

Leadership Lorain County Signature Class Projects

1985	Conceived and developed the LLC Alumni Association . Worked with the community and the telephone companies in Lorain County and in the state to have the "1" dropped when dialing in certain areas and off peak rates.
1986	Developed a directory of community programs/classes and distributed the program throughout Lorain County. Worked with Voices for Children to recruit advocates for clients.
1987	Introduced Inroads Project to Lorain County. Initiated the pilot program for the LLC Summer Internship Program . Worked on the passage of the Lorain County Metro Parks Levy .
1988	Developed a day-long Youth Leadership Training Session for LC High School students . Surveyed citizens of Lorain County regarding their opinion on various issues including resources, economy, gambling issues, education
1989	Put in an application for the All American Cities Project . Developed and produced a video on the first house renovated by Habitat for Humanity in the area, and used it for a marketing campaign for Habitat. Established the Task Force for Domestic Violence , from which a Rape Crisis Brochure was developed.
1990	Initiated the Lorain County Freenet website, which provided the Lorain County community with an advanced computerized internet service before 99% of the rest of the country. This group stayed together after the year program to continue work on this project.
1992	Surveyed LLC Alumni to determine interest in working with the LC 2020 project. Worked on creating The Volunteer Action Center .
1993	Established the first LLC Golf Outing .
1994	Established Big Brothers Big Sisters of Lorain County after identifying a need for at-risk children, doing research, writing the grant, and hiring the first director.
1995	Identified a need for youth inclusion in the adult Leadership Program , submitted a proposal to the LLC Board, secured funding, promoted the program, selected the students for inclusion, and evaluated the program. This group stayed together after the year to finish up the project.
1996	Established the LLC Golf Outing as a Fundraiser . Instituted selling advertising in the LLC Newsletter .

1997	Board Training Orientation (headed up by Tony Zucco)
1998	No class project this year.
1999	Assisted in finding suitable clothing for a women in transitional housing to be able to go on job interviews. Also gathered furnishings to help when the women transitioned out of that housing.
2000	Identified a need for board training , interview services. Assisted in establishing Business Volunteers Unlimited (BVU) in Lorain County.
2001	Established the LLC Golden Apple Award for innovations in education . Established the Safe Baby Drop-off process in Lorain County before it became a law in Ohio. Worked with the county in the Lorain County Beautification Project .
2002	Organized a conference for non-profit organizations that focused on grant-writing and fund raising . Developed a summer program for at-risk youth that covered career exploration, resume writing and interview tools; collaborated with Junior Achievement . All the foundation work was completed but program was never implemented due to a lack of interest from the schools. It ended up evolving into a job shadow program through JA.
2003	Identified a need and developed a plan for a safe haven for pets of residents of Genesis House , a safe haven for abused women. An evaluation of minority donations to Lorain County Blood Bank was done.
2004	Developed and distributed the "Top Ten Reasons to Love Lorain County" Bookmarks . Organized an Alumni picnic at French Creek Reservation. Planned and coordinated a Leadership conference at the Lorain Palace Theater with General Johnnie Wilson as the guest speaker.
2005	Implemented the establishment of Blessing House --provided a plan for fund-raising, for obtaining supplies and equipment, and for general operations. Identified a "missing link" in the Signature Leadership Program and made the recommendation of adding board leadership component to the session days.
2006	Developed and implemented a corporate blood donor drive for LifeShare Blood Services . Developed and implemented a corporate Harvest for Hunger Food Drive participation.
2007	Developed the Non-Profit Volunteer Consultants (NPVC) network as a way to connect non-profits with the expertise of the business community and volunteer consultants. Facilitated two Poverty Simulation experiences (for community members, and again the following fall for the Class of 2008) designed to engage policy makers, non-profit leadership and community leaders in a hands-on experience of the day-to-day realities of life for low-income families. Developed and implemented the online Pet Network , a comprehensive directory of pet related businesses, services and information designed to help keep companion pets healthy and happy.

