

Out-Reach donations help local community

BY JENIFER CALANDRA
Staff Reporter

Ilene Dilley knows the purpose and importance of her work.

Dilley is store manager of Out-Reach Mission, a thrift store and small food pantry that opened in July 2006. Dilley said a group of elderly women ran the store before Chuck Tharp took over in March. The store is a Christian-based organization complete with a "blue room" — a room with couches and chairs on the side of the store for those who would like to pray with her about concerns or problems, Dilley said. Volunteers completely staff the store, and it makes just enough to pay for rent and electricity bills, she said.

"Out-Reach Mission is all about [helping] the community," she said.

All items in the store are inexpensive, and many items cost only 25 cents. Dilley said people from the community enjoy shopping at Out-Reach Mission because it boasts deals such as eight items for \$1, Dilley said.

Because of the store's popularity and constant donations, eight to 10 regular volunteers are kept busy sorting and organizing merchandise. The back room, where all donations are sorted, possibly is the busiest. Dilley said multiple volunteers check garments for stains, missing buttons, broken zippers and other malfunctions.

"It takes a lot of people to keep a place like this going," Dilley said. "We can always find something for someone else to do."

Dilley said the store sometimes will make donations to local families in need if they have suffered a tragedy or sudden lifestyle change.

"If someone has had a fire, we give them clothes, household goods and [furniture]," she said. "If someone comes in and says they're helping someone, we'll help them."

The store also donates items that have been in the store for a long period of time to other missions or community groups, Dilley said.

Junior Sally Hertz, Baptist Student Union social justice team member, said she and other team members stumbled upon Out-Reach Mission while looking for service projects in Kirksville.

"We were just looking for ways to get better connected to people in Kirksville," she said.

The team asked if Out-Reach Mission needed volunteers to help sort and organize donations. Hertz and other team members sophomores Robby Jones and Alex Sievert spent time organizing clothing, books and toys earlier this semester.

"[Ilene Dilley] fed us chili as an added bonus," Hertz said.

Hertz said that while volunteering at Out-Reach Mission, she found that the organization needed food donations to give away to local families in need.

"It seemed like their main need ... is food donations because they give it away in [the store]," she said.

Hertz plans to volunteer another Saturday this semester and probably will

purchase clothing items from the store as well.

"It's very affordable, and it's supporting an organization that helps people who really need help in Kirksville," Hertz said. "My main reason for buying secondhand clothes is that it decreases consumption patterns and is better for the environment."

Kathleen Ashcraft, a Kirksville High School student, said she has shopped at Out-Reach Mission multiple times to find quality, inexpensive pieces of clothing for her wardrobe. She said she went for the first time during the summer with a friend from her work.

"I thought it was really great," Ashcraft said. "Salvation Army is kind of expensive for people who don't have a lot of money. Out-Reach has a lot better stuff, and it's cheaper."

Ashcraft said she found some pieces she liked, but some of the clothing did not fit.

"Places like that, it either fits or it doesn't," she said.

Ashcraft said she sees the benefits in shopping in a store with such unique clothing.

"It presents a wide variety of clothing styles you can't always find in J.C. Penney or Goody's," she said.

Out-Reach Mission is located at 301 N. Elson St. Dilley said donations to the store, including food, clothing, furniture and media, are tax-deductible. Donations are accepted during store hours, Tuesday to Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., she said.



Volunteer Daniel Muff sets up a storage area at the Out-Reach Mission on Tuesday, Nov. 20. Out-Reach Mission recently moved their storage area from a garage to inside the building to keep its volunteers warm.

Heifer project helps lower global poverty

BY ABBEY SNYDER
Staff Reporter

For those struggling to decide what to give their loved ones this holiday, maybe they should consider a nice cow. Or perhaps a sheep.

Well, not exactly a cow but a donation for someone who needs one. Heifer International is an organization that provides animals and veterinary training to communities so they can build sustainable lives and help reduce poverty. Every year thousands of people give gifts of ducks, rabbits and goats to family members and friends as a way to provide better lives for those who are less fortunate.

Heifer International spokeswoman Christine Voelkmer said that when people donate to the organization, they're providing

communities with much more than just an animal.

"If you put down \$500 for a cow, somebody somewhere in the world is getting a cow," she said. "But they're also getting all of the training that goes along with it for ... agricultural training, veterinarian skill training, animal husbandry training, all of that kind of thing."

Voelkmer said that to continue a tradition of sustainability, families with animals must share the resources obtained from Heifer with others in their communities.

"Every family that receives training and an animal then prom-

ises to pass on their knowledge and offspring of that animal to another family in need," she said.

"And then the next family makes the same commitment, and the next family does, until you have a whole village that is operating sustainably to have better health, income, nutrition and a sustainable means of getting out of the poverty trap."

Voelkmer said that by using this method, Heifer International helps millions of people create better lives for themselves.

"To date, we know that at least 49 million people have been impacted by Heifer's work, ... mean-

ing they have gained by way of receiving an animal or training or both as a result of original projects," Voelkmer said. "It's about eight and a half million families."

