



# Center for Community Engagement & Leadership Development

## NEWSLETTER

AUGUST & SEPTEMBER 2022

### SUICIDE PREVENTION WALK

*A Wesleyan tradition was brought back to life, as the WE LEAD Invisible Illness team revamped the once annual Suicide Prevention Walk.*

**BY: Dylan Pauley**  
**Communications Major**  
**Class of 2023**

**CW: SUICIDE** The Invisible Illness team hosted the walk on September 17 to support and raise awareness for Suicide Prevention Month. Team members helped organize this event and even brought in a guest speaker, Delilah Clyburn-Hill, who spoke about her personal experience with suicide.

The walk had over 130 participants and raised over \$600. All the proceeds were donated to the 988 Suicide & Crisis Hotline. The event overlapped with Family Weekend that the college hosts every year so a lot of students' parents were able to attend and reflect on the important topic.

Senior Ryan Shrewsbury has been on the team since the beginning of last semester and is one of the four current members of the Invisible Illness team. Shrewsbury was very excited to be able to bring this event back and was very happy about the event's success and participation.



“I think one of the biggest accomplishments of the Suicide Prevention Walk was the level of compassion participants brought,” Shrewsbury said.

Shrewsbury was impressed with the number of students that came to support the team and the turnout.

Shrewsbury also went on to say, “I think that another big accomplishment was how students came out to show their support and how the event had the participants reflecting on their past experiences, possibly current situations, and how prevention awareness could really make a huge difference.”

The Suicide Prevention Walk was once a tradition at Wesleyan but with the COVID-19 pandemic hitting and no Invisible Illness team members having experience, caused this event to be dormant for several years. However, with COVID-19 regulations (cont.)



## CONT. SPW

becoming less strict and a sense of normalcy returning to the school, the event was able to resurface and make an appearance. The walk took place on Buckhannon's Riverwalk staring at the Wesley Chapel. The length of the walk was a total of 1.4 miles long.

A meaningful feature that the walk exhibited was bead stations placed along the route. At these bead stations, participants were able to take beads of different colors that represented people that lost their life to suicide, or to recognize those who have struggled with these feelings and place them on a key ring.

In total there were 10 bead stations along the route.

Another senior on the team, Olivia Carpenter, reflected on the decision to include and incorporate these bead stations. Carpenter discussed how the team viewed this inclusion of the bead stations as an impactful decision. When asked about the significance Carpenter said, "The team wanted participants to go out with something that made the event more impactful and to have a physical item that they can reflect on outside of the event hours."

Carpenter was very intentional in including a physical item in this event to help remind participants the importance of this event.

The walk was a successful event for students and community members

that attended as it brought awareness to a vital topic, especially in our community. Participant Shauna Jones reflects by saying, "I'd participated in the first walk pre-COVID and am grateful we were able to start back again."

I walk for my best friend's brother Eric and for Delilah's son Wesley. We have to get people to the point of normalizing asking for support. We have to help people release any shame and guilt they feel. We have to be brave enough to talk about it. I found the whole event to be well-planned and compassionate. The beads and key rings were such a moving experience."



# 2022 WE LEAD RETREAT

*WE LEADers learn the importance of working together and relying on one another.*

**BY: Makayla Garcia | Criminal Justice & Political Science | Class of 2024**

Members of Wesleyan's WE LEAD teams traveled to Preston County, W.Va. to stay in yurts and expand their leadership qualities in preparations for this semester.

The annual retreat was shaped a little differently this time, as the CCE welcomed a new staff member, Julia Manley, the CCE Leadership and Service Coordinator.

Students prepared for a semester full of recruiting new members, educating fellow students and community members, and encouraging more involvement on campus.

Retreat consisted of a leadership course, where team members faced several challenges that forced new leadership traits to unveil.

Throughout the courses, students were able to increase trust in one another, learn the importance of working together and relying on one another. While these leadership characteristics evolved, students were able to learn more about one another and themselves.

From spontaneous icebreakers, to event planning, to the trip home WE LEADers focused on improving their community outreach this semester, diving into Buckhannon headfirst to seek out community partners.



# WESLEYAN SERVICE SCHOLAR ORIENTATION

*New students were able to learn by engaging in service together with a community partner.*

**BY: Madisyn Fox | Physics & Political Science | Class of 2023**

Each year, a new group of first-year Wesleyan Service Scholars reach for their gloves and shovels gear up to return to a community that the Center for Community Engagement holds close to its heart. Our new students, on the day of their arrival, exchange a heartfelt “see you later” and board vans heading directly to Helvetia, W.Va.

