

October 2011

Athens paints the town for Homecoming 2011

The eighth-annual Paint the Town Green food drive, sponsored by the Ohio University Student Alumni Board, gave local businesses an opportunity to show their support for OHIO while also giving back to the community.

Throughout Homecoming Week 2011, businesses up and down Court Street collected donations for the Athens Food Pantry and created OHIO-themed displays for their store windows.

Passion Works, a local art studio whose entire staff is OHIO alumni, has participated in the food drive for several years running and was this year's winner for Best Window Decoration!

"We see it as a good way to get involved in the community," Kasey Winterbotham, a '07 graduate of Ohio University and Passion Works staff member, said.

Beyond collecting donations, Winterbotham said participating in the event was a great way to thank the university.

"We get a lot of volunteer support from the university," she said.

Similarly, College Book Store Associate General Manager Andrew Stout, who attended OHIO, said the store's staff was anxious to give back to the university and the community in any way they could.

"We like to say we're all about Ohio, because we are," Stout said.

Luckily for College Book Store, their central location gives them an easy way to get involved.

"We've got a unique opportunity to help out organizations through the contact we make with students and alumni," he said. "Whatever our message is, thousands of people will see it."

Other Athens businesses, like Attractions Hair and Tanning Salon, said the food drive was a great way to show school spirit and support the football team.

"Ever since the salon's been here they've always supported the team," Christy Cunningham, a manager at the salon, said.

This year, Save-A-Lot on East State Street collected the most food donations, with 465 cans going to the Athens Food Pantry.

For more Homecoming 2011 news, visit www.ohioalumni.org/homecoming.