



Up the Slope

An Oak Hill Collaborative Publication

Welcome readers, to our new monthly publication *Up the Slope*. If you are receiving this newsletter, then you have more than likely subscribed to some event or other publication that OHC has put out in the past. Should monthly newsletters not be your thing we do also have a podcast in the works, but as of right now OHC's interests lie in provide informational content in any way that we can. Therefore, if you would like to stay in the loop as to what programming we are working on, events that are being organized at the collaborative, or simply really cool non-profit efforts in the Mahoning county area - then stay tuned for further editions of this newsletter.

If social media is more your thing, we do also have Facebook Pages, a Twitter account, Instagram, and even a blog! For more information on where to follow us on these mediums there will be a reference to all of them on the last page.

Why "Up the Slope"?

With all great titles comes a great origin story and the one for this newsletter is simple. Up the Slope represents, not only *a literal reference to the fact that our building is on a slope*, but also that helping the people is an uphill battle. Like King Sisyphus it is a continuous effort of rolling the boulder up the hill, however the difference is for us it is not punishment. We do this because of the impact it has, and the people it helps!

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OHC Response to COVID-19

Let us talk about the elephant in the room. There is a pandemic on our hands. COVID-19, also known as Corona Virus, is a highly contagious upper respiratory infection with flu like symptoms. As the situation becomes more severe, the state of Ohio is taking further measurements to ensure that the curve flattens and our safety is being guaranteed.

Given that OHC is a non-profit

organization that works consistently with people, it has been a large impact on the programs that we run here. So what are we going to do about it? Well we are not stopping any time soon, that's for certain.

Within this newsletter is a summary of all the actions we have taken as a non-profit to ensure the people are still getting what they need to live through these troubling times.

"We are essential because we help others with telecommunications, digital support, and serve as a site for collection & distribution of emergency food and supplies." – Pat Kerrigan, Director

Low-Cost PCs Available

As always, OHC has strived to bridge the digital divide. This effort means getting internet in households for families that do not have a connection, computers in the hands of children to get a head start on literacy, and programs for helping senior citizens familiarize themselves with their home devices.

Moving forward this is inevitably a difficult time for all those who suffer from being in the gap of the digital divide, and harder still for us to bring the programming to help bring them across. With people working from home and education transitioning online, now families need tech more than ever.

This is why OHC is providing their supply of low-cost technical solutions pre-packaged with Microsoft Office and other software..

For questions or inquiries about this,

[email us](#)

Our Response to COVID-19 Moving Forward

In recent events, OHC has seen its fair share of hectic pandemonium; however, this virus pandemic is certainly one shooting to take the cake. We make it our priority to ensure that citizens of the Mahoning Valley (and all over) can stay informed, and have the best resources available in their time of need.

As a result, we have compiled a list of information deemed important at this time. There is more on our blog, as well as links to other crucial information.

- If you have any of the following symptoms, seek medical attention in a calm manner and prepare a self-quarantine.
 - o Difficulty Breathing, Shortness of Breath
 - o Persistent pain or pressure in the chest
 - o Flu-like symptoms
- To Take preventative measures, the CDC recommends the following:
 - o Clean and disinfect commonly touched surfaces often
 - o Wash hands often
 - o Refrain from touching your face or orifices
- As of March 22nd, Ohio Department of health issued a stay at home Directors Order urging all individuals to stay in their homes to prevent the spread of infection, with the exception of those deemed essential workers.



Goodwill Online Services

Goodwill Industries of Youngstown, known for its excellent deals on second hand goods, also provide a plethora of opportunities for the general community to get back into the workforce. By offering digital skills instruction, online job application services, resume review, and much more, they are committed to improving the community's workforce even in times of pandemic.

Due to the current virus pandemic, much like OHC, they had to discontinue some of their services or find ways to host them online. Below is a list of those services:

- Every weekday from 3pm until 4pm their Facebook page hosts a live discussion session that answers questions and provides help with finding jobs online
- By subscribing to their workforce development mailing list, you will receive regular updates about jobs hiring in the area. Some of them are even remote!
- In the past Goodwill has held on site classes on computer literacy. It is predicated that many of these services and courses will make a resurgence online to continue giving instruction during this time.



Money Talks Workshop

Back in February, OHC had the honor of being the venue for the "Money Talks" workshop, held by Rockbrook Business Services LLC. It was here that at least thirty or so attendees had the opportunity to learn about topics such as business funding, obtaining an EIN, how to become incorporated, and much more.

When asked for a comment, someone told us "This is to fill a gap in the low income business startup community." Which is extremely crucial to our area as jobs are needed now more than ever. This event gave everyone and anyone the chance to follow their entrepreneurship dreams; with the ability to follow up with one-on-one appointments should they be excited for the next step.

Speaking of next step, the hosts of this event do plan to do this again sometime in the near future. Just like this one, the fee to take the next class is \$25, so stay tuned for the same great content and more at the Collaborative.

Q/A? Contact Us!

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We believe that we cannot have true revitalization in a socio-economically depressed area without some economic opportunity.

Find us on the Web:

www.Oakhillcollaborative.org

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/OakHillCollaborative/>

Twitter:

<https://twitter.com/OHCollaborative>

Instagram:

@Oakhillcollaborative



**OAK HILL
COLLABORATIVE**

Oak Hill April Services:

Raspberry Pi After School Program:

After much consideration, OHC has found it in their best interest to suspend the Raspberry Pi Afterschool program during the COVID-19 crisis, due to a lack of demand and to allow us to focus on other crisis relief initiatives. However, we are still in search of instructors to replenish our dwindling numbers. Many of our superstars have graduated, and gone on to affect the world in other great ways. If you or someone you know would like to change the lives of K-8 in the Youngstown area please [email us](#) for more information!

Makerspace Night Online:

What was once a fun Wednesday evening full to brim with hands-on interactive learning excitement, has become exactly all that- but now online! Every Wednesday evening you can expect a new upload to our Facebook page where Director of IT Anthony Hake, or possibly other interesting faces, will talk about all the same inspiring and creative content you may find when showing up to makerspace night! In lieu of this, should you have a project that you would like featured during our Makerspace Night Online episodes please reach out to any of the contact information in the bar on the left!

Food Bank Distribution:

As part of our non-profit efforts during this time, OHC collaborated with Retired Senior Volunteer Program, League of Women's Voters, and SCOPE Senior Services to become a proud site for food bank distribution. It is here that volunteers are receiving donated goods, sorting them, and redistributing to senior citizens and those in need. They are in need of non-perishable foods, fresh produce, bread, cleaning supplies, gloves, boxes/bags, activity books, and toiletries. Donations can be accepted at OHC from 10AM-2PM, or you can call 330 – 530 – 4038 with the extension 2222 for pick up.

(ACTION) DIY Face Masks:

Through collaboration with Senior Support Action Group, League of Women Voters of Greater Youngstown, Mahoning County Emergency Management Agency, and many other organizations, individuals like Liz Nalepa have been working tirelessly to provide handmade facemasks for healthcare workers and vulnerable community members. As a result, Mercy Health, Akron's Children Hospital of Mahoning Valley, and Oak Hill Collaborative are serving as drop off locations for donated masks! Call ahead at 330 – 360 – 4559 to donate at OHC