

Constitution of Crosswalk Outreach to the Homeless

Article 1: Name, Purpose, and Discrimination Policy

Section 1: The name of this organization shall be “Crosswalk Outreach to the Homeless,” herein referred to as “Crosswalk Outreach” or “the organization.”

Section 2: The mission of this organization is to give friendship, aid, and camaraderie to our brothers and sisters living on the streets of Columbus. Crosswalk Outreach aims to facilitate dialogue between students and the broader community and prepare students to work for social justice.

Section 3: The organization is organized exclusively for charitable, religious, educational, and scientific purposes under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding Section of any future federal tax code.

Section 4: No part of the net earnings of the organization shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to its members, trustees, officers, or other private persons, except that the organization shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in Article 1, Section 3 hereof. No substantial part of the activities of the organization shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the corporation shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate for public office. Notwithstanding any other provision of these articles, the organization shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by an organization exempt from federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or (b) by an organization, contributions to which are deductible under section 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

Section 5: This organization and its members shall not discriminate against any individual(s) on the basis of age, ancestry, color, disability, gender identity or expression, genetic information, HIV/AIDS status, military status, national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or protected veteran status.

Article 2: Membership

Section 1: Any student currently enrolled at The Ohio State University is eligible for membership. Students are eligible to become associate members and active members as described below in Article 2, Section 5.

Section 2: Non-students are welcome to be members, but MAY NOT vote or hold office, except the Advisor position. Faculty, alumni, professionals, and other non-students are

eligible to become associate members, but not active members, as described below in Article 2, Section 5.

Section 3: Member responsibilities include participation in the weekly preparation and/or delivery of meals, fundraising or awareness events, and participation in other organization activities.

Section 4: There will be no monetary dues required to become a member or maintain membership status in the organization.

Section 5: One may become an associate member by attending any one Crosswalk Outreach meeting, also known as an “outing,” during an academic semester. Associate members MAY NOT vote or run for officer positions, except if elsewhere explicitly permitted in this constitution. Only current students at The Ohio State University are eligible to become active members. A student may become an active member by attending three or more meetings during an academic semester. Active members may vote and run for officer and executive board positions, as permitted and described elsewhere in this constitution.

Section 6: Students with active membership status from the immediately preceding academic semester will be able to vote in the current semester. If a student does not retain his or her membership status by attending and participating at the current semester meeting(s) as described above in Article 2, Section 5, he or she WILL NOT be permitted to vote in the following semester.

Article 3: Organization Leadership

Section 1: A President or two co-Presidents, a Secretary, a Treasurer, one or two social chairs, and two or three head chefs shall govern Crosswalk Outreach. These leaders will herein be referred to as “the executive board,” “eboard,” or “officers.” The executive board members must be current Ohio State University students.

Section 2: The executive board may create new officer positions or reduce the number of officer positions to fit the needs of the organization, by a 2/3 majority vote of the current officers. A change to the number of officer positions as just described will not roll over into any following academic year. If officer positions are modified from those described in Article 3, Section 1, the change must be confirmed by a 2/3 majority vote of the executive board during each new academic year.

Section 3: The executive board described above will be elected by the previous executive board on an annual basis in the summer or fall prior to the start of the new academic year.

Section 4: There shall be no term limits for any elected position. Any student elected to an officer position must remain enrolled as a student at The Ohio State University to remain an officer of the group.

Section 5: The duties of the executive board officers will consist of planning delivery routes, budgeting and planning expenses, ensuring proper sanitation methods while cooking, recruiting and engaging with volunteers and student members, and improving the organization with creative new ideas. The President(s) will delegate specific responsibilities and working tasks for the officers. The secretary will keep records of attending members and other necessary records. The treasurer will keep a budget, expense sheet, receipt records, and ensure the financial compliance and stability of the organization.

Section 6: In accordance with the rules of The Ohio State University Office of Student Affairs, all officers must be enrolled for at least three quarters or semester equivalent within the current academic year, meet minimum GPA requirements as determined by the Office of Student Affairs, and not be on academic or disciplinary probation or suspension.

Article 4: Conduct

Section 1: All members are to conduct themselves in accordance with the mission of Crosswalk Outreach as stated in Article 1, Section 2. All members will treat those they meet on the streets of Columbus and elsewhere when conducting organization duties with dignity and respect.

Section 2: If a member is in violation of the behavior and values described in Article 4, Section 1, then a 2/3 majority vote by the executive board may be conducted to remove him/her from the organization. If an executive board officer is in violation of the above behavior or values, or is not performing his or her duties to the best of his or her abilities as described in Article 3, Section 4, he or she may be removed from the executive board and relieved of the officer position by a 2/3 majority vote of the full current executive board.

Article 5: Advisor(s)

Section 1: There shall be at least one faculty or staff advisor to the organization. An advisor must be a member of The Ohio State University faculty or Administrative and Professional staff. A Co-Advisor may be appointed if necessary, by a simple majority vote of the officers.

Section 2: The advisor shall be determined Fall Semester of each year and approved of by the officers in a simple majority vote.

Section 3: The advisor will be responsible for meeting any requirements put forth by The Ohio State University Center for Student Leadership and Service, such as club goal approval and completing advisor training, as well as any other reasonable and appropriate tasks to ensure the organization's success.

Article 6: Meetings

Section 1: General Body meetings will happen on a nearly weekly basis, in which all members and officers should make an effort to attend.

Section 2: Meetings can also be called at the discretion of the President(s) after consultation with the executive board, provided there is 2 days notice by an appropriate channel, such that a vast majority of members and officers may be notified.

Section 3: Meetings will include announcements, followed by questions, comments, or concerns of officers and the members. The general body shall put together meals for the homeless and those in need, and groups of members willing to go out shall be formed to deliver them. Meetings may also consist of other activities to further the organization's mission (preparing/organizing supplies, awareness activities, etc.).

Article 7: Amending the Constitution

Section 1: The constitution may be amended by a 2/3 majority vote of all active members and executive board officers.

Section 2: Advance notice of an amendment proposal and voting must be made available by an appropriate channel, such that all those eligible to vote may be sufficiently notified with at least one-week advanced notice.

Article 8: Method of Dissolution

Section 1: Upon the dissolution of the organization, assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or shall be distributed to the federal government, or to a state or local government, for a public purpose. Any such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by a Court of Competent Jurisdiction of the county in which the principal office of the corporation is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations, as said Court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.

Section 2: In the event that Crosswalk Outreach to the Homeless ceases to be an active organization at The Ohio State University, all remaining operating and programming funds will be returned to The Ohio State University.

Section 3: In the event that Crosswalk Outreach is dissolved, all remaining funds and assets raised by the organization will be given to Star House Columbus, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that serves to provide resources for local homeless youth.