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Fall 2013

UA23 Progression Through Partnerships

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A black and white photograph of two young women in a workshop or classroom setting. One woman, wearing a red t-shirt with a graphic, is leaning over and working on something on the floor. The other woman, wearing a dark t-shirt, is kneeling and looking down at the same area. They appear to be engaged in a hands-on activity or project.

PROGRESSION THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS

ALIVE CENTER CELEBRATES TEN YEARS OF SERVICE

By: Leah Ashwill

It all started as a good idea shared by many of our community leaders. The Bowling Green Area Chamber of Commerce, the Mayor's Taskforce on Volunteerism, United Way of Southern Kentucky, and many engaged citizens of Bowling Green identified that Warren County needed a central clearinghouse for information on our many nonprofits and a way for people to connect and serve.

In 2003, the ALIVE Center (A Local Information & Volunteer Exchange) opened its doors because of the hard work and vision of those key leaders. What started through a federal appropriation secured by Senator Mitch McConnell has since grown into a regional hub for public work housed at Western Kentucky University.

The ALIVE Center for Community Partnerships continues to serve as a support for nonprofits, offering free meeting space, resource listings, and volunteer services for the 300 plus nonprofits that serve Warren County. The Center's growth and expansion over the years, made possible by Western Kentucky University, has increased the Center's regional reach. The ALIVE Center is now the primary vehicle for faculty, staff and students at WKU who want to get involved in public work.

The ALIVE Center is the connector between WKU's campuses and the regional community. Students and faculty, as well as many partnering organizations, count on the ALIVE Center to facilitate opportunities for public work that addresses current social challenges unique to our region. Through the ALIVE Center's service-learning, applied research, and traditional service opportunities, WKU students and faculty make an impact everyday in South Central Kentucky and beyond. The ALIVE Center is an integral part of WKU's success in carrying out its mission to prepare students of all backgrounds to be productive, engaged, and socially responsible citizen-leaders of a global society.

To learn more about the ALIVE Center, visit www.wku.edu/alive.



CAMPUS AND COMMUNITY NETWORK

**ANNUAL MEETING
OCTOBER 23, 2013
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM**

By: Lauren Cunningham

The Campus and Community Network (CCN) will host its annual meeting on Monday, October 23, 2013 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Bowling Green Chamber of Commerce. The CCN is the perfect atmosphere for community and campus members to connect to pressing issues facing our region and local community. The CCN is a program designed to serve as a networking mechanism for campus and community professionals. The program's goals are to increase networking among campus and community-based organizations and to effectively address ongoing community challenges. Specifically, the network strives to increase collaboration among organizations of similar purpose and mission in order to encourage campus and community professionals to share their resources and areas of expertise. The CCN also seeks to bridge the gap among existing community resources to build a better community and improve the quality of life in Bowling Green and the surrounding 27-county region.

Individuals that attend the annual meeting will hear from current work groups that have been working throughout the year on a specific issue, and participants will also be given the opportunity to join or create new work groups connected to an identified community need.

For more information about CCN annual meeting or to register to attend, please visit the ALIVE Center's website at http://www.wku.edu/alive/campus__community_network.php. To provide your

input on priority issues for the region, please consider completing the following one-question survey found at the link below.

https://wku.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_9mJgMaAFUFTaf5P

To contact the WKU ALIVE Center regarding the Campus and Community Network, call Julia Rivas at 270-782-0082 or email her at julia.rivas@wku.edu.

Current Campus & Community Network Workgroups

- Amigos Resource Network
- Regional Needs in Action
- The South Central Kentucky Coalition on Homelessness
- Senior Information Resource Network
- Partners for Food Access: Where's the Food
- Connect BG
- Disability Information Coalition
- Partnership for Immigrant and Refugee Issues

LEADERS COME TOGETHER FOR ADVANCING COMMUNITIES

By: Aurelia Spaulding

The WKU ALIVE Center for Community Partnerships will bring together campus and community leaders throughout the region on Friday, November 15th for the Advancing Communities professional development training and conference.

The goal of the meeting is for campus and community leaders to learn ways to advance in their area by identifying ways to partner with other organizations throughout the region.

Advancing Communities will take place at WKU's South Campus building from 8:30am-12:30pm. The WKU ALIVE Center welcomes nonprofit leaders, community leaders and faculty and staff from educational institutions that are interested in community partnerships to attend the event. The speakers will consist of experienced professionals from WKU and local nonprofits presenting on a variety of topics. The three sets of breakout sessions will include topics such as working with diverse

community communities and faith-based institutions, leadership and team building, marketing, finding funds, and evaluating services. The ALIVE Center believes working together to develop in these areas is essential to regional stewardship.

