

THE OXFAM CLUB at BALL STATE UNIVERSITY
AN OXFAM AMERICA CLUBS SPOTLIGHT



Oxfam
America

Ball State University

CLUB OVERVIEW

History

The Oxfam Club at Ball State University was founded by Megan Whitacre, a 2010 Oxfam America CHANGE Leader. Fueled by an interest in political science, Whitacre spent her Junior year immersing herself in starting the club, even writing her thesis on her experiences.

In their own words

BSU Oxfam is made up of a dedicated group of college students who see the world as a place we can help to change. We strive to raise awareness of the poverty and injustice that plague our neighbors. Commitment to our cause and compassion for our fellow man sets us apart from other clubs on campus.

We began the Ball State Chapter of Oxfam America in 2010 to continue the fight against poverty and injustice.

Our first year as a club on the BSU campus turned out to be a successful venture for us. We hosted several events such as Sow the Seed, an Oxfam America Hunger Banquet, and the Peace Fair.

We are really excited to make these events larger and have a greater impact this year. We also hope to introduce some new events to our fellow students to help them learn about the poverty, hunger, and social injustice affecting our world today.



Human Peace Sign, Peace Fair, BSU 2011

SPECIAL EVENTS



BSU Peace Fair

Early in the 2010 Spring semester, BSU Oxfam partnered with four other student organizations and the BSU Peace Center to hold a fair to promote membership and collaboration for BSU students concerned with issues of social justice. This event won them the "Most Creative Event on Campus" award from BSU SGA.



Oxfam America Hunger Banquet

Focusing on the famines ravaging East Africa, BSU Oxfam held their 2nd annual Oxfam America Hunger Banquet on November 16th, 2011. 90 people participated, with many taking part in a clever photo petition of an African mural.

BSU OXFAM'S TIPS FOR RUNNING AN OXFAM CLUB

Organizational Structure

- 1st year- Standard Executive Board, Top-to-Bottom Structure; “meetings were not that participatory.”
- 2nd year- General members encouraged to create their own positions: “Allowing all of our members to create their own leadership roles not only made people feel more involved, but it also played to individuals’ passions and strengths.”

Bi-Weekly Meeting Structure

- Committee Format- every other week a **committee meeting** is held: ideas for events are brainstormed as a group, then **exploratory committees** are formed to tease out the details and feasibility of each idea.
- On alternating weeks, BSU Oxfam holds **educational meetings** to better educate and inform the general club membership of Oxfam’s work and goals: “By far the biggest complaint during the first year of the club was that members **wanted more information**. Educational meetings were created in response to that need.”

Year to Year Transitions

- “**Limit executive board positions to one year.**” That way, the club’s livelihood is not at stake when club leadership, after years at the helm, graduates.
- Similarly, **have a non-senior be President**, so s/he can be a guiding resource in subsequent years.
- Lastly, **appoint or recommend** students to be leaders as a way to affirm and instill confidence in one another.

Team Building

- Consider participating in a community service project as a club. “Early on, we went on a service trip to help a non-profit restock their warehouse. It was a fun thing to do, but the most important thing that happened was that we all had to hop in a van together for a 6-7 hour drive; it was definitely **the turning point** of our Club’s chemistry.”

TIPS FOR ADVERTISING

“Always contact your student newspaper with upcoming events; make friends with newspaper staff.”



DN online
BSUDAILYNEWS.COM

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The Ball State Daily News > Features

New social justice group comes to Ball State

Ball Bearings Online

By Emily Thompson

Published: Monday, October 24, 2011
Updated: Tuesday, October 25, 2011

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After spending a week at the headquarters, junior students will be attending an Oxfam at Ball State event.

"Oxfam America is an organization that works to create sustainable political science majors."

With 24 members, the group hosted an event and will be hosting "Social Justice" noon before the football game.



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The Ball State Daily News

Oxfam America and Social Justice League's hunger banquet

By Nakia Parmalee

Published: Wednesday, October 26, 2011
Updated: Thursday, October 27, 2011

Like

Oxfam America and Social Justice League's hunger banquet Wednesday night drew about 85 percent of people to the event.

