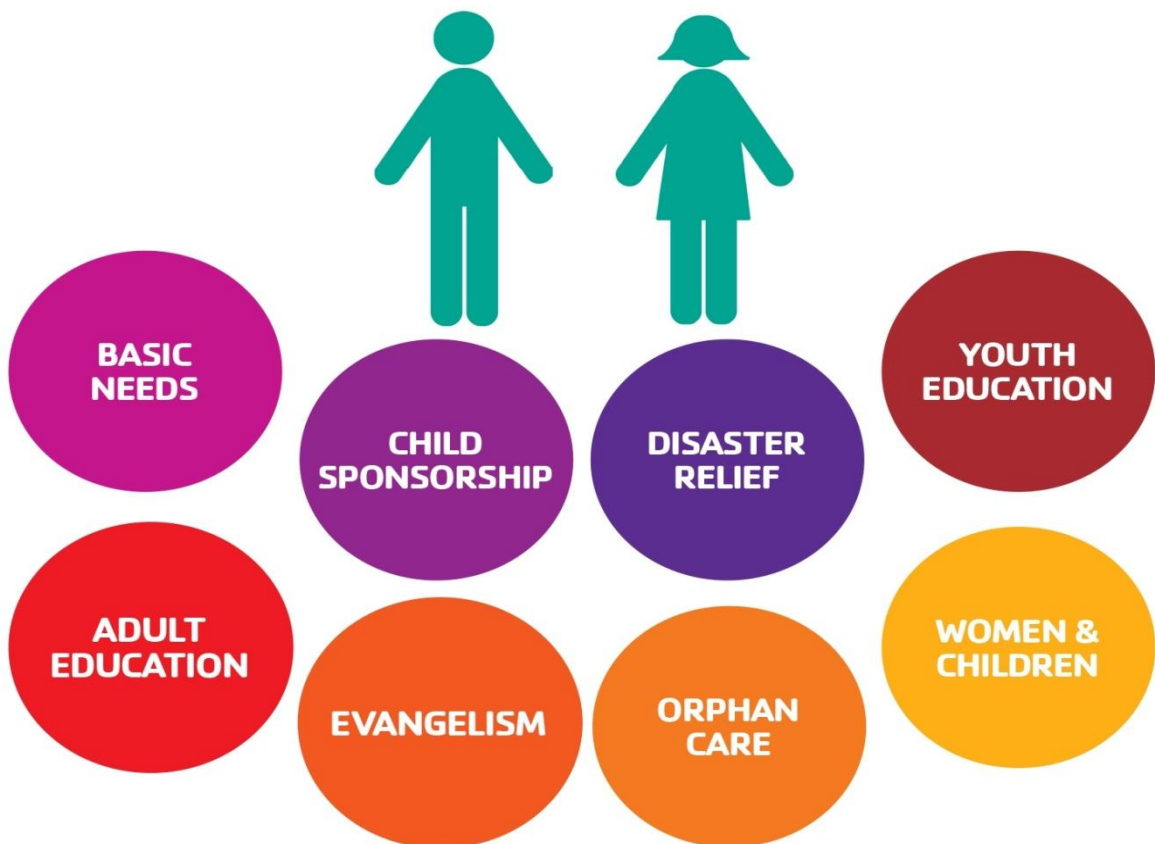


VOLUNTEER ENGAGEMENT DIRECTORY

Christian-based nonprofit organizations in
Kosciusko County that need your help

WHERE CAN YOU SERVE IN YOUR COMMUNITY?



Casey Pepper, Wildman Business Group
Summer Zimmer, Kosciusko Community YMCA
Shelbi Gillette, Helvey & Associates, Inc
KLA Session – 2013-2014

Table of Contents

Volunteer Engagement Directory	2-11
Introduction	2
Action Plan	3-5
Implementation	5-8
Future Funding	9
Conclusion	10
Works Cited	11

Introduction

“Never doubt that a small group of committed volunteers can change the world; indeed, it is the only thing that ever has,” (Mead). Through the years, great change has come from the work of volunteers. Change not only in communities and disaster relief but in people’s lives. This has been a result of both individual efforts, as well as, those of local churches and businesses. When employees volunteer together, “each person plays an intricate role in providing not just revenue dollars but supplying a purpose to help people in general. They come to work every day knowing that they’re serving something that is bigger than themselves” (Conley). Whether the effort is individual or joint, it is still easy to become overwhelmed by the vast number of volunteer opportunities available but the lack of useful information when searching for just the right organization. Imagine if this information was easily accessible, right at our fingertips – how far could the passion of people in our own communities take us in changing the world?

