

2006-2007

ANNUAL
REPORT

Lehigh University
Community Service Office

One person can make a difference and
every person should try.
- John F. Kennedy

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ABOUT US

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Interested in makin
inserve@lehigh.edu,
which is located up:
website: www.lehig

THE COMMUNITY SERVICE OFFICE

MISSION STATEMENT

To provide students, faculty, and staff of Lehigh University a readily accessible doorway through which they can explore the rewards and benefits of providing service to the community.

ABOUT US

The Lehigh University Community Service Office was established in the fall of 1996 to provide a coordinated effort for students, faculty, and staff to engage in service to the greater Lehigh Valley area. Currently the office has contact with over 100 local agencies that are always looking for volunteers. In addition to our work with these agencies, we have our own major programs that aim to meet the needs of the South Bethlehem community.

Interested in making a difference in your community? Email us at inserve@lehigh.edu, call us at 610-758-4583, stop by the office, which is located upstairs in Ulrich Student Center, or check out our website: www.lehigh.edu/~service

COMMUNITY SERVICE COORDINATOR'S REPORT

This year marked the Community Service Office's 10th anniversary at Lehigh. In this annual report, you will read about our wide array of programs. With the expansion of the office has come a dramatic increase in both the size and number of service opportunities. The 2006-2007 school year has been the most successful year ever for our office! We could never have dreamed of making as much of an impact on the community as we did without the hundreds of students that have gotten involved over the course of the past year.

Everyday, I come into work and I am amazed and inspired by my students. Their passion and dedication to making the world a better place is the driving force behind the Community Service Office and all of its accomplishments. This annual report is only a small glimpse into our many student-led endeavors. If you are inspired by what you read, I encourage you to find out more about what our office does and how you can get involved. Lastly, I would like to extend my gratitude to those who have continually offered their support and dedication to pursuing the mission and goals of the Community Service Office.

Yours in Service,
Carolina A. Hernandez

Unless someone like
you cares a whole
awful lot, nothing is
going to get better.
It's not.

- Dr. Seuss

COMMUNITY SERVICE OFFICE PROGRAMS

SPRING FLING

This year Lehigh's sixth annual Spring Fling, a student-run event for elementary-aged children, was incorporated into President Gast's Inauguration Weekend. The Community Service Office sent invitations to local South Side Elementary Schools and a variety of after school programs. With the extra support from the president's office, we were able to extend the invitation to local middle school students and parents as well. The underlying goal of Spring Fling is for children and parents in the area to feel welcome on Lehigh's campus, to interact with college students, and most importantly to have a good time. Many of the children who live in Lehigh's neighborhood have never considered attending college themselves and activities like Spring Fling hope to open their minds to the idea of attending college. On the big day, local children were able to participate in an egg hunt, make crafts, play games, walk through a live story board, and enjoy lunch. All of these activities were offered free of charge.

SPOOKTACULAR

This Fall the Community Service Office welcomed their families for the Spooktacular at the Center. Spooktacular is a program that provides many fun activities, and the program is to welcome the campus in hopes that Lehigh University. Another goal of the program is to provide entertainment to the over 20 student groups and the biggest Spooktacular

WONDERFUL W

Lehigh's Wonderful Weekend program is a celebration of Lehigh University. The program is for all ages children in So Lehigh. The program was a celebration of Children participate in activities like soccer and kickball. Lehigh University provides for local children to have fun in the sun.

SPOOKTACULAR

This Fall the Community Service Office hosted over 100 children and their families for the fifth annual Spooktacular at the University Center. Spooktacular is a Halloween themed event which includes many fun activities, decorations, and goodies. The purpose of this program is to welcome South Bethlehem children and families onto campus in hopes that they will develop a connection to Lehigh University. Another goal is to provide a day of fun, safe, and free entertainment to the members of the community. This year we had over 20 student groups and organizations involved making this our biggest Spooktacular yet!

WONDERFUL WORLD OF SPORTS

Lehigh's Wonderful World of Sports recently had its inaugural year at Lehigh University. The program is for elementary and middle school aged children in South Bethlehem and neighboring schools. The program was a celebration of warm weather after the long winter. Children participated in sports such as soccer, flag football, frisbee, and kickball. Lehigh's Wonderful World of Sports is another chance for local children to get onto campus with college students and have fun in the sun.

LIVIN' LA VIDA LEHIGH

This year the Community Service Office held the 2nd annual Livin' La Vida Lehigh, a program for middle school children. This program brings local kids to campus in order to experience a day in the life of a Lehigh student. On the day of the event, middle school students came to Lehigh, checked in, and got their "books" from the bookstore. Throughout the day, they attended a Chemistry class with Professor Schray, ate at one of the dining halls, went to a residence hall, made door decorations, and visited the gym. We hope this program helped youth already connected to Lehigh through our other programs see that college is a feasible option for their future.

