Come Together Clarion?! What is that all about? Who is that for? It’s for you and it’s about all of us! This year we are celebrating five years of community with festivities on 6th Avenue in downtown Clarion.

Clarion County Collaboration
Come Together is about highlighting what is great about our county and the people who work so hard to make it all happen. Clarion is a great place, and has a lot of natural beauty. When you take some time and ask around, the responses you get will often tell you our people are some of our greatest attributes. Come Together Clarion gives us all a chance to gather and have some fun, play together, and honor the volunteers who work among us to make our communities strong and successful.

A Little Background
The event, sponsored by Clarion University and many partners, has grown into a happy tradition. Several years ago, some University students wanted to do something to recognize the great things about the larger community and the relationships they had established there while they were attending school. It was important to them to have the opportunity to publicly give back to the region that supported them while they were working so hard to build their futures. With a whole lot of planning, hard work, and support, their idea has blossomed into the celebration that we have today. In this newsletter, the various pieces and parts of our vision are outlined for you, and each of them offers a way for you or your organization to be involved in making this our most successful year yet.

Come Together offers things the whole family can enjoy, from a 5K to musical entertainment, inflatables to volunteer awards, a community wide collection drive, and other activities throughout the day. It truly is what we make it, and we hope you will join us and make it your own. If you have questions about the event or participating in it, email Tyler at able@clarion.edu.

Event Schedule
9:30  5K Registration begins
10   5K Race
11   Opening Ceremony
11:30 Inflatables open
12   Community activities begin
12:30 DRIVE begins
3:30  Closing Ceremonies & Awards

Come Together Clarion Partners include:
- Advisory Board for Leadership and Engagement
- Clarion Borough
- Clarion Chamber of Business & Industry
- Clarion University Parent & Family Services
- Dave’s Tilt Bed & Storage
- Farmers National Bank
- First United Methodist Church
- Sigma Phi Epsilon
- University Activities Board

Five Years of Celebration!
Tyler Kitzmiller and Megan Anderson

Visit our website – www.clarion.edu/cometogether
Neighborhood Star Awards
Emily Romig & Marishika Wright

Are you or is someone you know a Neighborhood Star? Neighborhood Stars go above and beyond, working to make life better for citizens and friends in Clarion County. People in your neighborhood may be doing star worthy things right now! This year, we will have awards in the following categories:

- Animal rights & welfare
- Economic issues & opportunity
- Education & child welfare
- Environment & agriculture
- Disaster relief & planning
- Health & wellness
- Human rights & social issues
- Senior care
- Veterans & military support

Clarion County residents may nominate each other or themselves for these awards by filling out applications online at http://www.clarion.edu/cometogether. Applications are due by April 10th. Nominations are welcome from all around Clarion County. Awards will be granted in three groups: K-12, adult, and school or community groups.

All nominees will be notified and invited to attend the closing ceremonies at 3:30 pm on the day of the event.

For more information, please email Emily at able@clarion.edu.

Neighborhood Stars
"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has." - Margaret Mead

Performances & Entertainment
Emily Romig & Marishika Wright

Part of what makes the day so grand, is watching our community members do what they do best: shine! In years past, we have had performances by local dance studios, high school and college dance and choir groups, and other musical vocal and dance performers. Now, we want you to be a part of the fun!

We are looking for local chorus, show choir, and band directors, or Clarion community performers: Please consider joining this year’s Come Together festivities. We are inviting musical acts and other performers to come and perform on April 25, at our small “stage” on Main Street! For small acts of one or two people, we have a small stage that goes across the crosswalk area at 6th & Main. For larger groups, church choirs or cheerleading squads for instance, we have the street area on 6th Avenue in front of the stage to allow for more movement.

Time slots will be broken up into 10-15 minute intervals. If you or someone you know would be interested in performing and want more information, please email Emily, at able@clarion.edu.
COME TOGETHER | Spring 2015

DRIVE
Jessica Wolbert & Kate Minich

Another way Come Together creates partnerships is with our collection drive.