"Regional stewardship promotes development, partnerships, and engagement statewide and in our region. It's important to come together via conferences like "Advancing Communities" so that we can share resources that exist in our region and encourage regional citizenship throughout Kentucky," said Lauren Cunningham, ALIVE Center Community Engagement Coordinator.

Participation in the training will be \$45.00, which includes breakfast and materials. Registration is open at http://www.wku.edu/alive/advancing_communities.php. Proceeds will benefit the ALIVE Center's programs for regional stewardship. For more information, contact the WKU ALIVE Center at 270-782-0082.



The \$100 Solution™ TURNING \$100 INTO A WORLD OF CHANGE.

Photo credit: <http://www.wku.edu/etown-ftknox/>

THE \$100 SOLUTION™ GOES REGIONAL

“They get to connect the theories of the classroom to agencies that are on the ground everyday working to better our communities.”

~Dr. Donielle Lovell

The \$100 Solution™ Fall 2013 Community Projects

In partnership with the Community Farmer's Market, Food for All Community Garden, The Food Abides WKU Food Pantry, and Fairview Community Health Center, The \$100 Solution™ service learning program is working with students at WKU to create meaningful change in our local community.

By: Leah Ashwill

Students and faculty at WKU have embraced The \$100 Solution™ as a way to impact communities since 2008. Applied learning through WKU coursework has never looked so promising. Next spring, Western Kentucky University's extended campus in Elizabethtown will have the opportunity to participate, largely in part to the creative drive of Dr. Donielle Lovell, Assistant Professor in Sociology at Elizabethtown.

After completing the ALIVE Center's \$100 Solution™ training for WKU faculty and staff this fall, Lovell took action steps to ensure her students could take part in the program. She even secured her own funding for her students' projects through a partnership with the Elizabethtown Rotary Club. In spring 2014, Lovell will implement The \$100 Solution™ in her Sociology of Gender course at the Elizabethtown/Ft. Knox campus.

Lovell is an excellent addition to the team of faculty trained to utilize The \$100 Solution™ with coursework. When asked why she chose to incorporate The \$100 Solution™ into her coursework, she stated, “The \$100 Solution™ is sociology in action. Students receive the opportunity to study social problems in the classroom but work with community partners to solve issues critical to how they serve our home towns. They get to connect the theories of the classroom to agencies that are on the ground everyday working to better our communities.”

Lovell goes on to share that this unique service-learning framework also forces students to think about capacity-building and sustainability. They are not simply volunteering, but rather they have to figure out a way to make their impact lasting.

“The \$100 Solution™ allows other community groups to be involved in supporting Hardin County WKU students. The Elizabethtown AM Rotary Club has generously offered to support student projects. This model truly is community development at its best. I'm excited that Elizabethtown students will have a chance to implement the \$100 Solution in Hardin County in the spring,” Lovell said.

HARTMANN TEACHES CULTURAL DIVERSITY WITH LOCAL FOODS



By: Lauren Haynes

"I think that service-learning reminds students that they are part of a greater community, and that their coursework, and the work that they do as a part of it, should help them in becoming part of that community." said Nicholas Hartmann, FLK 280 Cultural Diversity in the U.S. instructor.

Hartmann began his teaching career at WKU in March 2013 for FLK 280 as a replacement instructor. The class began with The \$100 Solution™ (THDS) integrated into the curriculum. Hartmann chose to maintain continuity and carry on with the projects that his students were developing. Thus, he began a continued relationship with The \$100 Solution™ and its ideals. During that semester Hartmann's class completed six projects in the Bowling Green community.

At the beginning of the fall 2013 semester, Hartmann decided to integrate The \$100 Solution™ again. "I really found The \$100 Solution™ appealing, especially in the fact that it helps make a big difference through small gestures," Hartmann stated.

This time, however, Hartmann designed the class around a subject and idea he was passionate about: food. This would become one of the first classes with a THDS integration that's primary focus was food. Hartmann's choice could be considered interesting by most. How does one integrate culture and diversity with food, as well as THDS curriculum? "Food is something everyone can relate to. We all have to eat, and there are so many socio-cultural issues around food that come up (class, race, gender, or ethnicity) that I felt it was necessary to incorporate a core topic for students to connect their project too."

