

Western Kentucky University

TopSCHOLAR®

ALIVE Center Publications

ALIVE Center for Community Partnerships

Fall 2014

UA23 Progression Through Partnerships

Aurelia Spaulding Editor

Western Kentucky University, aurelia.spaulding@wku.edu

Leah Ashwill Director

Western Kentucky University, leah.ashwill@wku.edu

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.wku.edu/alive_pub



Part of the [Civic and Community Engagement Commons](#), [Community-Based Learning Commons](#), [Community-Based Research Commons](#), [Leadership Studies Commons](#), [Service Learning Commons](#), and the [Work, Economy and Organizations Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Spaulding, Aurelia Editor and Ashwill, Leah Director, "UA23 Progression Through Partnerships" (2014).

ALIVE Center Publications. Paper 33.

https://digitalcommons.wku.edu/alive_pub/33

This Newsletter is brought to you for free and open access by TopSCHOLAR®. It has been accepted for inclusion in ALIVE Center Publications by an authorized administrator of TopSCHOLAR®. For more information, please contact topscholar@wku.edu.



PROGRESSION THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS

KEY INGREDIENTS OF A SUCCESSFUL PARTNERSHIP

PART 1

Greetings from the ALIVE Center! In this quarter's edition of Progression through Partnerships, you will find many examples of how students, faculty, and staff at WKU partner with community members to create solutions to everyday challenges affection our region.

One thing that all of these people and projects have in common is a working knowledge of the key ingredients of a successful partnership. There are five elements that have proven essential time after time in building effective, sustainable partnerships. Once you identify with these elements, you will be able to determine whether or not your collaborative efforts (or those that you see occurring around you) are poised for success. Whether the social challenges are being tackled by our oversight committees in Washington or by a small, committed group of individuals right here in South Central, Kentucky... solving social problems requires effective partnerships.

Over the course of the next five issues of Progression through Partnerships, we will highlight one of the five key elements in Special Topics. For the fall 2014 issue, we highlight the importance of:

Community-determined Needs

Many times when we want to tackle an issue, it is easy to let our perception of the issue or need hinder our progress towards truly creating a lasting impact. We are tempted to go into communities and tell them what we think they need, whether the community is a school, a neighborhood, an at-risk group, or an age demographic.

However, it is the members of any given community that is most knowledgeable of the needs, as well as what changes need to occur in order to improve quality of life.

Furthermore, true change cannot occur without the involvement of the target group you wish to assist in improving quality of life.

So remember to involve your target populations in every step of the problem-solving process, from identification of the key issues through implementation of proposed solutions. Let's move beyond the traditional charity model of service and challenge ourselves to work with communities to solve problems. There will always be a place for charity and giving of resources. It is a necessity. But can you imagine the possibilities that arise when communities drive the determination of

need and get involved in creating their own solutions? So make room for community-determined needs!

Enjoy the November 2014 issue of Progression through Partnerships.

Cheers~

Leah Ashwill, Director



CAMPUS AND COMMUNITY NETWORK

By: Julia Rivas

The Campus and Community Network (CCN) was created in 2011 as a way to connect Western Kentucky University faculty, staff and students with South Central Kentucky community members. During CCN meetings participants have the opportunity to not only express the community needs that they would like to see solved but to actively connect and collaborate with other individuals in analogous endeavors. Since 2011 the Campus and Community Network has tackled an assortment of issues, which include, activities and resources for youth, issues with transportation, immigrant and refugee concerns, housing, resources for the homeless, healthy eating and others. Fortunately, there have been various action groups that have flourished from the CCN, and one of those is the Homeless and Housing Coalition of South Central KY.

The Homeless and Housing Coalition of South Central was created after the union of The Bowling Green Housing coalition and the Southern Central Kentucky Coalition on Homelessness, which was a



group that originated from the Campus and Community Network. This collaborative group focuses on providing information and resources to homeless individuals and those in danger of becoming homeless. They have been able to accomplish this by their latest project, the Barren River Renter's Handbook. According to Dana Beasley-Brown, a representative of the Kentuckians for the Commonwealth and active member of the group, this book was created to empower and educate renters in the Barren River Area. The handbook will equip renters with information, tools and resources to help them find and thrive in quality, affordable rental housing. In addition to educating community, The Homeless and Housing Coalition of South Central in partnership with several local churches will start the Room in the Inn program, a program founded in 1986 by

