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Stewardship Funds Address Needs

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Stewardship Funds Address Needs

IN THIS ISSUE

- 2 Service Learning
- 3 Youth Volunteer Opportunities
- 4 Audubon Area Community Services
- 5 Bowling Green Public Library
- 6 Student Volunteer Spotlight
- 7 Community Events
- 8 Volunteers In Action Recognized
- 9 Church Resources

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The staff of the ALIVE Center for Community Partnerships is happy to announce that Kentucky's Council on Postsecondary Education has approved our proposal for funding to support three initiatives that address needs identified through the Regional Stewardship process. These exciting new initiatives will provide: (1) basic medical services for the under-served living in rural counties, (2) increased opportunity and support for adult learners, and (3) an incentive program designed to increase the level of regional engagement across WKU's academic departments.

The new funding has provided the opportunity to develop services provided by the WKU Institute for Rural Health Development and Research by allowing for the addition of a nurse practitioner (NP). This NP will supply the medical expertise necessary to create and maintain an adult immunization program, provide screening and treatment options for diabetes, high blood pressure, and heart disease, as well as develop lifestyle programs involving diet, exercise, and smoking cessation.

Second, Regional Stewardship funds will provide support for Adult Learner Counselors who will provide adult students with special attention and consideration. These counselors will help assimilate adult learners into the campus in a variety of capacities ranging from academic advising to childcare.



Finally, ALIVE Center staff worked alongside the Regional Stewardship Advisory Council to develop the "WKU Engaged Department Grant Program." The purpose of this initiative is to provide incentive and support to academic departments as they seek to address a wide variety of community-based needs throughout the region.

The ALIVE Center will continue its commitment to working with local nonprofits through information and referral, volunteerism, and non-profit support services. Regional Stewardship funds will allow us to address needs throughout Central Kentucky by facilitating partnerships between Western Kentucky University and its 27-county service region through community-based teaching and research.

We are excited about these new opportunities and are committed to facilitating vital partnerships!

Engaged Faculty Provide Learning Through Service



It has been a busy spring semester, especially with the implementation of our new focus on service-learning projects at WKU. In short, service-learning is a community project embedded within the curriculum of a class course. My job this semester has been to identify community needs and have them matched with Faculty and their classes. Some of the links made for the Fall semester include:

- Dr. Martin Stone's Horticulture Club working with Kaleidoscope on their community garden plots
- Ms. Jan Peeler from Social Work working with BRASS on compiling a list of services for homeless and transient clients
- Dr. Michael Smith from the Department of Biology working with the American Cancer Society on their smoke-free community coalition project
- Dr. Kevin Cary from the Department of Geography and Geology working with the UK Cooperative Extension office to provide GPS classes to school classrooms
- Ms. Marie Yager from Leadership Studies working with Girls, Inc. to provide self-esteem classes to girls in their after-school programs

In the beginning of April this year, faculty and staff from Western Kentucky University attended the Engaged Departments Workshop at the Carroll Knicely Conference Center. The workshop presented by Kevin Kecskes, Director of Community University Partnerships Center for Academic Excellence at Portland State University, brought out 40 individuals from 18 departments plus University Libraries, Academic Affairs, and FaCet at WKU.

Kecskes discussed department-level engagement, key elements in service-learning, benefits to students, faculty, and community partners, and defining service-learning. Four faculty and department heads participated on panels discussing current efforts.

The goal of this extensive workshop was to bring together WKU faculty and staff in order to explore ways of enhancing student learning and community engagement. WKU is committed to providing a high level of academic rigor while finding creative ways of working with the community. We look forward to conducting future workshops where we can bring together both the campus and community to discuss viable service-learning projects.

If you have a need and would like to pursue a possible service-learning link with a class at WKU, please contact me at 270-782-0653 or at cheryl.kirby-stokes@wku.edu.



Summer Volunteer Opportunities for Youth



The 4th annual **Bowling Green Alex's Lemonade Stand Day** has been set for July 12, 2008! Alex Lemonade Stands raise money for pediatric cancer research and treatment. If you would like to volunteer to set up a lemonade stand this year, contact Riley Miller at (270) 799-1093 or alexslemonadebg@insightbb.com. We hope this year will be the biggest and most fun yet!! We would like to continue to have over 20 stands in the Bowling Green community. Great for all ages!

