Up the Slope

An Oak Hill Collaborative Publication

Hello all and welcome back to a second installment of Oak Hill Collaborative's *Up the Slope*. In this months edition we hope to cover what all has transpired since the last issue, any projects we know of or may even been working on ourselves, and if possible what we have planned for the near future. As always for more information on what you find here you can follow us on our social media pages, found on the last page of this newsletter. Or if you'd like to send us any questions that you have in regards to something we've written here, our email to do so is also on the last page.

Facebook, Twitter, Instagram oh my! In addition to all of this, we also have a website with a blog that we keep (relatively) up to date, packed full of information from yesterday all the way to yesteryear and beyond. So, why not take a peek as to what the collaborative have been up to?

What is Up The Slope: A Review?

If you've heard this term being tossed around, you may be wondering what it means. If this is your first time hearing it, then prepare to be let in a little secret. *Up the Slope: A Review* refers to our plans for a podcast that we have in the works, where we go back and interview representatives of stories covered here. It is still in development, and we hope to get a couple more editions of the newsletter out, as well as get in touch with local music artists to for supplementary music breaks. More to come on this soon!
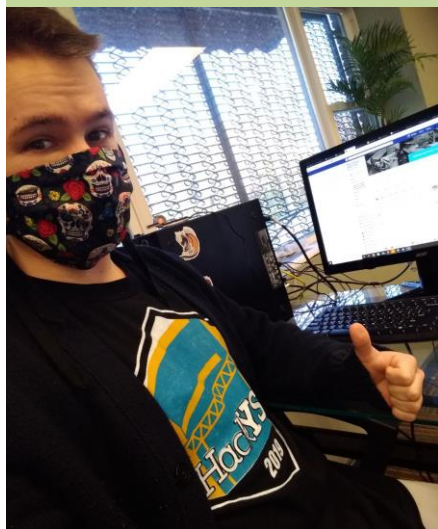
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OHC Reopens Facilities

After what seems like forever, Oak Hill feels confident to allow our facilities to fill up once more. Before now, our building was used as a platform for emergency relief efforts. While we are still exercising the social distancing requirements suggested by the state, we are hopeful that moving forward we'll be able to provide at least some of the services we did before now, and gradually reopen more things as we move forward. Below is a breakdown of everything that we're doing to ensure our safety and yours!

This is not to say that we will cease our emergency relief efforts, certainly not. Rather, an equilibrium of both will be maintained. As one becomes less of a demand, the other will rise in priority. You can also read about those emergency relief efforts below, and on the next page.

"Oak Hill has opened its doors to the community to care for the most pressing needs. They allowed seniors to receive food and healthcare workers to receive face masks." – Abby W.

What are we doing now?

Moving forward, OHC has been operating tentatively as a non-profit emergency relief haven for organizations to operate during this time of crisis. That has not changed, but we're looking to phase in more and more of our regular operations as we move through this transition. Actions we are taking to permit this include but are not limited to:
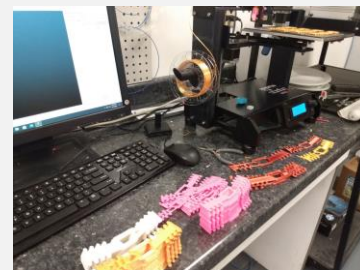
- OHC Staff are expected to wear face masks. If visitors are concerned about coming in without a face mask, we have some that can be provided

- Table surfaces, door knobs, and many other commonly touched surfaces around the collaborative are cleaned and disinfected on a regular basis

- We are limiting or suspending a lot of our programming that requires face to face interaction, with plans to provide remote options

- To encourage social distancing requirements, large gatherings are still being actively discouraged

- Prohibiting entry to the building of employees/visitors who feel ill or unwell

However, just because we are not providing some of our "face-to-face" programming, does not mean we don't have plans for the future moving forward. It is very difficult for us to stay idle here, so instead we are cooking up an "expansion" to our pre-existing raspberry pi after school program.

