



The Downtowners INC.

AN ECUMENICAL MINISTRY SERVING THE DOWNTOWN CAMPUSES

Dear Downtown Students,

We welcome you to join our Campus Ministry in Serving adults, teens and children through our Disciple Students in the City program! Taking the time to serve an hour a week for four months can give life-changing meaning to your studies. We work with many organizations in downtown Columbus, among them: Holy Family Soup Kitchen, YWCA Family Shelter, Faith Mission, Lawrence Haven Soup Pantry, and the United Methodist Free Store.

We bring together students from Capital Law School, The Columbus College of Art and Design, Columbus State, Franklin University, Mount Carmel College of Nursing, DeVry Institute of Technology and other downtown colleges to spend time giving back to the downtown Community



We welcome you to join us. Call 224-1155 or email eoshp@mac.com to participate.

Activities Schedule

Bethlehem on Broad Street

Dr. O'Shaughnesy and students are participating in the planning for a Christmas meal for the homeless and residential poor on Christmas eve afternoon at First Congregational Church. Contact The Downtowners for schedule and location of planning sessions.

Winter Retreat, March 12 – 14, 2010

Join us in beautiful Tempel Hills an hour north of Columbus on route I-71 on a Friday evening to Sunday noon. Bring a friend and take time for fun, conversation, reflection, prayer, rest, nearby skiing, a nature walk and conversation around the fireplace in a charming heated barn. We will prepare our own meals and create our own schedule. Contact the Downtowners at 224-1155 or eoshp@mac.com



Student in the City, ongoing

Students and Faculty work together with the Downtowners and lunch with the homeless on site at Community Kitchen. Visit Friends of the Homeless for a time to meet with the dedicated staff there and learn of the struggle of the homeless to find jobs and stabilize their lives in order to live independently. Then for a second session, invite the homeless back to your university for a meal and conversation around the theme of struggle and hope. Faculty, Staff and Students of respective schools have highly regarded the Student in the City program as most significant in informing them about what reality surrounds them.



Student Disciples in the City

The Student Disciples in the City is a program that engages students in community outreach coupled with spiritual reflection and journaling. Applications to participate are evaluated on commitment to service and how that is rooted in religious tradition as well as student need. These student leaders provide service at such places as Holy Family Soup Kitchen, Lawrence Haven Food Pantry, United Methodist Free Store, Dominican Learning Center and Faith Mission. Student leaders receive a small stipend to defray expenses and the program is dependent on funding, in the recent past by the Presbyterian Synod and the Dominican Sisters of Peace.

Hearts and Healing, Keeping Healthy with Faith and Trust.

Meet together around the amazing way faith and spirituality heal us from stress, anxiety, worry, addiction. Get to know others and form a community of support. Help plan a retreat together and get to know students from other colleges and universities downtown. Student led sessions grow out of the Downtowners Campus Ministry. Call 224-1155.

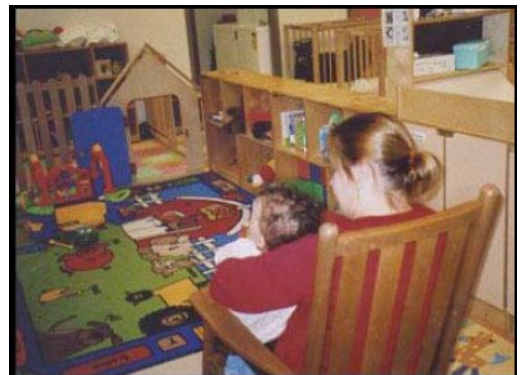
Suggestions!

We want to hear from you! If you have an idea and want to gather a student group on your campus around the Bible, your favorite book or topic, your favorite way to serve others in need, contact the Downtowners. This could be a great opportunity to get to know other students in a fun, meaningful way. Call the Downtowners Office of Campus Ministry: 614-224-1155 or email eoshp@mac.com

Student Reflections

Reflections on the meaningful work done through the Downtowners in the Disciple in the City program were recorded in these journals from participating students:

Over the last year I have felt God urging me to spend more time helping others...The defining moment of the first day at the Lawrence Haven Food Pantry was when I saw the people coming through the line to get food. I come from a rural area of Ohio and I am not used to seeing homeless people...I said a quick prayer thanking God for all his blessings and I prayed that he would use me to help those in need. –Mark M.



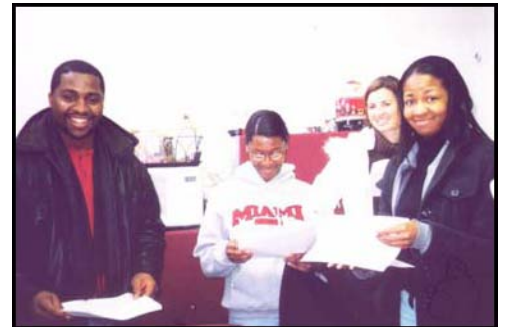
Each time I volunteered it was a joy. I love helping the poor, needy and homeless in our downtown area. Just seeing the expressions of gratitude on the faces and hearing the 'God bless you' and 'Thank you very much', coming from the lips of those who might otherwise go hungry, in our town of plenty, was reward enough for me. To me this is a ministry and I am only doing what Jesus said in that 'what you do to the least of these my brothers and sisters, you do unto me.' – Rosa R.



I can remember when I was in need of something like a place to sleep or what to eat or where I was going to do my dirty laundry. I have had many people help me out with the problems that I have had and the feeling of giving back is overwhelming while working at the Holy Cross and getting food ready for individuals to pick up...Thank you Dr. O for giving me this opportunity. – Tommy

There is nothing in place either by the Community or the State that assists these people. Maybe my background as an African-Ghanaian makes me feel awkward about this. Ghana— West Africa where I come from—believes in extended family relationships where each member in the larger family is responsible to each other.... Hence it is difficult to find many people in the street trying to find something to eat. We (serving together here) are the extended family. – Emmaneul A.G.

I was browsing thought he Bible and I stumbled upon Matthew 5:3. It says: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." In this passage we see that Jesus is comforting to the poor.... I know that serving these people, I have gained so much love.... Just simple speaking kind words of encouragement, serving a hot plate, or even helping a family move their dinner to their car is much needed. – Rina A.



Homelessness is masked in Columbus. Coming from a small town, I grew up with the notion that Columbus was new, growing, on-themove, and modern.... When topics like homelessness came up, they were quickly dismissed with a quip about homelessness being a choice the people made because they were on drugs or a choice they made to stay unemployed. I had a chance to sit in on a panel discussion on homelessness sponsored by the Downtowners Campus Ministry at my law school. I heard from six of the most articulate people I have had the chance to hear speak. These people happened to be homeless. – Mark