Only 45 minutes away, Helvetia offers the students incredible new experiences and welcomes Service Scholars with open arms. Despite having an aging population of less than 50 individuals, this small town is full of life. Helvetia’s residents introduce our students to their ways of life while working closely with them to help keep the community beautiful and open for new visitors.

These experiences show a unique culture of caring and determination that make a noticeable impact on our students each year.

Wednesday, August 17, twenty students started their journeys as Service Scholars and as college students, accompanied by five upperclassmen orientation leaders. This began the annual orientation trip. With lots of cleaning supplies and no cell phone service, these students created memories of a lifetime through icebreaker activities, team-building games, and a day full of dedicated service projects.

In Helvetia, these students were able to learn, grow and prepare for their four years as Service Scholars by engaging in service together and witnessing the impact of working alongside an incredible community.





# HELVETIA FAIR



*Service Scholars gave back to a community that is keeping their Swiss Roots alive.*

**BY: Madisyn Fox | Physics & Political Science | Class of 2023**

On September 10, multiple WVWC students drove to Helvetia, W.Va. to join the community in preparing for their annual Helvetia Fair. When these students arrived in the small town, they were split into groups and worked hard to get things in order for the day's events!

Students helped at the Community Hall by preparing and serving traditional foods like bratwursts, which they got to try for themselves when the work was over.

Some students volunteered in the library to ensure the annual 25¢ Book Sale ran smoothly, while another group was asked to create signs for various floats that would be showcased in the celebrated parade that afternoon.

These included businesses in town such as Swiss Roots, and groups like the Helvetia Farm Women and Alpenrose Garden Club.

Students were able to venture around Helvetia, meet fair attendees and community members, and visit vendors selling handmade crafts.

Students, some of whom have visited the beautiful town before, were able to explore a culture preserved by generations of hardworking individuals while celebrating the joyful traditions of a tight-knit community. It was a wonderful experience for our students that allowed them to passionately serve a community need, all while appreciating their West Virginian roots.





# TOMATOES

*Do you like tomatoes? Do you have a friend who likes tomatoes? Do you know anyone who likes tomatoes?*

**BY: Geneva Brown | Biology | Class of 2023**

The WE LEAD Animal Welfare & Sustainability team supported the “You Pick Tomatoes” event in the High Tunnel located behind Dunn Hall, which was open to the campus and community. Attendees were able to harvest as many tomatoes as they could eat at the low, low cost of free.

The high tunnel has had a slow start since its inception, but the team is working diligently to make more partnerships with the community and donate as much produce as they can. People walked away wishing they had known about the high tunnel sooner!

# WATER WE DOING?

*Students were able to guess how many gallons of water that is used in a month at the college.*

**BY: Paige Murray-Schrader | Biology | Class of 2025**


On September 22, the members of the WE LEAD Animal Welfare & Sustainability team, held our “Water We Doing at Wesleyan?” event where students took guesses as to how many gallons of water Wesleyan used monthly.

The total amount of gallons was represented by a jar of M&M’s where each M&M represented 2,000 gallons of water. The closest guess was 1.314 million gallons per month and was made by Madisyn Fox, a senior at Wesleyan.

**WVWC uses 1.3 million gallons of water a month.**

“I believe it is important that Wesleyan shares this information with students, as most students don’t think of how much water is running down the drain when they take a shower or use the sink. This event brings light to our water use and allows students to reflect on their habits,” Destiny Cochran, junior at Wesleyan said.



**PASS ON THE VALUE OF  
SERVICE TO THE NEXT  
GENERATION.   
SERVICE SCHOLAR APP**





# FYEX SERVICE PROJECT

*Here's some food for thought. Have you ever tried to make a building out of nonperishable items?*

**BY: Destiny Cochran | Elementary Education | Class of 2024**

The first-year students at West Virginia Wesleyan sure have! On Sunday, August 21, in the afternoon, the first years, grouped by their First Year Experience (FYEX) classes took to the Oval with their canned goods and nonperishables to discover which group could build the best replica of a building on campus.

Scattered throughout the oval, groups were stacking cans, cutting paper, and taking photos for reference. A notable mention was the Wesley Chapel made of canned soup, mac and cheese, and toothpaste. Hannah Reed, first year at WVWC (and toothpaste Chapel builder), notes "The concept was really cool. We all got to bring nonperishable items and the opportunity to build campus structures. It was great to build connections with the people in our FYEX groups while also donating to our neighbors in need."

The winners of the competition will be announced at the Great Gathering.

## CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL

**Service Scholars and sororities combine to make the Children's Festival a success.**

**BY: Destiny Cochran | Elementary Education | Class of 2024**

Coming back strong after COVID-19, the Children's Festival founded by Buckhannon Stockert Youth Center kicked off the weekend with Zuls, pizza, and a Wacky Waving Inflatable Tube Man.

