



FROM RESEARCH TO PRACTICE: BRIDGING THE GAPS THROUGH COLLABORATION

SPRING 2014

COLLABORATORS' NOTE: Dr. Wilkinson, Bro. Cecil Ahad, & Pastor Frederick LaMarr

Dr. Deanna Wilkinson's Message



I learned about the African-American proverb “Each one Teach one” when I worked with a group of young men in New York City. Learning from others requires direct interaction. Teaching at a major research university is an awesome job yet there are limitations to classroom-based learning. I am a strong believer in experiential learning. Students

are transformed when they are learning by doing, seeing, feeling, smelling, touching, and co-creating. This is the type of teaching I love best. This year, I developed a course that gave OSU students the opportunity to learn and grow through a hands-on experience that would take them to a real world classroom setting on Oakwood Avenue. [Cont. page 2]

Springing Ahead by Brother Cecil Ahad

After realizing the divine collaboration of “Ministries 4 Movement” we begin to mix and create from our unique skills and talents. It’s a unique formula of burning desire, sincerity, experiences; putting research to practice, and leveraging financial resources to pay for the spiritual/educational materials needed to reach souls. We are constantly innovating and evolving our personal objectives. We know it takes being consistent and understanding the long term mission. It takes time for meeting, planning, researching, teaching, learning and staying in the path of knowledge, gaining additional knowledge to keep up with the ever changing traditional and non-traditional conditions of mental and physical life. Special thanks to “The Ohio State University” for allowing it’s, community outreach arm, by way of Dr./Professor/Researcher; our partner and friend, Deanna Wilkinson, her immediate family, and other OSU participants to reach our 42-block community. These important collaborations also make up the dimensions that create the synergy that makes M4M successful!



Pastor Frederick LaMarr's Message



A LINKED UP MIND LIFTS WHAT'S LEFT BEHIND As believers who understand this Warfare we ought not to have knee jerking responses to prejudice comments and obscene gestures of Billionaire and Millionaires in the Entertainment Industry who continue to dispute over incidents that keep people of color in subservient lifestyles with credence that people of color are no more than Jesters and Gladiators for the stage of entertainment or incarceration. Therefore these instances and such are nothing more than Rude Awakening for those who think that the road to

success is only through the Hip Hop and pro sports industry.

Envy is one of the root causes of prejudice, dating even back to Cain and Abel, and continues to be prevalent in this nation today. With the likes of *infiltration, infestation, and incantations triggering everything from drug abuse to spouse and child abuse then homicide to suicide staging a crippling affect on many neighborhoods.* Therefore making it difficult to unite a **universal unction.** [continued on page 19..]

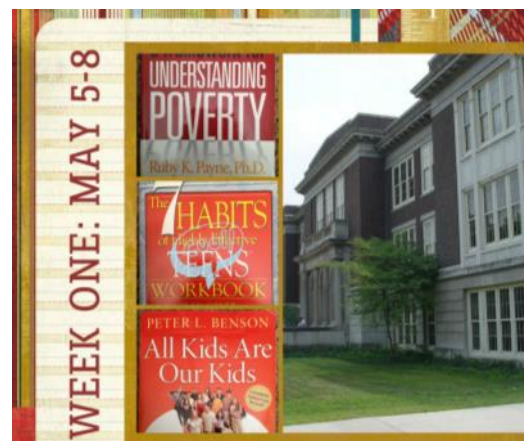
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OSU Service-Learning Course continued from page 1

I am always looking for ways to bring resources from The Ohio State University to the Southside community. I never want people in the community to feel like my team is “studying” them but rather that we are working together to make positive change. At the same time I know that my students benefit as much, or more, than the community from getting actively engaged in efforts to solve real world problems. With OSU’s transition to semesters, a May-term was created. May-mester provided the ideal conditions for a service-learning urban emersion experience. For 4 weeks the class met Monday-Thursday for three hours each afternoon. Twenty students loaded a bus near Campbell Hall each day for a 12 minute bus ride off-campus. Pastor LaMarr at FMBC generously allowed me to hold class at the church. He and several other community members joined the class making it a truly unique learning experience that the students will not soon forget. We read three books (see images on the right), discussed how the knowledge gained from those books could be made useful in planning enrichment activities for the upcoming Reaching Higher Heights 4-Life summer camp at FMBC. I was thrilled by the level of engagement and with the creative ideas that were co-created.



by Dr. Deanna Wilkinson

Student Reflections on Getting to Know the FMBC community



It was beautiful, how the pastor described every detail within the main church sanctuary. He mentioned how one could only see the beauty of the dove above Christ’s hands, if they were brave enough to venture closer to the front. The Pastor talked about how even the speckled floor represented each individual, but the solid blue floor represented the unity of the church family and community. It is important to be an individual speck, but in order to be a part of the wholeness, that is community, one must be willing to have faith in each other and themselves. As, the quilted tapestry, signed by victims of loss and sorrow so masterfully depicts, community is something that is sewn thread by thread, person by person, step by step.

