run & Walk for Children*
4/05 Warren County Public Library *Fostering Futures for Youth in Transition*
4/07 Medical Center *Passport to Wellness*
4/09 American Cancer Society *WKU Relay of Life*
4/09 Orchestra Kentucky *Easy to Love*
4/25 BRIMS *Open House*
4/30 *An Evening of Dance 2010*
5/02 Riverview at Hobson Grove *Timeless Manners*
5/08 Junior Achievement Annual *Mini Corvette Challenge* (runs through 5/16)
5/14 WKU Graduate College Spring *Commencement*
5/15 *Cruisin’ for A Cure Cruise at the National Corvette Museum*
5/15 Orchestra Kentucky *Celeb Fest*

For more upcoming events, please visit www.wku.edu/alive
As of March 1st the WKU ALIVE Center for Community Partnerships has a new Director and welcomes two new staff members.

Leah Ashwill takes over the leadership of the Center as Director with energized ideas to expand current services on campus and in the community. Those ideas are supported by the new Program Coordinator, Terry Shoemaker, who will work with both the ALIVE Center and the Institute for Citizenship & Social Responsibility (ICSR) beginning March 8th. Terry will work directly with WKU students on projects and initiatives that connect them with the community while building their civic agency. He will also work with students in a capacity that allows them to apply their areas of academic expertise to public problems.

For the first time, the ALIVE staff has an Office Coordinator to handle much of the clerical and financial management. The new Office Coordinator, Lori Maddern, serves in a key capacity managing the Center’s general information, volunteer information, and community resources. With the new addition, Cheryl Kirby-Stokes will continue her third year expanding university efforts in service-learning as the Service-Learning Coordinator. Aurelia Spaulding also remains the key point of contact for communications and marketing efforts. Former Director, Dr. Paul Markham, will oversee the Center’s efforts through his role as Co-Director for ICSR.

For more information on the ALIVE Center staff roles and how each member of the staff can better serve you, please visit the website at www.wku.edu/alive.