

project 701

MAKES TREMENDOUS PROGRESS

The student-run non-profit continues to find new and innovative ways to serve the community

Tremendous progress was made during the second year of Project 701, DC's unique, separately incorporated, non-profit organization that is student-run. DC students serve on the board of directors together with alumni, administrators and faculty. Students also hold leadership positions of CEO, CFO, and project managers.

Project 701 gives students an opportunity to create, develop and manage a wide range of service projects. Below are brief recaps of various projects currently underway.

Defiance Cares Free Clinic

Project 701 initiative Defiance Cares Free Clinic had a successful first year of

serving patients in the Defiance area. From the day it opened its doors on Sept. 17, 2011, through April 2012, the clinic served 117 unique patients with a total of 183 patients checking-in. The clinic is open one Saturday per month from 9 a.m. until noon.

Speaking about the experience, Deidra Coil, a molecular biology major, said,



Kirsten Frissora and Brittany Coats prepare files at Defiance Cares Free Clinic.

“Through being involved with the clinic, my eyes have really been opened to how big a need there is for medical care. There are so many people here without insurance, and I am honored to be a part of the team that has worked so hard to bring them the care they need.”

The clinic saw patients from eight months old to 69 years old, with 60 percent of the patients between 40 and 59 years old. Nearly seven out of 10 patients were unemployed, and 60 percent were female.

Patient response to the clinic has been very positive with comments that include, “This is very helpful for people with no insurance. Thank you,” “Nice to have something like this offered in Defiance!! Thanks again,” and “Think it’s great that Defiance has started this clinic. Received great care, keep it up!!”

Dance Marathon

Approximately 50 people attended the annual Dance Marathon event on March 24 from noon until midnight in the Weaner Community Center gymnasium. Students enjoyed food, fun, and entertainment while standing on their feet for 12 hours. Also in attendance were several Toledo Mercy Children’s Hospital staff and miracle families who shared their stories. More than \$5,000 was raised to go directly to Children’s Miracle Network of Toledo Mercy Children’s Hospital.

Backpack Buddy Program

Backpack Buddy teams stuffed more than 400 backpacks and fed more than 700 children in the community every week during the school year. More than 200 people from the college and the community have contributed to the success of this program this year by volunteering to stuff backpacks every Wednesday or Thursday. The program covers Defiance, Ayersville, Tinora, Noble, Hicksville, and Fairview elementary schools.

Fair Trade (DC Art Box)

A team of students at DC is working to create a fair trade store on campus. Students are analyzing legal issues involved, traveling abroad to develop relationships with the artisans, and beginning the process of marketing global products locally. As the end of last year approached, the team had gathered goods to use as example goods from the countries of Belize and Ghana. The team sold fair trade items at the DC Homecoming

and hope to do the same at future events. They are looking to build relationships with community partners locally and internationally.

DC PC Solutions

This project team has been providing computer repair and recovery service to the public for more than a year. There is no charge for computer services, but clients are encouraged to offer a free-will

STUDENTS HOLD LEADERSHIP POSITIONS OF CEO, CFO, AND PROJECT MANAGERS.

donation. The donations are used to support other Project 701 initiatives and to help meet the technology needs of community organizations. DC PC members also accept donations of computer equipment that they repair, upgrade, and donate to nonprofits. The project team serves clients on a regular basis during the school year and they also donated about 20 computers to local agencies.

DC Recycling

The DC Recycling project had a very successful start-up year. The team collected recyclables from residence hall rooms every Sunday evening. They collected a significant amount of items which has helped to keep the campus greener and more environmentally friendly. A majority of the proceeds the group has collected from the recyclables has been donated to the Backpack Buddy program.

Creating Defiance

Creating Defiance, a project run by graphic design students, offers graphic design services to small businesses and non-profit organizations. The project team has begun to serve several clients and looks forward to

providing even more service to businesses, non-profits, the college and the community.

Hench Herb Project

The Hench Autism Herb Project is a collaboration between the Hench Autism high school students and DC students. The team has researched different herbs and spices and how to grow and maintain them, then plans to dry and sell them for cooking and baking.

Native Garden

The Native Garden project is located in Henry County. Students are working to clean out an area of invasive plants and in return plant native plants to better the environment. The team is working with experts to determine which plants to dispose of and which plants to cultivate.

Micro-lending in Jamaica

Defiance College’s SIFE (Students in Free Enterprise) organization is working with the American Caribbean Experience (ACE) agency to provide funding for micro-loans in Jamaica. The loans assist individuals in reaching their goal of owning a small business. Loans can also be used to supplement an already existing small business by helping the business owner move up to the next level, with increased equipment or stock. The team has already provided a loan to a Jamaican resident who used the funds to build a chicken coop on her farm.

Read@DC

The newest Project 701 initiative is the Reading Engagement and Development Center at DC (READ@DC). Developed to support students in grades K-12, the center will assist students struggling in reading and writing. READ@DC will provide assessment/diagnosis services; remediation in reading and writing; and tutoring in reading and writing by DC trained pre-service teachers. ♦