We hope that this expansion won't simply just impress, but also take on audiences from all ranges of age and fascinate them in the world of STEM, with opportunities they may not have had before. More on this topic to come!

3D Printed Mask Extenders!

As we have seen with other organizations who provide facemasks all around to those who need them, one thing has become apparent. The bands really chafe our ears! However, our 3D printing lab has a solution:

Mask Extenders! They hold the bands behind your head using hooks. We have plenty of them and found they work best with elastic bands. Do you want to snag a couple, or perhaps know an org that might? Let us know!

Food Bank Distribution - OHC

Starting as early as March, League of Women Voters and various organizations came together to support the *Senior Support Action Group* – which is honed in on the accepting of donations and organization/distribution of these donations to those in need during this time. Specifically, the elderly who are unable to safely get their own groceries during this time due to health concern.

Monday to Thursday like clock-work they've been working diligently ever since, using our makerspace floor (currently closed) to facilitate the a safe gathering of volunteers to ensure that the donations are usable, prioritizing perishables, and coordinating deliveries.

If you have access to goods that can be donated to this cause, they are accepting the following:
- Meals, Food (canned or perishable), condiments/sundries
- Unopened shampoo/wash, toothpaste, hand sanitizer and soap
- Disposable gloves, face masks, PPE

To make a donation, call 330-530-4038 ext 2222 from Monday to Thursday. Drop off is Oak Hill Collaborative, lower floor.

URC Efforts in Face Mask Distribution

URC, also known as United Returning Citizens, is a well-known name here at the collaborative. They are a start-up, non-profit corporation that serves the Youngstown, Ohio Tri-County area. URC was originally founded for formerly incarcerated citizens, but upon reaching to help this large demographic they found that the entire community impacted by incarceration needs aid, not just those who were incarcerated.

As of part of their COVID-19 relief effort, they have come up with the P.A.A.R.C initiative – Project Aid and Assist Returning Citizens. Anthony Hake, OHC representative, was able to sit down with URC representative Dionne and discuss these efforts further

Anthony H – "So, how many places or institutions do you think you have served?"

Dionne D – "Two Jails, the carter houses (is comprised of three houses total), and two apartment complexes"

Anthony H – "Very nice! So when did you start this effort?"

Dionne D – "This nonprofit effort has been going since the beginning of March"

Anthony H – "One more thing, what would you say was the incentive behind this? Other than the distribution of face masks"

Dionne D – "To serve the 1/3rd – not heard – in these times of pandemic"

Oak Hill May Services:

Makerspace is Opening Soon:

Given the lack of attendance and current attention on providing the space to other organizations, the makerspace has been primarily closed and Makerspace Night has been moved online in the form of a video discussion. We would like nothing more than to be able to continue Makerspace Night, but doing so will require some restrictions. For example, posted on each lab door will be the recommended occupancy for maintaining social distancing, and much of the surfaces and technology down there will be rigorously disinfected – with supplies available to disinefect after each use. More on this to come

Raspberry Pi Instructors:

As mentioned earlier, we are looking to expand our raspberry pi after school program. While employment may not be immediate, given the current closure school buildings (and summer break of course), there is a certain demand for OHC instructors, **especially** now more than ever. Everyone who has taught in this program reflected that it was a valuable *(and resume building)* experience! Currently our program tentatively plans to offer game development, robotics, drones, and even information security to a wide variety of age groups. If you or someone you know would like to teach the inventors of tomorrow anything about these topics, please do not hesitate to reach out and apply at the email on the left

Digital Divide - Online Program Distribution:

In addition to the expansion of our Raspberry Pi Program, we are developing new strategies to deliver our standard Raspberry Pi instruction as well as distribution of digital inclusion materials. Our hope is that we can find a way to reach out our hand to help those bridge the digital divide, but virtually. Given that the digital divide may keep our audience away from these materials, the very materials that are meant to reach out and pull them across, OHC is open to suggestions on course content, and alternative modes of delivery. What do you want to see from us? Reach out at the email contact on the left, or give us a call. Thanks!

Fourth Column Section

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