

Local food pantry offers hand up

BY KATHLEEN BARBOSA
Staff Reporter

A little girl's face lights up as she sees a cart being pushed around the corner. She spots a bag on top and immediately a smile spreads across her face. She darts past her father and two sisters, grabbing the bag off the top of the cart and squeezes it to her chest like a precious gift.

In the bag is not the latest toy or her favorite candy. Instead, it is simply a loaf of bread given to her family by Love I.N.C.

This is just one scene John Kirby, co-director of Love I.N.C. has witnessed at his organization's monthly food distribution.

Love I.N.C. Food Pantry is a ministry of the Church of the Nazarene in Kirksville. Once a month, they distribute 30,000 pounds of food from the Food Bank of Central and NorthEast Missouri. The Columbia food bank is one

of the 200 food banks that make up the nonprofit organization, Feeding America.

The food bank feeds approximately 225 families each month from Kirksville and surrounding areas. Love I.N.C. also hands out food as needed between food distributions from its emergency pantry, making the total number of benefited families to approximately 265 each month.

The food in the emergency pantry comes from donations or food drives at Truman and other local food drives.

Kirby and his wife Sue bring together her spirit and his gift of gab to serve as co-directors of Love I.N.C.

"I'm the mouth, she's the heart," Kirby said.

Distribution day starts with clearing out the chairs from the church's sanctuary, which is where the distribution takes place when the weather is bad. Many of the families start lining up at 10 a.m. The owner

"Everyone who is helping with Love I.N.C. is always there for the right reasons. And even though it's a hand out situation, they make it feel more like a hand up."

Danielle DiGiacomo
Alpha Sigma Gamma service committee member

Poverty and Love I.N.C.

-Love I.N.C. feeds approximately 265 families each month.

-Approximately one third of the families are new each month. Another third comes every month.

-As of 2008, the percentage of people living under the poverty line in Missouri was 13.5 percent. The Adair County rate was 27.3 percent.

of Moots Farms drives his semitrailer to Columbia to pick up the food and brings it back to the church at 2 p.m. Once the truck is unloaded, the pallets of food are divided to determine how much each of the 225 families will receive. At 5 p.m., they begin handing out food to the families and by 7 p.m., they have given out all the food.

Jeremy Broach, associate pastor at the Church

of the Nazarene, has been involved with Love I.N.C. since its beginning in 2009. Broach said the outreach program started when the local representative from Food Bank of Central and North East Missouri approached the church.

"The other food pantries weren't able or capable of feeding all the people that needed to be fed, so they needed another organization or entity to help dis-

tribute food," Broach said. "They wanted to give away another million pounds of food, but I think we give away a half a million pounds of food."

Kirby said since he became involved with Love I.N.C., he hasn't seen an increased number of families that come for food. He said that each month approximately 30 percent of the families have not been there before, about approx-

imately 30 percent come every month and the rest are families who come once in a while.

Each month, there are new and returning volunteers. Kirby said Truman students from organizations including ROTC, the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and Alpha Sigma Gamma have helped work on the distribution days.

"The students here at Truman are a very large blessing to us for three things: their hands, their young hands and three, they're eager," Kirby said.

Senior Danielle DiGiacomo is a member of ASG's service committee. She serves as the liaison to Love I.N.C. DiGiacomo said the girls were surprised by the number of needy families in Kirksville.

The girls help out by separating the food into the family-sized portions from the large pallets and they also assist families as they need them. DiGiacomo said many girls have told her this is one of their favorite service activities to take part in. She also recognizes that this situation helps build everyone up.

"Everyone who is helping with Love I.N.C. is always there for the right reasons," DiGiacomo said. "And even though it's a hand out situation, they make it feel more like a hand up."

ECO projects in the works

ECO projects include human power in Student Recreation Center

BY ALEX CARLSON
Staff Reporter

All humans share 7 continents, 6 billion people and one world. The lush forests, the clear oceans and the sun-dropped skies are precious resources, pieces of the world that have earned sanctuary. Truman has its own emissaries of environmental protection, a group of students who want to keep the world and its natural treasures together: Truman's Environmental Campus Organization.

Formed in the fall of 2005, ECO is a Truman organization that develops and focuses on ecologically and environmentally friendly projects at Truman and in the Kirksville community. Beginning with only four students, the organization has expanded significantly. It currently has a mailing list of more than 300 people and has weekly meetings with more than 30.

ECO President junior Dylan

Salata said he wants to make the organization accessible, allowing anyone with an idea to help the environment pitch their plan and become involved in making the world a better place.

"Our goal is to raise awareness of sustainability of the greater ecological system that we exist in and the environment as a whole,"

Salata said. "It's a dynamic organization."

ECO vice president sophomore Daniel Jones said he wants students to become involved with ECO, regardless of how abstract the nature of their project is.

"The ECO organization is a vehicle for students who want to have support and really have a little bit of structure to organize projects that they feel like promote sustainability or other environmental causes on campus and in their

personal lives or around Kirksville," Jones said.

One major project currently in development for ECO is the use of human mechanical energy equipment in the Student Recreation Center. Proposed last semester, the human-powered rec center project would allow students to generate power using special

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Dylan Salata
Environmental Campus Organization president



Sondra Langley/Index

Seniors Jacob Grace, Stephen Riesenber and junior Ben Winter discuss ongoing projects during the Environmental Campus Organization meeting Monday night.

exercise equipment while working out, providing an effective method of producing power for Truman's power grid.

Progress for the project is moving along well, although obstacles like financial support remain a challenge for ECO to overcome. Gathering finances for enormous projects such as this can take semesters. Another issue is knowing whether the current machines can be enhanced or if brand new equipment is required. There currently is no official timeline for the project.

"ECO went to the rec and mapped out where all those machines are," Jones said. "Like the stationary bikes and rowing machines, with the goal

of getting a quote from different companies that are able to do this kind of thing, to see how cost effective it would be, how much electricity could be generated, just a cost benefit analysis of the whole situation."

Another proposed project is the ECO Olympics, a competition between residence halls to see who can reduce the use of important resources like electricity, water and trash output the most. The project was in the works but currently is being set aside for other bigger projects like the human-powered machines in the rec center. No dates or schedule has been formed to implement the ECO Olympics.

ECO member and junior Jacob

Grace participates in a semesterly skit performance for ECO at Brashear Elementary School, teaching elementary students about environmental issues in an informative, entertaining way.

"We presented a skit based on Captain Planet," Grace said. "We're trying to get across to the elementary students that fun comes from helping the environment and how it can make you feel like a superhero."

Smaller projects like the development of the community garden and weekly vegetarian pot lucks keep the ECO goals alive while the bigger projects grow and gather support.

The Truman ECO has meetings at 9 p.m. Monday in Baldwin Hall 252.

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