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UA23 Progression Through Partnerships

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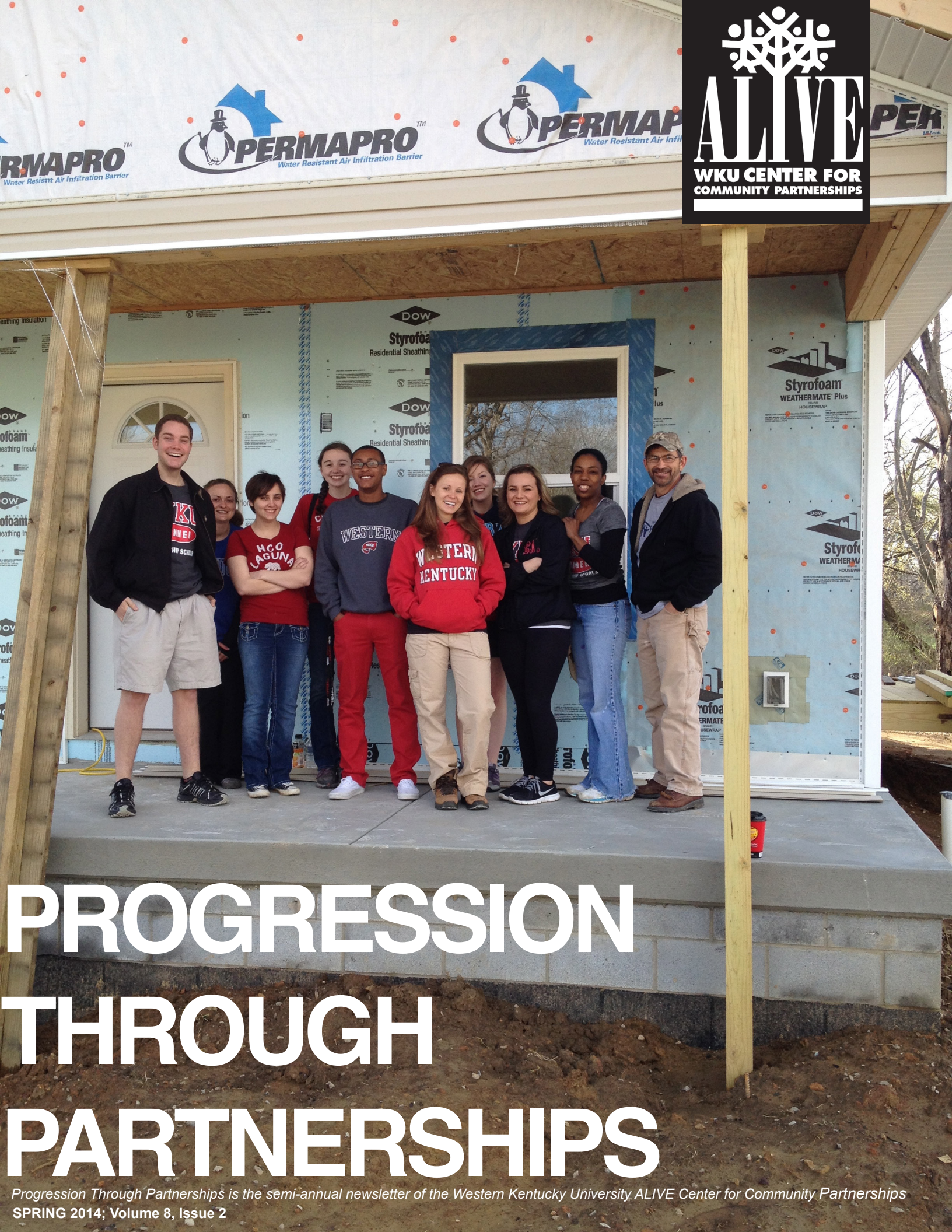
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PROGRESSION THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS

Progression Through Partnerships is the semi-annual newsletter of the Western Kentucky University ALIVE Center for Community Partnerships
SPRING 2014; Volume 8, Issue 2

ALIVE CENTER FACILITATES PARTNERSHIPS FOR PUBLIC WORK

Community partnerships are in bloom here at WKU! Students, faculty, staff, and partnering organizations are gearing up for the completion of semester projects through the Bonner Leader, Hill House, and The \$100 Solution™ programs.

