



THE WESLEY BEARKAT

OFFICIAL SHSU WESLEY FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER

Summer 2018

Edition

A newsletter designed to be experienced in 7 minutes, for people on the go!



The Wesley Foundation at
Sam Houston State University

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A Few Quick Words from Greg

We now get to see another great moment of SHSU Wesley history! Over the years, our Wesley Foundation has had two different passenger vans. Many stories could be told of the adventures in those vehicles across four decades. Our second van was a 1999 Ford Club Wagon. It had served us well for 19 years. Since I arrived in 2012, we have been working hard to save money for its replacement. Your Board of Directors has been doing a great job investing well and overseeing our finances well. With that said, I also applied for a grant from the Permanent Endowment Fund of Moody U.M.C. On June 15, I received a call from Rev. Bert Bagley (their director) informing us that their Board had awarded \$25,000 to our Wesley for the purchase of our new van! Words can't describe the blessing and gratefulness to God that we have! The P.E.F. Board is well-aware of the ministry impact we make, and wanted to invest in our campus ministry once again. These funds combined forces with what we had set aside, and together we replaced our 1999 Ford Club Wagon with our new 2017 GMC Savanna. We are calling it, "The Ministry Machine." We are a ministry that wants people to experience joy in knowing Jesus. So why not stand out a bit for His glory, grace and purpose? Special thanks to the Board of the P.E.F. Fund, Weisner Auto Dealership of Huntsville and all our investors for making this dream a reality!



In Christ's Service,
Greg

CONNECT WITH US!

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Your Wesley Ministry Won Our Fifth Sammy Award (4/11/18)

This was truly a great year of ministry for us. Sam Houston State University noticed all of our impact. In March, we were summoned, once again, to participate in the 24th Annual Sammy Awards. A Sammy Award is the Oscar or Emmy Award for different students, faculty, staff and student organizations. In January, the Department of Student Activities asks the university community to submit forms of who they think should be nominated for various categories. The list is then culled to a handful of finalists. From there, the nominees are requested to submit a form and a few paragraphs describing their origination and their activities. A committee then selects the winners. In 2018, we won our FIFTH Sammy Award for Outstanding Religious Organization. That is another excellent testimony that your SHSU Wesley Foundation, though we are not the largest of the SHSU Christian organizations, we have certainly been a great Kingdom group. We primarily win Sammys as recognition for how much service and impact we do for SHSU, for the local Huntsville community, and beyond. For the third time in six years, we were also nominated for Outstanding Overall SHSU Student Organization (there are about 250 at last count). Another great honor!



SHSU Easter Service Brings Together Christian Groups (3/26/18)

In a time where people are easily divided in our culture, we pour efforts and time into bringing people together. Among our favorite events of the spring semester: Resurrection Week Dinner and Worship with the many different SHSU campus ministries (Baptist Student Ministry, Bridges International, Kats for Christ, Chi Alpha, Campus Outreach and more). This takes place on the Monday before Easter, and well over 100 SHSU students participated. We are already working on scheduling 2019's "Rez Week."



Potato Fundraisers Raise \$11,300 for Wesley Ministry

It was our most ambitious baked potato fundraising season yet: eight churches across five months, several hundred baked potatoes, countless staff and volunteer hours, and hundreds of generous hearts! Every dollar raised helps improve our ministry center, supports our interns' salaries, helps students with the costs of retreats and mission trips and puts more tools in our hands for greater ministry impact! Ultimately, it invests in the effort to help college students have a greater life in Christ. A HUGE thank you to our supporting churches:

- 2/23/18– Riverside UMC
- 2/25/18– Madisonville UMC
- 3/4/18– FUMC Huntsville
- 3/25/18– Stoneham UMC, Navasota
- 3/25/18– Farris Chapel UMC
- 4/15/18– Paul Horton UMC, Coldspring
- 6/3/18– Bays Chapel UMC
- 6/3/18– Richards UMC



Finishing Strong: End of Year Event Sees New Handprints, Launches Graduates, Celebrates a Baptism

The conclusion of our 2017-2018 chapter could not have gone better. We launched seven graduates with their Wesley graduation chords, signed picture frames, and a friendly "roasting" from the Wesley crew. Our new students of the year added their handprints to our Wall of Fame, continuing the 16-year tradition. At our final worship service, we celebrated the baptism of Addison, one of our freshman students! It was the first immersion baptism done in our Lowman Chapel. Testimonies were also shared.



