The DAAP Cares Initiative is a collective of faculty, students, alumni and organizations committed to improving the quality of life for individuals and communities in need through the pursuit of theoretical and applied research. This group recognizes the academic design institution as a resource for innovation and development at all scales. The mission is to foster improved quality of life by identifying humanitarian causes and working as interdisciplinary teams that connect design, architecture, art, planning, and other disciplines to conduct research, create new theoretical frameworks, and generate solutions.
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The first DAAP Cares event was held in April 2011 and since that time, over 40 projects from DAAP students, faculty and alumni have been presented through DAAP Cares events. These events highlight projects that benefit communities that would not otherwise have access to Design, Architecture, Art or Planning. Everyone who is engaged with DAAP Cares is deeply appreciative of each person who has committed their time and energy to these projects. We are especially appreciative of all of the community members who have worked with the DAAP designers, artists and planners.

Since its inception, DAAP Cares has been supported by College of DAAP Dean Robert Probst and Craig Vogel, DAAP Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Studies. We are also deeply appreciative to Frank Russell and others at the Niehoff Urban Studio who have hosted the DAAP Cares event each year.

In 2013, a group of students began developing the DAAP Cares student group. They have worked with faculty and consultants to run public interest workshops for DAAP students. DAAP Cares was initiated by DAAP students and it is great to see DAAP students getting more involved with these meaningful projects.

The projects in this book reflect DAAP Cares projects from 2015 and 2016. Thank you to all who were involved in these projects. Every community deserves access to design, architecture, art and planning.
The Consent Culture campaign is an initiative to start a campus-wide dialogue about healthy sex and consent. It aims to bring the UC student community together to promote consensual sex, clear misconceptions, and raise awareness of the sexual assault advocacy resources available to students. The initial campaign was created by DAAPcares members and carried out with the help of the UC Women’s Center and RECLAIM. It was held on campus August 25–29th, 2014, where about 500 students signed a Pledge Board and took their #pledgeboardselfie to show their support for consensual sex and promote safety at UC, while being educated on the definition of consent. It was then converted into programming for RECLAIM, UC’s advocacy program designed to deliver support to survivors of sexual and gender based violence. RECLAIM now uses the campaign as a part of their advocacy platform, educating the current student body about the definition of consent, as well as bringing back the annual campaign every first week of the new school year to educate the incoming freshman class.

The materials for this campaign can be found at consentculture.net. This website is a resource for the RECLAIM program and the Women’s center. It explains what the campaign is about and provides links to sexual assault resources on and off campus.

The Consent Culture Campaign
The village of JiuXianZhen is located in rural China north of Beijing. In researching this village, we identified several challenges. Like much of China, the village is at risk of losing residents due to lack of modern opportunities and conveniences. There has been some modern development in the village, but it is at odds with the traditional historic urban core of the village, creating a discrepancy of scale. We also observed there to be a lack of communal spaces – but the surrounding agricultural areas are a major asset.

To address these challenges, our design concept focused on making the city of JiuXianZhen energy-independent: able to support its own energy needs (and possibly even export energy) based on the resources that the village already has at hand. We hoped to accomplish this primarily by designing a biofuel refinery / power station with thoughtful details that are tailored to address the economic, social, and environmental problems and assets of JiuXianZhen – not only would this power refinery make use of existing assets to create modern jobs for the community, but its design incorporated public community spaces and was tailored to sensitively address the transition from modern to historic.
In Ohio, approximately 12,000 children are in foster care. The vast majority of children arrived in foster care placements with little or no medical records. As youth age out of the foster care system, many lose the benefits and direction, including access to mandatory medical exams. These youth must manage their own health and well-being while at the same time finish school, find and maintain housing and employment and begin life without any supervision. These children are in need of consistent and coordinated health care. 

This project is a collaborative design project between the Cincinnati Children’s CHECK Foster Care Clinic and the Live Well Collaborative. The Live Well Collaborative came up with an innovative program that will build upon existing programs and resources related to planning for independent living, primary care access, and supporting the transition to independent healthcare utilization and health management.