In this edition of the ALIVE Center's Progression through Partnerships newsletter, read about the public work taking place in our region through campus and community partnerships.

The ALIVE Center serves as a connector for community organizations and individuals who share their knowledge of social issues and challenges to be addressed. Likewise faculty and students connect with community entities to partner in addressing these issues based on their areas of interest and expertise. Through scholarly activity such as service learning or public research, campus and community partners develop and implement projects addressing real world challenges that create lasting impact.

Some of the most recent partnerships coordinated through the Center include Gatton Academy's \$100 Solution project with Warren Regional Detention Center developing new math curriculum using new Kentucky Core Standards. This fall, WKU Housing and Residence Life launches it's first theme house as The \$100 Solution™ House living and learning community, and Hardin County Schools adopts The \$100 Solution™ for dual credit Leadership 100 courses offered at the new Early College and Career Center.

Read about the happenings of the Bonner Leader students serving local and regional

organizations while paying for their education. This semester Bonner Leaders focus their combined efforts on food access while also serving individually with organizations such as the Buddy House, Camp for Courageous Kids or Light of Chance. Applications are currently under review for incoming freshmen at WKU interested in serving as Bonner Leaders for 2014-15.

Applications are also being reviewed for Hill House graduate assistants to continue the neighborhood development projects in the High Street and 11th

Street community of Bowling Green. Most recently, Hill House students completed a career fair with the Bowling Green Independent School District's Academy at 11th Street; a partnership that will continue to develop new ways to aid in the success of Academy students. Hill House students complete their independent research projects and internships this spring and invite you to come hear about their year as Hill House graduate assistants on May 14th.

Enjoy this spring edition of Progression through Partnerships, and find out what WKU faculty and students through the region are impacting communities everyday.



**WKU CENTER FOR
COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS**

CAMPUS AND COMMUNITY NETWORK

By: Julia Rivas

The Campus and Community Network (CCN) serves as a way to connect WKU campus and community members that share common interests helping the community. In these interactive meetings, WKU faculty and staff have the opportunity to network with community members and discuss the different needs that presently face Bowling Green. Examples of pressing needs mentioned at these meetings have included, limited resources for the immigrant and refugee community, informative resources for the senior community and services for the homeless in our area, just to mention a few.

As a result of CCN, groups meet and work together to resolve some of the gaps and to find ways to improve community needs. Current groups include Amigos Resource Network, the Homeless and Housing Coalition of South Central Kentucky, Be Healthy BG and Educational Resources for Youth.

In the case of Amigos Resource Network, agencies, organizations and businesses meet once a month to share valuable information related to our Hispanic community. This group experiences an estimate of 20 members attending their monthly meeting and with the information shared at these meetings, individuals seem to benefit from sharing information and making connections.

Another successful group is the Homeless and Housing Coalition of South Central Kentucky. This group has been working on connecting and coordinating resources for the benefit of those that are at risk of becoming homeless or that are homeless. As a result of their efforts,

the Homeless and Housing Coalition of South Central Kentucky are releasing their first publication on renters rights. This booklet has been compiled with valuable information that guides renters through the process of renting their next home.

The next Campus and Community Network meeting is in the planning process, however it will take place in the month of August. For more information on the Campus and Community Network, contact our Office Associate at julia.rivas@wku.edu or feel free to give us a call 270-782-0082.

SPAULDING AND CUNNINGHAM SELECTED TO SPEAK AT NATIONAL CONFERENCE

In July 2014, the WKU ALIVE Center for Community Partnerships' Communication and Marketing Coordinator Aurelia Spaulding, and Community Engagement Coordinator Lauren Cunningham will speak at the National Conference on Volunteering and Service (NCVS), the nation's largest conference for national service programs.

According to the NCVS website at www.volunteeringandservice.org. Five thousand people join together for a single mission - to strengthen communities and change lives through volunteer service.

