

Community Connections and Outreach

By embracing the spirit of cooperation, our students engage within our communities to both network and advance their skills, all while developing a deeper sense of the importance of community and volunteerism. Thank you to our surrounding communities for their support and collaboration.



Forestry students working on landscaping surrounding the City of Kent's chimney swift

Forestry students gain real-world experience within our communities

Throughout the school year, Forestry and Landscape Management students have embraced various projects within our communities. Students assisted the Portage Park District's mission to plant 30 acres of trees in honor of the park's 30th anniversary. Level I students worked with the Portage Soil and Water Conservation District, ODNR Division of Natural Areas and Preserves, Davey Tree, and the Village of Garrettsville to replace eight Callery Pear trees with native Hawthorne and Hornbeam trees. The city of Kent has provided numerous opportunities for the students to work alongside professionals including the beautification of the area surrounding a newly constructed freestanding chimney swift near the police station and the installation of plants at Kent's new Pollinator Garden on Tonkin Street.



Grace Brim (Tallmadge) and Gianna Leonino (Stow)

Early Childhood Professions gain experience over the summer

Early Childhood Professions students gained valuable experience and hours towards their Child Development Associate credential by

volunteering at various organizations within our communities. **Alexis Starnes** (Stow) volunteered at Small Steps, Big Strides in Stow and upon completion of the experience was offered a paid internship. Students also volunteered at ChildScape Learn and Grow in Stow. **Grace Brim** (Tallmadge) and **Gianna Leonino** (Stow) gained experience at Tallmadge's Camp Invention, where they helped students create and engage in project-based STEM learning activities and they were both awarded leadership interns of the week.

AHCF students volunteer at the Akron Marathon

Several Level II Athletic Health Care and Fitness seniors volunteered at the Akron Marathon in September. Instructor **Terry Slattery** connected students to this opportunity through **Dr. Nilesh Shah**, Medical Director of the Akron Marathon, who also serves as the Chair of the AHCF Advisory Board and is the volunteer Team Physician for Roosevelt Athletics. Seniors **Kelsey Barker** (Tallmadge), **Keith Perroto** (Woodridge), and **Evan Reischman** (Cuyahoga Falls) volunteered in various medical support roles at the medical tent finish line.



Keith Perroto (Woodridge) at the Akron Marathon finish line

Culinary students volunteer at Stow-Glen Retirement Village

Shortly before the closing of Stow-Glen Retirement Village, around 55 residents were still living at the facility, while many employees had found new jobs. Many of the volunteers who were helping to serve meals to the remaining residents did not hold the proper safety certifications. That is when **Jessica Jones** (Hudson) and **Kealey Ludwig** (Stow-Munroe Falls) sprung into action. These Level II Culinary Arts students are ServeSafe certified and heard of the need for certified individuals to prepare, serve and cleanup meals through Jessica's mom, **Michelle Jones**, SMFCSD central kitchen manager. Jessica and Kealey were "glad they were able to step up and help the Stow community" and also enjoyed hearing stories from the residents.



Students attend the Dare to Dream Retreat at John Carroll University

Dare to Dream Retreat

In November, female students from the Academy of Medical Office & Business Management and the Interactive Marketing & Design programs attended the Dare to Dream Retreat hosted by John Carroll University's Entrepreneurship Program. Students listened to speakers who inspired them with personal stories related to the key themes of daring to be courageous, vulnerable, to create and to act. Students also engaged in activities designed to help them recognize their strengths and develop their passion for entrepreneurship.



Business Pathway students visit Tallmadge Elementary to teach economics

Business Pathway students teach economics to elementary students

Business Pathway students at Tallmadge High School partnered with Junior Achievement to deliver economics lessons to all of the fifth grade classes at Tallmadge Elementary School. The unit lesson was entitled “Our Nation” and focused on free enterprise, entrepreneurship, global trade and interconnectivity, career planning, and innovation and technology. Junior Achievement is a non-profit organization dedicated to giving young people the knowledge and skills they need to plan for their futures. Instructor **Kim Brendel** states that this was a great opportunity for the students to “see the value in volunteerism.”



Mackenzie Aubin (Kent), Kyle Bender (Tallmadge) and Katelyn Dent (Kent) volunteering at the craft show

(Kent) states, “*Be The Match* is an awesome organization. We were all proud to fundraise for the organization because the Bone Marrow Registry is such an incredibly important tool for people with blood cancers.”

HCT students raise funds for Be The Match

Health Careers Technologies students raised \$500 at the November Roosevelt craft fair to donate to *Be The Match*, the international service organization the program chose to support this school year. *Be The Match* runs the largest bone marrow registry in the United States and also sponsors research about blood disease, patient education and financial support for patients and their families. **Katelyn Dent**

Criminal Justice students participate in the Ohio Supreme Court program

Criminal Justice students had the unique opportunity to participate in The Ohio Supreme Court Off-Site Court program this school year. This program gave students a front-row view of the state’s court of last resort. Students had the opportunity to hear from the justices, who explained their work at the Court and fielded questions. Students also debriefed with the attorneys who argued the cases and students were able to share their thoughts and questions with them. Additionally, **Casey Johnson Bowers** (Stow-Munroe Falls) was selected to be the student speaker at the formal Supreme Court Off-Site luncheon at The University of Akron Law School. Casey shares, “This experience was a once in a lifetime opportunity. It is so much more meaningful to actually see how things work, rather than just hear about them. I was honored to be able to thank the court on behalf of my classmates.”



Casey Johnson Bowers, instructor Shane Parker and Chief Supreme Court Justice Maureen O'Connor.

Programming students collaborate on website optimization project

Level II Programming and Software Development students **Emmett Johnson** (Stow-Munroe Falls) and **Elijah Rogers** (Stow-Munroe Falls) worked alongside Compact webmaster, **Mark Welfley**, this school year on a website optimization project. The goal of this collaboration was to update the Compact website to make it more user-friendly and compatible with mobile devices. Welfley stated that the “students did an excellent job,” while program instructor **Terri Whitmer** states that her students were, “very invested in the



Emmett Johnson (left) and Elijah Rogers (right)

project,” and was pleased that they were able to both apply techniques learned in class and discover new approaches throughout the project.