Throughout a 15-week period, the design team interacted with youth in foster care at various stages of the project. The youth contributed to research insights, co-creation design sessions, and final design decisions during the refinement phase. The outcome of the project is the I Care 2 CHECK healthcare guide that targets the importance of healthcare utilization among the youth in foster care population. To test its efficacy, the pilot program will target 250 youths living in Hamilton County over the next year.
Humans have been "speaking" with pictures since the beginning of civilization. Developing pictures that speak is a primary task for today’s designers. This study investigates whether a user-generated drawing methodology, the Flashdraw, is an appropriate design research methodology for the design of icons and pictograms for use in medical consent forms.

The Flashdraw is a user-generated drawing methodology based on the theory that the images created by the research subject are the projections of the virtual imagery they are seeing in their brains.

The majority of information that fuels our understanding of what we see comes from our long-term visual memory. The research protocol and analysis tools were designed to reveal this information and to look for patterns of similar visual memories or concepts among users. The Flashdraw method utilizes drawings created by user population(s) to create the visual keywords that fuel the design of a specific set of icons or pictograms. The analysis tools provide the designer with a language of FUN factors and visual key words, that if incorporated into their design of icons and pictograms should lead to high user comprehension ratings. This should enable designers to bring users into the design process earlier and help to establish a contextually relevant visual language, resulting in shorter development cycles and higher comprehension rates.
Sickle cell trait (SCT) affects at least 3 million people in the US, primarily African Americans. However, studies have shown that very few individuals of childbearing age are aware of their SCT status, even though information was available through newborn screening tests. Further, parents often do not understand the implications or remember to share the information about SCT with the affected child during adolescence, a key time period when decisions about future reproduction may be made. Thus, increasing the number of adolescents and young adults who are aware of their SCT status and understand the implications could potentially decrease the number of individuals inheriting sickle cell disease (SCD). Very little credible information exists on the Internet that can be used as an educational resource for physicians, athletic trainers, teens and families to learn about SCT. A team of Live Well Collaborative Co-op Students and Master of Design Graduate Students developed a website that provides information about SCT specific to various audiences. The website is unique in that it is a comprehensive site with clear, easily understandable information that parents, teen and athletes can use to understand the differences between Sickle Cell Trait and Disease. The tool is useful in facilitating interactions among users and health professionals, thus having great potential for health education about SCT.
What we accomplished

S-Project: Jatropha Biofuel

IN COLLABORATION WITH AYWA INTERNATIONAL

Starting in the autumn of 2013, as part of UC Forward and UC3, The S-Project focuses on sustainable development strategies and the development of a biofuel motor, a biofuel production system, and pilot farm site that demonstrates the growing, processing and oil extraction of the seeds of the Jatropha plant. The oil from this plant is extracted to produce biofuel to power multi-use engines used for transportation on land and water, tilling soil, pumping water for irrigation, generating electricity, and extracting oil from the seeds of the plant. In December of 2013 our group went to Senegal to work with Aywa International and study ways to assist the farmers in their cycle of work. Out of that trip and subsequent conversations with Dany, we had the idea to power a traditional Senegalese Pirogue (boat) across the ocean and use that publicity to power the integration of jatropha as a fuel. I am designing the interior and exterior of the boat that will take us across the Atlantic Ocean as an aspirational set piece. Powered by jatropha oil and built by Senegalese shipbuilders, the boat will represent the story of growth in Senegal. The opportunity here is to tell a different story out of west Africa: one that reveals the beautiful craftsmanship and sustainable growth already underway; one that inspires the world to get involved, to invest, to meet, to support; one that shows sustainable agricultural, social, and economic growth in Senegal.