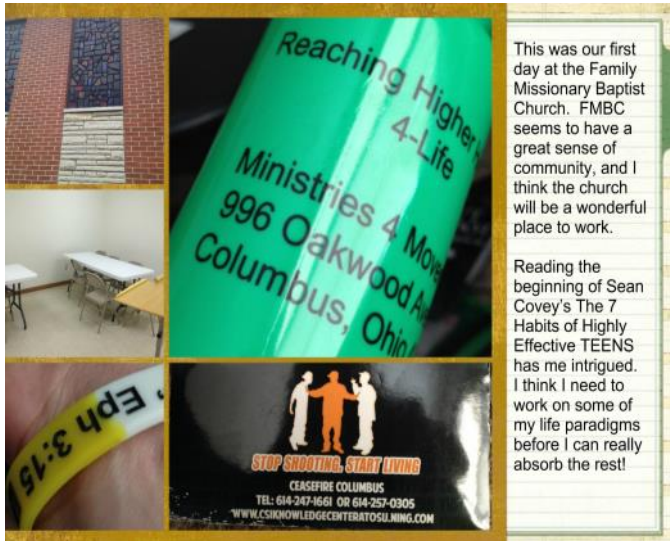
Each thread combines another memory, another story, another journey. Each thread combines an athlete, mother, father, brother, sister, grandparent, ex-felon, pastor. Each thread combines each individual and as long as the thread is tight and strong, each piece of fabric will stay close to each other. However, even when the piece is falling apart and moving further and further from the other pieces, the thread is the only thing holding on, keeping some connection, even if it is frail. The thread is **hope**, the thread is **love**, the thread is **understanding**. I want to be that thread. I want us all to be that thread and I believe we CAN be that thread and give hope and make a difference, because all it takes is one thread or one outreached hand, to pull someone up and hold them close.



by Victoria Handy

Getting to Know Our Partner Community

by Mikaela Fechner



This was our first day at the Family Missionary Baptist Church. FMBC seems to have a great sense of community, and I think the church will be a wonderful place to work.

Reading the beginning of Sean Covey's *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective TEENS* has me intrigued. I think I need to work on some of my life paradigms before I can really absorb the rest!



It was wonderful to get to know my classmates—everyone seems to be very enthusiastic and willing to work hard! Trading shoes with Dargagnan was a hilarious way to break the ice and get the course started!

As the popular saying goes, “it takes a village to raise a child,” and our readings this week have done nothing but enforce this concept. Youth need more than parents and a family to grow up into healthy and functioning adults, they need a community. The strong communities that youth need while growing up are composed not only of caring, responsible adult role-models, but also places in which youth can feel safe, options for youth to participate in their community, and resources with which youth can individually develop their academic and artistic talents.

The Southside Columbus community may have issues in regards to poverty, crime, and education, but from what I saw this past week, it seems like the community has a lot going for it. The rich history of the community was made evident during our tour of the King Arts Complex, and I think a lot of the area is very proud of their past, which brings the community together. Additionally, the footage and the testimonies about the monthly marches held by Family Missionary Baptist Church provide evidence that there are a lot of people in the community who are actively interested in working together to create a better future. One of the habits that Sean Covey lists in *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective TEENS* is to “Think Win-Win,” or to “have an everyone-can-win attitude” (Covey, 5). The fact that there is so much shared history and activity in the community points to the presence of this frame-of-mind in the community leaders. This makes both for a strong community, and will hopefully aid the development of this mindset in the community’s youth.

Won't you Walk a Mile in my Shoes?

by Jenifer Bennett

May 5th : Walk a Mile



Today I started my first day of Maymester. I hope this goes well for the rest of the month. My classmates seem really interesting with their hobbies and hometowns. Dr. Wilkinson asked us to take off our shoes and pass them to the left. Although everyone was very apprehensive everyone participated. From a human development standpoint this was a great activity to watch because everyone in the room took of their right shoe to pass to the left. The exercise was to demonstrate that we all need to walk in each others shoes because it not we don't know where they come from. This exercise was really powerful for me because someone's shoes have been on the ground that they have walked. The soles of shoes can tell you some things about a person like the way that they walk, where they have been, how long they have worn them in so much more. It was definitely an eye opening experience. I am excited to get to met more of the community members as well as explore the city for the rest of the week.

Getting to Know Our Partner Community

In Peter I. Benson's All Kids Are Our Kids, he describes how adults in the community are responsible for children and their development. Benson also discusses developmental assets and how they help in creating healthy children and adolescents. A part of developmental assets are empowerment assets, which include community valuing youth and using youth as resources. Benson explains that these assets focus on community perceptions of youth and seeing them as positive contributors to the community and then utilizing them by giving them useful roles in the community. In addition, in The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens, Sean Covey discusses paradigms and the paradigms we have about the world. Paradigms we have about the world are what we center our lives on. He then explains that the paradigm that actually works is being principle-center, which involves the principles of life that apply equally to everyone. Putting principles first in one's life allows individuals to completely be themselves and to live the lives they truly want.



by Hannah Tippet



After visiting the Southside community and the Family Missionary Baptist Church, I was surprised by how much I sincerely learned and how much my perceptions shifted. Due to media portrayals and social prejudices, I still used to find myself believing that the youth in these communities were responsible and at fault for the prevalence of youth gun violence. However, after meeting members of the community and actually seeing the poverty and the dramatic

shift between the Bexley houses and the Southside community, it became abundantly clear to me that the youth in these communities are not inherently violent. They grow up with violence being an acceptable part of their lives and, often times, they are not surrounded by adults or people who show them support and/or love. Like Benson describes, it is integral in child and adolescent development for adults to show youth that they care for them and that they do have value. Furthermore, as Covey discusses, love and support from adults within the community will help youth to develop a principle-centered paradigm. As a society and in communities, it is integral that we show our youth support and compassion in order for them to choose paths in their life that help them reach their goals and achieve positive self-concept and self-esteem.

