OACS December Newsletter

Each month the Active Citizenship & Service Newsletter will feature upcoming service events, immersion programs, trans-institutional partnerships, and learning opportunities from our office, our student organizations, and our community partners. Stay tuned in to OACS as your resource for community service at Vanderbilt!

Happy Holidays from OACS

The Office of Active Citizenship & Service would like to wish everyone in the Vanderbilt community a safe and happy holiday season! Thank you to all of the Vanderbilt students who have worked so hard this semester!
Serve in Nashville

There are many worthwhile organizations operating in and around Nashville where dedicated people may volunteer their time. The Office of Active Citizenship and Service strongly urges all Vanderbilt students and employees to serve in a capacity that will be meaningful and impactful to the community. We often find the best parts of ourselves through helping others. To see a calendar of upcoming events where you can get involved, check out our webpage.

MLK Weekend of Service, Jan. 16-19

OACS is excited to begin a new year of outreach in the Nashville community! Join us for our annual MLK Weekend of Service on January 16-19th. We invite you to set up a service project now for your organization! The deadline is Wednesday, January 7, 2015. Please visit the OACS website for more details!
Redefine – Now Accepting Applications!

OACS is proud to launch the Redefine Program in collaboration with ISSS. In this program, American and international students will immerse themselves in the conceptualization of community service as it relates to U.S. communities and how or if the same idea of service translates across cultures. Participants will engage in three seminars led by experts in service-learning, community development and international student engagement. Each seminar will be complemented with a community service opportunity at the Martha O’Bryan Center. International and U.S. students are encouraged to sign up and benefit from a cross-cultural dialogue and experience centered on community development. Applications are being accepted now! Please visit Redefine’s main webpage for more information or contact Dave Brown at david.brown@vanderbilt.edu with additional questions.
Community Partner Spotlight: The Nashville Food Project

The Nashville Food Project is an independent non-profit organization that uses local funds and local volunteer labor to address the problems of poverty and food insecurity in our community. One hundred percent of the money received stays in Nashville. Our mission is to provide increased access to healthy foods in homeless and working poor communities across Davidson County. The interconnected issues of poverty, low wages, unemployment and rising costs of food and living all contribute to growing food insecurity rates in Nashville. At The Nashville Food Project, we believe healthy food is a right, not a privilege. We aim to practice hospitality by giving gifts without an expectation of receiving anything in return. We hope to grow a thoughtful community through service and education, while moving excess food to the places that lack it. To volunteer, please call (615) 460-0172 or visit our website.
Student Spotlight: Matt Massman

OACS Administrative Assistant Holly Jones had the opportunity to interview Matt Massman about his plans after graduation and his involvement with Relay for Life.

Holly: After you graduate from Vanderbilt, what are your plans?

Matt: After I finish up this year I'll be moving to Charlotte to work in investment banking. I'm pretty excited for the opportunity to apply a lot of what I learned at Vandy, as well as to learn on the go once I get down there.

Holly: How long have you been with Relay for Life and what are some of your achievements with the organization?

Matt: I've been with Relay For Life since about halfway through my sophomore year. I was brought into Relay through a mutual friend and attended the event in the rec that year. I had a great time and was interested in applying for a board position for the upcoming year. I was the Fraternity Chair my junior year, more or less in charge of rallying the fraternity side of Greek Life to join, attend, and fund raise. This year I became Co-President along with Jaclyn Ackerman and together with our incredible Exec Board and Committee we raised over $108,000, surpassing last year's total by more than $24,000. I think for myself and Jaclyn, raising the money and helping to
make the organization and event enjoyable and rewarding are a few of the things we are most proud of.

**Holly:** Why are you passionate about Relay for Life?

**Matt:** I'm passionate about Relay largely because of my personal experience with cancer. I was diagnosed with a rare form of bone cancer when I was a sophomore in high school and saw firsthand what those afflicted with the disease go through. I was also exposed to, and benefited from, all of the various support systems, programs, research, and treatment advancements that would not be possible without organizations like Relay. As someone now called a survivor, I feel like I have an obligation to do what I can to make sure that more people affected with this disease are able to don that label too.