PARTICIPANTS

Peter Middleton
Dale Murray, Dr. Dave Stefan (Professors)
Sami Nandyal, Taylor Turnbull, Brian Dobbs, Amy Federwisch and Daniel Bode (Aywa International)

LOCATION

Senegal
DAAPcares 2015
The UNICEF Rehydration Pack was created to increase UNICEF’s capabilities to reduce child mortality. The diarrhea treatment solution is for sick children and their parents living in impoverished Sub-Saharan Africa and it hopes to ensure proper preparation and sanitary use of Oral Rehydration Salts and Zinc tablet treatment.

The World Health Organization states that, “Diarrhoea is a leading killer of children, accounting for 9 per cent of all deaths among children under age 5 worldwide. In 2012, this translated into 1,600 young children dying each day, or more than 580,000 children a year. Most deaths from diarrhoea occur among children less than 2 years of age living in South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa.” Only 40% of children in sub-Saharan Africa and southeast Asia are receiving proper care.

The Rehydration Pack could help improve the world’s quality of life by bringing Oral Rehydration Salts and Zinc Sulphate Tablets to those in need, and through the power of design the Pack could ensure proper use of the anti-diarrheal medication and transform a frightening situation into a comfortable and confident experience.
DESIGNING FOR SOCIAL ISOLATION

Social engagement is essential to a healthy meaningful life. The lack of social engagement has a profound impact on our health and by its very nature it is problem we can’t solve by ourselves. It is a global issue that is having an acute impact on our elderly and their quality of life. The first step in solving a complex problem is to inform society of its existence and then to provide tools and interventions.

Wematter is a concept, a program, a designed approach to increasing awareness and designing opportunities for the greater community to engage and interact in meaningful ways with the elderly. The first step is communication. Tapping into the power of social media the first focus is to use embedded video to create an appealing catchy infomercial about the existence of social isolation of the elderly and why the other 70% of the world should care. The second step is engagement. The team has 4 proposals for potential community-based programs: 1) a neighborhood tutoring program, 2) a house sharing program, 3) Community Table engaging local restaurants, 4) Learn from the Master, master apprentice program to connect millennials and seniors over shared skills. Wematter is designed to create low barrier simple interventions that can engage the entire community in fighting the epidemic of social isolation in the elderly, one lunch, one book, one lesson and one call at a time.

Wematter

Eva Lutz, Minkyu Song
Patricia Moore (Professor)

Cincinnati, Ohio
DAAPcares 2015
AT THE CINCINNATI CHILDREN’S HOSPITAL PEDIATRIC PRIMARY CARE CLINIC

Cincinnati Children’s Hospital’s three Pediatric Primary Care (PPC) clinics serve 25,000 low-income children and families. These families often struggle to meet basic needs and to achieve goals because they lack adequate resources and strong support systems. One goal is to build on the relationship and clinic contact with low-income families to more effectively connect them with the best community resources to meet their needs.

The research conducted by the Live Well Collaborative design team identifies and understands patient and families’ social needs, how they want to interact with community organizations and receive resource information and direct services, and how community partners can most effectively and efficiently deliver this information and services. The research helps understand how the waiting room fits into the whole healthcare encounter and how it might be better used as a trigger to engage families in continuous relationships with community organizations, their child’s healthcare providers and their own ongoing health management. This was done through literature review, benchmarking, observation in the clinics, family/staff interviews, and review of current community collaborations. The design solution centered around five design strategies: hospitality is key, positive distractors, personalization, provide visual access, and create flexible spaces.

PARTICIPANTS
Ann Black, Blake Lane, Suyao Chen, Kristen Eby, Bhooma Srirangarajan

LOCATION
Cincinnati, Ohio
DAAPcares 2015
SOCIAL IMPACT ARCHITECTURE IN THE MISSISSIPPI DELTA

