

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE—Aug. 18, 2005

## Community Service Resource Center Connects County and Campus

KEUKA PARK, N.Y.—You're the head of a non-profit organization in Yates County and you want your next community service project to be a smashing success.

So, who are you gonna call?

If you're Sandi Perl, executive director of the American Red Cross of Yates County, the Community Service Resource Center—part of Keuka College's Center for Experiential Learning—is at the top of your speed-dial list.



“We're always looking for an ‘in’ at Keuka College,” said Perl, “and that's what we have with the Community Service Resource Center. It gives us a central contact location and person who has access to the students.”

The Center recently teamed up with the Red Cross for Operation Crayon—the non-profit organization's annual drive to collect school supplies for families in need—for the second year in a row. The Center, located on the first floor of Hegeman Hall, is a drop-off site for crayons, backpacks, notebooks, folders, loose-leaf paper, binders, pencils, glue sticks, pencil boxes, and calculators through Sept. 7, giving Keuka students enough time to participate after they start classes Aug. 29.

“It's important to get the College students involved in the community, not only for the community's sake, but for their own,” said Tamara Day, AmeriCorps/VISTA volunteer, who serves as the liaison between community organizations and Keuka's 1,200 students and 300 employees.

It's Day's job to rally the College community to get involved. She distributes campus-wide e-mail messages, posts information around campus, and visits with dormitory resident assistants and resident directors as well as student club presidents. The Community Service Resource Center also employs students as community service advocates, who assist Day in “finding community service opportunities, promoting projects, and developing projects of their own.”

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Perl said blood drives held at the College are “always a success” and that Keuka’s involvement in the Great Toilet Paper Race—a toilet paper drive to benefit Needs-N-Things Pantry—last year was also a success.

“Keuka College students are a tremendous resource,” said Perl. “I think they see service as an opportunity to help the community that they live in [nine months of the year]. Plus, they come from so many different places and many of them have so much knowledge of programs that have worked in their communities.”

*For more information about the Community Service Resource Center or the services it provides, contact Day at (315) 279-5661 or tday@mail.keuka.edu(.*