Work at FMBC inspires action

by Alexis Puzzilo

Learning about the Family Missionary Baptist Church and its mission to better its community was inspiring to say the least. Visiting the site and meeting its leaders was a reminder of what truly makes a community strong: not wealth or status, but support and understanding. As is stated by Peter Benson, external assets are a crucial component of positive youth development. These assets provide support, empowerment, boundaries and expectations, and structure. External assets cannot be established by the youth alone, but must exist through the efforts of a strong unified community or family system.

To make a difference in the lives of the youth on the Southside, we must begin relationships with them free of any paradigms we may have previously had. As Sean Covey posits, negative paradigms cloud our judgment and hinder our ability to establish honest connections (16). If we eliminate these paradigms, and truly sympathize for and open our hearts to the children we will be working with, they will find it easier to trust and feel comfortable around us. During our tour of the Eldon & Elsie Ward Family YMCA Marcquis Parham and Aja Mays said it best when they suggested, "Just look the kids in their eyes and speak to them as equals." I believe this was one of the most valuable tips we received this week. I plan to let their advice echo in my head throughout the rest of the month and onward.

I Have a Dream....

by Nicole Kolodka

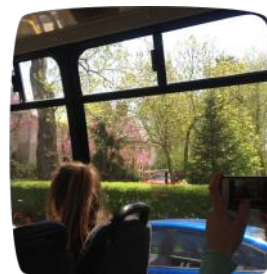
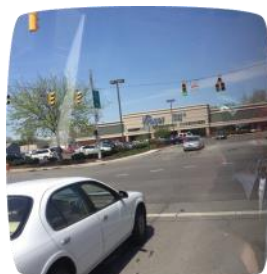
Dr. Wilkinson and the Family Missionary Baptist Church surely have a dream. A dream to stop violence, a dream to spread love, a dream to have children grow up, a dream to see them succeed. This dream made me feel insignificant because, even though my work from the class will have some impact, it is not enough. This dream that they share inspires me to make an impact, not just momentarily, but for life. Whatever my occupation is, I truly desire to be able to be in love with what I do and to always be providing service for those in need, just like Dr. D. and the church team. I hope that one day I am apart of something for a long time and I will be changing society for the better, and that myself, I am changed for the better.



May 6th: A Road Divided

by Jenifer Bennett

Today was another eye opening experience. Our class had the opportunity to “explore” the city in the bus while waiting for Pastor LaMarr to arrive. We got to travel to East Main Street where a Kroger is located that basically separates the “rich” and the “poor” sides of the community. Traveling to the right side of the street goes towards Bexley with extravagant homes such as the Governor’s mansion. And if we had gone left we would have seen boarded up homes and properties that the city owns that are in disrepair. I was surprised by the vast juxtaposition between the style of homes that are separated by this Kroger. I bet that families from both sides shop at the Kroger but never give a second look to one another to share resources. This makes me upset because I think that both sides could use a little comingling to help a neighbor out. This is only my second day and I already feel like someone new.



The Inequalities



by Nicole Kolodka

Seeing the differences blew my mind, I found it so amazing that there were two separate worlds just a block or two apart. *A Framework for Understanding Poverty* helped me understand why our society could be like this; we have hidden rules that keep us where we are. I took the quizzes that the book offered and I would definitely not survive in poverty. For how “fair and equal” we claim to be there is a clear disparity for how we act upon that. I think it is crucial that the summer camp and schools teach those in poverty the hidden rules of the middle class to give them a better chance of succeeding and escaping poverty.

Chains of the Past... Links to the Future

by Victoria Handy



Bound by burden and chains
Weighing heavy upon the soul
Hatred still remains
With wavering power and control

Hearts torn and soles worn
Centuries of injustice and pain
Many hearts have been scorn
By humanity that is vain

Faces may be different
But not all dreams are reticent
For one may see a servant
Another may see a President

“I have a dream that one day”
All hearts will be at peace
For now “The White Man’s Burden”
Is weighing heavily on me

Surely this hate won’t always last
Mended by a societal suture
For though there were chains of the
past
We’re connect by links to the future



Driving Park Recreation and Parks Tour inspired Poem

by Alexis Pizzulo



200

10,000 feet will roam the street;
 hungry, with no chance to eat,
 5,000 bellies hungry in pain;
 will beg, "please feed me now" in vain.
 200 lucky will sign up in time;
 thus guaranteed a spot in line.
 To receive a meal, though it may be lacking;
 too hungry to complain, their lips still smacking.
 After the meal, they run outside;
 starting a game to seek and to hide.
 Many sizes, many shapes, many colors, many races;
 but the exact same look of joy on their faces.
 On the pavement they find a square divided in four;
 the game picks up pace, small voices do roar.
 Friends will be made, and hugs will be given;
 and for a moment 200 forget the world which they live in.
 But as all good things must, the day draws to an end;
 and homeward the children the elders must send.
 But they are not without trophy, or favor, or prize;
 a brown bag of groceries gripped tightly by side.
 But sadly their safety is not yet within hold;
 these goods may be stolen, as if they were gold.
 But this time they make it, this time they've won;
 the battle is over, but the war is not done.