It takes a whole village
to raise a child.
- African Proverb

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

Volunteer Experience is an optional three day pre-orientation program for incoming first-year students. Participants jump right in to service at Lehigh, participating in one of our exciting service trips which range from working with children at CitySpace, to removing invasive plant species at Jacobsburg State Park, to building houses with Habitat for Humanity. Two upper-classmen serve as group leaders for each trip of about 10 first-year students, helping to ease their transition to college life. Last August, 35 first-year students made new friends, moved into their dorms, and made a meaningful impact on the community before the rest of their peers had even arrived.

AMERICA READS/AMERICA COUNTS

America Reads/America Counts is a national initiative to better enhance reading and math skills in America's youth. In the 2006-2007 school year, 125 tutors from across Lehigh's campus were recruited, trained, and placed in six area schools and four after school homework clubs. Over 200 children from South Bethlehem were aided through this program. Each month, students from the homework clubs who had consistent attendance and exemplified good behavior were chosen to go on incentive programs, which included apple and pumpkin picking, a trip to the movies, and a concert at Zoellner!

SERVE TRIPS

Many of our dedicated volunteers immerse themselves in week-long SERVE trips. springSERVE provides various Alternative Spring Break options, yielding the most participants each year. This Spring Break, 44 students and staff advisors traveled to four locations across the United States: Wasatch Community Gardens in Utah, Urban Life Missions Relief in Mississippi, Habitat for Humanity in Georgia, and Lend A Hand Center in Kentucky. summerSERVE was created this year, giving students the opportunity to travel to Mississippi the week after finals to do Katrina relief with Habitat for Humanity. winterSERVE also began this year, in which volunteers flew down to Give Kids the World in Orlando, Florida. Additionally, over Pacing Break, 7 students volunteered at a variety of agencies in Washington, D.C. on DC SERVE. On an average trip, a student volunteers approximately 35 hours of community service, while participating in fun group activities, as well as learning about different communities and their needs.

The best way to find yourself is to
lose yourself in the service of others.
- Gandhi

PARENTS' NIGHT

Parents' Night Out, a give their parents a n Each child is paired We've expanded the In the Jungle, Candy Other additions inclu match the theme of the leftover food fro skyrocketed from 31 who sign up for the volunteer. We hope the University Center

FEEL GOOD FRID.

Almost every week, Fridays, which are tw weekend. The servi needs. Past events h center, prepping for u as Volunteers of Amer

PARENTS' NIGHT OUT

Parents' Night Out, a monthly program to bring kids onto campus and give their parents a night off, has grown by leaps and bounds this year! Each child is paired up with his own Lehigh buddy for the night. We've expanded the program to include themes such as Outer Space, In the Jungle, Candyland, Pirates and Princesses, and Under the Sea. Other additions include food crafts, scavenger hunts and hall games to match the theme of the night as well as sending children home with the leftover food from dinner. The number of children that attend has skyrocketed from 31 to 60 kids in just four months! Many volunteers who sign up for their first Parents' Night Out return every month to volunteer. We hope to continue bringing kids to the fourth floor of the University Center and give them (and their parents) a night out!

FEEL GOOD FRIDAYS

Almost every week, the Community Service Office holds Feel Good Fridays, which are two hour long service opportunities to kick off the weekend. The service projects vary depending on the community's needs. Past events have included volunteering at a student homework center, prepping for upcoming CSO events, and serving at agencies such as Volunteers of America and CitySpace.

SOUP KITCHENS

One issue that plagues our community is hunger. Each week, the Community Service Office brings volunteer groups to agencies that address this need. At the Boys and Girls Club of Easton, volunteers make dinner for over 40 kids from the Easton area from groceries purchased by the Community Service Office. After dinner, volunteers interact with the kids through games and various activities. Similarly, at the Victory House in Bethlehem, volunteers provide dinner for approximately 30 homeless men from the area. This is a great way for students to get involved in a much needed service to the community.

BLOOD DRIVES

This year, the CSO sponsored four blood drives which were co-chaired by the Greek organizations Psi Upsilon, Alpha Gamma Delta, Alpha Chi Rho, and Chi Psi. Each drive aimed to register 100 voters, and throughout the year hundreds of pints of blood were successfully collected for Miller Keystone Blood Bank. Blood drives have grown tremendously in the past year and we expect for them to continue to expand in the upcoming year.

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.