Finals Week: Food and Fun! (5/7-5/9/18)

During Finals Week, the Wesley building was open non-stop for study groups, naps, stress-relief activities and food galore. Two free lunches are served during the week, as well as a wide variety of snacks to help fuel our college students for success in their final exams. We also have some stress-relief games. They included a Messy Monday paint night, human Mario Kart, Minute to Win it Challenges, and human Hungry Hungry Hippos. During Finals Week, we eat well, we study hard, we pray hard and we play hard!



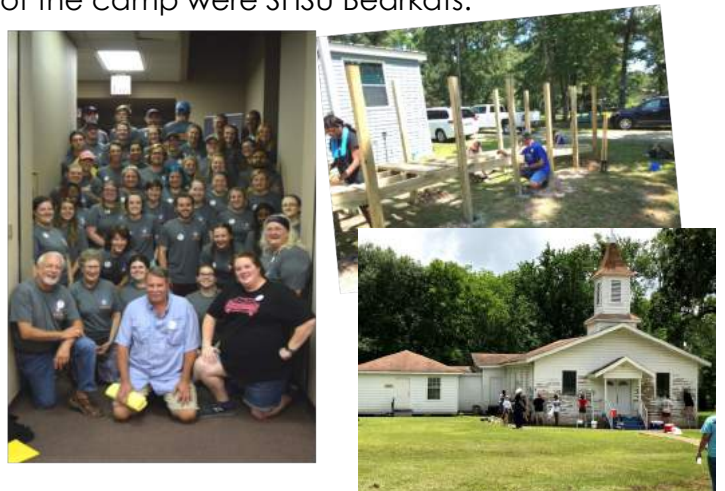
The Wesley Supports SHSU's New Community Garden, All Paws In

For All Paws In, the SHSU community service day, our Wesley team ended up helping the Community Gardens of SHSU. Food insecurity is a big issue among college students on most university campuses, but especially SHSU. It is good to help these hungers with canned food; it is even better to meet these hungers with fresh vegetables, grown locally. Our team worked hard throughout the day to harvest, tend to the area, build new plots, and our Wesley Foundation even adopted our own vegetable plot. We are committed to this for the long term!



College UM ARMY Hosted at Huntsville This Year

This UM ARMY was an incredible week, filled with challenges, new friends, great worship & holy moments, funny times, and sharing God's love through building porches, painting, junk clearing, yard clearing, wheelchair ramp building, church painting, and other home projects. This year, we had 16 participants from SHSU in the College UM ARMY camp of Huntsville. 40% of college students of the camp were SHSU Bearkats.



**The Wesley Foundation at
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**Stamp
Zone**

Generosity Corner

Yikes! Recent rains revealed the exterior breezeway was more



rotted and deteriorated than we thought. We needed to have it torn down and to cover the doors with awnings and install better lighting. This will put our buildings and grounds line-item over budget for 2018. Would you like to help? If so, you can send a check to "The Wesley Foundation," in the memo section put "Patio Repairs."

Or, if you prefer electronically:

Step 1: Go to: <http://shsuwesley.org/donate/>

Step 2: Hit the "Donate Online Now!!" Button

Step 3: On the right-hand side, click "Give as Guest"

Step 4: Select "Patio Repairs" as your choice

2018 Dates/Events on the Horizon:

8/3 - SHSU Summer Graduation

8/18 - SHSU Move In Day!

8/18-23 - Welcome Week Events: Outdoor Movie, Sunday Sundae Luau, Water War, Pizza Party

8/22 - First Weds Dinner & Worship of the year

8/22-24 - Fall Leadership Retreat @ Navasota

9/21-23 - Wesley Fall Retreat @ Camp Hoblitzelle

9/29 - Family/Parents' Lunch @ The Wesley, 11a

10/6 - Battle of the Piney Woods, NRG Stadium

10/13 - Buffalo Stampede 5K, Bryan, TX

10/25 - SHSU Homecoming Parade

10/27 - 7th Annual Wesley Alumni Lunch, 11a

10/31 - Halloween/ All Saints Eve

**Next Wesley Bearkat Newsletter:
Fall 2018 Edition
Early November**