Matt, we all wish you success in your future endeavors. You are AWESOME!

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**Tennessee Local Food Summit – This Weekend**

“Barefoot Farmer” Jeff Popen, host of Nashville Public Television’s long-running program *Volunteer Gardener* and one of the nation’s leading authorities on organic farming, will join a host of national experts on organic farming and nutrition for a series of workshops and cooking demonstrations at the 2014 Tennessee Local Food Summit Dec. 5, 6 and 7 at Vanderbilt University. Registration for the summit and more information about this year’s speakers and workshops is available online at [TNLocalFoodSummit](http://www.tnlocalfoodsummit.com). Space is limited, so early registration is strongly encouraged.
Angel Tree 2014

Each year as the holiday season approaches, VSG partners with the Charles Davis Foundation and the Office of Traffic and Parking to organize the Angel Tree gift drive and holiday party benefiting Nashville kindergarten students. In the past two years we have provided presents for over 800 children and the program keeps expanding! By "adopting" a child through the Angel Tree program, you can make a huge difference in the life of Nashville kindergarteners who may not receive gifts otherwise. Spread some holiday cheer this year! Any questions? Feel free to contact co-chairs Ana Luquerna at ana.c.luquerna@vanderbilt.edu or Sophia Premji at sophia.k.premji@vanderbilt.edu.

Internship Opportunity – Shared Trade

A new project at Thistle Farms is looking for a few interns! If you're interested in social enterprises, global development, graphic design or website management, Shared Trade may be the place for you. Shared Trade is a coalition of social enterprises from around the world employing women
survivors of poverty, violence, and addiction. Check out the Shared Trade website to learn more and send your resume to laura@thistlefarms.org.

Volunteer Opportunity – Mentor TennisSee

Mentor TennisSee is looking for volunteers who are available on Wednesday afternoons. Mentor TennisSee is partnering with Valor Collegiate Academy, a charter school in Nashville, to offer tutoring and tennis instruction to elementary school children. Students will receive one hour of tutoring and one hour of tennis instruction and tennis games. Volunteers are needed from 2:00 to 4:00 every Wednesday afternoon. For more information on the program and Valor Collegiate Academy, please visit the Valor Collegiate and Mentor TennisSee websites. Email Casey Smyth at casey.smyth@owen.vanderbilt.edu if you are interested in volunteering.
Habitat for Humanity

This Saturday, December 6th from 12:00 to 3:00 in the SLC Ballroom, Habitat for Humanity will be hosting its inaugural winter fundraiser: "Holidays for Humanity." Starting at 12:00 this Saturday, students may come to the SLC Ballroom to learn about religious groups on campus, the Vanderbilt multicultural community, and the Vanderbilt performing arts community. Habitat for Humanity will provide Chick-fil-A, Chipotle, and Maggiano’s. Tickets are $10 and will be sold on the Rand Wall this week and at the door. Every dollar raised will go towards Habitat for Humanity's build fund, used to sponsor two build days next semester for a family in need of a home. Attend on Saturday for a moment of celebration, performance, diversity, religion, and food during this crazy period of finals! Visit the Facebook event page here and contact Ryan Selvaggio at ryan.b.selvaggio@vanderbilt.edu or Shawn Albert at shawn.c.albert@vanderbilt.edu if you have any questions.

Secret Shirt

Secret Shirt is an organization dedicated to fighting homelessness and poverty. Check out their webpage to learn how your purchase of a secret shirt will benefit The Nashville Rescue Mission, Project 615, and The Nashville
Food Project. Get in touch with Community Relations Director and current Vanderbilt student Catherine Jackson at secretshirtcatherine@gmail.com with any questions.

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