Community Transformation One House at a Time

by **Bashia Price**

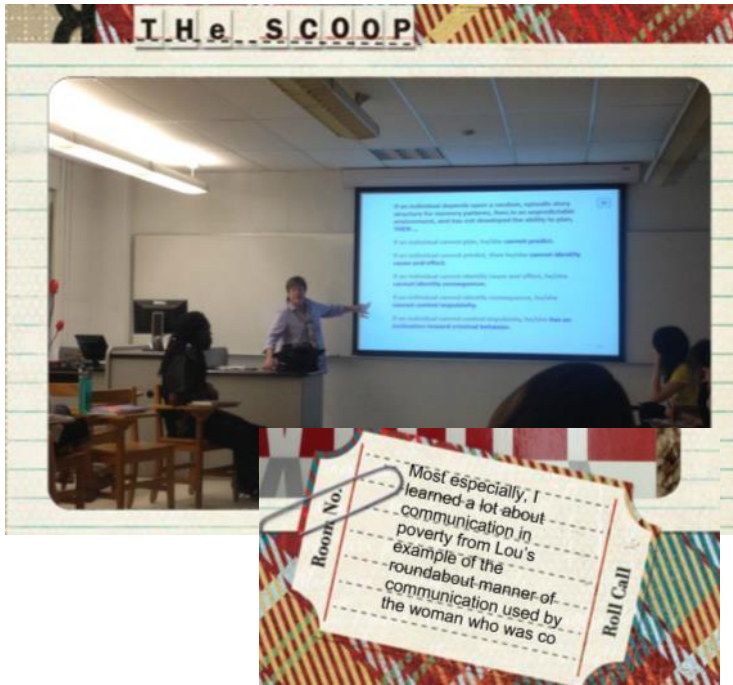
WOW!!! Nationwide Children’s community relations team is doing great work. This was one of my favorite tours because you got to see the differences in the neighborhood, plus the tour guides were phenomenal. I understand that they are creating a more diverse community but there is still a part of me that is worried that it will end up pushing the poor out and continue bringing in middle and eventually upper class. Hopefully not, though! It is really awesome to see a great thought put into action and that it is already making a difference.



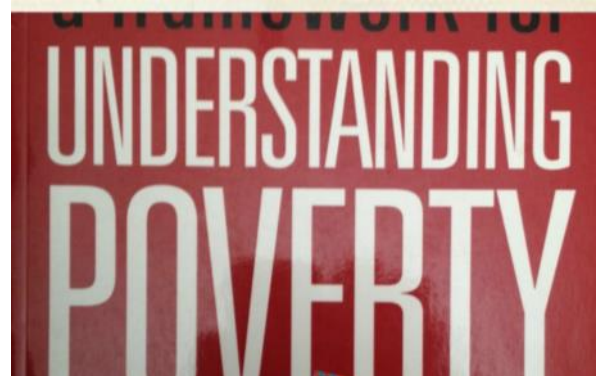
The tour that we went on with Nationwide was the most eye opening and touched me the most. It was crazy how you could drive down the streets and go from seeing vacant, boarded up houses to beautiful new homes that anyone would be happy to live in. These neighborhoods are being transformed into vibrant places for families to live. **By Kylie Schroeder**

Creating Bridges Out of Poverty

by Jenifer Bennett and Mikaela Fechner



OMG! I do not even know where to start with today. Rev. Lou Seipel, friend of Dr. Wilkinson, came to our class today. For class we had to read *A Framework for Understanding Poverty*. I really enjoyed the read but hearing Rev. Lou speak about program made really connection. I have so much respect for Rev. Lou. She is an inspiration to me and has done so much for the community. Rev. Lou is such a people person and I enjoyed hearing her stories.



The Hidden Rules of Class

by Alexis Pizzulo

The Hidden Rules of Class can be described as the ultimate paradigm. Although we are able to follow the rules of our class, we are unaware of their existence in terms of their uniqueness to our class alone. When comparing the rules of poverty, middle class, and wealth, the mind's first reflex is to think "Which rules are correct?" But, despite our nature to figure out right from wrong in terms of lifestyle choices, the rules are not based on right or wrong. They are based on what it takes to survive or thrive within each class. Ruby Payne states that those in poverty hold "people" to the highest value, because people may be the main constant in their lives. In comparison, those of the middle class hold "things" to the same esteem, and those of wealth value "one-of-a-kind objects and pedigrees," because following these rules will advance them in their class.