During this semester Hartmann leads seven groups using The \$100 Solution™ service-learning model in this course designed around food and culture. These seven groups are paired with partners such as Food for All Community Garden, The Food Abides WKU food pantry, and the Community Farmer's market. Students will work to make a big difference, with small gestures within these organizations using the principles of The \$100 Solution™ and the teachings from their FLK 280 class.

WCHS STUDENTS PREPARE FOR SERVICE

By: Nikita Moharir and Lauren Cunningham

This fall, Warren Central High School will begin another year as a partnering high school with The \$100 Solution™ service-learning program and the WKU ALIVE Center for Community Partnerships. Students in Ms. Susan Thomison's Honors Entrepreneurship course will include The \$100 Solution™ in their course curriculum and begin training in October.

Warren Central High School students were introduced to The \$100 Solution™ service-learning model after Thomison participated in the program through her church. The program was so impactful that Thomison introduced the concept to her classes at Warren Central.

"You witness the transformation of how a project changed their [students] thinking, outlook, or behavior. That is when we call the project a success," Thomison said.

Currently students at Warren Central are studying the charity model to better understand one approach to serving the community. Later this month, the ALIVE Center will begin training students on The \$100 Solution™ service-learning model and challenge students to partner with local community organizations to identify an organizational need and work alongside that organization to develop a sustainable solution.

The \$100 Solution™ utilizes course learning objectives combined with the five principles of service-learning to answer a central question for students: with this \$100 bill, what can I do to enhance quality of life for others? It teaches students to ask what they can do rather than self-determining needs of others, and it demonstrates that many social problems exist that can be solved with small amounts of money, or rather, by thinking beyond monetary solutions to make a difference in their community. For more information about The \$100 Solution™ visit <http://www.wku.edu/alive/the100dollarsolution/> or contact the WKU ALIVE Center at 270-782-0082.



Photo credit: Bria Granville

BONNER LEADERS DEVELOP PERSONALLY AND PROFESSIONALLY

By: Aurelia Spaulding

Ten students with different backgrounds and different interests all have the same goal. These Bonner Leadership Scholars at Western Kentucky University work alongside community partners to address specific needs to improve the quality of life in the community while also developing critical thinking and capacity-building skills that will develop them personally and professionally.

The Bonner program was a perfect fit for Erin Evans who graduated from Presentation Academy in Louisville, KY where volunteer service was part of the curriculum.

"My high school required service hours every year, and my sophomore year I did a mission trip. I saw that I got more out of working with one group consistently," said Evans. In the Bonner program, students serve 10 hours a week with about eight hours a week devoted to service with one partner that they serve with the entire year.

Evans wanted to work with youth and the immigrant population and originally expressed interest in serving with Bowling

Green Independent Schools (BGIS) because of their Leader in Me program. However, the BGIS needed assistance with their Family Literacy Program, which provides a variety of support services to the refugee community, including GED and ESL assistance.

In high school, Evans tutored youth in the Hispanic community after school. Her experience in the mentoring program and ability to speak Spanish made her an ideal match to assist with the BGIS Family Literacy Program.

Vicki Wristel, Associate Superintendent for Learning Programs, said, "Erin is a tremendous asset to our Family Literacy Program. She coordinates the Early Childhood Component designing learning activities for the children to help them learn English language literacy skills while their parents are attending ESL and GED classes. Erin is a true leader who is making a difference in the lives of our international community members."

The Bonner Leadership Scholar program at WKU is a Bonner Leader program of the National Bonner Foundation. Most

Bonner students serve in leadership positions similar to Evans within partnering organizations.

The 10 Bonner students serve as program assistants, coordinators, specialists, or in positions with similar titles that allow them to lead and provide more support than the average volunteer or intern.

This fall, the group of students currently serve with partners in the Warren and Allen County communities. In addition to Bowling Green Independent Schools, organizations include: Center for Courageous Kids, International Center, Down Syndrome Support of South Central Kentucky (Buddy House), Community Education, Hope Harbor, Light of Chance, and The Food Abides WKU Food Pantry, C.E.D.A.R.S., and the WKU ALIVE Center/The \$100 Solution™ program.

The Bonner Leadership Scholar program at WKU is made possible through a partnership with WKU Enrollment Management, WKU Financial Assistance, and the WKU ALIVE Center for Community Partnerships. For more information, please visit www.wku.edu/alive.