Kosciusko County, while having many local ministries, does not have a comprehensive list of these ministries and their needs available for area residents, churches and businesses to access and invest in. Our goal is to gather this information in a directory of Kosciusko County’s Christian faith based not-for-profit ministries and distribute this directory to local businesses, churches and residents.

This Volunteer Engagement Directory will highlight each local ministry by including a summary of the work they are doing in their own communities and, at times, internationally. In this way, each organization is able to express their need for volunteers while encouraging area residents to invest locally in the good work being done on a local and international level. It is our hope that this directory will inspire the people of our community to not only connect and serve today but to encourage future generations to do the same in the years to come.

Action Plan

As we began researching the ministries in this area, we came to the realization that one of the biggest tasks we had ahead of us was determining which organizations would be included. If we were to include any and all ministries in our community, the directory could soon become the size of an encyclopedia which would be helpful to no one. With this in mind, we narrowed our search to consist of only those organizations that fit the below characteristics:

- Must be located in Kosciusko County – either the main office or a branch
- Must be Christian faith-based
- Must have the ability to volunteer – either monetarily or in person
- Must be a not-for-profit (501 C3)
- Must fit into one or more of the below categories:
 - Basic Needs
 - Education
 - Women/Children
 - Child Sponsorship
 - Evangelism
 - Disaster Relief
 - Orphan Care

With our search slightly narrowed, we compiled multiple lists of local ministry organizations – which were obtained from the Greater Warsaw Ministerial Association, the Warsaw Chamber of Commerce and Warsaw Community Church. The ministries were cross-referenced according

to the above qualifications and after sorting through 50-60 local ministries, our team assembled a list of over twenty Christian-based not-for-profit organizations in Kosciusko County.

Our next step was to obtain information from each ministry that would be useful to anyone wishing to volunteer. We wanted to include not only the ministry's volunteer needs, but a short synopsis of their vision, basic contact information and categories the ministry would appear under. In an attempt to remain as consistent in formatting as possible, we constructed a Questionnaire containing these categories that could be easily sent to all twenty-plus contacts to complete and return. The e-mail also asked for the ministries' logo and any pictures or examples of service that could be provided – these would then be included in the directory as well. We allowed over four weeks for each organization to return the form before compiling the information we had received. Unfortunately, even after repeated contact, several ministries never returned the information and were unable to be included in the project.

The information we did receive was categorized based upon each ministry's desired category – basic needs, education, women/children, child sponsorship, evangelism, disaster relief or orphan care. For example, those ministries who chose to be listed under **Evangelism** would appear under this particular section heading along with any other ministry that chose the same category. (See the example of 2nd Mile Adventure and Combined Community Service, Inc. for further clarification). Oftentimes, an organization would choose more than one category; in these instances,

EVANGELISM

2nd Mile Adventures
PO Box 733 Winona Lake, IN 46590
574-265-7170
www.goanewdistance.com



2nd Mile Adventures exists to challenge the local community to go a new distance physically, mentally and spiritually. This is achieved through our Dunes Day Ride welcoming all levels of riders, even families, Mens Retreat mountain bike trips and our Ski Colorado trip for youth. In between trips we meet with and encourage via weekly devotionals our participants to begin living a new life for Christ.

To volunteer: dwildman@2ndmileadventures.org
To donate: dwildman@2ndmileadventures.org 574-265-7170

Top ways to volunteer:
Help run and recruit for our adventure ministry trips



Combined Community Services, Inc.
1195 Mariners Drive, Warsaw, IN 46582
574-269-6019



www.combinedcommunityservices.org
Combined Community Services serves residents of Kosciusko County. CCS's mission is "Combining Community Services to Provide Comfort, Hope and Resources for Neighbors in Need". We offer the comfort and hope of Christ to individuals, as well as tangible services to meet specific needs. We provide emergency/crisis services such as utility assistance, food,

we would simply list the ministry under all desired categories – in this way; we were able to keep the information as user-friendly as possible.

Those residents looking to volunteer in **Disaster Relief** or **Orphan Care** would, therefore, be able to search by category instead of reading through each organization's description in hopes of finding a ministry that aligned with their own passions. Additionally, since each organization included a brief summary of their vision, residents would be able to first search by category – **Disaster Relief** – and then determine how they can best volunteer within this chosen ministry – hosting awareness-raising events on the water crises in Africa for Water for Good, for example. In this way, the directory would not only place the necessary information into the hands of the community, but also help align the passions of a community, church or business with those of a local ministry. Our goal in creating this directory is to not only facilitate connection between area ministries and Kosciusko residents but to keep the information in as user-friendly a form as possible.