Spaulding and Cunningham will speak to higher education professionals and volunteer managers on the topics of partnership and reciprocity.

In the session titled, Helping Students Create Meaningful College Experiences through Service, Spaulding and Cunningham will share the WKU ALIVE Center's work with students and community partners.

Using specific examples from Western Kentucky University, the session will describe how the ALIVE Center for Community Partnerships facilitates



community engagement efforts, promoting reciprocity and partnership, by helping students identify interests and develop mutually beneficial partnerships with community that address currently unmet needs.



GATTON ACADEMY WORKS WITH JUVENILE DETENTION CENTER

By: Lauren Cunningham

"Here at the academy, we have a little saying: find yourself, accept yourself, and give yourself away."

~Dr. Tim Gott

The newest partners of the WKU ALIVE Center for Community Partnerships and The \$100 Solution™ service-learning program are the Carol Martin Gatton Academy of Mathematics and Science and the Warren Regional Juvenile Detention Center (WRJDC). Twelve junior and senior students at the Academy are working with WRJDC to develop hands-on activities in the area of Algebra II for students incarcerated in WRJDC this semester. This partnership began with a determined need expressed by WRJDC in the spring of 2013 by Dr. Rebecca Painter, Science Educator at the detention center.

"The state is supporting a teacher-friendly lesson plan site - CIITS. This site will have a collection of teacher generated activities to meet standards. Our goal is to have a collection of student-generated activities that may be utilized in a secure detention setting (student-generated activities for students)," Painter said.

The 12 students developing the Algebra II activities have the amazing opportunity to put into action the excellent understanding of mathematics that most of students at the academy possess, in a way never before.

"Here at the Academy, we have a little saying: find yourself, accept yourself, and give yourself away. We want our students to understand that they have a responsibility to use their abilities and talents to serve others. When we see students doing that, we believe they are fulfilling their full potential. As much as we are proud of their academic accomplishments, we feel a greater sense of pride in seeing our students develop and embrace a service project." said Tim Gott, Director of the Gatton Academy.

WARREN CENTRAL STUDENTS BEGIN SOLUTION PROJECT WITH HABITAT FOR HUMNIAITY

By: Lauen Cunningham

Eleven Warren Central High School junior and senior students in Susan Thomison's Entrepreneurship class made an impact this school year. Like the famous Starfish Story that describes the philosophy of The \$100 Solution™, Project UpLift helps the Bowling Green/Warren County Habitat for Humanity serve one family at a time.

Rod Goodman, former Executive Director of Bowling Green/Warren County Habitat for Humanity, agreed to partner with Project UpLift to solve an affordable housing obstacle. When a family builds a home with Habitat for Humanity, outdoor structures are not part of the plan. Goodman identified a local family that loves to garden, but currently the family uses gardening tools and landscaping equipment that must be left outside. This type of treatment to tools over a long period of time will cause rust and corroding due to the harsh climate. Project UpLift assists with building a new shed for the family by writing a mini-grant through The \$100 Solution™ service-learning program. Additionally, students are raising more money to fund the project by creating window art and framing the work of local visual artists, who have donated their work to the project. In the true spirit of entrepreneurship, the sales from the artwork and window art will help students raise the remaining \$300.00 needed to begin the shed building process.

For more information about Project Uplift, contact the ALIVE Center for Community Partnerships at 270-782-0082.



ANNUAL MEETING WILL TAKE PLACE AT WKU

By: Aurelia Spaulding

For nearly five years, Western Kentucky University has been the academic home for The \$100 Solution™. Each year the National Board of Directors meets during the summer, and this year, The \$100 Solution™ annual meeting will take place at Western Kentucky University July 31st-August 2nd.

During the annual meeting, the National Board, advisory council, and faculty from multiple universities will discuss the past year's activities, develop plans for the upcoming years, and share the work of the program with guests. While Friday will be more of a planning and review day, Saturday morning will be open to special guests and campus and community members interested in learning more about The \$100 Solution™.

