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Ouachita News Bureau

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*By Claire Phillips* March 29, 2021 For more information, contact OBU's news bureau at <u>newsbureau@obu.edu</u> or (870) 245-5208

ARKADELPHIA, Ark. – Ouachita Baptist University's Elrod Center for Family and Community is gearing up to host Tiger Serve Day, a semi-annual community service blitz by members of the university community. This semester's event, which will take place Saturday, April 10, is "Hands of Hope."

"After a long year of isolation and discouragement for many of our residents of Arkadelphia, Ouachita is looking forward to being the 'hands of hope' for our community," said Judy Duvall, associate director of the Elrod Center.

To ensure the safety of participants as well as the community, the Tiger Serve Day Leadership Team and volunteers plan to continue following COVID-19 precautions such as masks and distancing. This Tiger Serve Day event also will highlight and honor the healthcare workers who have done so much for Arkadelphia over the past year.

"This year we are looking at service through the lens of hope," said lan Cosh, vice president for community and international relations. "We believe that activities of service are a way of showing our hope in finding new ways to serve and find joy in our service."

Projects for this Tiger Serve Day include litter pickup around the city, cleaning outside the homes of senior adults and assisting the needs of Arkadelphia public schools and nonprofit organizations, as well as placing "Thank You" signs at healthcare businesses and organizations.

The 2020-2021 Tiger Serve Day Leadership Team, the student-led event planning team for both the fall and spring Tiger Serve Day events, has been busy mapping service routes, contacting people interested in being served individually and meeting with local organizations.

"It ultimately means bringing a lot of joy back into our community after a long period of not being able to serve the way we used to," said Abigail Blankenship, a junior communications & media/strategic communications major from Little Rock, Ark., and a member of the Tiger Serve Day Leadership Team. "We have been praying over these projects and the teams going out. We are so excited for this Tiger Serve Day and are looking forward to the day!"

For more information on Tiger Serve Day, visit <u>obu.edu/serve</u> or call the Elrod Center at (870) 245-5320. Volunteers are encouraged to register by April 1.

PHOTO AVAILABLE FOR DOWNLOAD <u>https://obu.edu/stories/events/2021/03/ouachitas-tiger-serve-day-to-be-held-saturday-april-10.php</u>