- Margaret Mead

EYES WIDE OPEN

The Eyes Wide Open approach to education in Bethlehem. Given the opportunity to explore housing options on their budget. This includes settings including residential care and more diverse

WALK FOR EDUCATION

The Community Service Center collaborated to hold a walk for education. Students from Lehigh University swarmed the walk with informational materials. The walk was well received and reached an even larger audience than anticipated.

EYES WIDE OPEN

The Eyes Wide Open housing simulation provides a hands-on approach to education regarding the homelessness epidemic in South Bethlehem. Given the identity of a South Side resident, participants explore housing options and try to find affordable, permanent housing on their budget. This year we began facilitating simulations in various settings including residence halls and Greek houses in order to reach a larger and more diverse number of students.

WALK FOR EDUCATION

The Community Service Office and The Office of Multicultural Affairs collaborated to hold the first annual Walk for Education. Over 40 students from Lehigh University and Northampton Community College swarmed the streets of South Bethlehem, going door-to-door with informational packets and brochures to inform members of the community about options and opportunities in higher education. The Walk was well received by our South Side neighbors, and we hope to reach an even larger population with even more information in years to come.

MOVE OUT COLLECTION DRIVE

Started over ten years ago from the vision of Professor Kim Carrell-Smith, the Move Out Collection Drive has converted students' belongings that would otherwise have been thrown away at the end of the school year to an enormous sale for the community and a benefit for the South Bethlehem Neighborhood Center. Drop boxes and signs reading, "Donate It! Don't Dump It!" adorn residence halls, fraternities and sororities, as well as the streets of Bethlehem at the conclusion of the spring semester. Last year, over five tons of goods were salvaged, sorted, and sold at minimal cost to the community, raising over \$9,000 for the South Bethlehem Neighborhood Center. Additionally, one ton of food was donated to the agency's food bank, making it the most successful Move Out yet!

We make a living by what we get;
we make a life by what we give.
- Winston Churchill

VITA TAX PROGRAM

The VITA Tax program is an opportunity for student volunteers to make a difference in the surrounding Bethlehem community. The program, run through the Community Action Committee of the Lehigh Valley, is a way for low-income tax payers to have their taxes done for free, saving them hundreds of dollars. VITA Tax is proving to be a fine means of aid to the economic health of South Bethlehem. 15 students were certified this year as tax preparers helping hundreds of members of the community.

When it comes to
giving, some people stop
at nothing.
- Anonymous

PROJECT SUNSHINE

Project Sunshine is a nonprofit organization that provides free social, educational, and recreational programs to children and families affected by medical challenges. This year we developed our own chapter with Cedar Crest Lehigh Valley Hospital. Once a month a group of 5-7 volunteers donated their time, energy, and skills to help children and families cope with the stresses of living with a medical difficulty. Volunteers work with children on arts and crafts activities. Art projects provide children with a sense of normalcy in the unfamiliar hospital world and a sense of accomplishment. Children truly enjoy the company and activities.

HOLIDAY HOPE CHESTS

Holiday Hope Chests have been collected at Lehigh for the past several years. Generous students, faculty, and staff purchase gifts to fill shoe boxes to give to underprivileged children during the holiday season. Holiday Hope Chests is a national project that is sponsored locally by the Volunteer Center of Lehigh Valley, Moravian College, and Northampton Community College. The donations that members of the Lehigh community contribute go directly to the South Bethlehem Neighborhood Center. This past year there were about 60 stuffed shoe boxes made, resulting in 60 happier children.

SENIOR CITIZEN:

The CSO has visits to the Nursing Home, We Center, and the Senior Center, which volunteers help with shopping trips, a car ride. We hope these visits will motivate students.

SERVICE ROUND

Many groups on Lehigh discuss aspects of community service and assure that we are an effective manner, we have an open forum for : community service e success. Attendees collaborated on projects learned about and discussed about the community will be able to better

SENIOR CITIZENS

The CSO has visited numerous local senior centers: Cedarbrook Nursing Home, Westminster Village, YWCA Bethlehem Adult Day Center, and the Senior Centers of Bethlehem. Some of the activities in which volunteers have participated are bingo, card and board games, shopping trips, a carnival, breakfast with Santa, and even nail painting. We hope these visits will create a bond between students and seniors and motivate students to connect with their own grandparents.

SERVICE ROUNDTABLES

Many groups on Lehigh's campus are involved in many different aspects of community service. In an effort to coordinate these services and assure that we are providing them in the most helpful and effective manner, we have developed Service Roundtables to provide an open forum for student leaders in service to collaborate on their community service efforts. Our first three Roundtables were a huge success. Attendees shared their own experiences and interests, collaborated on programs and activities with other groups, and learned about and discussed the community's needs. By learning more about the community and being further informed about its needs, we will be able to better serve our South Side neighbors together.