CRANDALL STARTS BINGOCIZE WITH LOCAL AGING POPULATION

By: Lauren Cunningham

In the spring of 2013, the ALIVE Center awarded Dr. Jason Crandall, Assistant Professor in the Department of Kinesiology, Recreation & Sport with a Community Partnership Funds grant to support an innovative program called Bingocize. Bingocize is a senior fitness program that combines the game of Bingo with fitness activities for senior citizens residing in senior care facilities. Currently, Crandall and students from his courses are partnering with seven facilities that include rehabilitation centers, transitional housing units, and assisted living facilities, to implement Bingocize.

Crandall, along a graduate assistant and other students work to encourage seniors to become active through "functional" physical fitness in order to increase their personal and physical independence. Many of the activities in the program concentrate on everyday tasks that are especially relevant to the aging population.

As the older adult population continues to grow, healthcare research is focusing on ways to maintain a high quality of life throughout the aging process. Crandall is conducting research to show the affects that a program like Bingocize has on seniors in our community. Bingocize has been approved as an evidence-based program by the Department of Health and Human Services Administration on Aging.

For more information about Bingocize log onto <http://www.bingocize.com> or contact Dr. Jason Crandall at jason.crandall@wku.edu.



HILL HOUSE STARTS SEMESTER

By: Lauren Cunningham

The ALIVE Center for Community Partnerships and Western Kentucky University would like to welcome Jessica Bertram, Jasmine White, Kristina Gamble, and Usonawanne Nwosu as the 2013-2014 Hill House graduate assistants.

This fall the Hill House graduate students will focus their attention and efforts on developing the community located not far from WKU on East 11th and High streets. **On October 31st**, in collaboration with the City of Bowling Green and Celebrate Safe Communities (CSC), the Hill House will host an open house for local community members. The open house will feature activities and information addressing safe alternatives for Halloween, how to build safer communities, and will highlight October as National Crime Prevention month. The Hill House open house is 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. and is free and open to the public. Refreshments, candy, and kid-friendly activities will be provided for attendees.

The Hill House serves the neighborhood by improving quality of life, investing in human capital, and providing opportunities for interaction and a space for local problem-solving. The students' responsibilities must be fulfilled utilizing their fields of study, and projects include applied/community-based research, organizing community events, establishing forums for discussion, networking with neighbors and community partners, sharing their findings and experiences with the larger campus and Bowling Green community through appropriate venues, and documenting experiences through photography, video, social media, and written reflection and reporting.

For more information about the Hill House program log onto <https://www.wku.edu/alive/hillhouse/index.php> or contact the WKU ALIVE Center at 782-0082.



Safe Alternative Halloween Party

October 31st

6:00pm-9:00pm

741 East 11th St.

In collaboration with the City of Bowling Green and Celebrate Safe Communities (CSC)

DR. BRENT BJORKMAN



By: Nic Hartmann

Brent Bjorkman is an Assistant Research Professor in the Department of Folk Studies & Anthropology, as well as the Director of the Kentucky Folklife Program (KFP), a program recently relocated from its former home at the Kentucky Historical Society in Frankfort. An alumnus of WKU (MA, 1998), Bjorkman worked for KFP from 1999 to 2004; he served as the Associate Director of American Folklore Society from 2004 to 2007, and as the Director of the Vermont Folklife Center from 2007 to 2012.

His current work involves several projects: The first involves mentoring graduate students in Folk Studies and guiding them through presenting public programs such as narrative stages at the Horse Cave

Heritage Festival. Bjorkman recently received the Archie Green Fellowship through the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress; this project will allow the KFP to document the occupational life of park rangers at nearby Mammoth Cave National Park. Of the project, Bjorkman says that "...many are excited about this project as it dovetails well with the upcoming centennial of the National Park Service in 2016."

Part of Bjorkman's current and future work includes building upon the Allen County Folklife and Oral History Project, which involves training a group of Allen County residents in ethnographic fieldwork techniques in order to allow them to document their own communities.

Bjorkman hopes to expand this to other parts of the state, expressing a desire "to use this very engaging public folklife work as a template of sorts and continue to document other counties. With so many of our WKU students coming from the Upland South, I think the other side of the coin is how we can help students better understand that they come from a region with a deep and prideful culture of its own."

PUBLIC SCHOLAR

A PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP NETWORK: WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR WKU?

By: Nicholas Hartmann

The University of Minnesota defines public scholarship as "optimizing the extent to which University research informs and is informed by the public good, maximizes the generation and transfer of knowledge and technology, educates the public about what research the University does, and listens to the public about what research needs to be done." Public scholarship brings forth intellectual and

social capital to a university, to the state in which it serves, and beyond; the intention is to engage in work with the public, as opposed to simply working for them.