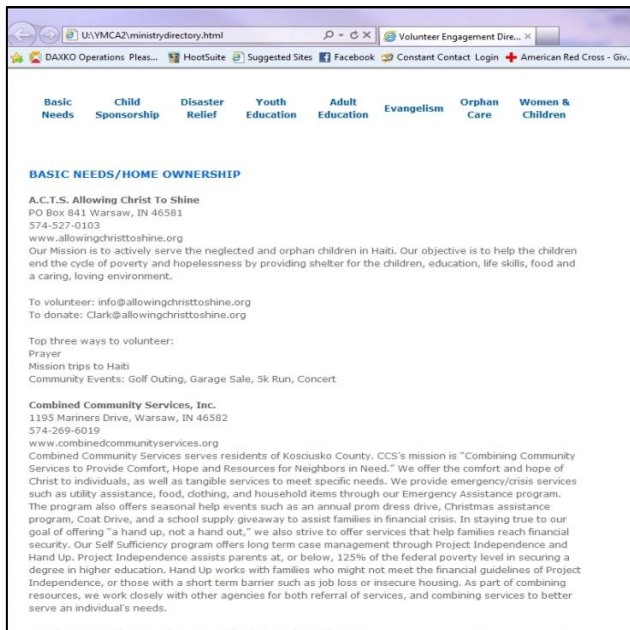
With the information now assembled and organized, we were left to determine the best method of distribution – hardcopy form or website.

Implementation

In such a technologically advanced world, it is easy to lose track of the importance of a printed sheet of paper. As we continued to research the best method of distribution we realized that in order to bring awareness to the largest range of people, we would need to include both a hardcopy, as well as, an html version. The hardcopy would serve to inspire in the moment,

creating a palpable document with easy access to all age groups; while the website would create sustainability and allow for easy updating in the future.

Throughout the course of this project, our team was able to compile both a hardcopy version, as well as, a website (see below examples). Both contain the same information – the booklet in a user-friendly flip book form and the website in an easy to navigate webpage. In this way, we are able to reach all age groups in a format that is simplest for them to use.



With both versions of the project created, distribution of the booklet and future updating of the website would become our biggest concerns.

With this in mind, we approached several organizations regarding distribution and were excited to find many willing to help. As far as the actual printing of the booklet, Grace Print Shop was willing to donate the printing of 100 booklets, and The Papers Inc. in Milford, IN. was

DISASTER RELIEF

Water for Good (formerly ICDI)
 P.O. Box 247 Winona Lake, IN 46590
 574-635-1401



www.waterforgood.org

Water for Good provides access to clean water, demonstrates God's love, and makes a lasting improvement in people's lives in one of the world's most neglected countries, the

water for good



Central African Republic (CAR). In our first 10 years our teams have drilled 549 new wells. And the new wells are just the beginning! We stay engaged with communities over the long-term. Real transformation happens when the water keeps flowing, year after year. So, our teams not only drill new wells, but provide regular well maintenance visits to keep the water flowing—for good. Through these visits, we build relationships with communities and work with them to initiate projects in agriculture that will make the community more prosperous and empowered over the long-term. In all of our efforts, Water for Good empowers a local staff of 100 skilled and dedicated Central Africans to complete all the

projects with the support of 10 US/International staff. Mission Statement : Water for Good works collaboratively, in long-term partnership, with communities in Central Africa, empowering people with sustainable access to clean water, transformational sanitation principles, and improved agricultural resources.

To volunteer: info@waterforgood.org
 To donate: info@waterforgood.org

Top three ways to volunteer:

Host awareness-raising event on the water crisis in Africa
 Help contact local media with Water for Good press kit
 Help with handwritten thank you notes and supporter updates

willing to donate 500 printings. Although the booklets would now be printed, we wanted to provide an explanation of the need we identified and how we believe this project will help fill this need to each organization we would mail the booklet to. For this reason, we would provide each organization with both the booklet and a short letter explaining our goal. The letter would read as follows:

As part of this year's Kosciusko Leadership Academy White Paper Project, a team of individuals has identified a volunteer need in this community. Although many Kosciusko County residents have a desire to volunteer and give back to their community, there is no comprehensive list of local ministries and their volunteer needs for residents to access and invest in. We have found that many volunteers become overwhelmed when searching for local ministries, often due to the fact that this information is not easily accessible. It was our goal to create a directory that would help solve this issue by placing this information in the hands of local businesses and churches who could then guide residents in discovering how they can make a difference in their own communities.

We would like to ask you to partner with us in distributing this information. We have included the hardcopy directory that was created through this project and are asking that you help facilitate change among your own staff by either distributing the information internally and serving together, or allowing the directory to be available at your office. In this way, individuals can be reached at a personal level as they are inspired to invest in their own communities. Additionally, the Warsaw Chamber of Commerce and the Greater Warsaw Ministerial Association will be hosting a website with similar information that was also created through this project as an additional resource. We believe your desire for community change aligns with our own – and together we can help the people of this county change the world!