Awareness of the Hidden Rules of Class is only the first step towards creating bridges between them. As Payne explains, these rules can have major implications for one's success in their professional and/or educational lives. The standard regulations at work and school tend to be based on the middle class hidden rules, thus those of poverty or wealth may struggle with them. Thus, individuals must be taught the rule of middle class, not to replace their own but to add to them and be used to assist their decision-making. Also, by understanding each set of these rules educators, employers, policymakers, and others can more properly provide a more "even playing field" at school, work and in society. As Pastor Lou Seipel said, we must be able to "treat people like people" and as unique individuals. We mustn't judge people due to baseless biases that we have been socialized to process. Though this small piece of knowledge may seem too simple or redundant to provide insight, it is the awareness of these rule-sets and their differences that can eliminate the paradigms that prevent us from being properly objective.

Habits for Life

by Jasmine Hines



The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens, provides great advice for personal growth. After reading the first few habits, I can see how the author’s suggestions could have positively impacted my life as a teenager. Prior to being introduced to the habits, the author helped us examine our paradigms. I’ve learned that if my perceptions are inaccurate, it will greatly impact the way I implement the 7 habits.



The first habit encourages teens to be proactive. I believe this habit would be very challenging for teens to adopt, due to the poor impulse control a lot of them have. As a teenager, I would constantly be reactive to situations I wasn’t comfortable in. If someone spoke aggressively to me, I would match their intensity. I did not know how to handle pressure or think about the consequences that followed because of my reactive behavior. As I grew older, I learned to think before I would react in an intense situation. To help children and teens reach this point, I believe there must be strict consequences put in place when rules are broken. It is also effective when the person in authority (e.g. parent, teacher etc.) has shown the child that he/she is trustworthy and truly cares about their wellbeing.

My personal favorite habit is, to begin with the end in mind. Setting goals is what kept me on the right path throughout my teenage years, and continues to direct me today. Beginning with the end in mind can be a difficult task without the help of others. The main challenge teen’s encounter with this is peer pressure to follow the crowd. In those years, there is intense pressure to experiment with drugs, sex, and anything else that is enticing, but all of which can be harmful to the life of someone that young. I credit my mother and experiences with athletics for helping me understand the importance of having a plan and working towards a goal. Like the author shares with us, if we don’t choose our future someone else will. Beginning with the end in mind will keep us from a path of frustration and uncertainty.

Habit 1: Be Proactive

I do not blame others for my wrong actions

I choose my actions, attitudes and moods.

I take initiative

I do the right thing without being asked.

Habit 2: Begin with the End in Mind

I look for ways to be a good citizen.

I plan ahead and set goals.

I do things that have meaning and make a difference

I am an important part of my classroom.



Reflections on Habits 5 and 6

by Victoria Handy

Habit 5: Seek First to Understand then... be Understood

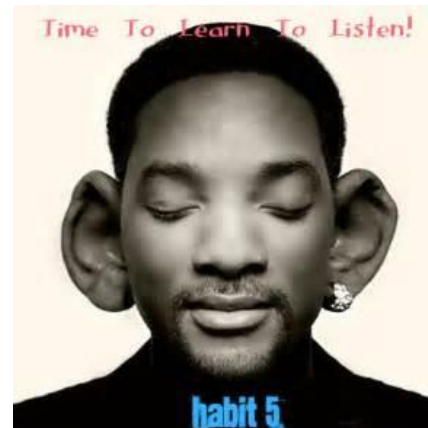
I listen to others without interrupting.

I am confident in voicing my ideas.

I look people in the eyes when talking.

I try to see things from their viewpoints.

I listen to other people's ideas and feelings.



HABIT 5: SEEK FIRST TO UNDERSTAND, THEN TO BE UNDERSTOOD

With fast paced lives and selfish tendencies, it's hard for the average person to take a few moments and just listen. Active listening is an important asset for life, in all realms of communication: personal, professional, casual and so on. By showing understanding and compassion, it will establish better, deeper relationships. Relationships are fulfilling and useful in many ways. Most of my life, I feel that I have listened to a lot of people's troubles, but whenever I needed someone to listen to me, it seemed I was on my own. Honestly, I felt very alone and betrayed a little. Now, it seems people are more willing to listen, most likely because we are all older, but it can be very lonesome when you're the only one willing to listen. This is why I believe it is important for everyone to learn this ability. It's respectful and more rewarding for all involved.

Habit 6: Synergize

I believe that every individual has special, unique characteristics about themselves. These unique characteristics are often seen as differences. The best part of synergizing is appreciating everyone's differences and utilizing these difference to collaborate and make a better outcome, be it in a project or life in general. Synergizing is probably one of the most important habits to learn, to create a better community in general. By appreciating differences, instead of discriminating against others because of them, we all will further advance as a society. As I've mentioned a lot in class, it's like we're all pieces of a puzzle. Each piece is different, however, each piece is important. Without every piece and their different edges, the picture would be incomplete and empty. The puzzle acts as community.

Our Youth, Our Community

by Brandon Collins

In this era of social media, smartphones, Internet, and television, one thing has increasingly become dissolvent: community. A community is not just an area where people live, but there should be an essence of unity within that area to which someone can help someone else because they care about one another. Specific to our youth, they need that same sense of **community** in order to fully develop into healthy, productive citizens. Young people, especially teens who are facing obstacles both socially and economically, need to feel both loved and wanted. They need encouragement, guidance, and sets of principles established within themselves and a united community fulfills those needs.