Such scholarship is also relevant to the goals of WKU: "Whether in a neighboring community or in a distant country, WKU faculty and students are engaged in relevant applied research that provides solutions to real problems." In order to

DR. ALEX OLSON



By: Nic Hartmann

Dr. Alex Olson is a recent addition to the WKU Honors College, having recently completed his Ph.D. in American Culture at the University of Michigan. Though Olson is a native of Seattle, his research was based in California, looking at the intellectual and cultural history of the struggle for democratic education in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. In addition to community-based educational experiments in and around universities, he examines how democratic education was promoted through mass culture—something that he suggests continues, for better or worse, with the recent emergence of MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses).

Olson's current work continues to involve democratic education, as he is an instructor for the Citizen and Self course in the Honors College, which focuses on teaching students how to research social issues in Bowling Green in hopes of creating a "State of the City" report.

Olson sees this course as a promising start to a larger curriculum, noting that "We have several students who return to the class multiple semesters in a row as Teaching Assistants, which suggests that the course is resonating. We would like to be able to offer these students additional course offerings that build on the tools for community-based research developed in Citizen and Self."

In addition to curriculum development, Olson hopes to build future opportunities for students to pursue community-engaged learning, such as courses in public history and humanities. "I'm a big believer in experiential learning, especially through attention to place, so I've been very inspired by WKU's commitment to offering such opportunities to students." Eventually, he hopes to bring such learning to places beyond Bowling Green; as a new faculty member he hopes to develop a study abroad trip to Baltic nations such as Latvia, as well as study away courses in other communities across the United States.

RSHIP

understand what is "relevant," as well as to understand what is considered a "real problem," researchers must work with communities, learn from those who have experiences to share, and thus engage in a process of learning. The creation of a Public Scholarship Network at WKU would allow for faculty, staff, and students to engage with one another, develop efforts to promote and enrich public scholarship efforts on campus, and provide

opportunities, such as civic engagement programming and professional development workshops, to the WKU community.

The ALIVE Center, in conjunction with staff of the Institute for Citizenship and Social Responsibility at WKU, is working to establish such a network on campus. For further information, please email nicholas.hartmann@wku.edu.

GROWTH AMONG AMBASSADORS LOOKS TO IGNITE MORE SERVICE



By: Joanna Williams

Entering its fourth year, the Student Ambassadors of Service (SAS) have become stronger and more active than ever thanks to a record number of members since inception.

Increasing the membership to 17 has led to new ideas and increased excitement.

Georgetown junior Bria Granville, who has been involved with SAS for year, said that she feels the group is more organized, which will ultimately lead to more work being done by the ambassadors.

"We've always been pretty organized, but I think everything is starting to go in a direction where we can start to get things done," she said.

Originally started as a student advisory board, the group has evolved into a volunteer ambassador group under the WKU ALIVE Center. Members are required to complete 10 hours of service work a semester, complete three speaking engagements and attend bi-weekly meetings.

At the end of last year, the SAS members decided on several focus areas for the 2013-2014 group. These include hunger and homelessness awareness, health and wellness, and student involvement in service.

Upcoming plans include partnering with organizations for Hunger and

Homelessness Awareness Week as well as hosting health and wellness activities.

Aside from the issue-based focus areas, the Student Ambassadors of Service will complete site-based service work, which has been termed "Meaningful Acts of Service." The group recently completed a service endeavor with the HOTEL INC's Food For All Community Garden where they helped pick grown produce from the garden.

During the 2012-2013 academic year, the Student Ambassadors of Service organized six projects. The Meaningful Acts of Service projects are open for any student to get involved in service.

Granville said the upcoming plans are why she became involved with SAS and is excited for the semester.

"I just want to see more people getting involved and us meeting more people in the community," she said.

In addition to the Student Ambassadors of Service's project, the group will speak with several campus groups on how they can volunteer on campus and in the community.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES STARTS WKU FOOD FIGHT

WKU Student Activities has partnered with YouGiveGoods (www.yougivegoods.com) to give the WKU Food Fight a global donation platform. YouGiveGoods, a social enterprise innovator that has brought goods donations online, enables alumni, staff and other supporters around the world to participate in the WKU Food Fight. Also, in keeping with the friendly competitive nature of the drive, the YouGiveGoods platform allows donors to follow donations on a real-time leaderboard.