Saturday will begin with a breakfast at 8:30am. Then, attendees will break off into multiple sessions that highlight and educate



the audience on the work of the program. Anyone interested in learning more about The \$100 Solution™, can register for a one-day registration the includes breakfast and two breakout sessions for an 8:30am-12:00pm. Attending the conference is a great opportunity to learn about the countless projects that high

school and WKU students have completed with community partners throughout South Central Kentucky as well as other institutions across the country.

To learn more about the annual meeting, visit www.wku.edu/alive/the100dollarsolution.

HILL HOUSE STUDENTS IMPACT COMMUNITY AND PRESENT RESEARCH



By: Lauren Cunningham

The fall 2013 semester the Hill House at Western Kentucky University brought three new students to the program, two from the Department of Social Work and one from the Department of Sociology. Joining the current student in Public Health, the four students have been successfully working together in the four areas of focus within the program: group discussion and collaboration, research, outreach activities, and community collaboration.

The spring 2014 outreach efforts in partnership with rest of the community,

as the students and staff of Hill House worked to initiate collaboration with the Academy at 11th Street, located just down the hill from the House. Working with landlord Bob Basham and Academy director Marisa Duarte, Hill House students and staff met individually with academy students and gave them an opportunity to discuss their goals and ambitions. Utilizing those interactions, Hill House students developed a targeted career fair held at the academy in March; the fair was tailored to the individual interests and needs of the students at the academy, with the intention of guiding the students to making steps

towards achieving their life goals and leaving school with a better understanding of themselves.

The Hill House students are presenting their 2013-2014 community and research findings on Wednesday, May 14, 2014 at 3:30 pm at the Institute for Citizenship and Social Responsibility (ICSR). Refreshments will be served. Please RSVP with Lauren Cunningham, Community Engagement Coordinator at lauren.cunningham@wku.edu or Nic Hartmann, Public Scholarship Coordinator at ICSR at nic.hartmann@wku.edu.



PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP

By: Nic Hartmann

DR. JERRY DADAY



Dr. Daday is an Associate Professor in the Department of Sociology, and the interim Executive Director of the Center for Faculty Development (CFD) at WKU. A 2004 Ph.D. graduate of the University of New Mexico, Daday joined the Department of Sociology that same year, and has been very involved in collaborative service-learning and professional development efforts at WKU. Dr. Daday says, "I have always been of the opinion that working together, collaboratively, yields much stronger results and better outcomes."

Much of Daday's work with the CFD has done just that: establishing partnerships between the Center and other campus organizations, as well as establishing professional development opportunities for faculty. Part of the latter involves collaborative efforts between the CFD and the WKU ALIVE Center; in November, the two centers hosted a joint workshop for graduate students on using service-learning in the classroom, and the spring semester will bring a workshop on funding sources for public scholarship, co-hosted by the Office of Sponsored Programs.

In addition to continuing his current work, Daday is interested in developing a study abroad program to take students to the Balkan region of Europe. He said, "I am especially interested in the history of Southeastern Europe, in the area of the former Yugoslavia. I hope to someday build a formal study abroad program for students to this region of the world – and to conduct research on efforts to promote reconciliation and justice following the breakup of the former Yugoslavia and the war that occurred in modern day Bosnia-Herzegovina and Croatia."

DR. DONIELLE LOVELL

Dr. Donielle Lovell is an Assistant Professor of Sociology at WKU's Elizabethtown/Fort Knox Regional Campus. A 2009 Ph.D. graduate of the Rural Sociology program at the University of Missouri, Lovell joined WKU that same year, and has taken an active role in working "to connect students to sociological theory and community through various service-learning and community-based research projects." Before her time in Missouri and Kentucky, she lived in the Mississippi Delta, working as an Americorps VISTA educator for the Mississippi prison system before going on to earn an MA in Community Development from Delta State University.

Currently, Lovell is engaged in two main projects. The first involves using the \$100 Solution™ model for the Sociology of Gender course; Lovell is the first faculty member at the Elizabethtown/Fort Knox campus to incorporate this model into the classroom. The second project is a community-based research study of homelessness in Hardin County; in teaming up with local nonprofit, Helping Hand of Hope, Lovell's students "will use these stories as a way to highlight the problem of homelessness in Hardin County and help the agency become better informed about factors that lead to homelessness here and the progression of decisions made when facing homelessness. This information will help the agency plan for future initiatives."