I believe that the same sense of community to which my father grew up in has dissolved over the years. He has told me over the years of how when he was little, other parents in the neighborhood would tell his parents and might even discipline him themselves too! What has happened to that same sense that all the kids are both an individual as well as a collective



concern? Principles were established within his community to which everyone lived and were held accountable. According to Covey, “A principle-centered life is simply the most stable, immovable, unshakeable foundation you can build upon” and I understand what he mean by this. Principles help guide you and create that little “voice” inside that distinguishes from good and bad decisions and these are the same principles our youth on the Southside need polished to which we can assist through patience, love, and genuine compassion. If those principles aren’t developed, it can drastically set our youth back, but I’m confident that we can get the job done.

A huge part of service learning is giving back and promoting positive youth development through creative activities would do just that. I think that efforts to help support struggling communities are admirable and something that is lacking overall within our society at large. Opportunities are lurking to help the kids on the Southside develop in a positive way, it just takes people who are dedicated enough and who actually care enough to contribute their time and energy for a greater cause. It also takes an attitude of investment, not one of instant gratification or satisfaction because positive youth development is a **process**, to which baby steps should be taken. Covey discusses these steps in achieving what you want; “Though small, these steps can become powerful tools in helping you achieve your larger goals” which can be to our #2 Habit of “Begin with the End in mind”.

During our tour of the Southside we went from poor neighborhoods (Livingston Ave) to an area of wealth (Bexley) very quickly because the distance between them is not at all significant. I first noticed there was a bridge that separated the areas and the Bexley was much more up kept and had bigger, newer homes. This quick change reminded me of the harsh reality of segregation and political structures that are formed to which this is allowed to happen. It can be assumed that the segregation was intentional and deliberate which leads to a lot of unrelated Positive Youth Development questions from me. Our children, our teenagers are all individually special, unique and capable of overcoming any situation that they might face; By us caring, loving, and leading, we can show them that they are indeed just that.

Habits 3 and 7 stuck with me most

by Bashia Price



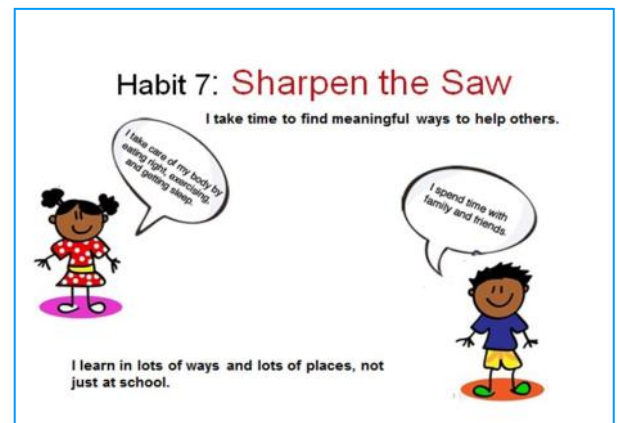
Out of the last four habits the two that stuck out the most to me are habits 3 and 7, especially when dealing with youth. Habit 3 is the prioritizing habit and habit 7 is the renewal habit. When I think about working with you especially you who are placed at-risk for falling behind, I think learning how to prioritize is such a powerful tool.

A young person who masters the skill of putting first things first, will have the will power to say no when temptations arises. Let's say a young person has a big project that is due on Monday and on Friday they get a text from some friends who are having a party, they also know that on Saturday they have family coming in town and will be busy all day and night with them, and on Sunday they have church activities.



A youth who knows habit 3 will be able to rationalize that Friday is there only viable day to dedicate to this assignment and choose to skip this one party to complete it. Knowing that later on they will be able to attend a party or hang out with friends. I know that things will not always be so black and white in situations, but getting kids to understand the thought process will be vital and I think habit 3 really helps to start that process.

I also think habit 7 will be helpful for the youth in a community, especially in American society. I feel like we pile some many things on our kids today. They have so many extracurricular activities on top of all their school work. It is not strange for kids to stay up until 10 o'clock at night working on homework. I really think we forget to let kids be kids, to let them have time to do nothing. Not do nothing and then they find trouble, but time to decompress. I understand the importance of structure and routine and responsibility, but Americans are stressed and so are our kids to an extent. If they aren't stressed about school, they are stressed about their environment. Both of these areas will effect the achievement of our kids and how they form relationships with others.



I think we have a great opportunity as adults to really get involved in the lives of our kids as a community. If community unity and involvement increases then kids will have multiple sources of support. They will have more positive adult role models, which will help develop positive relationships. Of course, the challenging part is uniting the community. Shifting the current paradigm of staying uninvolved in each other's lives. If we keep this closed mouth and closed door mentality we won't see all the potential our communities have.

Service to Others Continues after May-mester at OSU

by Deanna Wilkinson

In the months following the end of May-mester I have heard from nearly every student. Each was inspired by the course and the work of M4M in the community. Many of the students come out to the M4M monthly marches each month to lend support for the movement. One recent OSU graduate, Brittany Branch is a wonderful example (shown in picture). She began working for City Year with a placement in Arkansas. Before she moved to Little Rock, Brittany attended the summer marches. Her regular Facebook updates make me smile as I can see aspects of our learning being put into practice in her City Year work. Several other students volunteered and worked throughout the summer either at our RRH4L summer camp or at other community non-profits with youth or families in need.



