

project 701

IS MAKING AN IMPACT

The program has only been in existence a short time, but it continues to change lives in the Defiance community

by Debbie Richard '02, '04 Assistant Director of Marketing

Project 701, a separate legal entity, incorporated under the laws of the State of Ohio and run by a Board of Directors comprised of DC students, faculty, administrators, and alumni, and administered as part of the McMaster School for Advancing Humanity, had a great start during the 2010-11 academic year and there are lots of exciting things planned for the future. From expansions in the Backpack Buddy project to the first Defiance Cares Free Clinic event, Project 701 is making an impact on our communities. New projects are in the works, and we expect to see even more exciting projects launching this year.

DEFIANCE CARES FREE CLINIC

Co-managers: Brittany Coats (senior) and Kirsten Frissora (sophomore)

A year in the making, the Defiance Cares Free Clinic along with project partners Mercy Hospital of Defiance, Defiance Clinic and ProMedica Defiance Regional Hospital held their first health clinic in mid-September providing free primary to people in the Defiance area. It was a great success with more than 20 families receiving care during the one-day event. The event will continue to be held on the third Saturday of each month 9 a.m. – 12 noon.



Organizers of the Defiance Cares Free Clinic include, from left: Mollee Galloway, project assistant manager; Kirsten Frissora, project manager; Dr. Paul Brose, Defiance Clinic; Deb Bowers, Mercy Hospital; Diane Simon, ProMedica Defiance Regional Hospital.



Members of the Defiance College community assist with the Backpack Buddy project.

“It’s amazing to see how all of our hard work, with the help of the project team and the teams of both hospitals, has turned out in such a positive way,” said former project manager Rachael Lange. “It’s great to be able to bring together all three hospitals for a great cause and be able to work so closely with them, fellow students, and the faculty of Defiance College to get this project started.”

The group is now reviewing the results of the initial clinics and making changes and improvements for future clinics. The project managers are also beginning to implement a job shadowing program which will allow nursing, pre-med, athletic training, and social work students to shadow professionals at the clinic.

Co-manager Brittany Coats, who has worked on the project for over a year, is pleased to be part of the first clinic and feels “it’s quite a feat, but it has been nothing but an absolutely amazing experience. I’ve learned and gained so much - from being a leader to our team members, meeting with various reps from different community organizations, working with the CEOs of our community partners, as well as planning, communication, and organization.”

BACKPACK BUDDY

Co-managers: Courtney Swabb (senior) and Aubrie Ridinger (senior)

The Backpack Buddy program was started with a \$100,000 grant from the ProMedica Fund through the United Way of Defiance County. Weekly, the participants/volunteers packed over 200 backpacks in order to provide more than 400 free lunch eligible students at Defiance Elementary School with supplemental food for weekends and holiday breaks. Co-manager Courtney Swabb said, “This program has allowed students, staff, and community members from varying backgrounds to come together for one common cause. It takes programs of this nature years to gain the support that we have after just one year.”

This year, the project will be helping even more students with the assistance of a new grant which will allow them to expand to area schools across Defiance County including Defiance, Hicksville, Fairview, Noble, Tinora and Ayersville. The project managers plan to add a larger variety of foods to the menu and use a database created by DC math majors to track the inventory of food as well as place orders for food each week. DC students also work with principals, counselors, and teachers to ensure that the program is benefitting the recipients and recruit from the campus and the community to help pack backpacks.

“We’ve had a lot of fun with the program, and it has been really rewarding to see that we’re making a difference for the students. Every Friday, they have smiles on their faces when they get their backpacks, and that’s what makes the program priceless,” said Aubrie Ridinger, co-manager.

DCPC

Co-managers: Gene Snyder (senior) and Brandan Geise (senior)

The Defiance College Personal Computer Solutions (DCPC), made up of digital forensic science majors, helped nearly 25 people with their computer issues and repairs just from February to May last spring. Services completed by DCPC are funded through donations. Project managers want to use DCPC profits to purchase new or refurbished computers to give to community members who can’t afford a home computer. This will take several semesters to accomplish.

DCPC began servicing computers again in September. “We hope to pick up where we left off seamlessly last semester and help as many people as possible,” said co-manager Gene Snyder. “Helping people who cannot afford to pay a computer shop when they have a problem is our ultimate goal.” To contact DCPC, call 419-783-2596 or dcpc@defiance.edu.

MICRO-LENDING PROJECT

Managers – SIFE (Students in Free Enterprise)

DC's SIFE, working through the American Caribbean Experience agency, has chosen a small business to offer its first micro-loan in Jamaica. Micro-loans are designed specifically to help a person realize a dream of owning a small business. However, the loans could also be used to help an already established small business owner expand, such as adding inventory or equipment. Anyone interested in receiving a micro-loan submits an application and goes through a series of interviews to determine if the idea can be done and if it can turn a profit so that the owner can pay back the loan. Typically these types of loans are paid back over two to five years. The first micro-loan by SIFE was extended to a Jamaican woman named Lorna.

Lorna B. lives in Islington, Jamaica, and works at a local grocery six days a week to support her family of three very smart daughters. Her loan of \$500 was used to build a chicken coop to get her chicken business started. In the future, Lorna would like to add a freezer to help store extra meat and start a slow-drip irrigation farm. Her small business is supported by her daughters, especially her oldest who hopes to earn a degree in business or marketing. To date, Project 701 micro-lending project has extended a total of three loans and all are on schedule with their repayments.



Lorna B., recipient of a micro-loan.



2011 Dance Marathon

DANCE MARATHON

Manager: Emma Starks (senior)

Defiance College Dance Marathon is a 12-hour student-run event that is going into its fourth year. During DC's dance marathon, students not only dance, they enjoy inflatables, play games, and participate in the many activities that are held throughout the event. In the first three years, the annual event has collectively raised more than \$10,500 for the Children's Miracle Network supporting Mercy Children's Hospital in Toledo. This year the team hopes to raise at least \$4,000 for the hospital.

Heather Bradshaw, 2011 Dance Marathon co-manager, said her favorite part of dance marathon was "when local families come and share their personal miracle stories. It gives the participants a reason to stand for the whole 12 hours. Dance Marathon is not only a fun event, but heart fulfilling to know that students are standing for a child who can't."

DC INTERNATIONAL FAIR TRADE OUTLET

Manager: Brittany Michaels (senior)

DC's International Fair Trade outlet plans to continue to create a business plan and finalize connections with various countries that will be trading partners. Connections they are interested in making are in Belize, Cambodia and Ghana.

The Fair Trade project will be holding several fundraisers on campus to fund the purchases for the store when it is ready to launch. One of the fundraisers planned is inviting Ten Thousand Villages back to DC, for which the Fair Trade project will receive 10 percent of sales.

President Gordon notes that this project grew out of both student suggestions and the recommendations of Helen McMaster who urged DC to find a way to help local crafts people and entrepreneurs in developing countries establish more global markets. ♦