Future projects for Lovell involve continuing her work with local organizations in Hardin County, as well as expanding her public work in Ecuador: "In the last 10 years of my career I've focused solely on two regions—the Mississippi Delta and now Central Kentucky. I'd like to expand my contribution to public scholarship by starting an international focus."





By: Sarah Hagan

BONNER LEADERS LEARN THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS WITH THE COMMUNITY

The Bonner Leader Program at WKU has blossomed in the last academic year, and students have succeeded in developing strong relationships with community partners. Through the Bonner program, students are challenged to engage in reflection to deepen their personal growth while attending training and enrichment activities that strengthen their professional and academic selves. Bonner Leaders choose from the many nonprofit organizations available in the Bowling Green community that they are interested in working with. The four year program model then allows the students to explore, engage, and eventually become an expert in their chosen organization.

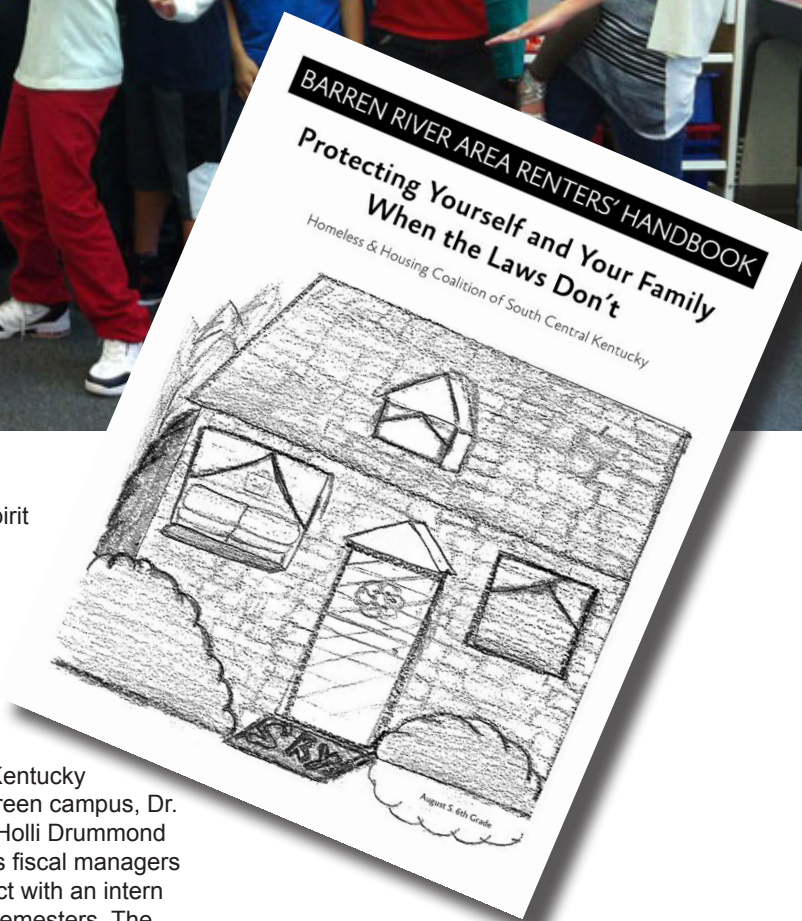
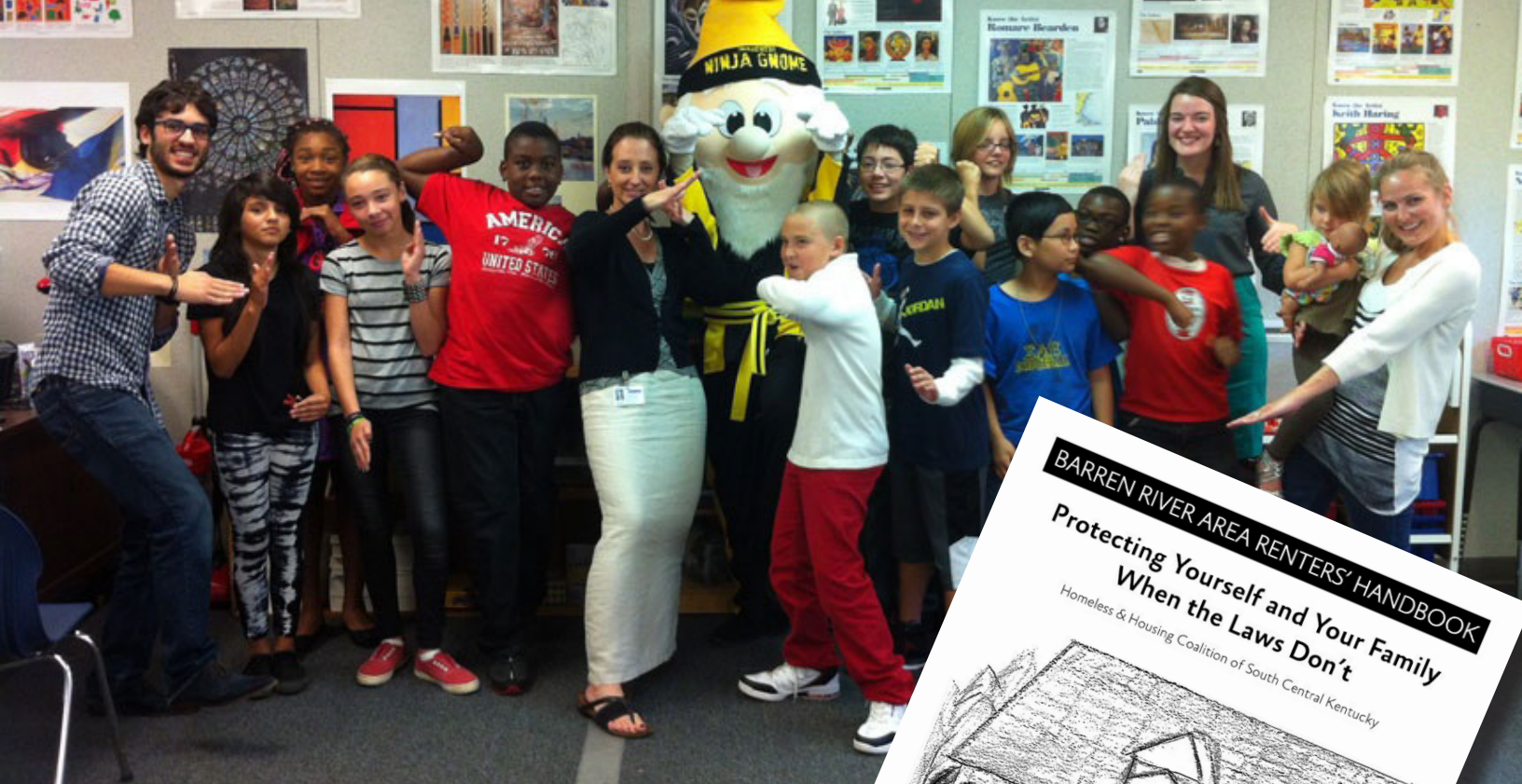
Some of our Bonners are already learning the process of grant writing, such as Grace Gilliland who is the Development Assistant at Light of Chance, Inc. Another Bonner, Jillian Weston, is involved in policy change as the Refugee Program Coordinator at CEDARS. Bonner Leaders are actively networking and building skills that will make them exceptional employees in their future careers as well as responsible citizens in their community.

Lejla Mehmedovic commented on her experience at Hope Harbor by saying, "I've had so many opportunities to meet people involved in preventing sexual violence. I had no idea how many people were part of this."

The Bonners also split up into groups to address specific community issues of their choosing and propose an action plan to meet the need. Courtney Ritchie, Daniel Banks, and Kurtis Spears started an Issue Based Group that is addressing the issue of hunger in our community. They have set out to establish a food recovery program here in Bowling Green, KY that will take the leftover food items donated from local restaurants, and through a partnership with Hotel, Inc., disperse this food among the hungry people of the community.