DRIVE is a large-scale collection effort to gather items from community members for community organizations throughout Clarion County. In the past we have had organizations collecting items and donations such as:

- children’s clothes
- eye glasses
- pet food and supplies
- socks for soldiers
- books

As a part of DRIVE, we will be hosting Together We CAN, a food and personal care item collection effort to benefit county-wide pantries. It is our hope to increase the stock of the pantries before our local K-12 schools let out for the summer and parents go back to providing their families three meals a day.

DRIVE will be set up in the Farmer’s National Bank parking lot on 6th Avenue in Clarion. Donations will be made in a “drive thru” format, and cars can continue on to the alley after they drop off their items.

If your organization regularly collects something, or is interested in hosting a collection drive that day, you will need to make arrangements with our team to have a volunteer team on site, and people to pick up/pack your items by 5 pm.

If you are interested please contact Jess at able@clarion.edu or visit www.clarion.edu/cometogther and fill out the DRIVE request form. Once your form has been submitted, a Come Together Clarion representative will be in contact with you to verify the information.

Games & Activities
Kristi Kraft & Devon Vallies

Come Together really is about bringing together people of all ages and interests. We do have a lot of children and families, and entertaining them for the day is one of our major goals.

We will sponsor several inflatable activities for children of all ages. If you have extra people working at your booth or table, you can take turns and enjoy them, too. This year, we will more than likely have 3 or 4 inflatables, and a photo booth to commemorate our festivities. These activities will be down the middle of 6th Avenue, and the games and activities hosted by our student and community groups will be along the side of the street and in the First United Methodist Church parking lot.

Currently, we are looking for local businesses, churches, community groups and registered student organizations to participate in organizing an activity or game for attendants at Come Together Clarion. Activities may be geared towards any age group, and can include games, crafts, and other entertainment you might see at a street fair. Our only restrictions are you can’t sell anything, you can’t serve food, and everything must be family appropriate.

Creativity and community pride are always encouraged on this service-oriented day. Past activities have included lawn games such as toss across and bean bag toss. We have had face painting, guess the marbles, mask making and balloon animals. Tables and chairs will be provided by the Come Together Clarion committee, all other materials, supplies, and/or prizes must be supplied by the participating organizations. For more information on hosting an activity, email Kristi at able@clarion.edu.

5K for 5 Causes
Seth Updegraff

Are you a runner? Do you take life at more of a leisurely pace? The brothers of Sigma Phi Epsilon have partnered with Come Together to offer a 5K Walk/Run to start the day in a healthy way, and support five different non-profit organizations at the same time.

Participants can register in advance, and the race is open to anyone who wants to participate. The race will be officially timed by Runners High out of Grove City, PA.

There will be a registration fee, and all relevant information will be posted on the Come Together website. You may also visit the Sigma Phi Epsilon website at sigepatclarion.weebly.com.

For an early scoop, or to see how you can get involved, email Seth at s.r.updegraff@eagle.clarion.edu.
Community Quilt & Art Contest
Brendan Shepherd & Megan Rothermel

Attention local high school art students... We want you! What for, you ask? We want you to draw designs for next year's Come Together Clarion quilt. The theme for the quilt is local high school mascots, so draw a picture of your mascot, and it could be a part of the 2016 quilt. The pictures for the quilt will also be used in a coloring contest for children. There will be a booth at the event where children can color pages and enter to win a basket full of prizes.

The community quilt is definitely one of our points of pride. Over the years we have been able to take an idea and watch it grow into a beautiful artifact. The community quilt takes the threads of our lives and puts them together into a gorgeous centerpiece that is raffled off at the event for a lucky community member to enjoy forever.

The quilt process is fascinating. Local artists submit pictures to our art committee, and we transfer them onto fabric squares that can be colored by any children, families, and residents of Clarion County. This enables EVERYONE to participate in the quilt making process. Even if they "can't draw", everyone can color! After the drawings are transferred and colored, the quilt pieces are sewn together by local quilters. Darlene Hartle, Sharon Borovick, and Shari Wiser have led the charge on Coming Together in this department.

The quilt that is completed and will be raffled off this year will be touring the County until the event. The theme of the quilt is "the Spirit of Volunteerism", and raffle tickets are $2 each or three for $5.

If you would like to host the quilt, need tickets, or submit drawings, email Brendan at able@clarion.edu.