Emily Roush-Elliott and Richard Elliott were hired in 2013 to implement a master plan for the Baptist Town community. The two led design and construction of two park spaces, three streetscape developments, and signage throughout the neighborhood. The focus of the work shifted to healthy, affordable housing in 2014. Utilizing unused Mississippi Cottages, the modular, energy-efficient, and health conscious successor to the FEMA trailer, the project team partnered with the Greenwood-Leflore Fuller Center for Housing to address the unhealthy and unsafe housing options available to low-income families in the area. With a priority to create a project that is not viewed as temporary or substandard, the team was intentional in developing an eco-friendly site plan (including a storm-water management garden), and designing a foundation to ensure that though the homes arrived on trailers, they are not viewed as trailer homes in terms of code compliance, structural stability, insurance, fire safety or property value. The team also paired each home buyer with an architect to design custom carpentry and landscaping for their homes, engaging the low-income home buyers as respected clients. Families received home buyer and financial counseling, assistance in obtaining down-payment assistance, and now are paying less than $150 per month on fifteen year 0% interest mortgages.

PARTICIPANTS
Emily Roush-Elliott, Enterprise Rose Architectural Fellow
Richard Elliott, Design | Build Lead
Mississippi State University’s Carl Small Town Center
Greenwood-Leflore-Carroll Economic Development Foundation

LOCATION
Mississippi
DAAPcares 2015
HOW DOES A BUILDING SAVE LIVES?

Cholera—a curable, preventable disease that had not existed in Haiti in over a century—emerged following the 2010 earthquake and ran rampant throughout the country. Since the outbreak, cholera patients have been treated in temporary tents, which are difficult to keep sanitary, hot in the Haitian climate, and deficient at ensuring prevention from infection and the human right to dignified health care. In partnership with leading Haitian health care provider Les Centres GHESKIO, MASS is not only building a state-of-the-art permanent cholera treatment center, but also incorporating an on-site wastewater treatment facility to thwart recontamination of the water table and consequent spread of the disease. The first permanent cholera treatment center in Haiti, the facility’s facade is made by local Haitian metalworkers, and is custom-designed to provide appropriate daylighting and ventilation throughout the facility. Nearing completion, the cholera treatment center will serve a catchment area of 60,000 Haitians—most of whom reside in a neighboring informal settlement—and treat up to 250,000 gallons of wastewater annually. MASS continues to explore interventions and methods to scale alternatives to safe water and sanitation infrastructure to stem this outbreak and thwart future incidence of diarrheal disease.

PARTICIPANTS
Les Centres GHESKIO, YCF, Mazzetti Inc., Sierra Bainbridge, TECINA

MASS Design Group team led by Adam Saltzman (UC Alumnus)

LOCATION
Haiti
DAAPcares 2015
HOW CAN WE DESIGN BETTER FACILITIES FOR AIRBORNE INFECTION CONTROL?

The new GHESKIO Tuberculosis Hospital will replace the multi-drug-resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB) facility, which was destroyed in the 2010 earthquake. This state-of-the-art facility will provide TB patients, who are still being housed in temporary tents, an effective and dignified place to stay for the duration of long-term treatment.

Simple but effective methods of passive ventilation and infection control will be used to reduce in-hospital transmission of TB in this high-risk population, as well as reduce energy costs for the facility. To build capacity within the community, the project uses local labor and leverages opportunities for training in safer, high quality construction practices.
In the spring of 2014, eleven students engaged in a studio focused around Grailville, a spiritual retreat center and farm located just beyond Loveland, Ohio on O’Bannonville Road. Grailville is part of the International Grail Movement, a lay Christian women’s organization dedicated to equity and justice throughout the world.