I am only one,
but I am one. I cannot do
everything, but I can do
something. And I will not let
what I cannot do
interfere with what I can do.
- Edward Everett Hale

Everybody can be great because anybody can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and your verb agree to serve. You only need a heart full of grace, a soul generated by love.

- Martin Luther King Jr.

HUNGER AND HOMELESSNESS AWARENESS WEEK

The CSO devoted a week in February to raising awareness and promoting education about hunger and homelessness from the local to the international level. There were numerous ways students got involved such as cooking a meal at the Boys and Girls Club, working on a house with Habitat for Humanity, making pb & j sandwiches to be given to kids at the local homework clubs, and writing letters to their senators as part of a campaign to support the Bring America Home Act. Additionally, the CSO hosted several educational activities. A speaker from the National Coalition for the Homeless came to Lehigh to facilitate the FACES of the Homeless panel in which four women facing homelessness in Bethlehem shared their stories and experiences. By learning about the causes of homelessness affecting our own community, we are better able to understand and help those in need. At the Sleep Out, over 20 students spend the night on the UC Front Lawn. Jim Hogg, Executive Director of Victory House, started off the night as our speaker, which was followed by the Eyes Wide Open simulation and a candlelight vigil. Also, 60 students gathered for the first annual Hunger Banquet. Upon arrival, students were assigned roles as individuals in lower, middle, or upper class and sat and ate accordingly. The Hunger Banquet was an interactive, tangible representation of the unequal distribution of food, wealth and resources that leads to poverty globally.

RANDOM ACTS C

This year the Commu Week. During the week baked cookies and car of which contained the effects of kindness. buildings to hand out balloons at the ch bring kindness and si addition, hot chocolate early-morning classes i people of the good th helping spread aware kindness can create.

RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS WEEK

This year the Community Service Office began Random Acts of Kindness Week. During the week of Valentine's Day, office staff handed out fresh baked cookies and candy to whoever they met throughout their day, all of which contained tags suggesting ways to be kind and the beneficial effects of kindness. Groups also traveled to nearby public service buildings to hand out cookies and say kind words. Office staff handed out balloons at the children's ward of St. Luke's hospital in an effort to bring kindness and smiles to a place that might be lacking them. In addition, hot chocolate was handed out for free to students walking to early-morning classes in the cold. All of these small acts served to remind people of the good things they could do for others in their community, helping spread awareness of the rippling effects that a simple gesture of kindness can create.

WORLD AIDS DAY

In an effort to raise awareness of the exponential growth of the AIDS epidemic, the Community Service Office and the Office of Student Activities initiated a tangible representation of the spread of the HIV virus. One person began with a bright orange bracelet and ten bracelets to "infect" others with. As each of the next victims was infected, he was given ten more bracelets, and so it spread. Walking around campus or sitting in classes, bright orange bracelets representing a person infected with AIDS were seen. The campus buzzed as more and more people wanted to know what these bracelets were and why people were wearing them. By the end of the week, 1,200 people were "infected" and a huge part of the community was educated and made aware of a global problem.

One of the things I keep learning is that the secret of
being happy is doing things for other people.

- Dick Gregory

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Carolina A. Hernandez

Community Service Program Coordinator

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Tiffany Searles

Deb Degenhart

Administrative Coordinator

COMMUNITY SERVICE OFFICE 2006 - 2007 SCHOOL YEAR

- The CSO served **1,941** meals to members of the community, with the total cost of food equaling **\$3,266.35**.
- Through **4** Blood Drives, **229** pints of blood were donated.
- **450** kids from South Bethlehem attended at least one major CSO program on campus.
- Educational simulations provided **300** students with new knowledge about issues facing their community.
- Lehigh tutors spent the America Reads clubs and **35** classes.
- **64** participants served at different SERVE trips.
- Approximately **50** hours of service were provided to the community, with 100% of the hours determined by the Independent Sector.

6 - 2007 SCHOOL YEAR AT-A-GLANCE

- Lehigh tutors spent **5,400** hours tutoring **150** kids through the America Reads/America Counts program in **4** homework clubs and **35** classrooms.
- **64** participants spent their breaks from school on **8** different SERVE trips.
- Approximately **50,000** hours of service were provided to the community, which is equivalent to **\$938,500** as determined by the Value of Volunteer Time by The Independent Sector.

How wonderful it is that
nobody need wait a single
moment before starting to
improve the world.

- Anne Frank

Community Service Office

Lehigh University

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