



WOU student, Debbie Cabrales, serves students on Thursday@The Gate

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We love to serve! Check out the volunteer stories on page 2 for some ideas on ways you could get involved in the lives of young adults in our community. Then get in touch with our Executive Director, Joyce Wahl!	What's The Gate? 1
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Inside THE GATE

The Gate Youth Association

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“WHAT’S THE GATE?”

When someone asks what “The Gate” is, the easy answer is a group of concerned community members who want to see the youth of our community be successful. Our mission statement says the purpose of the Gate is to “Demonstrate Christ’s love to the youth of our community through academic, social and spiritual activities!” But in an everyday, practical sense, The Gate is an opportunity to serve.

Each week over 250 students from Talmadge and Central High are encouraged by volunteers at The Gate. These volunteers are moms and dads, WOU students, grandparents, Lunch Ladies, Gate Board members and a student leadership team, all who recognize the ministries of The Gate Youth Association as a place where they can give back to their community.

For the last several years the First Baptist Church has graciously allowed The Gate to use their building to host Church Lunch and Thursday@The Gate, our weekly events where we open our doors to students. This causes some confusion about the relationship of The Gate and the First Baptist Church. As a community member, we want you to know that The Gate is a separate (501)(c)(3) nonprofit and the Board of Directors has representation from 5 different churches. We are thankful that First Baptist has recognized this opportunity to serve the youth of Monmouth and Independence and allowed The Gate to use its facilities.

In order to successfully connect with each student in our community it will take all of us working together. Please consider the opportunities you have to serve at The Gate.

TUESDAY LUNCH SPEAKER REACHES OUT TO THE WORLD

Central High School Senior, Melissa Whitaker, recently volunteered to be the inspirational speaker at Tuesday Church lunch, a Gate activity attended weekly by about 150 CHS students and staff. Melissa shared an opportunity for high school students to participate in the Christmas Shoe Box Project which sends shoeboxes filled with small gifts to children in need all over the world. She was able to send off 208 shoe boxes donated by high school students, Church Lunch Ladies, several churches and other organizations in our area.



WHY DO I VOLUNTEER?



“We’ve been blessed with a mission field of unlimited potential right in our own backyard. How cool is that? We know it as Central High School. I’m reminded of some examples in God’s Word where Jesus interacted with people where they were—the banquet with Levi and his fellow tax collectors and the encounter with the woman at the well.

Thursday@The Gate is a safe and stable environment where kids come knowing that they too are accepted just as they are. It presents me the opportunity both to serve and show God’s love. What do I receive in return? Well, there is most always a hug, a hearty handshake, a chance to lend an ear, be a sounding board, enjoy a laugh, share a hurt or celebrate a success. It’s all about building a relationship with the kids so that they know you are someone they can trust and know will be there for them. I liken this ministry to a modern day Paul and Apollos from I Corinthians 3. We plant the seed in these tender hearts, water it, and then step back and watch as God makes it grow!”

Gary Strait

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WALKING ADVERTISEMENT

“Everyone loves church lunch and wants to come, but students sometimes forget. I volunteer by wearing my church lunch t-shirt every Tuesday to remind CHS students because I love church lunch. I want everyone to come, eat great food, hear the message and be loved on by the wonderful church lunch ladies.”

Hannah Riddell



TUTORING—IT ALL ADDS UP



“When we first started the after school tutoring, I saw volunteering as an opportunity to use my engineering background to help some CHS students pass their classes. I also thought it would be good for me to stay sharp in math. Four years later I’ve learned that math isn’t like riding a bicycle—you can forget how to do it! But I have also learned that tutoring is about more than Algebra or Geometry. I’ve had a chance to get to know at least a few students and watch them excel. It’s kind of like having your own kids again. Seeing them graduate, knowing I had a small part to play in their success, makes relearning my trig functions seem very worthwhile.

Donn Wahl

PRESIDENT’S THOUGHTS



Every week I have the opportunity and privilege to serve by checking teens in at Thursday@The Gate as well as giving a 5 minute inspirational message at dinner time. It is great being able to greet the teens by name and consistently be there for them. The other Gate staff even say that I’m missed, the few weeks of the year I’m not there! I want to challenge you to think about how you are giving back to our community and what opportunities to serve are being missed that you might be able to fill. For those of you who are blessed financially, would you consider giving \$50 to cover feeding the students at one Thursday@The Gate this year. I can’t think of a better way to serve than to give to the future of our community by coming alongside of them on their journey to success.

Ben Bobeda