



THE ARTS PART OF THE SOLUTION

STUDENTS BECOMING TEACHERS

BGSU Collaboration Benefits Teen Center

Janet Ballweg knows what it is like to be a teacher and an artist. As a professor of art at Bowling Green State University (BGSU) she teaches her students the various methods of printmaking. She is also an award-winning artist whose Ohio Arts Council Individual Excellence Award enabled her to take a screenprinting workshop in New Mexico. She brought the skills she learned back to her students and created a screenprinting curriculum at BGSU.



After watching her students enthusiastically explain print techniques to non-artists, Janet recognized the value in having students learn by teaching. She also realized that printmaking is a skill that can be used to help people within the greater Bowling Green community. With the support of a year-long Faculty Learning Community, sponsored by the Office of Service-Learning and the BGSU Bookstore, Janet worked with faculty from across the university to discuss ways to build meaningful community service into their courses.



She found the perfect opportunity at the Bowling Green Teen Center, an after-school center for teens that is a partnership between the City of Bowling Green Division of Parks and Recreation, Bowling Green State University and the United Way of Greater Toledo. In its second year of existence, the Teen Center was still developing its programming and public image. As part of her screenprinting curriculum, Janet's students collaborated with the teens to create a logo and t-shirts to promote the center.

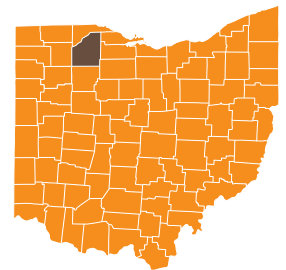
The college students, armed with only a basic knowledge of screenprinting, met with the teens. Many of Janet's students were nervous about trying to teach someone a skill that they had only just learned. Much to their relief, the teens were very understanding of their new teachers. In addition to the openness the teens showed, they had a great enthusiasm for the project. Three groups were formed and each created a design and printed t-shirts for everyone in their group. Board members from the Teen Center then voted on which logo would become the official center logo. The BGSU students printed 50 shirts that the center was able to use for promotional purposes.

Throughout the project the BGSU students were required to write reflection papers. While they commented on the valuable knowledge of screenprinting, what left the deepest impression were the interactions they had with the young people. They initially reflected on the anxiety that they felt going into a new situation, working with youth and teaching a newly learned skill. As the project progressed, they were appreciative of their new abilities as teachers and their improved confidence in guiding others in a creative process, as well as delighted to find ways of communicating with another age group. The students came away from the project knowing that they had grown not only as artists but also as community members.

Cultural
Participation
and Building
Audiences

Creativity and
Imagination

WOOD COUNTY
Janet Bellweg, BGSU
Bowling Green, Ohio



“Passing our knowledge to these children and watching their faces light up as they printed their t-shirts was the best part of it all!”

Tiffany Jenkins, BGSU student