Charles Strobel in the area of Nashville Tennessee. Now this program has been replicated in Lexington, KY, Clarksville, TN, Chattanooga, TN, and other cities across the United States. The Room in the Inn program in Bowling Green will provide 12 homeless guests with a home-cooked dinner, a mattress or a cot to sleep on and breakfast in the morning for one night. All this will be possible with the partnership of the Homeless and Housing Coalition of South Central Kentucky, Crossland Community Church, State Street United Methodist Church, Christ Episcopal Church, The Presbyterian Church on State Street, Broadway United Methodist Church, First Christian Church, Trinity Full Gospel Baptist Church and Bowling Green Cumberland Presbyterian Church.

TRAINING BEGINS FOR THE \$100 SOLUTION™ IN HARDIN COUNTY

By: Samantha Mallory

This fall, The \$100 Solution™ (THDS) team from Western Kentucky University's ALIVE Center for Community Partnerships trained nearly 300 junior and senior students at the Early College & Career Center (EC³) in Hardin County, Kentucky. The nationally recognized program conducted a two-day training led by Community Engagement Coordinator Lauren Cunningham and graduate assistants Kene Anyigbo and Samantha Mallory.

Students from John Hardin, Central Hardin, and North Hardin High Schools spend half days at EC³, an alternative-learning environment that offers seven career pathways to success.

Career pathways include: advanced manufacturing, automotive technology, culinary arts, engineering, health sciences, information technology, and welding. The school coordinates curriculum with Elizabethtown Community and Technical College, WKU, Sullivan University, and several area businesses.

Participating in THDS will allow interested Hardin Co. senior students to fulfill a Work Ethic Certification through the Hardin County Chamber of Commerce. Utilizing the skills they learn in their pathways, students will develop partnerships and projects through THDS in an effort to improve the quality of life in their community.

Administrators in the district are excited about the prospects of this partnership. Kristi Wright, Guidance Counselor at EC³, said, "We are truly passionate about this program and how it will reinforce what we want our students to take from high school and apply to the rest of their lives. I think students are taking ownership of this program; it will help them bridge the gap between the classroom and the real world through serving others."

For more information about The \$100 Solution™ in Hardin County contact Lauren Cunningham at the ALIVE Center at 270-782-0082 or email thds@wku.edu.



AHEC APPLIES HEALTH SKILLS WITH HOTEL INC STREET MEDICINE

By: Samantha Mallory

This semester, six students from the South Central Kentucky Area Health Education Center (AHEC) are working with the WKU ALIVE Center for Community Partnerships' (CCP) service-learning program called The \$100 Solution™.

Lucy Juett, the AHEC Center Director, is supervising Michael Ballentine, Alyssa Huff, Chase Knibbe, Brandon Mudd, Courtney Hamilton, and Yonathan Warren as they develop and implement a project that they developed in conjunction with a local community partner, HOTEL INC (Helping Others Through Extending Love In the Name of Christ). Lauren Cunningham, Community Engagement Coordinator at the ALIVE CCP, along with two graduate assistants, has been working with the co-curricular AHEC team to ensure that they are meeting the five principles of The \$100 Solution™: partnership, reciprocity, capacity-building, sustainability, and reflection.

In partnership with HOTEL INC, a non-profit organization committed to building self-sustaining households for the homeless in Bowling Green, the AHEC students began communicating with, Rhondell Miller, HOTEL INC Director. Miller and the students started to develop a plan that consists of two components—the first, the creation of an informative contact card for the local homeless community, and second, the development of an information sheet on HOTEL INC's Street Medicine program in order to acquire physician champions.

The Street Medicine program is supported by a grant from WellCare of Kentucky. Medical professionals volunteer through the HOTEL INC program in order to bring resources to the homeless, help check blood pressure, and provide prescription assistance or make medical referrals.

Miller believes that both aspects of the students' project will benefit the organization and the community. She said, "the connection cards will be distributed to encampments of the homeless to create awareness of the services we offer, and the fliers will be posted to encourage clinicians and medical professionals to volunteer as physician champions for the program."

Through this project, the students will be able to apply the Health Education skills that they have learned in the classroom to a project that will improve the quality of life in the Bowling Green community. This is the second year that pre-med students from the AHEC Rural Scholar Program have completed projects for The \$100 Solution™ with local community partners.