Poem on Community

by Mikaela Fechner

The large role of community in a child's life can be seen all the time. Most simply in the 40 Developmental Assets. "Other adult relationships... Caring neighborhood... Caring school climate... Community values youth... Youth as resources... Safety... Neighborhood boundaries... Adult role models... Youth programs... Religious community," –all of these assets are straight from the community. Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs shows it too, a person needs to feel safe before they can proceed up the ladder, and the community is what determines safety. How can one learn to love before they have been loved? Or how to care for others without being cared for? Good schools help to better students. Role models make finding the right path easier. A community to serve gives a sense of purpose. The saying goes, it takes a village to raise a child—A community fosters understanding and team-work, both skills of a successful adult. Interdependence is the final goal, and interdependence is simply community.



On the Significance of Community

by Amanda Halls

A major thing that I have learned so far throughout this semester is how important the community is in helping out in promoting positive youth development. In today's tour of looking at the investments and partnerships that are with Nationwide I learned a few things. One thing I learned was that in order to make a change in the community people in the community need resources to do that. The housing rehabilitation that is going on throughout that community is making it grow and in turn help to create a healthier environment for children to grow up in. In Benson's *All Kids are Our Kids*, he talks about supporting assets that are needed. Some of these things include having a caring neighborhood, family support and positive family communication. By having these things in the community it promotes kids to talk to their parents and really listen to what their needs are. Having a caring neighborhood allows for children to have more activities and positive role models for the children to follow and look up too. In Ruby Payne's *Understanding Poverty*, one major thing that stuck out to me was discipline. She discusses using discipline to help promote a child's healthy development. Two things that go along with discipline are structure and choice, which is where the community could help out with these things. By offering kids other options like after school programs, or like the church does a summer camp it gives the kids a more stable and positive environment to grow and learn.

Final Reflections on May-mester

This class has been by far the most valuable class that I have taken at OSU without a shadow of a doubt. I don't really have the words to describe how grateful I am for this experience. When I initially signed up for the class, I thought it would be like all the HDFs classes. However, it took information we already knew and put a practical aspect to it. It allowed us to break stereotypes that we had and become more open minded to people and ideas that were foreign to us. The best part about it was that I learned something new every single day I was in class. I loved the metaphor that was used on the first day of class when we were asked to switch shoes. At first, I didn't understand why I would need to wear someone else's shoes but when it was explained, it was so simple but very profound. Throughout this class I have learned to embody this virtue of trying to understand things from another individual's point of view. I know that it will be something that has changed me into a better person. Before taking this class, I would've never gone to the south side, I didn't really have a reason to go there but I've seen all the positive changes that are happening there. I think it is such an inspiration to those who live on the south side or come out of poverty that they are of value and people care about them, but most importantly, that they can make a difference. I absolutely love what Family Missionary Baptist Church is doing within the community - given kids a safe haven. There are so many kids throughout the city of Columbus that are lacking something and it's institutions like F.M.B.C. that serve others that help kids to build their assets and become successful people. Also, Robert and Angela at Nationwide with the renovations are helping so many people. I loved Lou as well. Every person that I interacted with through this experience touched my heart and spirit. However, the individual that I found most inspiring through this whole process was Dr. D. There aren't many people in the world who exude genuine compassion as you do. If I can just be a tenth of the individual you are, I will be more than sure that I have made a huge difference.

I am so glad that I took part in this class. I met so many people that I have created lifelong bonds with. I worked with Brittany and Hannah on the group project and it was such a great experience. They are both such beautiful people and I'm so happy that I got to meet them. During my whole college experience, I haven't felt comfortable enough to speak during my classes because of intimidation. This class was so different, I felt that I was among friends and I was able to openly share what I felt. There needs to be more classes like this that teach people that you don't have to have all the money in the world to help another individual heart. You just need the heart and integrity to do so.

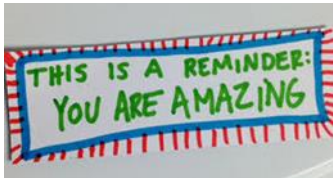
by Kirsty Boamah



Student Present their Ideas for Enriching the Summer Camp



All of us learned so much during these past four weeks about ourselves, each other, and the FMBC community. It was such a fun opportunity to be able to assist the teachers that will be running the summer camp with our ideas that will actually be used for the children. I am so glad that I decided to take this class during May because it turned out to be more rewarding than I was expecting. I hope the children have as much fun with our activities this summer as we did creating them!



Highlights from the M4M 55th monthly march and service

by Mercedes Searcy



Mercedes Searcy speaking on the theme of a Linked up Mind Lifts What's Left Behind.

I ask myself, what can I do to change another man's chain of thought? ... "My point is get to know one another you might have



Question 1: How long did it take you to come up with that?

Mercedes' answer: "I'm a writer, that's what I love to do. I write short stories and poetry, I love to write. I really had to find out what I like to do. And it's writing.



something that can help another. But the mere fact is it's not always about what you know but who you know that makes the difference. If I was given to wouldn't you be blessed to receive if you were given to also?



Question 2: Who and What motivates you?:

Mercedes' answer: The who is my children, and myself, knowing that I have a talent and I need to use it.