Voelkmer said the holiday season is a very important time for Heifer International because so many people give donations as gifts to their families and friends.

"I would say that ... easily 75 percent of the total income [for Heifer International] that comes in through donations happens between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day," she said. "It's a big chunk of change that we count on."

Carol Oliver, the Missouri advocate for Heifer International, said the gift of an animal is a very memorable and special contribution.

"I don't remember many of the Christmas gifts I got last year, but I do remember two years ago my husband gave me a goat," Oliver said. "I think about all the good things that did for some family, ... and I think it is a really meaningful gift when you know you've made such a difference in someone else's life."

Oliver said she thinks the best way for people to get involved is educating themselves on the problems in the world.

"One of the first things ... is to learn," she said. "Just to get the word out about the world's impoverished people and help people understand that there are so many people who live in need. I think that once most people understand that, [then] they're willing to help."

Senior Rachel Hogan is involved in the organization Respon-

sible and Fair Trade. She said the missions of Heifer International and RAFT for world communities are very similar.

"RAFT is similarly based [as Heifer International] also with trying to lessen the obstacles people in developing nations have to community development," she said.

Hogan said she has never donated to Heifer International but that she gave a charitable gift donation in her sister's name last year through a similar organization.

"I think that's one of the coolest things you can do on Christmas," she said. "You just donate that, and you get this nice little certificate, and you give that as a gift to someone. I'm always looking for new ways to support agencies that are really doing sustainable and effective work."

'Ugly Man' returns to campus after four-year hiatus

BY KARA SAVAGE
Staff Reporter

Next Tuesday students and faculty members will compete to be the ugliest man on campus.

Senior Stephen Barnes is one of the coordinators for Ugly Man on Campus, sponsored by Alpha Phi Omega. This year the event will raise money for the Newman Center as well as a charity chosen by the winning participant.

"Ugly Man on Campus is based on the same idea as Big Man on Campus where there are different people nominated from all over campus," Barnes said. "[Students] can vote for them by donating money, but obviously with the title Ugly Man on Campus, it is supposed to be a more fun, goofy way of doing it."

Ugly Man on Campus was started in 1957 and has most recently taken place on campus in 1999 and 2003. But a majority of students have not heard of Ugly Man on Campus because it has not been an activity since 2003, Barnes said.

"We have had to start from ground up and try to publicize it as best as we can," Barnes said. "We are hoping that after we have done all of the groundwork that APO will be able to sponsor this again and support another charity or group of some kind."

Throughout this week, there will be cans set up in Violette Hall, Magruder Hall and the Student Union Building. Each can will have the participant's ugly picture on it and also will explain the charity for which the participant is raising money, Barnes said.

Participants can choose one charity they would like to support, he said.

"The idea is by having the participants select a charity, it is an incentive to get their friends and members of organizations to come out and vote for them," Barnes said.

If participants are among the top six donation receivers, they will be invited to

participate in the Ugly Man on Campus pageant which will be at 7 p.m., Dec. 6 in Baldwin Auditorium, Barnes said.

The pageant will consist of an ugly evening wear portion, a question and answer portion and a talent portion. He said audience members will vote on their favorite participant by ballot.

There will be three judges for the pageant who do not determine the winner but instead provide commentary similar to American Idol judges, Barnes said.

"This is where we really want to pull people in because the audience is going to have a huge impact on the final say," Barnes said.

In order to gain the title of Ugly Man on Campus, the participant will have to raise the most money overall, which will include the fundraiser week as well as the money raised from the pageant, Barnes said.

Barnes said the money raised by the winner will be evenly distributed between his or her chosen charity and the Newman Center to help pay for rebuilding costs.

The main objective for this fundraiser is not only to raise money for the Newman Center and the selected charity but also to unite the University as a whole, Barnes said.

"The whole idea came about because of the fire at Newman Center this summer," Barnes said. "We decided this would be a great opportunity to bring Ugly Man on Campus back and to pull campus organizations all over Truman to support a common cause."

Sophomore Alex Halfmann serves as the publicity chairman for the Newman Center and was nominated to represent the Newman Center in Ugly Man on Campus. Halfmann said he is choosing between LifeLine Pregnancy or Make-a-Wish Foundation for his charity.

"At first I hope we raise enough money so I can make it to the stage, but as a whole, I hope it is a complete success since half

of the money raised benefits the Newman Center and the costs to rebuild it," Halfmann said.

Professor of Spanish Juan Valencia also was nominated by his students to participate in Ugly Man on Campus. Valencia said he selected the Newman Center for his charity because he thought that any extra money raised for the Newman Center can help to rebuild it. He said he never has participated in an event like this, but that because someone nominated him to participate, he decided to try something new.

"For those participating, watch out because I might win," Valencia said. "I am fat, ugly and old, and the odds are in my favor."

Linda Caraway, senior advisor for APO, said that in the past Ugly Man on Campus was well-received and that she thinks it will have the same response this year.

"I would like to encourage everybody on campus to get involved because it is a fun project that brings not only students together but the whole campus," Caraway said.