"I know last year they had a drive-through. It is really good to see them up and running an in-person festival again. The students really look forward to it," said Faith Hammerbeck, a Buckhannon Academy teacher and WVWC Assistant Lacrosse Coach.

The big day began with setting up. Multiple Service Scholars lent a helping hand during the morning to set up tables and bring out other props for the day ahead. The festivities were s'more making with boy scouts, information booths about health care, and multiple stations to play games. Pizza and Zuls arrived around noon.

Along with Wesleyan Service Scholars helping out Alpha Xi Delta (AXiD), a sorority on the WVWC campus volunteered to hand out Zuls and pizza to support their national philanthropy, The Kindly Hearts Initiative. "The chapter at WVWC chose to partner with Mission WV to help foster families provide life skills and education and create community connections," said Olivia Carpenter, AXiD President and WE LEADER. With AXiD and Service Scholars helping, the festival wrapped up with smiling faces and full hearts ready to do it again next year.







## SPREAD THE LOVE

*Do you hear that? It's peanut butter jelly time!*

**BY: Stephen Groves | Biochemistry | Class of 2024**

The WE LEAD Poverty Reduction team hosted a peanut butter drive called "Spread The Love." This event is usually an annual event held in the fall semester. The event's purpose is to bring forth donations of peanut butter to support the Upshur Cooperative Parish House and the neighbors in our community.

This year, the event was scheduled around Family Weekend, which brought extra attention to the event. Through advertising and well-executed planning, the event collected over 170 jars.

Amanda Scholar, a senior said, "The peanut butter drive has always been my favorite event since peanut butter is convenient and not as expensive as other grocery items when donating." That same student exclaimed, "Who doesn't love peanut butter?"

This event is not only a favorite for most students on campus but also greatly benefits the Upshur County community.

**170 JARS OF PB  
DONATED TO THE  
PARISH HOUSE.**



## WAGE GAP BAKE SALE

*Students demonstrate the gap in wages in America.*

**BY: Courtney Gray | Psychology & Religious Studies | Class of 2023**

The WE LEAD Human Rights team set out to educate the community about the wage gap difference based on gender and race.

With help from Aladdin dining services, the team set up at the switchboard on September 15 during lunchtime to sell baked goods. The prices reflected the amount of money that each person makes compared to a white man's dollar. For more information about this wage gap, please visit the U.S Department of Labor and Pew Research Center's website.

"I am glad you all are spreading light on a serious topic," said Psychology Professor Mary Medlin who stopped by and bought a brownie.

There were over 30 people in attendance who helped raise \$32.30 that will be donated to the Hispanic Heritage Foundation (HHF). The foundation is committed to helping "a Latino to help hundreds more" through a leadership forum. This is within a cycle of a year-round continuum, high-profile, sustainable programs. These programs include Hispanic Heritage Youth Awards, Hispanic Heritage Awards, LOFT and Public Awareness Campaigns according to HHF.



# CENTER FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

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## Social Media:

Facebook | @WVWCCCE

Instagram | @wwwc\_cce

## Website:

<https://www.wwwc.edu/community-engagement/>

## Give:

<https://ssl.charityweb.net/wwwc/donatenow.htm>

Wesleyan Service Scholars invested

**11,147+  
HOURS**

in the community  
during the 2021-2022  
academic year.

**557  
STUDENTS**

with duplicates  
removed attended a CCE  
event during the 2021-  
2022 academic year.

**71 EVENTS**

hosted by WE LEAD  
during the 2021-2022  
academic year.

- 10 Advocacy Events
- 13 Collections/Fundraisers
- 31 Education & Awareness Events
- 6 Film Screenings & Discussions
- 11 Service Events

## 2022-2023 COMMUNITY PARTNER SITES

- Appalachian Impact
- Buckhannon-Academy Elementary School
- Buckhannon Fire Department
- Buckhannon Manor
- Buckhannon Police Department
- Buckhannon-Upshur Middle School
- Buckhannon-Upshur High School
- Child Development Center
- Clothes Closet
- Creative Beginnings Daycare
- Lewis-Upshur Animal Control Facility
- Literacy Volunteers of Upshur County
- PALS Program
- Salvation Army
- Stockert Youth Center & Community
- Tennerton Elementary School
- Union Elementary School
- Upshur Cooperative Parish House
- Upshur County Convention & Visitor's Bureau
- Upshur County Development Authority
- Upshur County Public Library
- Upshur County Senior Center
- Upshur County Special Olympics
- World Association of Marching Show Bands
- West Virginia Hospice