"We are excited to welcome the entire WKU community to the Food Fight," said Crystal Hardeman, Leadership & Volunteerism Coordinator, WKU. "With YouGiveGoods, we now have a global platform that enables members of the WKU community, no matter where they are, to take part in this worthy campaign. With the efficiencies that YouGiveGoods brings, along with its competitive ranking

system, we look forward to results that exceed even our most optimistic expectations."

"WKU is a fantastic community," said Patrick O'Neill, CEO & Co-Founder, YouGiveGoods. "Whether they are undergraduates or faculty on campus, or alumni or graduate students studying abroad, we know that they will take advantage of how easy the YouGiveGoods platform makes it is to get involved."

How You Can Help:

1. Take part in a drive: Go to <http://www.yougivegoods.com/wkufoodfight> where you can select the drives associated with the WKU Food Fight.

2) Start your own drive:

• Register your drive to support WKU Food Pantry, Barren River Area Safe Space (BRASS) or the Salvation Army in Bowling

Green or contact Mary.Lonergan@YouGiveGoods.com or call 973-493-3897 for help with setup.

- Send an Email Alert to invite people to buy the food they would like to donate online
- At the end of your drive, YouGiveGoods will deliver the food to the charity you selected and email all your donors a tax receipt.

Get Involved Now:

One in 7 people in the U.S. struggle with hunger. That means more than 17 Million households that are food insecure in America.

The WKU Food Fight runs through Oct. 23 as a part of "Make a Difference Day." The winner will be announced at the WKU Homecoming Football Game! Get involved now at: <http://www.yougivegoods.com/wkufoodfight>

HOTEL INC BUILDS COMMUNITY AWARENESS FOR HUNGER AND HOMELESSNESS

By: Eric Wills

Every year across the nation students and community leaders alike get together for Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week in order to educate one another on the many different issues related to hunger and homelessness. Locally, in Bowling Green, KY, there are organizations like HOTEL INC that work towards ending hunger and homelessness in the South Central Kentucky region. As stated in their mission, HOTEL INC is a faith-based nonprofit that seeks to break the cycle of poverty and homelessness to build self-sufficient households. "Staff and volunteers develop innovative programs to meet the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of clients so that they might break free from cycles of poverty and homelessness."

HOTEL INC accomplishes their mission throughout the year by harvesting food from their Food for All Community Garden and their Homeless Outreach program.

During Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week this year, they are supporting the South Central Kentucky Coalition on Homelessness' annual Homelessness Forum for the residents of Bowling Green and Warren County to learn more about the effects of homelessness and how students and community leaders can better engage the community. Also during Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week, HOTEL INC will show the documentary "A Place at the Table" that investigates incidences of hunger and different proposed solutions to the wide-

spread epidemic. Along with the forum and the showing of the documentary, HOTEL INC invites residents of Bowling Green and Warren County to come out and join them at local restaurants where proceeds will benefit HOTEL INC. For a list of participating restaurants please, visit www.hotelincbg.com

HUNGER AND HOMELESSNESS AWARENESS

Join the Student Ambassadors of Service and partnering student organizations for Hunger and Homelessness Awareness events on campus November 18-23rd.

Monday, November 18th
Stand Up: Raise Awareness
Take the pledge to raise awareness about hunger and homelessness

Tuesday, November 19th
Hunger Walk
Walk with others in support of uniting together to address hunger related issues.

Salvation Army
Date: TBA
Students volunteer serving lunch at the local shelter.

Friday, November 22-23rd
24 hour Homelessness Simulation
Students will get a glimpse into homelessness by participating in a 24 simulation in which they will live homeless in the Bowling Green, KY community.

World Hunger Banquet
Date: TBA
Learn about hunger issues around the world and support local food banks by attending the World Hunger Banquet.

View full details at www.wku.edu/alive

NOVEMBER 2013



GROUPS REACH LATINO STUDENTS

By: Julia Rivas

The rate of Latino student pursuing higher education at Western Kentucky University is exceedingly low compared to other universities in the nation. In fact, according to the 2012 WKU fact book, only 1.8% of the student population is Hispanic. The reasons why Latino students are not attending higher education institutes vary. In our community there are two organizations that work hand-in-hand for the benefit of the Latino students of Southern Central Kentucky, H.O.P.E. and H.O.L.A.S.

The Hispanic Organization for the Promotion of Education (H.O.P.E.) supports higher education among the Latino community, just as its name implies. This organization started in 2009 and since then, this group of community members, high school students, WKU students, staff and faculty has been working to inspire and inform Latino students and parents on the importance of higher education. Besides providing vital information to the community, H.O.P.E. offers annual scholarships to students of Hispanic origin who plan to enroll, or are current students of WKU or Southern Kentucky Community and Technical College that demonstrate community service involvement, leadership and high academic achievement.