BONNER LEADERS LEARN AND SERVE THE COMMUNITY



By: Sarah Hagan

“Through my partnership with Light of Chance, I am improving the community by teaching elementary students the importance of living a healthy lifestyle and making healthy decisions,” said WKU first year student and Bonner Leader Jennifer Willis. She is one of 12 students learning and serving in the community through the WKU Bonner Leader program coordinated by the WKU ALIVE Center for Community Partnerships.

Willis is the Development Assistant at Light of Chance, and she assists with their Get Set Go program; a free, fun, and comprehensive health initiative that encourages youth grades K-8 to become more active and healthy through nutrition and physical activity.

The Bonner Leaders at WKU are currently serving at 10 different local nonprofit organizations: Boys and Girls Club, Light of Chance, South Central Kentucky Kids on the Block, Parker Bennett Community Center, HOTEL INC, Habitat for Humanity, Bowling Green Independent Schools,

Center for Courageous Kids, Community Education, and the Public Theatre of Kentucky. Throughout the 2014-2015 academic year, the WKU Bonner Leaders will cumulatively serve about 2,500 hours, and they will spend over 500 additional hours addressing a community issue of their choosing. The Bonner Leaders participate in trainings and reflections that integrate the topics of social justice, diversity, civic engagement, community-building, spiritual exploration, and international perspective. The trainings and reflections incorporate service-learning into the Bonner Leader Program at WKU and provide a deeper experience for the students.

Bonner Leaders learn invaluable skills and experience personal growth beyond what is typical of undergraduate students. Bonner Leaders are taught to see a community problem and think, “What can be done to make a sustainable difference?”

In addition to serving the bulk of their hours

with a community partner, Bonners also form site-based teams and issue-based teams. By having a site or issue-based team, students and the organization staff can work together to engage in higher levels of capacity-building and service. A site-based team happens wherever there are three or more volunteers at the site. This fall, the Bonners have served together in site-based teams at the Wee Care Nursery during MASTER Plan, Center for Courageous Kids, and Light of Chance’s Hullabaloo event.

Issue-based teams are small groups of Bonners who work on a similar issue (e.g., hunger and homelessness) and come together to strategize about ways to do more. The issue-based teams that have been formed this fall are the Food Recovery group, the Student Involvement in Service group, and the Dress for Success group. Issue-based teams engage in research and collaboration to discover the most effective means of creating change in their community.



BONNER LEADER
FALL 2015 APPLICATIONS
DEADLINE APRIL 15TH
LEARN MORE AT WWW.WKU.EDU/ALIVE/BONNER

HILL HOUSE STUDENTS BRING TOGETHER COMMUNITY

By: Keira Martin

This fall the graduate assistants with the WKU Hill House program created four opportunities to connect with those in and around their neighborhood. Beginning in September with the Open House, the students coordinated Safe Communities Halloween, Thanksgiving Potluck, and Frozen holiday party in the following months.

The Hill House students see the importance of having events like these to bring the community together and talk about their neighborhood and Bowling Green community. Although everyone does not celebrate Thanksgiving, food brings people together and usually brings great conversation. Each event has been a way to pull together resources let people know

GROWTH AMONG SAS LOOKS TO IGNITE MORE SERVICE

By: Mckinze Vowels



that others are here that care about your opinions. The Hill House students provided conversation cards and encouraged conversation amongst neighbors on issues important to them.

Bob Basham, the home owner of the Hill House said, "We are stronger when we can count on and trust one another." Basham continued, "I feel the sense of community is in decline across the country, but the 11th street neighborhood has a rich history." The neighborhood is known to have people who invite others into their homes; they help and listen to each other. The 11th Street neighborhood is a community where people look after children and keep an eye out for suspicious behavior.

The Student Ambassadors of Service (SAS) began the fall 2014 semester with servant hearts and a goal in mind. This year, the goal is to raise awareness of social issues in the community and engage other students in meaningful service. After a productive retreat held at the WKU Food Pantry, the SAS members set forth to impact the WKU community and Bowling Green at large through Meaningful Acts of Service events. These events have included the Medical Center 10k, a fall festival at McNeill Elementary, and Light of Chance's Hullabaloo Family Obstacle Course.

First-year SAS member Rebecca Chartoff shared, "I love to volunteer and SAS has allowed me to participate in amazing community events. My favorite event has

Basham said, "These days' people don't seem to communicate with their neighbors anymore which leaves us isolated, lonely, and disconnected. We are all busy people with our individual commitments, obligations and demands that leaves most of us out of energy when we get home. But, I believe humans are social beings by nature and that we are more fulfilled when we belong to a larger community to share our happiness and sorrows with, to nurture a spirit of unity, to work together to protect and build something better."