Grailville can continue in promoting itself as a retreat center, but needs to look to other models that will be more profitable. A new client base of like-minded groups can be drawn to the pastoral beauty and deep serenity that Grailville offers. Tapping into Grailville’s long history of care of the land, the new retreat center can grow from its dedication to green building and living principles to become a center for “green-consciousness” throughout the region. The students worked within the framework of the Living Building Challenge to develop a set of four models, each of which focused on different renovation and marketing strategies, with concentrations in land, water, energy, and spiritual well-being. They developed energy and cost analysis to provide Grailville with the most comprehensive options for growing their business. It was the goal of the studio to provide Grailville with inspiration for the future in the hopes of preserving an organization that is beautiful and meaningful part of the community.
CENTER FOR CLOSING THE HEALTH GAP

The Healthy Corner Store program is an initiative of the Center for Closing the Health Gap, a non-profit based in Avondale. The DAAP Community Design Center (CDC) is providing technical services to this organization as it helps meet the goals of bolstering the capacity of existing corner stores to provide more healthy food, specifically fresh produce in underserved areas of the city known as “food deserts.” Throughout the multi-year project, the CDC will provide documentation of existing corner store conditions and research in best practices for healthy corner stores, as well as provide design and programming proposals for making these stores more functional and effective in providing healthy eating options. The program plans to include more than a dozen stores over a three-year period with capital financing provided by the City of Cincinnati Fresh Food Financing Initiative. In 2014, the CDC, with architecture and design student interns, provided work for three different corner stores in Avondale and the West End. Although the stores varied in terms of appearance and functionality, each store owner worked enthusiastically with interns to enhance the design of their store to promote healthy eating. Much of the design work was focused on improving the exterior condition of the store in such a way that it would convey a message that it was an updated destination for fresh and healthy food.

PARTICIPANTS

Center for Closing the Health Gap:
Rhonda Lindsey, Aliya Feit
City of Cincinnati Fresh Food Financing Initiative
University of Cincinnati Community Design Center: Frank Russet
UC Student Designers: Pooja Kashap, Sarah Kusuma, Jesse Larkins, Kristin Ridge, Johnathan Schmitz

LOCATION

Cincinnati, Ohio
DAAPcares 2013
POP-UP CINCY

POP-UP Cincy curates temporary and surprising experiences to spark creative change in communities. One-of-a-kind events delight the senses and create memories. POP-UP Cincy events animate public space and vacant buildings. Events are wide-ranging, from art shows to film screenings; from window displays to interactive work-sessions. We engage social groups in dynamic ways. Locations change per event size and type. We instigate creative place-making around Cincinnati! The goal of the weekend CONCEPT CAMP was to have fun, meet other creative minds in Cincinnati and to work on personal or group projects in an environment designed to encourage creative play and the sharing of ideas. The POP-UP Cincy team invited creative thinkers from various sectors to share a workspace over one weekend, creating concepts and learning from each other’s ideas and methods. On Friday night the group got acquainted with cocktails and learned about each other. On Saturday participants worked on a project while gaining feedback from a diversity of other participants. The local community was invited into the space on Saturday night to help build an art installation in the vacant storefront window. The resulting project from this weekend was the creation of design ornamentation patterns for the windows. The previous brown color paper was replaced with the new designed paper, compiled from all participant’s individual designs using parametric design and scripting.

PARTICIPANTS
Student Team: Colin Klimesh, Dan Coleman, Eli Dunbar, Justin Hodges, Benjamin Tamarkin, Pohung Chiu, Troy Newell, Ali Morshedlou
Faculty: Catherine Richards, School of Design, Ming Tang, School of Architecture and Interior Design

LOCATION
Cincinnati, Ohio
DAAPcares 2015
In fall 2008, University of Cincinnati graduate architecture students began designing a master plan and a building proposal for the Roche Health Center in rural Tanzania, East Africa. On April 1, 2011, the Roche Health Center Clinic opened its doors and has since treated thousands of patients who previously had no access to healthcare available. The Tanzanian District Government has recognized the Roche Health Clinic as one of the best buildings in the region. Presently, a doctor drives for over an hour to the site each week to see patients. The Tanzanian model of rural healthcare is based around the combination of a medical clinic with medical housing so that visiting medical practitioners can live on-site. The medical housing is a unique architectural project type that is needs to be evaluated and critiqued before developing an appropriate design proposal for future medical housing. Phase two of the Roche Health Center is the RHC Medical Housing. Designs began evolving in a fall 2011 UC Graduate Architecture studio. We then worked with the local community in Roche and our non-profit partners in Shirati, Tanzania. The project continued through the Village Life Outreach Project Building Committee with the assistance of Emily Roush, Richard Elliott and Sharon Luu. We intend to begin construction in late 2014.
For community members living in the poor, water-stricken Shirati region of Tanzania, accessing affordable clean water continues to be an everyday struggle. The slow sand filter attempted to remedy the problem of clean water by creating a water filtration system that can be easily replicated by community members using materials available in Tanzania. Despite research into the cultural appropriateness of slow sand filter technology, the filters have remained mostly unused or abandoned.