Some students who were quite sure what to expect receive cards that describe the event. They began seeing a glimpse of the event.

"A lot of college students think that it's up to us," Tyler Fox said.

A few students looked from their friends before they were assigned to a table. They were treated accordingly.

While those in the high-income group were a crowd turned to silence.



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The Ball State Daily News

Students raise money to feed poor on Thanksgiving

By Greg Lucid

Published: Wednesday, October 26, 2011
Updated: Thursday, October 27, 2011 11:10

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Student representatives from Ball State's Oxfam America Chapter and Muncie-based organization Feed My Sheep raised \$85 Wednesday for a free Thanksgiving meal to give the less fortunate in Delaware County.

Feed My Sheep has been fundraising in support of feeding people at its 16th annual Thanksgiving outreach dinner Nov. 24 at Muncie Central High School.

The event is free and more than 1,000 meals were served last year to Delaware County residents. It costs \$4 to make each meal, event organizers said.

Those who donated \$1 or more by the scramble light received a coupon for a free ice cream cone from Grandma Betty's Ice Cream Shop, a Feed My Sheep sponsor.

Two weeks ago, Feed My Sheep raised about \$170 in front of Grandma Betty's, Cassie Janis, senior interpersonal communication major and Feed My Sheep intern, said.

There will be another fundraiser outside Grandma Betty's on Nov. 3 at 6 p.m., she said.



DN PHOTO GREG LUCID

Erinn Bunker, Cassi Janis, Becca Schafer, and Nathan Pace hold signs to show support for a Thanksgiving Dinner fundraiser. The drive was organized by a group known as "Feed my sheep" and Oxfam of America.

QUOTES



“Even if we are only 12 people, we really do feel like we’re changing the world”

-Megan Faulkner



“Be creative. Keep thinking.”

- Megan Whitacre



“The overarching theme of our Club’s success? Persistence.”

-Becca Schafer

MEDIA

Club website: www.bsuoxfam.org

The screenshot shows the BSU Oxfam website homepage. At the top right, there are links for "Log In" and "Register". The main header features the "BSU Oxfam" logo in green and black, with the tagline "lasting solutions to poverty, hunger, and injustice". To the right of the logo, it says "Upcoming Meeting! Monday at 6:00 in WB 139" next to a green circular icon with a white person silhouette. Below the header is a navigation menu with links for "Home", "Event", "Information", "Meeting", "Oxfam America", and "Ball State". Underneath the menu is a secondary navigation bar with links for "FLICKR", "PHOTO PETITIONS", "HUNGER BANQUET 2011", "VOLUNTEER DAY", and "PEACE FAIR". The main content area is divided into several sections: "RANDOM PHOTOS" with a photo of people at a table; "Latest Story" titled "New Meeting Time!" with a "Read more" link; "Weekly Meetings" with a "Read more" link; "Members" with a photo of a group of people and a "Read more" link; "RECENT COMMENTS" with two comments; "ARCHIVES" with links for "December 2011" and "November 2011"; and "TAGS" with a link for "About Campaign" and "Contact Event". There is also a "SEARCH" box and a "USER LOGIN" section on the left side.

Facebook page: "Oxfam America - Ball State Chapter"

The screenshot shows the Facebook page for "Oxfam America - Ball State Chapter". The page header includes the Oxfam logo, the group name "Oxfam America - Ball State Chapter", and the text "Open Group". Below the header, it shows "37 Members", "53 Photos", and "Docs". The main content area features several posts: a post by Becca Schafer from December 19, 2011, announcing a meeting time change; a post by Megan Faulkner from December 10, 2011, updating the group description and inviting members to join; a post by Cheryl Lynn Brydges and Taylor Walt from December 10, 2011, announcing their addition to the group; and a post by Megan Whitacre from December 5, 2011, thanking members for their participation. Each post includes a profile picture, the user's name, the text of the post, and the date and time it was posted.