The Bonner Leader Program invests in students who in turn invest in our world. By providing access to higher education through meaningful service, the Bonner Leader Program here at WKU hopes to inspire generations to be courageous and confident with their abilities.

WORKING TOGETHER FOR RENTER'S RIGHTS



In the spring of 2013, the Homeless and Housing Coalition of South Central Kentucky was awarded an ALIVE Center grant for the coalition's Barren River Area Renters' Handbook Project. The goal of the project is to ensure that a safe, stable, and affordable home is possible for the over 67,000 renters in the Barren River Area. The project is proactively working to address this community issue by equipping renters to navigate the legalese of leases through an informational multi-language handbook.

"The grant funding made the renters' handbook project possible, but it was the link that was created between community and university assets that have made this project a success. The WKU students, staff, and faculty who have joined this project along side of the community partners have gone above and beyond to make this project a success. Because of everyone's dedication and hardwork, the Barren River Area Renters' Handbook Project is making a positive and sustainable impact on our community," said Dana Beasley-Brown, Barren River Area Renters' Handbook Project Coordinator.

The renters' handbook project has ignited a spirit of engagement across campus and the local community and a strong partnership has developed between faculty and students within the Sociology Department and the Coalition. At Western Kentucky University's Bowling Green campus, Dr. James Kanan and Dr. Holli Drummond have led in the effort as fiscal managers and provided the project with an intern for the fall and spring semesters. The fall intern, Sharon Leone, coordinated the group of translators who donated their services to translate the handbook into Spanish, Swahili, and Arabic. At the WKU Glasgow Campus, Dr. Breazeale, a Sociology Professor, partnered with the coalition to use the project as a service-learning component in her Poverty & Inequality class and Research Methods classes. The students collected renters' stories from across the Barren River area, developed curriculum for the renters' workshops and created accompanying

evaluative tools to assess the effectiveness of the project. By the end of the semester, the students became community leaders in Glasgow and continue to build momentum to improve the quality of life for renters in the area. Further down the Hill, the campus public relations, and advertising firm, ImageWest, partnered with the coalition to create the Barren River Area Renters' Handbook. ImageWest formatted the handbook and worked with art students from Warren Elementary to create the illustrations for the handbook.

EBELHAR GAINS GRATITUDE WORKING WITH HABITAT



By: Kara Drury

"I learn something new about myself with every board I lift, nail I drive, and heart I connect with. I learn that I can push myself to do things I never thought possible, that I am strong enough to be an agent of change, and that there is no greater gift than the gift of love," said WKU senior Elizabeth Ebelhar when asked what she gets from the service she does.

Elizabeth Ebelhar is a Western Kentucky University senior from Owensboro, Kentucky. WKU Habitat for Humanity President and Communication Sciences and Disorders student worker, Ebelhar has remained a busy bee throughout her four years at WKU. While maintaining a demanding major and significant leadership position, she still makes time to remain an active member at St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church (WKU Newman Center) and a Michelle P. Waiver Grant Personal Support Worker. Part of Ebelhar's current and future plan includes pursuing a Master's degree education in speech-language pathology.

Ebelhar became a member of WKU Habitat for Humanity during her first semester of college. After attending the first campus chapter meeting and viewing a substandard housing awareness video, she knew she had found an issue she wanted to aid in changing. Through her local, national, and international build trips she has helped a family move from a shed to a home and watched the sun set with a mother out of her kitchen window while her children played outside. When asked why she loves giving up her time to others, she responded, "To see the eyes of the individuals I am serving and to feel the love that they emanate for each volunteer is a feeling that I cannot describe. To put it simply, I give my time because my time can mean hope."

"From my work with Habitat for Humanity, I have gained a profound sense of gratitude for all I have been blessed with and a greater understanding of what it means to love one another."

Ebelhar's advice to someone wanting to give back to their campus and community would be to look around and uncover injustices in the world. Make note of an overlooked need and research an organization with the same views as your own. She suggests to attend college and community events, be personable and remain open-minded.

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