Hilltopper Organization of Latin American Students (H.O.L.A.S.) was initiated in 2011 to provide Latino students with a positive university experience at Western Kentucky University. This group of Latino students accomplishes this through community outreach cultural and social events. As a result of this, students improve leadership skills, strengthen educational success and gain social support by enhancing traditional Latin American values.

H.O.P.E. and H.O.L.A.S. are two organizations working together to promote higher education and support students throughout their college career path, with a common goal to see more Latinos graduating with college degrees.



STUDENT HAS NO LIMITS WHEN IT COMES TO SERVICE

By: Randall Cook

Ghandi said, "Be the change you wish to see in the world." and Western Kentucky University senior Chantel Batton-Utley lives her life through this quote.

"Anything I do, I want to work directly with people," Utley said.

Utley is involved with various organizations throughout the WKU campus as well as the Bowling Green community. She mentors at Parker Bennett Curry Elementary, serves as the corresponding secretary for Gamma Sigma Sigma National Service Sorority, and has held various positions in Housing and Residence Life, just to name a few things from her busy schedule.

"I don't limit myself at all." Utley said. "That's what I really try to do-make sure I'm spreading my wings everywhere, and there's so many places here in Bowling Green that need volunteers, so I try to dive in wherever I can."

Utley really enjoys spending time with her fifth grade mentee at Parker Bennett.

"She's the kid that I wish I could have been." Utley said. "She's just so outgoing, and she's so confident. I was definitely on the journey to be that as a kid, but a lot of other factors played into that when I was growing up."

Utley is also a recipient of the Gold President's Volunteer Service Award by producing over 250 service hours in a single year.

After graduation, Utley plans to continue her education by pursuing her Master of Social Work degree or by joining AmeriCorps to satisfy her love of giving.



OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

The city of Bowling Green Kentucky is home for countless nonprofit organizations and agencies that provide a variety of volunteer opportunities. Thanks to the assistance that volunteers provide, many organizations are able to save funds and implement them in more direct services to the community. Also, the benefits of volunteering are reciprocal. The organization and the community benefit from the assistance that the volunteer provides and the volunteer gains experience, expands his/her network, develops new skills and many other benefits. This listing has ten of the many agencies in need of volunteers all year round.

1

Center for Courageous Kids

The Center for Courageous Kids is a world class medical camp located in Scottsville, KY, serving children and families who are living with medical challenges. Volunteers are needed year-round for family weekends and summer sessions. Please contact anna@courageouskids.org for more information.

2

Humane Society

The local Humane Society constantly needs volunteers to walk unfortunate dogs that spend all day in kennels. For more information, contact Elizabeth Cooper at ecooper@gmail.com or by phone at 270-783-9404.

Boys & Girls Club

The Boys & Girls Club provides enrichment opportunities for kids. Volunteers are needed for the after school programs to help students with their homework and with other activities. For more information, contact boysandgirlsclubofbg@gmail.com or call 270-843-6466.

3

Habitat for Humanity

Habitat for Humanity always needs volunteers to assist with building homes, cleaning warehouses for assembling during the winter, to answering phones and general clerical tasks. Volunteers may also work with one of their committees, e.g., public relations, family selection, family support, fundraising, church relations, construction, youth and the WKU campus chapter. For more information, call 270-843-6027 or 270-901-0150.

4

5

Parker Bennett Community Center

Parker Bennett Community Center has developed several recreational programs for youth. Some of these programs include PBCC Homework Club and after school program. Volunteers are needed to assist. For more information contact sabrina.johnson@bgky.org or call 270-393-3603.

6

American Red Cross

The American Red Cross has many opportunities for volunteers, such as assisting with national disasters, teaching community classes in CPR, First Aid, water safety and other safety presentations, greeting and registering blood donors. For more information call 270-781-7377.

Light of Chance

Light of Chance, Inc. is a nonprofit organization that works with youth and the community through innovative arts and wellness programs. It offers volunteers the opportunity to help shape people's lives. Help give back and be a part of your community's light by volunteering with Light of Chance, Inc. If you or your group would like to get involved with the program, please call 270-495-0136.

7

Big Brothers Big Sisters of South Central Kentucky

Big Brothers Big Sisters of South Central Kentucky is constantly in need of volunteers for the community-based program and school-based program. For more information, please contact 270-781-1180, or visit bbbssky.com.