"What better place to begin than home?" Basham said. The Hill House students take that statement seriously and are trying to implement the positive change that they want to see in the community.

been Terror in the Woods because I got to dress as a scary zombie and be a part of the haunted house!"

The SAS also implemented activities for National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week during the month of November. The theme for this year, Hunger: It's Not A Game, was a spin-off of the book and movie trilogy The Hunger Games. The volunteers for the week participated in a food drive, Oxfam World Hunger Banquet, a homelessness simulation, and a day of service in Bowling Green. More than 1100 nonperishable items were collected during the week.

NA'PUTI

Dr. Tiara Na'puti came to Western Kentucky University in August 2014 in hopes of not only teaching, but creating a community with students. Assistant Professor Tiara Na'puti instructs Institute for Citizenship and Social Responsibility (ICSR) courses in Diversity and Community Studies. Her fall courses included Rhetoric of Social Justice and Public Achievement.

Na'puti completed her doctoral program in Communication at the University of Texas at Austin. Her research focused on social justice and social movements in indigenous communities. Na'puti went home to Guam to complete her dissertation. "I wanted to use the research to bring my community to the forefront," Na'puti said.

Na'puti's research on social justice and social movements helped her transition well into the ICSR. In the spring 2015, she will teach ICSR 435 Reimagining Citizenship and SRSC 540 Community Building Sustainability. Reimagining Citizenship provides an opportunity for students to learn and discuss inclusion and exclusion produced through multiple deployments of citizenship.



MKANTA

Dr. William Mkanta, an Associate Professor in the College of Health and Human Services, Department of Public Health, instructs courses within the Healthcare Administration program, and currently serves as Director for the Masters of Healthcare Administration program at WKU.

Mkanta earned his Ph.D. in Health Services Research from the University of Florida in 2005 and later joined WKU in 2007 after completing his two-year post-doctoral program. His research is focused on access and utilization of health services in vulnerable populations. Mkanta's public work and research extensively deals with HIV/AIDS populations both in Tanzania and the United States. His publications are centered on the areas of HIV/AIDS, cancer care and elderly services. Currently, Mkanta is working on issues related to global health; he is studying access and the use of health care services among immigrants in the United States, and, since 2011, he has served as the director of KIIS-Tanzania program, a study abroad program that offers courses in public



health disciplines including a global health service-learning practicum.

"I am a firm believer of the philosophy that students learn the most by being active participants in the teaching process. Whether within or outside the classroom, I have always tried to create an atmosphere that promoted individual and group engagements leading to interactive and

active learning environment--the outcomes have been very rewarding and worthy of the time and resources spent."

In its first four years of activity, the program has enabled nearly 80 students from KIIS consortium institutions to participate in different community-based health programs in Tanzania. Some of the areas of service-learning and community engagement experience in Tanzania include HIV/AIDS services, orphanage care, women's health, and outreach programs. In addition to being actively involved in teaching and research, Mkanta, a native speaker of Swahili, the national language of Tanzania, strives to promote his native language and culture. He is working regularly with US-based organizations as a community organizer and cross-cultural communication facilitator for Swahili-speaking populations in Bowling Green, KY and surrounding areas; he is also a Voice of America Swahili contributor to the listening audiences in East and Central Africa.



Photo credit: Adam Wolffbrandt

GRANVILLE SERVES THROUGH THE LENS AND KEEPS IT SIMPLE

By: Sara Merriman

Although Bria Granville chose Western Kentucky University because it was not too far away from home and her family are alumni, WKU's photojournalism program factored into her decision. Western has one of the top photojournalism programs in the nation, and since her first semester, Granville has shown her desire to work in the nonprofit field through volunteering for various assignments.

"I remember first meeting Bria walking around with her camera near our 9/11 Day of Remembrance table in 2011. She was very quiet. She took a few photos of our event that day and has continued ever since. We are grateful for her service," said Aurelia Spaulding, WKU ALIVE Center for Community Partnerships (ALIVE CCP) Communications & Marketing Coordinator.