Progress Update from Men For the Movement

by Bro. Cecil Ahad

Approximately, 460 people have been engaged in one or more of our 7 monthly community marches/workshops since November – many participate every month. Even in the frigid February weather on a day when the temperature was 20 degrees we had 32 people show up to march and gather to share a healing message.

Monthly Milestones:

March 2014 –

- ◆ planning and preparation
- ◆ canvassing for 53rd monthly march
- ◆ Monthly march and workshop
- ◆ Violence Interrupter (CeaseFire Chicago/ Cure Violence) model – outreach worker training consultant by Tio Hardiman
- ◆ Addressed approximately 500 high school students at South High School as part of the Breaking the Chains anti-violence assembly for Black history month. Students were very engaged.
- ◆ CPR and first responder to training for outreach workers conducted by the Columbus Division of Fire
- ◆ Mediated conflicts between different groups with a high likelihood of escalating to shootings.
- ◆ Designed a new Ministries4Movement brochure to distribute throughout the community. The brochure was specifically designed to invite community members to join our march and workshops.
- ◆ MFM went to the scene of the murder of Dresan Armstrong to calm friends and family following the murder on Bulen Ave. (next door to the residence of a FMBC member)
- ◆ MFM went to funeral to maintain peace following the murder of Dresan Armstrong.
- ◆ Began M4M community feedback survey to assess community needs and impacts
- ◆ Conducted a reading coach recruitment session in which a reading specialist offered suggestions and resources to aid families.
- ◆ Training activities: the **7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens**

April 2014 –

- planning meeting
- canvassing for 54th monthly march
- Monthly march and workshop
- Cecil Ahad recognized with the Community Village Maker Award by Central Community House (April 3rd)
- Redesigned, Printed, and placed 20 new Yard Signs promoting non-violence and the Men For the Movement activities.
- Mediated conflicts with a high likelihood of escalating to shootings by working with different individuals and groups.
- Prepared for May Learning Institute in which OSU students and community members will engage in a 4-week class on promoting positive youth development by translating research to practice.
- Planning for upcoming summer community outreach and engagement events.
- Regularly engage with the Infant Mortality working group
- Conducted violent crime hot spot analysis for midpoint progress report to the Ohio Attorney General's office.
- Analyzed community survey results, discussed implementation for our ongoing efforts

We have several community gatherings planned to kick off our summer safety initiative focusing specifically on a marketing campaign to remind all that the Southside is a community in which hundreds of children and youth are growing up. Using the symbol of a healthy tree with deep

roots we will be blanketing the community with messages about GROWTH and SAFE ZONES for play. The theme for this year's RHH4L/M4M summer youth camp is Reconnecting the Roots for Life. Our outreach efforts with the highest risk also increased efforts to change their thinking about how their decisions can impact the lives of others –especially children in the area that are being exposed to the violence they may be creating. One highlight of our summer youth camp will be building a small community garden in which the children will have the opportunity to plant seeds, water and nourish them, and harvest their bounty. We look forward to providing opportunities for community unity and growth!

Linked up Mind... Continued from page 1

by Pastor LaMarr

That's why we thank God for trailblazers like Dr. Deanna Wilkinson who understands that **"A linked up mind lifts what's left behind."** Lifting those who's life may be on the short end. Or may feel they have taken the form of a door mat, place mat or a gatekeeper or task master— help in the commitment to change. Making sure they don't fall into the trap of **Reverse Racism**.

Expressing the cardinal principle of life that **life's blessing are** always preceded by the spirit of sacrifice, knowing that God uses ordinary people to do extraordinary things. He shows us you first have to recall your Reference by moving beyond the doubting dilemma to identify the real person as the reveal their heart. (Luke 17:21) **Then you Regulate your Resolve by learning to cash in on the experience as Elbert Hubbard said understanding that failure must be look at as delayed achievements.**

Then Release your Reserves While the majority puts body first we have to understand the Reserve are those that are not always showcased. We flip the script and put Spiritual first with the five-fold focus of God, Family, Church, Community and lastly Constituents. We've got to **release the reserves of our time, talent and treasures to lift up the bowed down head and comfort the feeble knees.** Lastly, Redeem your Relationships by committing to a consecrated commitment to change our community.

Ministries4Movement



Family Missionary Baptist Church
Spiritual leadership, serve as a safe haven, lead the community healing process, and provide support to youth and families.



Men For the Movement
Street outreach, mentoring, justice advocacy, and community mobilization



The OSU Research Team
Capacity building and crime and asset data analysis, evaluation, and strategic planning.



N.C.U.S.
Workforce development, employment and empowerment
A.U.S. Alternative high school for 16-22 year olds



N.A.B.C.J. Ohio Chapter
is a multi-ethnic, nonpartisan, nonprofit association of criminal justice professionals and community leaders dedicated to improving the administration of justice.

CONTACT US:

Connect with us Online!

Ministries4Movement online community:
<http://ministries4movement.ning.com/>

Ministries4Movement on Facebook

Men For the Movement on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/Men4Movement>



Community Safety Institute Knowledge Center:
<http://csiknowledgecenter.osu.edu/>

N.C.U.S. <http://ncusolutions.org/>



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