

## Food For The Hungry has a Successful 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Drive

By Allison Prouty

Knox County worked together to care for everyone's neighbors during the 2023 Food For The Hungry drive. The food and funds collection kicked off November 1<sup>st</sup> and culminated in a live broadcast called Food For The Hungry Live on December 8<sup>th</sup>. Everything raised during the drive benefits organizations like the Salvation Army of Mount Vernon, the Knox County Interchurch branches and other food pantries to relieve food insecurity in Knox County. Food is given directly to these groups for distribution, and the money can be used for purchasing food from the Mid-Ohio Food Collective or providing financial aid to clients.

Several events were held throughout the county to raise food and money for Food For The Hungry. This includes the Fredericktown Christmas Walk, Psi Iota Xi elementary school drive, a Turkey Trot 5K held on Mount Vernon Nazarene University's campus, Apple Valley's Festival of Trees, and Kenyon College's Snowflake Gala. This gives the people of Knox County a chance to have fun with their families while giving back to their communities. During Food For The Hungry Live, 12 collection points were opened throughout the county for people to drop off food and monetary donations. In total, Food For The Hungry raised \$319,158.17 and 12 truckloads of food.

MVNU also held multiple events to help Food For The Hungry. The campus contributed a total of \$6,028.11 with different collections, including donations from the campus Happy Bean, bring a buck to chapel, faculty and staff donations, the student Christmas party, a table sponsorship

and Fund-A-Cause Auction purchases at the Kenyon Snowflake Gala and a presidential match from Dr. Carson Castleman. A total of 389 food items was also donated from a collection at Esther Jetter Preschool and a basketball game on December 8<sup>th</sup> to benefit Food For The Hungry.

Chelsea Porter, Faith Works coordinator at MVNU and Food For The Hungry board member, explained the importance of MVNU's involvement with the food and money donations, saying, "A big part of my job is helping our students see the needs and have a heart of generosity and a willingness to do something about the needs. One of the slogans for Faith Works is 'What mark are you leaving?' One of my goals is that students would see the needs around them in this community, because they are a part of this community when they are at MVNU. But beyond this place, when they leave MVNU and they go to whatever community they plan to belong to, that they would see the needs in that community as well."

To learn more about Food For The Hungry, go to [foodforthehungrycares.org](https://foodforthehungrycares.org)

MVNU'S STUDENT NEWS SOURCE



lakeholmviewer.com



mvnuviewer



MVNU The Viewer



MVNUViewer

Photos from: <https://www.wnza.fm/scrapbook-ffth-2023>

# THE VIEWER

February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024

## Food For The Hungry

Also in this issue:  
Little Sibs Weekend  
RA/SM Interviews  
Interview with  
Bailey Conrad



"In total, Food For The Hungry raised \$319,158.17 and 12 truckloads of food."





## Students Welcome their Little Sibs to the Neighborhood

By Abby Almodovar

A wave of new, young faces arrived on campus the second weekend of this semester, and all for the heartwarming purpose of visiting their older sibling. The pizza party on Friday, January 19<sup>th</sup> launched Little Sibs Weekend, an event for students to show their brothers and sisters a slice of college life at MVNU.

Admissions counselor Aubrey Bailey recollected her experiences as a student, “My brother was five years younger than me, so I brought him to Little Sibs a few times. It was cool for him to meet my friends and see where I live. I even think I took him to the radio station with me one time to do a shift!”

For middle-school-aged visitors, the pizza party and Nerf war are amusing ways to connect with their sibling. For high schoolers, this event may entice prospective students. As Bailey continued, “On the admissions side, it’s also good for siblings to see the school and imagine themselves being a student here.”

Chloe Hall, a student whose younger brother is currently a high school senior, reflected, “It seems like he already made some connections, and hopefully it encouraged him about next year and coming to college.”

According to Hall, Little Sibs is unique from other admissions events because it is relationship oriented. For the young adults who spend the school year away from home, she reflects, “It’s good to bring siblings back together since they are spending so much time apart already.”

I personally can attest to these sentiments, as my own brother looks ahead to attending MVNU after he graduates. Hopefully any apprehension about the future dissipated as he met some of his potential peers and witnessed the community that I was able to find here. Little Sibs allowed me to help my brother feel connected before he even steps foot on this campus in the fall.