8

9

Community Education

Community Education needs volunteers to assist with after school programs, summer camps, projects and events. For more information, contact Joshua Smith at jsmith@commed.us or 270-842-4281.

10

Hosparus

Hosparus cares for terminally ill patients in Allen, Barren, Butler, Edmonson, Hart, Logan, Metcalfe, Simpson and Warren counties. Volunteer opportunities may include patient visitation or light house duties in order to give caregivers some free time. Please contact Angie at 270-782-3402 for more information.

Salvation Army Bell Ringer

The Salvation Army, located at 400 West Main Street, accepts bell-ringing volunteers yearly to ask for donations in front of stores such as Wal-Mart, Macy's, Kroger, and other establishments around the Bowling Green community. For more information, call 270-843-3485.

Salvation Army Angel Tree

The Salvation Army is also continuing its annual Angel Tree for children from low-income households. According to Bowling Green Daily News, there are over 3,500 children needing assistance this year. You can sponsor a child who may not get much for the holidays by finding an Angel Tree near you or calling the Salvation Army at 270-843-3485..

Toys for Tots

Toys for Tots is looking for new and unwrapped toys with a value of \$10-\$30. They will host a telethon starting November 18th through December 21st. The number for the telethon is 270-562-0518. You can then call and request special items. For more information on drop-off locations and what Toys for Tots needs, contact Janel Doyle at 270-792-8441 or visit the webpage www.toysfortots.org.

Family Resource Centers

Contact local elementary, middle, and high schools to get in touch with their Family Resource and Youth Services Centers. These centers are for students and families who may need assistance with food, clothing, shelter, or other needs. For more information, go to <http://www.warren.k12.ky.us> or <http://www.b-g.k12.ky.us>.

Supply Services Food Drive

WKU Staff in the Supply Service Building (Purchasing, Accounts Payable, Shipping/Receiving and Inventory Control) are skipping Secret Santa this year to give their money to a better cause. These staff members will collect food for a local food drive. If anyone is interested in donating items to their cause, contact Ashlee Tilford at 270-745-2909.

Hospice of Southern Kentucky

Items to be given to the families of patients moving into the care of Hospice are being collected at Broadway United Methodist Church on Melrose Avenue. Help these patients in transition by donating socks, peanut butter crackers, children's DVDs, chewing gum, hot chocolate packets, and women's and men's socks labeled Hospice-Ted Hitchel. For more information, contact 270-842-6211.

Jaycee's and Nat's Sports Bicycle Drive

Nat's Sports of Bowling Green will be taking bikes as donations for children in need this Christmas in conjunction with Jaycee's. They will be taking donations until December 17. Contact 270-842-6211 for more information.

Kentucky Museum's 2013 Holiday Ornament Contest

WKU student organizations are invited to participate in the Ornament Contest that takes place on Tuesday, November 19th. Only 33 spots will be available. Registration is online on a first come basis. For more information, contact christy.spurlock@wku.edu.

Potter Children's Home


Potter Children's Home has multiple opportunities to give back. There is a Tuesday's Treasure yard sale on the first Tuesday of the month of November and December. Lastly, Potter Children's Home will have a wish list for the children residing in their facility. Stop by and support a child for the holidays! For more information, contact Geneva Brewer at 270-843-3038.

Teen Angel


The Vision Multi-Agency council is collecting gift cards for youth in middle and high schools who will not be receiving much for the holidays. Individuals are asked to give cash donations or Kmart, Walmart, Target or Greenwood Mall gift cards for youth. To donate to Teen Angels, drop off the donations at the ALIVE Center, Community Education, the Housing Authority Learning Center, or Bowling Green or Warren County middle and high school FRYSCs. For more information, contact Nancy Booth at 270-781-0903.

KAP Kreations Gives Back

Again this year, the middle and high school participants of the Kelly Autism Program are giving back to their community during the holiday season. The participants are making and selling various items as part of their business "KAP Kreations". These include Christmas cards, Christmas ornaments, greeting cards, jewelry, coasters, blankets, and assorted dessert mixes. The participants then market these items to the general public through events on campus, area businesses, craft fairs, and at the KAP Program. For more information, contact at 270-745-4527.



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Western Kentucky University
ALIVE Center for Community Partnerships
1906 College Heights Blvd. #21095
Bowling Green, KY 42101-1095

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.

Donate



Just select the “other” option
and type in the ALIVE Center!

Phone: 270.782.0082
Fax: 270.782.0922
Email: alivebg@wku.edu
Website: wku.edu/alive



Progression Through Partnerships
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