

ShareFest
2024 Annual Report to Oxford City Council

Presented by Carol Michael
President of the ShareFest Board of Directors
October 2024

The **2024 ShareFest** was held on Thursday, May 16 through Tuesday, May 21.

This was our 19th year implementing ShareFest.

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 **73 tons** of food, clothing, furniture, household goods, and e-waste from the landfill.

Our beneficiary groups included:

- GoodWill of Greater Cincinnati received 7 trailers full of goods weighing 111,960 pounds. (55.98 tons)
- TOPSS received 3,286 pounds of food for their clients in addition to 2,114 pounds of materials which were passed along to several families connected with the Family Resource Center. (1.64 tons)
- Open Hands Pantry in Hamilton received an estimated 10.5 tons of food and materials to support their operation. Open Hands also accepted about 50 foam mattress pads which usually all go to the dumpster. They give them to homeless people who are living outside and use the pads to sleep.
- Parkview Arms Resident Council received approximately 2,000 pounds of furniture and household goods for a number of families in their community (1 ton)
- Thread Up Oxford received 1,262 pounds of clothing, hangers and furniture for their operation in Oxford. Some of the textiles went directly to families in Oxford. (0.63 tons)
- The International Student Scholars and Services Office at Miami University received 700 pounds of kitchen items to distribute to incoming international graduate students who arrive in the US with no kitchen items and very little funding. (0.35 tons)
- In an effort to divert more mattresses from the landfill we partnered with New Life Furniture Bank in Cincinnati. They were very selective on which mattresses they accepted. During two pick-ups they received 18 mattresses at an estimated weight of 2020 pounds. (1.01 tons)
- Cohen Recycling hauled away 8 gaylords of e-waste including 3 full buckets of batteries. They reported diverting 141 pounds of mixed batteries, 1,747 pounds of mixed e-waste, 449 pounds of tube tv's, and 47 pounds of lead acid batteries for a total of 2,384 pounds. (1.19 tons)
- Butler County Success Program is a group of community-school liaisons serving families in almost all of the Butler County public schools with the purpose of eliminating non-cognitive barriers to academic success. This year we had approximately five Success Liaisons, one college intern, and one volunteer participate in ShareFest receiving goods ranging from backpacks to microwave ovens and everything in between. We estimate we took about 3,300 pounds in one trailer and five SUV loads. These goods returned to four Butler County school districts and will be given directly to low income families in need. (1.65 tons)

Section 2: Volunteers

We are proud of the over 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 Director of Sustainability at Miami University

Site Coordinators Carol Katz
 Carla Blackmar Rice
 Rob Rollins
 Alice Latsch - TOPSS

Pick Up Volunteers Kate Rousmaniere advocate for Parkview Arms Resident Council
 Jamie Priessman from Parkview Arms Resident Council
 Jane Fields
 Steve Chaffin
 Cora Allen
 Suzy Hummel (TOPSS)
 Linda Simmons (TOPSS)
 Sherry Martin (TOPSS)
 And several others from TOPSS and our community at large.

There were 24 volunteers from Open Hands Food Pantry in Hamilton.

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

We were also proud of the efforts provided by 12 student members of the **Talawanda Boys Tennis Team** with the guidance of Peter Thomas.

Section 3: Marketing

- With the help of 51 Miami University student volunteers, we hung 2000 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 University students.
- We posted about ShareFest on several Facebook pages including Miami University 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 posted several times in the Miami Student Life Instagram account.
- We hung posters on almost 150 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, and provided signage for the lot. 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 710 drop-offs of donations from students who live off campus and their parents and members of the Oxford community. This was a 37% increase from 2023. Once again, we had a lot of community members taking advantage of the free e-waste recycling which was enabled by our partner at Butler County Recycling and Solid Waste.

Section 6: **Final Thoughts**

Overall it was a very successful year for ShareFest. It was our 19th year. Members of our planning committee have discussed some minor adjustments for next year but nothing major.

I thank each and every person and organization that made ShareFest a success this year!

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