While in Tanzania over Spring Break, I examined the various methods of water catchment and filtration in the villages of Roche, Burere, and Nyambogo. Using research and design thinking methods, I will assess the usefulness, practicality, and cultural appropriateness of several different methods proposed or employed in order to gain a better idea of what systems of water catchment and filtration are the most useful in meeting the needs of water-stricken communities in the Shirati region of Tanzania.
This research aims to provide theoretical knowledge to cultivate a political concept of water-for-peace. The Palestinian-Israeli conflict provides a political backdrop from which to critically assess how effective eco-cultural interventions are in creating more peaceful societies. UNESCO declared the fragile Battir watershed system a World Heritage Site in 2014. This was the result of Israelis and Palestinians overcoming their entrenched differences to work together to stop plans to extend the separation wall through the area, which would have demolished the watershed. The Jordan River Valley carries cultural, environmental, and religious significance. Leaning upon the unique cultural capital of the river, Friends of the Earth Middle East have successfully brokered an alliance between Israelis, Jordanians, and Palestinians to rehabilitate the Jordan River’s water supply and quality.

These two case studies provide an innovative approach to water management. Instead of collaboration being used as a strategy to stave off potential conflict over water resources, this project proposal will use the inverse logic: the shared cultural significance of a water resource can provide a platform for developing peaceful relations between historically belligerent actors.
Art in the Market is a DAAP-sponsored program which provides free visual art experiences to Cincinnati youth. This program operates out of Elementz, an organization and urban meeting place for teens and young adults that promotes hip hop, respect, and community in Over-the-Rhine. Elementz’s programs include spoken word, music recording, and dance, using hip hop as a platform for exploration of these media. UC’s Art in the Market program and Elementz began their collaboration in January 2014.

The dancers at Elementz occupy a significant presence within the community. The current visual arts project puts the movement and energy of the dancers on stage in the OTR neighborhood. The group began by taking dynamic photos of the dancers during practice. AITM members were then led through the process of choosing and applying these images as painted silhouettes to the large windows that face Race Street and Central Parkway on the Elementz campus. This process was fluid enough to allow many youth to participate in the creative process collaboratively.

The project, which is still in progress, makes individuals from the Elementz and Art in the Market community part of both the conception and the creation of the work.

**PARTICIPANTS**
Samantha Messer & Liz Miller
Dr. Flavia Bastos (Professor)
Tom Kent and Abdullah Powell (Elementz)

**LOCATION**
Cincinnati, Ohio
DAAPcares 2015
#ARTLIVE is the collaborative effort of a DAAP School of Art graduate student and two School of Art Professors to teach Middle School and High School students at Hughes STEM HS. Integrating DAAP approaches to art and design with a neighboring educational institution, #ARTLIVE is an after school activity that complements Hughes’ technological curriculum and professional preparation focus. We engage with art as a method of critical inquiry, incorporating two of Hughes’ seven core values: collaboration and empathy. The after school program includes:

- collaborative mural making
- individual 2d and 3d projects
- visual journal prompts
- review of contemporary artists
- aesthetic response exercises using UC’s public art resources
- field trip to DAAP to envision future possibilities in creative research

As a result of these pedagogical strategies students will gain:

- understanding of collaborative and empathetic structures in problem solving
- visual inquiry skills that apply to self and community
- the ability to generate, iterate, and implement solutions

A final exposition of student projects is planned in May 2015.