Angel Food Ministries needs volunteers to assemble and distribute food boxes for families in need on the following Saturdays: May 31st, June 28th, and August 23rd at National Guard Armory and July 26th at Dishman McGinnis Elementary School. Some lifting is required. If you would like more information, contact Bonnie Sherwood at (270) 783-8112.

If you are at least 14 and have a love of Kentucky history, the **Kentucky Library & Museum** needs you! The Kentucky Library & Museum needs volunteers to assist in a variety of areas including: Kentucky Library, Manuscripts or WKU Archives - Work as much or as little as your schedule permits. Duties include sorting photographs, organizing a

manuscript collection, transcribing an early letter, and much more. Fascinating work!

Camps - Work as much or as little as your schedule permits with one of our outstanding summer camps. Assist one of our staff members with art and history programs as campers explore that week's theme. Camp is always a blast! Please call (270) 745-6082 or go to <http://www.wku.edu/library/kylm/education/volunteer.html>.

Life Care Ministry needs volunteers ages 16 or older on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9:00 A.M. to 11:30 A.M. to distribute food, clothing and household goods to individuals in need. For more information, please call Bob Raby at (270) 781-8804.

The **City of Bowling Green-Public Works** has volunteer opportunities available for junior high and high school age youth. Volunteers will be marking street stormwater drains with a water quality decal. Groups of five to eight students are appropriate. Groups may also participate in the litter campaign, **Keep It Clean Bowling Green!** Goodie bags will be given to participants that pick up litter in areas designated by the Public Works Department. For more information please contact Tim Slattery at (270) 393-3099.

Bowling Green Public Library - Main Branch needs volunteers ages 12 or older for shelving materials, shelf reading, straightening, and mailings and Summer Reading Program activities for small children. For more information, contact Robin Hanks at (270) 781-4882 ext. 207.

Western's Public Broadcasting Services has a number of volunteer opportunities available at Western's Public Radio or Western's Public Television. Opportunities include answering phones for on-air fund drives; typing public service announcements; pulling music from the music library; filing; stuffing envelopes; shredding; labeling the Choice Program Guide; camera operator; camera assistants; lighting assistants. For more information contact Julia Johnson at (270) 745-5039.

Visit www.alivebg.org
for more volunteer opportunities!

Audubon Area Community Services



Owensboro's new "Scholar House" project. Three more properties (159 units) are under development, including Owensboro "Recovery Kentucky" project and Kentucky's first transitional facility for youth aging out of the foster care system. AACS builds two to three homes each year.

Audubon operates a statewide counseling program for juvenile offenders. It provides other juvenile intervention and services, including court-ordered supervision services during parent and child visits and counseling for serious and violent offender youth at risk of re-offending. On state referral, it also provides therapeutic sessions for families that have experienced abuse or neglect. Counseling Services also manage a number of low-income assistance programs, including LIHEAP assistance with home heating costs. It assists seniors ages 55 and older to find employment and provides a number of educational stipends and scholarships for low-income youth.

Audubon Area Community Services (AACS), based in Owensboro, is the largest of Kentucky's 23 Community Action Agencies. The agency administers many services and programs to help families. Its \$60 million budget and 750 employees perform under the guidance of a 27-member Board of Directors.

AACS operates the National Program of Excellence, Head Start in the 16-county Green River and Pennyriple Regions, providing extensive child and family development services to low-income children and their families. AACS operates the \$25 million child care subsidy program and the KentuckyWorks welfare-to-work program in the 34-county "Rivers" and "Lakes" regions of Western Kentucky. It also operates the Child Care Resource and Referral Program in Green River and Pennyriple areas.

Audubon directly provides and brokers transportation services to Medicaid-eligible recipients in the Green River Area, and they will do so in the Barren River area after July 1, 2008.

Audubon provides a variety of housing programs for low-income families, owning or co-owning three apartment properties (264 units), including

Audubon provides senior services for seniors who mentor special-needs children and provide in-home services to enable the elderly to help to live independently.



The photo above features the "Scholar House" project, which they call The Learning Villa. It is a collaborative of AACS, Inc. (and its Wabuck Development Company partner) and all the local colleges and universities, including WKU.

Audubon Area Community Services, Inc.