2008	<p>Constructed an Outdoor Activity Center & Shelter for the Haven Center of Neighborhood House Association. Developed the Homeless Task Force Support Project, which supported the development of a website & the creation & distribution of Homeless Street information cards for families & individuals in need; Implemented the Government Collaboration Project, which successfully initiated a grant from the Ohio Department of Development (ODOD) that will investigate the most effective forms of governmental collaboration. This grant will advance the County's intergovernmental collaboration by examining issues such as shared resources & collective purchasing.</p>
2009	<p>The Community Build Project, through partnerships with several social service agencies, private enterprises and local government entities, raised funds to construct a playground at one of Lorain Metropolitan Housing Authority's family development. Designed and printed a 25th anniversary LLC Cookbook. Worked LLC in consultation for redesigning LLC's web site. Facilitated conversations with local veterans, researched resources and convened a meeting with Lorain County Community College to establish some local benefits and outreach.</p>
2010	<p>The Urban Garden Project worked with EdenVision a local non-profit that creates and sustains urban gardens in under-served neighborhoods. The project also included the development of EdenVision's website, the preparation of two gardens and assistance finding land for additional garden spots. The S.O.S (Students for Other Students), a peer tutoring project, was introduced into the Oberlin City Schools. This program pairs older and more advanced students with younger, less proficient students. The WOW (Women of Worth) offers organizations who work with "women in transition" a 6 part series that focuses on women's personal empowerment. A playground build in Lorain County.</p>
2011	<p>The Connect Project updated the current Alumni database to include not only basic information, but identified skills. Interests, willingness to serve on boards or volunteer, job shadow and mentoring. Catch The Future was developed by the high school students that provides a comprehensive educational experience that fosters leadership development and program activities for 10th and 11th graders. The Urban Garden Sock Project delivered over 700 garden socks to local citizens and organizations to grow their own gardens.</p>
2012	<p>In collaboration with the United Way of Greater Lorain County, the First Annual Leadership Lorain County Day of Caring was held. This consisted of working with class members, alumni & other community volunteers to improve the appearance of El Centro's new building & the facade of the Lorain County Free Clinic on Pearl Ave. in Lorain. In addition, the group picked up trash, mowed curb lawns, & installed a bus bench & bike rack. The Job Shadow project provided LCCC's Early College High School students with the opportunity to meet & work with community leaders & business people. It also provided a context for understanding the relationship & interaction between academics taught in the classroom & in the workplace. The Strong Girls Strong Women Project provided the SGSW Girlz Leadership Group with an overnight stay for girls in 7th & 8th grade, ages 12-14. The overnight experience was a mixture of fun & leadership education through a CampOut. The CampOut provided the girls with education on self-confidence, effective communication, personal safety & how to find their inner leader.</p>

2013	<p>The Class of 2013 had three projects. The first was the Lorain County Health & Dentistry Book Drive. The original goal was to collect 1,300 books for the patients from April 1-12. These books would be given free-of-charge to LCH&D patients. In collaboration with organizations and LLC alumni, nearly 5,000 books were collected. The second project was the Rally to the Rescue. Presented with the opportunity to find forever homes for many pets, LLC's Best Class of 2013 formed a partnership with Lorie Wilber (LLC Class of 2007) and her Partners with Paws and the Elyria Midway Mall to plan an adoption event. The class organized the day with publicity, entertainment, logistics, vendor and rescue sub-committees. Nine pets found homes and thirteen other families submitted adoption applications at the event and several others did so online after the event. The third project was an Extreme Makeover of the lobby, waiting room and the adjacent bathroom of the Lorain County Free Clinic. The work done included painting, installing window treatments, wood trim and flooring. In addition, the class installed new furniture, storage, a kid's corner, and an alarm system for the entire property. The many collaborations and donations were also orchestrated by the class team members.</p>
2014	<p>The Class of 2014 projects consisted of: a complete rehab of the Haven Center lobby. Haven Center is a 24 hour, 365 day homeless shelter in Lorain, and part of Neighborhood Alliance. The second project was a clean-up/spruce up for the grounds of the Elmcrest Apartments. This is an independent living facility run by the Nord Center. The third project was the coordination of the "Ban the Bruises" Event. This event was a collaboration between Blessing House and Genesis House with class members leading the planning and execution of the event. In addition, the class collaborated with the Follow the Fish county-wide art project. An art project was created and presented to the Haven Center, Elmcrest Apartments and was part to the "Ban The Bruises" event. The class members also created a marketing strategy for Habitat for Humanity's Re-Store.</p>
2015	<p>The Class of 2015 coordinated three projects. First, they created a business plan and put in some hours demoing and decorating the Charleston Café as a social enterprise for the Lorain County Urban league. Second, class members created a Strides for Leadership 5k race on May 2 to promote health and wellness and to raise money for a health-related nonprofit. Over 200 runners participated, and the recipient was the Lorain County Free Clinic. Third, a team created a Special Needs Awareness Day for providers and parents of children with special needs. The event featured a conference and continuing education credits during the day with a fun and lively open house of providers in the evening where parents and children could attend.</p>
2016	<p>The Class of 2016 undertook 3 projects. First, a collaboration with Family Promise building a picnic pavilion for their clients to take advantage of the outdoor space, encourage time with family, and maintain some small sense of normalcy at a stressful time. The second project teamed with Family Promise as well to create a giving garden, maintained by the staff and clients, to help supply the facility with fresh fruits and vegetables. The fully fenced in, lighted garden has multiple raised beds, pots, and hanging baskets to allow for a variety of product to be planted. The final project was in collaboration with the FriendshipAPL, creating a fun, upbeat, and educational video used to inspire the the community to adopt, donate and support the local APL.</p>
2017	<p>The Class of 2017 tackled 3 projects. First was a Veteran's History project connected with the Library of Congress's efforts to capture vocal histories from retired Veterans. Histories were recorded from local Veterans, with the audio recordings submitted to the Library of Congress, and the video recordings saved for future use by local VFW organizations. The second project was a storage building project for Blessing House utilizing grant funds to purchase and build a free standing facility on the current grounds. With donations and team support they were also able to landscape the area. The third project created a new program for LLC titled, <i>Setting Up Youth for Success</i>. This simulation is designed to focus on surviving real world situations many do not learn to navigate before striking out on their own. The simulation was successfully piloted with Clearview H.S. Sophomores and the team has stayed involved as the program is solidified and prepared to be offered to additional schools and organizations.</p>