Granville is a double major in Sociology and Photojournalism. She documents campus and community through volunteering with the WKU ALIVE CCP and WKU Institute for Citizen and Social Responsibility (ICRS). Over the years, Granville photographed Big Red's Blitz, Hunger and Homelessness Awareness, A Taste of Latin America, National Volunteer Week, the Hispanic Health Fair, Public Achievement, Student Ambassadors of Service, and Bonner Leaders.

Granville stays busy with her academics, volunteer photography, and serving as a Talisman photographer, but she values simplicity. Keeping it simple is how Granville has been successful in her three years of college.

Bria states that she always is reminding herself, "Keep it simple because simplicity can be the key to success without stress". After Granville graduates in 2016, she wants to work in non-profit photography and videography. To view Granville's latest videos for the WKU ALIVE CCP visit www.youtube.com/wkualivecenter. Granville created a video documenting The \$100 Solution project with Warren Central High School and the Hispanic Health Fair for 2014.

A woman with long brown hair, wearing a light blue top and a white cardigan, stands in front of a large projection screen. She has her arms outstretched as if presenting. The screen behind her displays the text 'GUEST SPEAKER'. The background is a modern, brightly lit interior space.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP FUNDS DEADLINE SET FOR FEBRUARY 16TH

By: Lauren Cunningham

The Western Kentucky University ALIVE Center for Community Partnerships is pleased to announce the return of the Community Partnerships Funds grant program to the campus at-large and the community. The ALIVE Center is currently accepting grant proposals until February 16, 2014.

The ALIVE Center's Community Partnerships Funds grant program is designed to support faculty, staff, students, and local community members by providing mini grants in the areas of Community Development, Service-Learning, and Community-Based Research.

Since the fall of 2008, Community Partnership Funds has funded dozens of projects highlighting the power that can exist when partnerships between campus and community are fostered. In the spring of 2013 the ALIVE Center distributed \$10,000 in project funding. One of the projects funded was the Barren River Area Tenant Handbook, submitted by Dr. James Kanan, an Associate Professor of Sociology and Ms. Dana Beasley-Brown, a member of the Bowling Green Housing Coalition. The Tenant Handbook project sought to empower local residents to inspect property for health and safety concerns, as well as how to negotiate a lease that will protect them from predatory

clauses. The Tenant Handbook project involved ten community partners from across the city, including WKU's Modern Languages department faculty and students, who translated the handbook into Spanish, French, and Swahili.

"Without the partnerships, the handbook would not have come to fruition," Kanan said.

For more information about the Community Partnership Funds grant program please visit www.wku.edu/alive or contact Lauren Cunningham, Community Engagement Coordinator at the ALIVE Center at 270-782-0082.



GIVE. FOR A BETTER WAY TO LIVE.

The ALIVE CCP is committed to bringing campus and community together for the enrichment of both higher education and public life. We support collaborative service projects that address community-identified needs while enhancing the level of student learning and educational experience.

Your gift is an investment in the students and faculty at WKU, as well as in the communities they serve through service-learning and public research projects. Funds go directly to project costs. Contributions may also be made for a specific service program. Project

updates and impact reports will be sent to donors, as well as recognition of your contribution shared through our quarterly newsletter, annual magazine and website. Contributors can also be recognized onsite at our annual Impact Expo and Recognition Ceremony.

Contributions can also be made in honor or in memory of a designated public servant or loved one, and an acknowledgment (with the dollar amount) will be sent to the individual or family.

To make a donation online click the "Make a Gift" button at <http://bit.ly/alivegift>.

**CONTRIBUTE TO
THE WKU ALIVE CENTER**



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. The number to request Christmas assistance for children ages 0 to 14 is (270) 792-8441. You can then call and request special items from November 10 until December 19. Requests will be taken Monday - Saturday, 8 am until 8 pm. 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. To volunteer, you can also contact Janel Doyle via e-mail at janel.doyle@twc.com

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/wcps/Departments_\(New\)_files/FamilyResourceListings.pdf](http://www.warren.k12.ky.us/wcps/Departments_(New)_files/FamilyResourceListings.pdf)

Supply Services Food Drive

WKU Staff in the Supply Service Building (Purchasing, Accounts Payable, Shipping/

Receiving and Inventory Control) are skipping Secret Santa again 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 Donna Spillman at (270) 782-3402 (270) 843-3942

Potter Children's Home

Potter Children's Home has multiple opportunities to give back. There will be a Treasure yard sale on December 2nd, 13th, and 16th. 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.

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.



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



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



@wkualivecenter