Both the booklet and letter would be distributed to local businesses and churches in hopes that they would partner with us in this project. In continuing our effort to distribute the directories, Wildman Business Group volunteered to provide envelopes to facilitate the mailing of the booklets and cover letters; and because of the Kosciusko Community YMCA's Christian mission and focus on social responsibility, the YMCA volunteered to fund a bulk mailing project for over 600 envelopes. The generosity of these organizations is greatly appreciated and will allow for far-reaching impact.

Regarding future updates to the website, both the Warsaw Chamber of Commerce and the Greater Warsaw Ministerial Association have agreed to host the website and make any necessary updates if contacted by the not-for-profit. With this in mind, we included a note on the back cover of each booklet directing any not-for-profits looking to either be included in the directory or wishing to update their information to contact both organizations. In this way, we are assured of the sustainability of the website.

It is our goal to distribute the booklets to area churches and businesses and inform them of the website for future reference. The hardcopy directory can be used as the initial means of impact – a version that is easy to use and can be kept on hand as residents search for ways to volunteer locally. Once this source becomes well-known and accepted, the website will be available for additional research. Ideally both churches and businesses would then be better prepared to not only answer local residents' questions regarding volunteering but have the necessary knowledge to facilitate change in their own communities and internationally. It is our hope that the lack of information that once hindered residents from volunteering with local ministries will no longer exist as this knowledge becomes easily accessible.

Future Funding

We, as a team, believe strongly in this project; the goals it aims to accomplish; and the method through which the information is being distributed. Getting both the booklet and the webpage into the hands of organizations that can further facilitate circulation is key in helping bridge the gap between residents and not-for-profit ministries.

The hardcopy booklet is meant as a “first approach” – a means of getting this information, in an easy-to-use format, into the hands of people wishing to volunteer. Additional interest will then be directed to the webpage since funding to distribute the booklet is limited. With this in mind, the far-reaching impact this directory can have on communities locally and overseas is dependent, in part, upon the funding available to print, organize and mail the booklet to the numerous organizations in Kosciusko County.

As it stands, the first wave of distribution has been organized. Local businesses have generously donated the funding necessary to accomplish this task and hardcopy directories are being mailed to local churches and businesses. Future printing of the booklet will now either depend upon the continued generosity of local businesses or outside funding.

If this project was to win the Northernor Award, the funding would be used for this purpose – to create additional booklets for distribution. Current copies would be kept at the YMCA, the Greater Warsaw Ministerial Association and the Warsaw Chamber of Commerce to facilitate easy access for all ages and a second mailing could be organized for additional access in local communities. It would be our hope that this directory would not lose significance, but rather continue to inspire our communities for years to come.

Conclusion

In the past, volunteers have been the catalyst for great change. Whether this means rebuilding an entire city after a natural disaster, creating educational opportunities for below poverty line families, or sponsoring children across the world; the actions of volunteers have helped to reveal the heart of a nation. This change, however, does not happen on its own. It is only when the passions of a community are connected to the work being done by local organizations that this change becomes a reality.

It was this lack of connection in our community that inspired us to take action. Although Kosciusko County is rich in both philanthropist-minded residents and not-for-profit ministries, there is a notable lack of information in the hands of those wishing to volunteer. Our goal was to create both a hardcopy booklet and website directory that would not only help facilitate this connection, but inspire communities to serve on a local and international level.

The Volunteer Engagement booklet will not only serve as an immediate resource for all age-groups but will place important volunteer information at the very fingertips of our communities; allowing the website to create additional sustainability. Our desire is to not only create an easy access volunteer directory for all age groups, but to help “committed volunteers [to] change the world” (Mead).

Hannah More once said, “one drop of water helps to swell the ocean; a spark of fire helps to give light to the world. None are too small, too feeble, or too poor to be of service”. So we ask, what will your role be in helping to change the world?

Works Cited

Conley, Brandon. (2012). Assistant VP Winona Paper.

Grace Print Shop. Winona Lake, Indiana.

Hoy, Trina. Warsaw Chamber of Commerce

Kosciusko Community YMCA

Locke, Ken. Greater Warsaw Ministerial Association.

Mead, Margaret. (1978). *Letters from the Field, 1925-1975*. New York: Harper & Rowe.

More, Hannah. (1793). *Rights of Man*. Retrieved from:

<http://www.victorianweb.org/authors/more/bio.html>

The Papers Inc. in Milford, IN

Wildman Business Group