1800 West Fourth St. P.O. Box 20004
Owensboro, KY 42304-0004
Phone: (270) 686-1600
www.audubon-area.com

Bowling Green Public Library Serves Community



For years the Bowling Green Public Library has provided quality services and programs in-house, but even more impressive are those which reach out to community members of all ages. Please note that the following services and programs described are free and open to the general public.

A popular example is Merry Mary the Storybook Fairy, a human size sprite who visits area schools and daycares to promote reading, folktales and oral storytelling traditions. Merry Mary's main focus is introducing fairy tales to ESL (English as a Second Language) students and very young children.

Another program works with the Warren Regional Juvenile Detention Center, which houses offenders ages 12 through 18. Currently five Bowling Green Public Library employees present book discussions once-a-month to residents. The response has been highly enthusiastic, and as a result, the library will extend this program to Bellewood Group Home in the near future.

Also providing discussion opportunities is the monthly read-aloud program for clients at the Barren River Adult Day Care. Members of the Outreach Committee enjoy selecting the stories, which are always greatly anticipated by clients and staff of the day care.

One of the most popular programs is the Kidmobile, which makes scheduled visits to area daycares, schools and afterschool programs throughout the city and county. This program facilitates the Educational Services program, where teachers request books for curriculum support or classroom reading. In service year-round, the Kidmobile offers both step-on service and delivery service. Another opportunity for children is Fall Into Books, a partnership which arranges for children's book authors to visit area schools.

Of invaluable assistance is Home Delivery Services. It provides delivery of library materials to Bowling Green and Warren County residents of any age who cannot use the library due to a physical disability or illness. The library also drops off collections to nursing homes, senior daycare centers and elderly housing complexes.

The largest event for the year is the Southern Kentucky Book Fest and its associated literary programs. This is a partnership between the libraries, WKU Libraries and Barnes & Noble Booksellers. The Book Fest is visited by thousands of readers each year and allows them to meet the authors who have provided personal hours of enjoyment. The partnership also sponsors three "One Book" projects for children, young adults and adults. Hundreds of free books are handed out to participants, who also get the opportunity to engage in community discussions and meet the authors.

For more information, call 270-781-4882. go to www.bgpl.org, or visit any of the BGPL Branches!

Bowling Green Public Library Main Branch
Bob Kirby Branch
Graham Drive Community Branch
Smiths Grove Branch

Family Enriching Volunteerism



Barbara Pollock said she volunteers "...to encourage others, because anyone can volunteer. (Volunteering) takes little effort, just to give a little bit of yourself."

Pollock turned that little effort into a great effort this past spring for the Family Enrichment Center (FEC) in Bowling Green where she volunteered approximately 18 hours a week.

"Barbara came to us in January with much enthusiasm and concern about the issues that our clients face on a daily basis. She is always looking for ways to help and is continuously engaged when she enters the building," Lynn Hulse, FEC Director of Programs, wrote.

Working on her practicum for a Master's Degree in Social Work, Pollock completed 265 hours at the FEC taking part in various programs.

Pollock started around the production of the Funniest Kids Around, and then received the opportunity to provide service through the Total Fitness Connection Mini Marathon 5K Run & Walk for Children (to benefit the FEC), Child Abuse Awareness Month events, assisting with FEC classes and family visitations, and any other duties asked of her.

Pollock admits although she volunteered in her church, school, and 4-H in the community growing up in Todd County (greatly influenced by her mother, grandmother, and aunts); she became more involved in volunteerism through traveling with the military. After getting married, the army stationed Pollock's husband in Germany.

"Traveling with the military allowed me to take it (volunteering) to another level," Pollock said.

Her husband retired from the military, and they moved to Bowling Green last fall. While at her previous residence in Ft. Campbell, Pollock stayed involved in the community through mentoring youth and teens and staying involved with family support groups. She also worked and continues to work with the school system, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

Soon after moving to Bowling Green Pollock began volunteering weekly at Girls, Inc. in Bowling Green. Now, in addition to her regular volunteer responsibilities at the Family Enrichment Center, Pollock participates in the Coalition to Prevent Child Abuse, and she works with families at the Barren River Area Development District (BRADD) office as an Employment and Training Specialist.

At BRADD, Pollock helps area community members to work toward self-sufficiency through employment opportunities or learning new skills as participants through training college education programs, giving them a sense of empowerment into new careers.

Husley said, "There is no task too small or beneath her and she never complains when we request that she give up a weekend or evening. Her work ethic and compassion make her very valuable and we are thankful that she has been a part of our agency."