PARTICIPANTS
Nandita Badi Sheth, Noel Anderson, Kristopher Holland

LOCATION
Cincinnati, Ohio
DAAPcares 2015
A NEIGHBORHOOD-MADE FILM FEST

According to Pew Research 30% of Americans don’t know a single neighbor by name. What if you could introduce citizens of a community to each other, while celebrating their unique talents, stories, and passions? Our mission was to make a gesture towards transforming strangers back into neighbors. In the summer of 2014, Hilltop Stories collaborated with over 100 residents to script, produce, perform, act, film, and edit 13 original short movies about individuals in Walnut Hills. In the end over 500 neighbors showed up with lawn chairs to celebrate their community with an outdoor film fest showcasing the people living right next door.
Sincerity, authenticity, work ethic, and motivation are the hardest skills to teach students. What if the way to teach these highly desirable skills was through asking students to build a capacity for empathy? In fall of 2014, the sophomore research studio class became artists in residence at Visionaries & Voices in Northside. Our process focused on building friendships, collaborating on art, and learning through sustained engagement with adult artists with disabilities. The class left with a richer understanding of the realities many adults with disabilities face in our community, and the power of art to connect people from all walks of life. In its first iteration of a course students collaborated on art for the annual Double Vision live auction raising over $1,500 for V&V.
The U.S. Peace Corps and the College of Design, Architecture, Art, and Planning have a long and fruitful relationship. For over a decade, the School of Planning has offered the Master’s International (MI) and Coverdell Fellows (Fellows) Peace Corps Programs, allowing students to integrate a Master of Community Planning (MCP) degree with Peace Corps experience. While the MI program offers students the opportunity to complete Peace Corps service sandwiched between the two years of their MCP degree, the Fellows program is for returned Peace Corps volunteers who wish to pursue a degree in planning. Furthermore, Fellows students are placed in internships in non-profit organizations as well as city and county government agencies throughout the Greater Cincinnati region. These internships, which match the students’ academic and professional interests, are a complement to their previous international experiences and an asset to local communities in the region. Since inception of these programs, eight students have completed the MI program, and 26 students have completed the Fellows program, providing approximately 36,000 hours of community service through assigned internships. Through these pursuits, the MI and Fellows programs allow Peace Corps volunteers to bring their overseas experience back home, and influence positive action in their communities through continual service and outreach.

Bringing the Peace Corps Home
The small neighborhood of Lower Price Hill in southeast Cincinnati has been studied and planned numerous times over the last three decades. Many of these efforts have originated from outsider organizations with a lack of community input. Oyler Community Learning Center, a nationally-recognized model for school-centric neighborhoods, serves as the uniting institution for the community. The neighborhood is also poised for redevelopment, with interested parties prepared to invest.

In the spring of 2015, Oyler approached the school of planning for assistance in developing a strategic framework plan for the community, focusing specifically on affordable housing and beautifying the neighborhood. Rather than to create a neighborhood plan for the community, our team sought to come alongside the community to help them create their own plan. We engaged the community in a mapping charrette, examined case studies on other historic neighborhoods dealing with vacancy, and conducted research into affordable housing strategies. The final product was a community plan document driven by residents’ priorities and a map grounded in the actual maps that community members created, expanded upon with research and helpful examples. As the neighborhood moves forward into development, this document will be used to communicate the residents’ voice to investors.
Groundwork Cincinnati – Mill Creek, a private non-profit in Northside, acts to, "...serve as catalyst for developing sustainability in the Mill Creek watershed through community-based planning and empowerment, environmental education, and economically sound ecological restoration." The Mill Creek Greenway is part of an evolving narrative highlighting our city’s foremost watershed. As part of Green Umbrella’s Regional Trails Alliance, Groundwork’s trail efforts strive to provide alternative transportation, environmental benefits, and healthy recreation to underserved communities. The Connecting the City Trails project is made possible by a grant from Interact for Health. This project aims to build on our region’s assets by planning connections for Cincinnati’s major trails: Little Miami, Little Duck Creek, Oasis, Ohio River Trail East and West, Wasson Way, and the Mill Creek Greenway. These connections will unite communities and form a system that extends into other parts of the Ohio, Kentucky, and Indiana Tri-state.