**“It’s good to bring siblings back together since they are spending so much time apart already.”**

— Chloe Hall

## RA’s, SM’s, and the Importance of Community

By Zach Baur

At MVNU, Resident Assistants (RAs) and Student Mentors (SMs) play heavy roles in the lives of many students. They coordinate events, help students with issues they may struggle with and connect students to helpful resources on campus. Many even form close friendships with the RAs and SMs around campus.

“The position of RA to me is community. I have met so many of my best friends at MVNU through my role as an RA because I get to meet and connect with so many wonderful people that otherwise I may have never had the opportunity to meet,” says Rebecca Bash, an RA of Pioneer Hall. This community-oriented mindset is what inspired Bash to become an RA in the first place: “My freshman year, I really loved keeping my door open and interacting with people that walked by.” This led to her own RA at the time suggesting the idea of becoming one to her.

Though RAs and SMs plan and participate in many fun events, the positions carry a lot of responsibility. Juggling the life of a student with the work of organizing and attending events, assisting students and other obligations can be stressful at times. Bash says that the hardest part of this role is “keeping a balanced schedule so that I can give my best effort to my RA responsibilities.” Being a mentor and helper to students can also involve helping them through major social and mental issues, whether that be connecting them to counselors or simply being there for them when they need someone to talk to. This can be a very positive experience but can also be quite emotionally stressful.

The Resident Assistants and Student Mentors of MVNU are pillars of the community. They help build and strengthen relationships while creating lasting memories. They take on heavy responsibilities to serve others and persevere through busy schedules that can often feel chaotic. Pioneer RA Rebecca Bash has this advice to offer for any potential future RAs and SMs: “Be open to many different options. You may not see yourself in that position or in that residence area, but the RDs might recognize something in you that would be great for that role. You will never know if you limit yourself from the start.”

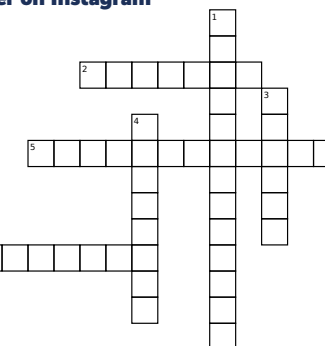
**DM a picture of your answers to @MVNUViewer on Instagram for a chance to win a prize!**

### Down:

1. Where you go to visit your best friend Zac Sherman
3. Where you go to sit in a giant circle during class
4. Where Art and Design students go to get their creative juices flowing

### Across:

2. Where freshman boys spend their first year at MVNU
5. Where you can get a bite to eat or head upstairs to class
6. Where you go to cheer on your Cougar sports teams



## Senior Spotlight with Bailey Conrad

By Nathan Sharpes

It’s a busy time of year for Mount Vernon Nazarene University as basketball season is in full swing! With just over a month of games left remaining for the Cougars, the men’s basketball team has seen a lot of production from new faces, one being Bailey Conrad, a senior transfer from The Citadel College.

Although this is his first year with the Cougars, Conrad is familiar with the basketball program as he was recruited out of high school by head coach Jared Ronai. One of the highlights of a small campus university is the family feel that it provides. Conrad feels like he knows all of his classmates better because of the smaller class sizes, which is something he did not experience at his previous school.

From a basketball perspective, Conrad mentioned the closeness of this year’s team and went on to say, “We all love each other, and it is the most together team I’ve ever been on.” Coach Ronai continues to build a fundamental program that focuses on competitive culture and Christ-centered growth. Conrad spoke on coach Ronai’s development and style of coaching, mentioning that he is much more involved than his previous coach. There is no question about coach Ronai’s values and how important it is for those values to be instilled in each of his players. “He [Jared] also makes sure we really focus on our team values and live through them the best that we can,” said Conrad.

Originally from Corydon, Indiana, Conrad spent his first three seasons at Citadel College. Transferring from one school to another, one can always expect change. When asked about what he likes about the MVNU community, Conrad mentioned the Christian community, “that really shows love to each other.”

Bailey plans to graduate from MVNU this spring with a degree in business management. He plans to enter the business world through all the connections that he has built at all the colleges he has been to.