Although Pollock graduated on May 9th, she plans to continue to stay involved with the Family Enrichment Center as well as Girls, Inc. She says she will be their biggest volunteer.

If your agency would like to nominate a WKU Student volunteer for the September spotlight, contact alivebg@wku.edu

Nonprofit Community Calendar June-August



- 6/2-6 Women & Kids Learning Together Summer Camp
- 6/12 Stand for Children Day
- 6/20 Vision monthly meeting
- 6/21 South Central Kentucky Kids on the Block *Annual Garden Tour and Tea*
- 6/21 Aviation *Hangar Party*
- 6/27 Riverview at Hobson Grove's *Remembering Lincoln Bus Trip* runs through 6/29
- 7/12 Bowling Green's *Alex's Lemonade Stand Day*
- 7/17 Fountain Square Players *Crazy for You* runs through 7/20
- 7/24 Potter Children's Home *Club at Olde Stone*
- 7/31 Big Brothers Big Sisters *Spirits in the Cave*
- 8/1 Concerts in the Park *Rob McNurlin and the Betnick Cowboys*
- 8/1 Concerts in the Park featuring *Skip Bond*
- 8/15 Vision monthly meeting
- 8/21 South Central Kentucky Kids on the Block *Festival of Sand*, runs through 8/23
- 8/27 Welcome Back Western

Please visit our website for more community events!
www.alivebg.org

Agencies Work Through Vision

The Vision Multi-Agency Council works together with local communities to provide blended and accessible human services that support families and children in their progress toward self-sufficiency and safety. The goals of Vision are:

- Identify and develop services that empower families and individuals to achieve self-sufficiency and promote safety.
- Engage families as full partners in planning, implementing, and evaluating with Cabinet for Families and Children.
- Collaborate with Family Resource and Youth Centers as a referral source for coordinating services for families.
- Work with other community partners e.g. local businesses, faith community, and non-profits to enhance communication, resource development, and commitment to promoting family self-sufficiency, safety, self-esteem, and cultural diversity.

One of the greatest services Vision provides is a listserv where agencies can post their needs as well as client needs. A need posted on the listserv is generally met within a 24-hour period.

Vision meets every third Friday of the month at 9:00 A.M. at the WKU ALIVE Center for Community Partnerships. Guest speakers are local nonprofits explaining their services and how their services can meet other agency needs.

Many organizations are already a part of the Vision Multi-Agency Council, but we are always glad to welcome more. All nonprofits are welcome to join! If you would like to be a part of Vision, please join us at our next meeting or call Cheryl Kirby-Stokes at 270-782-0653 or email at cheryl.kirby-stokes@wku.edu.

NEXT VISION MEETING
Friday, June 20th at 9:00am
at the ALIVE Center

Volunteers in Action recognized by the state



Volunteers in Action, which serves the Bowling Green/Warren County community, received the Governor's Award for Outstanding Service-Volunteer Support Award.

Volunteers in Action is a group of diverse agencies and organizations that rely on the dedication and commitment of community volunteers to provide needed services. Because volunteers make such a difference in communities where they serve, for 20 years Volunteers in Action has devoted time and resources to increase community awareness of volunteerism and helped provide education and support to volunteer managers and workshops for non-profit organizations.

The Kentucky Commission on Community Volunteerism and Service (KCCVS) in the Cabinet for Health and Family Services (CHFS) on May 9th announced the winners of the 2007 Governor's Volunteer Awards. First Lady Jane Beshear presented the awards at an evening ceremony at the state Capitol in Frankfort.

A panel of judges with volunteer and community service backgrounds chose 17 winners in 15 categories. Four additional special awards also were presented.

"Volunteers add tremendous value to the lives they touch and the communities they serve," Mrs. Beshear said. "I want to thank you all for the difference you make and the example you set by carrying on one of Kentucky's most cherished traditions, lending a hand to a neighbor in need."

The Governor's Office launched the volunteer awards program in 1975. Since 1995, KCCVS has administered the program.

VIA inaugurated a formal volunteer recognition program in 1990 that continues today, with the support of the community, to honor area volunteers for their service. VIA also promotes activities in the community including Make A Difference Day, Family Volunteer Day and National Volunteer Week.

Volunteers in Action partners with a number of nonprofit organizations in the community including the ALIVE Center.

