

ShareFest
2023 Annual Report to Oxford City Council

Presented by Carol Michael
President of the ShareFest Board of Directors
Tuesday, July 18, 2023

The **2023 ShareFest** was held on Thursday, May 11 through Tuesday, May 16.

Section 1: Quantities Collected

We picked up materials from all residence halls on campus and accepted drop offs at our Chestnut Fields Parking Lot location from off campus students and community members.

This year we diverted over **79 tons** of food, clothing, furniture, household goods, and e-waste from the landfill.

Our beneficiary groups included:

- GoodWill which received 7 trailers full of goods
- TOPSS which received 3,624 pounds of food for their clients in addition to 1,579 pounds of materials which were passed along to several families connected with the Family Resource Center
- Open Hands Pantry in Hamilton which received an estimated 9.75 tons of food and materials to support their operation
- Parkview Arms Resident Council which received approximately 1,200 pounds of furniture and household goods for a number of families in their community
- Cohen Recycling which hauled away 8 gaylords of e-waste including 2 full buckets of batteries
- Butler County Success which received 1,150 pounds of materials for students and families from several schools across Butler County
- And also Thread Up Oxford which received some shelving units and hangers for their operation

Section 2: Volunteers

We are proud of the nearly 50 volunteers from the community who helped make ShareFest possible including my fellow ShareFest Board members:

Sam Perry, Secretary
Karen Baker, Treasurer
Rob Abowitz, Chair of Planning Committee
Chantel Raghu
Shana Rosenberg
and, Olivia Herron, the new Director of Sustainability at Miami University

Site Coordinators Carla Blackmar Rice
 Alice Latsch - TOPSS

Pick Up Volunteers Kate Rousmaniere - Parkview Arms Resident Association
 Jamie Priessman from Parkview Arms residents
 Jane Fields

Steve Chaffin
Jon Rolinovsky
Suzy Hummel (TOPSS)
Brittany Marissa (Delta Sigma Pi)
Linda Simmons (TOPSS)
Sherry Martin (TOPSS)
And several others from TOPSS and our community at large.

There were 26 volunteers from Open Hands Food Pantry in Hamilton.

We also had approximately 10 paid staff from GoodWill of Greater Cincinnati including two supervisors.

We had fewer volunteers this year than previous years, mostly because several Talawanda athletic teams were unavailable this year due to their competition schedule during ShareFest.

Section 3: Marketing

- With the help of 45 Miami student volunteers, we hung 2000 color door tags on rental properties across Oxford to remind them to participate in ShareFest.
- In coordination with the Miami ASG Secretary of Off Campus Affairs, we sent two emails to over 7500 off campus Miami students.
- We posted about ShareFest on several Facebook pages including Miami Parents & Families, Oxford Talk, and Oxford Neighborhood Share.
- The City of Oxford provided information about ShareFest in its Move-Out Guide on the City website and social media.
- We sent an email to Oxford landlords.
- We posted several times in the Miami Student Life Instagram account.
- We hung posters on almost 200 dumpsters throughout the City of Oxford.
- Our partners at GoodWill also sent marketing emails and social media posts.

Section 4: Expenses

Our expenses continue to be very modest thanks to gifts in kind from the City of Oxford which provided two roll-off dumpsters for damaged and unacceptable donations and Miami University which permitted the use of a section of Chestnut Fields Parking Lot, provided signage for the lot and permitted the use of a service vehicle for doing pick-ups and drop-offs. Our partners at Thread Up Oxford also provided the use of their large van for doing pick-ups.

Our other expenses which amounted to under \$500 were covered by past donations from individuals and churches in the City of Oxford.

Section 5: Off Campus Student and Community Donations

This year we recorded over 520 drop-offs of donations from students who live off campus and their parents and members of the Oxford community. This was almost double the number of drop-offs from 2022. We believe that this increase was caused by increased awareness among students and community members

active participation in the e-waste component of ShareFest. Once again, free e-waste recycling was enabled by our partner at Butler County Recycling and Solid Waste.

Section 6: Apartment Complex Pick-Up Sites

This year we piloted an initiative to establish donation sites in the rental offices of several large apartment complexes. Participating this year were Level 27, The Annex, The Commons, Oxford West, Hawks Landing, The Verge, and Chestnut Place apartment complexes. The response was modest but we are optimistic that more students in these complexes will take advantage of these new drop-off sites in future years.

Section 7: Implications for the Future

Overall it was a very successful year for ShareFest. During our annual debrief meeting with beneficiary groups, volunteers and the Board we discussed several topics for future consideration including:

A. Getting materials to individuals and families in Oxford

Some residents of Oxford remember years ago when ShareFest gave a majority of items to the Family Resource Center which held a sale that was very popular among the community. A sale is no longer held for a variety of reasons (no location available, many volunteers needed, etc.) yet we still seek ways to support low-income families in our immediate community. We may explore inviting families and individuals to make their needs known to TOPSS or the Family Resource Center such that materials can be set aside for them. Storage and transportation continue to be barriers for meeting this goal.

B. Diverting more mattresses from the landfill

Next year we plan to collaborate with NewLife Furniture in Cincinnati. We have already made contact with this agency which may be able to help us divert dozens if not hundreds of unwanted, good-condition mattresses from the landfill.

C. Diverting more furniture from off campus students

Still, as we drive around town during and immediately after Miami's graduation, we see what appears to be still-useful furniture on curbs and in dumpsters in spite of our efforts to reach students and encourage participation in ShareFest. The shortage of able-bodied volunteers in our community with vehicles suitable for moving furniture continues to be a challenge.

We continue to appreciate the partnership with the City of Oxford and welcome your continued support and guidance in this important endeavor.