2018	<p>The Class of 2018 selected three projects. First, in collaboration with the Untied Way of Greater Lorain County's Free Tax Prep program, the team completed training, certification and volunteer hours to increase the number of individuals served. The second group partnered with the 2015 Strides for Leadership 5K team working alongside Mary Jo Dziak '15 to acquire sponsors, facilitate the races move to a new location, and recruit new participants. This year's event raised awareness and funds to support the Blessing Box Project, raising the Strides for Leadership 5K's four year giving total to over \$20,000. The third team worked with Neighborhood Alliance's Child Enrichment Center completing a greenhouse structure previously erected. The class completed the build and stocked the structure with items used to teach and expose children to healthy food choices, and the joy of growing your own food.</p>
2019	<p>The first project was a complete remodel of the Neighborhood Alliance Child Care Infant Room allowing for more useful and safe spaces for babies. This renovation helped Neighborhood Alliance receive a 5 Star rating effective June 1st, 2019. In collaboration with the Lorain County chapter of Sleep In Heavenly Peace, a nation wide non-profit providing beds for children in need, team members built and delivered 210 beds within the county. As the 2019 Strides for Leadership 5K recipient, over \$3,000 was raised to support their mission. The third project worked to complete the accompanying educational materials and lesson plans to be used in the facilitation of the Setting Up Youth for Success program from 2017. The finished piece to be used within <i>Teaching Lorain County</i>, the final project of the year. TLC is a new program being introduced by LLC to connect high school students to the county's resources and provide a collaborative forum for examining and addressing the current challenges within Lorain County.</p>
2020	<p>The 2020 Class undertook four projects during their midyear retreat. The first two were in support of Blessing House's "Be Part of the Heart" Capital Campaign. Plans for both in-person events were underway when the COVID-19 pandemic hit. Quickly switching gears, both the 6th Annual Strides for Leadership 5k and the newly named No Show Spaghetti Dinner became virtual events. Raising funds and awareness for the needed growth of Blessing House. Runners submitted pictures and times for their 5k, while "dinner tickets" were purchased as a donation, and sponsors showed their support. LIFT - Giving local youth "Luggage, Independence, and Faith to travel through Transitions with Dignity". This new program will benefit children who are displaced and temporarily put into the foster system. When plans for county wide donation sites where halted due to closed businesses, and safety concerns, the team turned the event into an online event, allowing individuals to purchase items as gifts, or donate to the future purchase of needed items. The final project team planned to market and recruit for the first class of the Teaching Lorain County youth class, geared for High School sophomores and juniors. The team's plans were completely halted when in-person meetings were stopped, but they plan to support LLC in the future when health and safety guidelines allow for in-person meetings resume.</p>
2021	<p>The 2021 Class faced a unique challenge. Still feeling the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, new projects were limited in availability. Up for the challenge, the class pulled together to work with their one new project for Wesleyan Senior Living, cleaning up, and replanting a garden for the residents of their memory care unit. The class then set about supporting other LLC legacy projects - the Strides for Leadership 5K and the Lorain County Resource Fair, as well as volunteering their time to help sort and pack food with Second Harvest Food Bank, and support the Leadership Lorain County Intern Programs 2021 Intern Team.</p>
2022	<p>The 2022 class completed 3 service projects during the pandemic. Working with Good Knights of Lorain County, this team donated 60+ man hours to deliver and assemble over 50 beds for kids in Lorain County. Another team worked with Save Our Children in Elyria, donating 60+ additional man hours to "Lend a Helping Hand", this included clean-up, small repairs, and special decorations from the team to be used in a celebration activity for the children. The third in-person project team volunteered 80+ man hours to the clean-up and preparation of the playground at the Neighborhood Alliance Childcare Center. The team worked to assemble new equipment, spread mulch, and prep the area for summer. The final project team worked with Nordson Corporation to create plans and cost approximations for a new playground on the grounds of the Nordson Depot, happening in 2023.</p>

2023

Four projects were tackled by this class. The Young Entrepreneur Market in Lorain County group worked with The Young Entrepreneur Institute helping to promote their spring Pitch Challenge, set up Y.E.I. booths at local events, and even hosted multiple booths during the class Induction Celebration. The second group worked with Rising Titans to clean, sort, quality check donated books, then pack and deliver literacy bags that were stationed at Little Free Libraries around Lorain. The next team worked with Good Knights of Lorain County during a Saturday Delivery Blitz, delivering, assembling, and making over 40 beds to kids in Lorain County. The final team worked with the Great Expectations Music Program (GEMS) creating marketing material to spread awareness of the program and it's impact on youth participants, as well as supporting their 2nd Annual Music Gala.