New chapter at Ohio State to aid awareness of world hunger crisis
Hunger Project plans goals

By Lynnette Klessig
Lantern staff writer

Making the OSU community aware that hunger can end by the
year 2000 is one of the goals of the new OSU chapter of the
Hunger Project, said Tanya Smith, chapter vice president.

Smith, a graduate student in sociology from Columbus, said the
Hunger Project plans to reach its goals by generating conversation
between people making them more aware of the ways of ending
hunger.

Those attending the chapter’s first meeting, Friday, were asked
to make a personal commitment to the chapter’s project.

“Each person is a key to ending hunger,” said Debbi Winegarten, a
graduate student in sociology from Dallas.

Each member was also asked to voluntarily make a pledge
to communicate to all possible individuals that they are vital in ending
hunger throughout Columbus, the United States and the world.

“We are committed and ac-
countable for shifting the climate of awareness at the Ohio State
University into one in which hungry people have the opportu-
nity to bring their own hunger to an end,” reads part of the mem-
bers’ oral pledge.

According to a video presenta-
tion given during the meeting,
35,000 people die from hunger
every day. The majority of the
deaths are children under the age
of five.

More people have died from
hunger in the past three years
than the total number of people
who died in World Wars I and II.

One of the necessary factors in
treating an end to hunger is
making people aware of the dis-
tinction between famine and
chronic persistent hunger, Smith
said.

Famine is a local concept, which
occurs suddenly and people actu-
ally die of starvation, the video
said.

Chronic persistent hunger, how-
ever, is global. It often goes
unnoticed because people are not
starving to death, but are deter-
iorating from malnutrition.

Only 10 percent of the deaths
from hunger are a result of
famine, while 90 percent are a
result of chronic persistent hun-
ger.

According to the video, people
in areas with high rates of hunger
have twice as many children as
people in other areas to ensure
that at least a few will survive.
But the large number of children
in these areas only add to the
problem.

Eric Swank, a graduate student
in sociology from San Diego, said
no one deserves to be hungry.

He sees the OSU Hunger Pro-
ject as one way to get involved in
helping to stop hunger.

Swank plans to speak with
members of other organizations,
such as Students for Peace and
Justice, to get them involved in
the Project.

Craig Klein, the president of
the OSU Hunger Project and a fresh-
man from South Euclid, said he
would like to organize a benefit
concert for the Hunger Project
and the Friends of the Homeless
in Columbus to be held in April
or May at the Mirror Lake
Amphi
theatre.

Klein said he sees this as a way
of going at the problem from two
different angles.

He said some of the proceeds
raised by the concert would be
used by the Friends of the
Homeless to immediately help
keep the shelters open and to feed
hungry people.

The rest of the proceeds would
be used to educate by providing
funds for briefings, educational
projects and videos, Klein said.

While Ohio State is not the
first school to organize an individ-
ual chapter of the Hunger Pro-
ject, it is the first large university
to do so, Smith said.

Smith said one method they
hope to employ for communicating
their message is a half-time pres-
tation during the OSU vs.
Indiana football game on October
14.

This presentation will be fol-
lowed by a week-long program
called “Ending Hunger Week”
from October 15 to 22. This
program will have educational
programs and fund-raising events
to promote the Hunger Project.
Group aims goals at ending hunger

By Denise Cardam
Latern staff writer

The OSU Hunger Project has planned several activities to take place through August, which aim to inform OSU and Columbus area residents of the importance each individual plays in taking an active stand on the hunger issue.

The Hunger Project is an international organization with the hope of ending hunger by the end of the century. There are over six million people in 152 countries who are members of the project, and Ohio State became involved in the fall of 1989.

Craig Klein, a sophomore from South Euclid majoring in philosophy, Debbie Winogarten and Tanya Smith, both graduate students in sociology from Texas were the founding members of the student organization.

Klein said one of the main goals of the hunger project is to educate people on the distinction between famine and chronic persistent hunger.

"The solution to famine is food. The solution to chronic persistent hunger is opportunity, be it job-training programs or federally subsidised loans," Klein said.

James Grant, director of UNICEF, started a program called G.O.B.I., which encourages four global things to end chronic persistent hunger, Klein said. He said the acronym stands for:

* Growth monitoring. This encourages measuring children to be sure they are growing and developing properly.
* Oral rehydration. This is the consumption of packets containing sugar, salt and clean water. This stops diarrhea and helps the child absorb more nutrients.
* Breastfeeding. This is encouraged because the mother's milk has immunities to help fight disease and infection.
* Immunization programs.

Along with this educational program, one of the most effective ways of alleviating hunger in the Third World is to encourage banks to make short-term, low-interest loans available to the poorest of the poor. This helps people get cooperative businesses going and allows them to obtain the opportunity they need to end their own hunger," Klein said.

Things are moving along quickly for the OSU chapter of the Hunger Project and because of this, many activities have been scheduled to continue promoting awareness of the organization and its issues, Klein said.

The first event is scheduled for April 22 at the Park of Roses, where the Hunger Project will have an information booth set up for Earth Day. Klein said they will have information, registration forms and end will show their Ending Hunger video.

Winogarten said they will hold an auction May 26 to raise a projected $25,000, which will be equally distributed to these five areas:

* HACDO. This is the Hunger and Development Cohort of Central Ohio.
* Hunger Project.
* Friends of the Homeless. This is a local shelter in Columbus.
* There will be a content in which a Columbus group must design a project to end hunger and homelessness in Columbus. The prize money will go toward making the winners' project happen.

A scholarship fund will be set up in the name of Lisa O'Neill, who was a past member killed in a car accident last summer. This will go to an OSU student who is doing work in the areas of hunger and development.

Winogarten said the Tour de Y.E.H. (Youths Ending Hunger), which is a bike tour where 100 youths will ride from Washington, D.C. to Seattle, Wash., to raise money for hunger, and will stop in Columbus on June 10 to recognize the OSU Hunger Project's efforts last year.

"It's really an acknowledgment to us that these people feel they need to come through Columbus," Winogarten said.

She said the riders will be invited to an awards dinner scheduled for that night, where they will distribute the money raised at the auction.

Winogarten said the bikers will leave Columbus for Dayton on June 11 and anyone interested can participate in sending them off by riding part of the way with them.

The OSU chapter will hold the Africa Prize announcement in August for the second year, Winogarten said. She said this is in celebration of the $100,000 award given to a free leader who has done the most for the sustainable end of hunger. Last year 150 attended, she said.

Ganet Gabel, a sophomore from Dublin majoring in nutrition, said the OSU Hunger Project currently has 30-40 members, but the numbers are increasing rapidly.

She said much of this increase is due to the educational presentation the members give to organizations. It is a 45 minute presentation which concentrates on presenting the distinction between famine and chronic persistent hunger.

"We are also targeting school children. We want to start with the children so they can realize they don't have to grow up in a world where people are starving every day," Klein said.

Winogarten said there will be a management training seminar April 7 from 8p.m. to 7p.m. for anyone interested in making something happen to end hunger. Anyone interested can contact her at 268-5044.