Connecting the City Trails

PARTICIPANTS
Green Umbrella Regional Trails Alliance, Interact for Health, City of Cincinnati, Groundwork Cincinnati / Mill Creek, Human Nature, Inc., Queen City Bike, Little Duck Creek Trail, Wasson Way, Ohio River Trail
Tanner Yess, SOP Peace Corps Fellow

LOCATION
Cincinnati, Ohio
DAAPcares 2015
Cincinnati Public Schools received a federal grant in 2014 to implement walking school bus programs throughout the district. As part of a Master’s Capstone class in the spring of 2015, our team helped to investigate the potential for a walking school bus for Ethel Taylor Academy.

Ethel Taylor Academy is located between the two neighborhoods of Millvale and South Cumminsville in the Mill Creek corridor. The neighborhood, especially Millvale, struggles with high rates of crime and vacancy, as well as a lack of a cohesive community identity. Our team not only conducted a suitability analysis for the walking school bus routes based on safety, traffic, and the physical environment, but we produced several recommendations for community engagement that would help to bring the community together using the walking school bus as a catalyst.
PEDESTRIAN NAVIGATION FOR CHILDREN

Any pedestrian undoubtedly encounters unfriendly and unsafe walking environments. Busy or high speed roads, lack of sidewalks, and poor signage are just a few factors that can threaten pedestrian safety. While working with Cincinnati Public Schools and Safe Routes to School, I came across a shocking statistic: since 2008, at least 1,256 children between the ages of 5 and 17 have been struck by a car in Ohio’s eight most populous counties.

SafeWalk is a proposed pedestrian navigation app built for children, designed to safely guide them through the potential dangers of a walking environment. SafeWalk meets the needs of three user groups: the children, their parents, and the planners and policymakers who shape the communities they live in. For children, the app guides children along the safest route while providing audio and on-screen training to help children learn to be aware and safe pedestrians. SafeWalk enables parents to view their child’s progress and provides a notification when they arrive at their destination. Finally, SafeWalk’s diagnostic mode highlights “problem” zones that are in high pedestrian demand to help planners prioritize improvements to the pedestrian environment. This proposed app was selected to be presented at the National APA Conference in April 2015, as a finalist of APA’s Innovative Planning Apps competition.

SafeWalk

In this way, the app goes one step beyond simply providing a route, but actually assists in training children who shape the communities they live in. For children, the app guides children along the safest route while providing audio and on-screen training to help children learn to be aware pedestrians, keeping parents connected, and sharing pedestrian activities with multiple user groups: children, parents, and planners. When the child enters a destination into the app, SafeWalk creates printable maps of the route to provide bussing to low-income students who shape the communities they live in. In conclusion, SafeWalk promises to deliver value to professional planning users, having tested it for two weeks. (They would be willing to pay $1.99.)


Actually, a surprising number of them are walking to school. FoxNews Insider, August 2013. http://insider.foxnews.com/2013/08/05/new-study-25-percent-kids-two-and-under-own-smartphones

PEDESTRIAN NAVIGATION FOR CHILDREN

Gretchen Keillor

PARTICIPANTS

Cincinnati, Ohio

DAAPcares 2015

LOCATION

March 2015

Contact: 330.322.2580 or gretchen.keillor@gmail.com

Innovating Planning Apps for Planners: A Student and Emerging Professional Challenge

American Planning Association

Technology Division

Submitted by Gretchen Keillor

DESt INAtion

CHOICE

SAFESWALK

Innovating Planning Apps for Planners: A Student and Emerging Professional Challenge

American Planning Association

Technology Division

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March 2015

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