In the photo, Cheryl Kirby-Stokes (left) and Anne Grubbs (right) receive the Volunteer Support Award from First Lady of Kentucky, Jane Beshear (center), on May 9th.

The information in this article was obtained from the official press release, "First Lady Honors Volunteer Awards Winners."

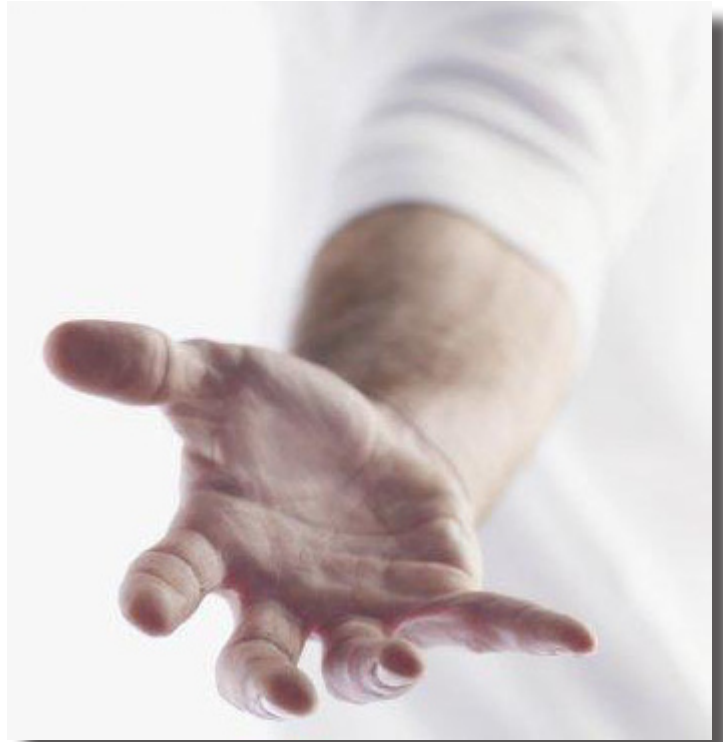
ALIVE Center Resources for Area Churches

Since the ALIVE Center opened in 2003, area churches have communicated with the ALIVE Center staff to promote events through our website, provide information to the community regarding food and clothing banks, assist with setting up larger volunteer opportunities as well as informing others of monetary assistance available through outreach programs.

The ALIVE Center encourages churches unfamiliar with the Center to become familiar with some of the resources the ALIVE Center offers to all nonprofits free-of-charge.

For information on ways to partner with organizations in the community, churches can contact Leah Ashwill, Community Engagement Coordinator at leah.ashwill@wku.edu or 270-782-0812. You can also inquire about volunteer opportunities for youth and adults.

To list church events on our website or update your information regarding available resources, contact Communication & Marketing Coordinator Aurelia Spaulding at aurelia.spaulding@wku.edu or 270-782-0082.



Visit us at www.alivebg.org
or email us at alivebg@wku.edu

Summer Opportunities for Church Ministries

Need some ideas for outreach ministries this summer in the community? Consider some of the following:

- * Serve dinner or lunch at the Salvation Army
- * Volunteer with Meals, Inc. preparing meals for seniors
- * Provide lunch for the youth in the Kaleidoscope Summer Programming
- * Volunteer with other youth programs like Girls, inc., Boys & Girls Club, Housing Authority, and Parks & Rec summer camps
- * Hold drives to collect items for B.R.A.S.S., the Humane Society or the American Red Cross
- * Build houses with Habitat for Humanity

Your church may also be very interested in being added to the VISION listserv (see page 2). As previously stated, agencies can post their needs as well as client needs. A need posted on the listserv is generally met within a 24-hour period.

For example, if an agency has a client who may need clothing or appliances, they simply email Cheryl Kirby-Stokes (cheryl.kirby-stokes@wku.edu) the request and contact information, and she forwards it to area nonprofits.

Being a part of the VISION listserv provides an excellent way for your church to help those in need in the community.





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Summer Fun Activities for Kids



Countless camps and programs for youth are held in Warren County during the summer. Feel free to log onto the ALIVE Center website, www.alivebg.org, to find information on summer fun for your child. Look for the link on the home page.

Camps are available in areas ranging from science, arts, athletics, recreation and academics.