



## THE ALBERT SCHWEITZER FELLOWSHIP®

*Addressing Health Disparities  
by Developing Leaders in Service*



# Introducing The Columbus Schweitzer Fellows Program

*Serving the Columbus and Athens Communities*

## SUMMARY

The Columbus Schweitzer Fellows Program—one of 13 Schweitzer Fellows Program sites across the U.S.—facilitates service projects to benefit the Columbus and Athens communities, and simultaneously develops emerging professionals who have the skills to address unmet health-related needs throughout their careers.

Launched in 2010 with the help of a significant seed grant from Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield Foundation and hosted by The Ohio State University, The Columbus Schweitzer Fellows Program is the first ASF program site in Ohio and one of only three in the Midwest.

## ASF HISTORY AND MISSION

ASF was initially founded in 1940 to support Dr. Albert Schweitzer's hospital in Africa. The U.S. Schweitzer Fellows Program, launched in 1991, supports and trains emerging health-focused graduate and professional students in creating and carrying out yearlong service projects that address unmet community needs.

ASF's mission is to develop Leaders in Service: individuals who are dedicated and skilled in addressing the social determinants of health in underserved communities, and whose example influences and inspires others. Annually, U.S. Schweitzer Fellows deliver more than 40,000 hours of community service addressing the social determinants of health.

When Fellows' initial year ends, they carry their skills and commitment forward as members of the Schweitzer Fellows for Life alumni network, now more than 2,000 strong.

## GOALS

The goals of the U.S. Schweitzer Fellows Program are:

- to provide skilled and compassionate direct services that address important unmet needs of local underserved individuals and communities;
- to support and train emerging professional leaders in ways that strengthen their commitment to, and skills in, public service;
- to develop a pipeline of emerging professionals with the capacity to effect change in the social and health care systems that will reduce and ultimately eliminate disparities impacting people's health and lives.

## FELLOWSHIPS

The Columbus Schweitzer Fellows Program administers and supports community service Fellowships that are conducted in Columbus and Athens from April to April.

Participants are students whose fields of study and/or personal interests are relevant to the goals and mission of the program.

These interdisciplinary Schweitzer Fellows receive stipends in the amount of \$3000. They design and carry out projects that provide at least 200 hours of service through an existing community agency and under the supervision of an academic and community-based mentor.

Projects include at least 100 hours of direct client contact with an emphasis placed on activities that will have an enduring benefit to the agency. Fellows also attend an orientation retreat and monthly meetings. No academic credit is earned for participation as a Fellow.



*"The Albert Schweitzer Fellowship taught me that there is always time to serve, to make an impact on another's life, no matter how busy you think you are. And that taking that time to serve gives meaning to all the rest of it."*

*Schweitzer Fellow Constance Chace*

## ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

ASF's National Office, headquartered in Boston and governed by a National Board of Directors, provides programmatic, evaluation, financial, and development services to local operations. Local sites are led by a Program Director and supported by a local Advisory Board.

## PARTNERS AND SPONSORS

To meet its annual expenses, the Columbus Schweitzer Fellows Program seeks to expand on existing commitments from educational partners on OSU's and other area campuses. Corporate and foundation partners and individual donors will be solicited as well.

### *Current Educational Partners*

OSU Colleges of Dentistry, Medicine, Nursing, Optometry,  
Pharmacy, Social Work, and Veterinary Medicine

Ohio University Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine

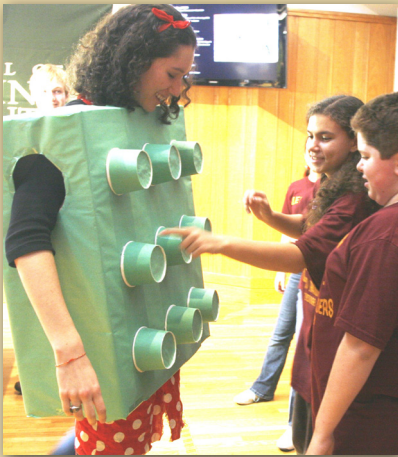
Trinity Lutheran Seminary

Ohio State Office of Outreach & Engagement

### *Current Corporate Partners:*

Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield Foundation

Ohio Health



Thanks to the generous sponsorship of Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield Foundation, a number of Schweitzer Fellows in Columbus will incorporate *The 5-2-1-0 Healthy Kids Countdown*, an initiative of The Albert Schweitzer Fellowship sponsored by Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield Foundation, into their Schweitzer projects.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

To get involved with the Columbus Schweitzer Fellows Program, contact:

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