

Miami's Project Civility branches out to schools, community

Segi Adeseha, a Fairfield resident and a junior at Miami University Hamilton and Oxford, received a proclamation from Hamilton City Council declaring this week Hamilton Character Week. Mayor Pat Moeller and Council Member Kathleen Klink have worked with Adeseha and Miami University's Project Civility to promote civility in the city. MIKE RUTLEDGE/STAFF

By Mike Rutledge
Staff Writer

HAMILTON — It's Character Week in Hamilton through Sunday, under a city council proclamation that honored a Miami University organization that promotes civility in Butler County.

Accepting the proclamation was Segi Adeseha, 20, of Fairfield, a junior kinesiology major who plans a career in occupational therapy. She's co-director of Miami University's Project Civility, which began in 2011 at Miami University Hamilton, and since has spread to Miami's Middletown and Oxford campuses.

"Project Civility is an organization to promote civility, as the name says," Adeseha said.

"Also, we're here to foster a climate where respect and understanding is equally important to the learning and education that takes place at Miami University."

The effort also is branching out to local public and parochial schools, and soon will offer presentations for high-school student governments. The effort recently sparked Linden Elementary students to collect 1,400 cans and boxes of food for the less fortunate.

Project Civility members pass out wooden nickels to people "when we see them do an act of kindness," Adeseha said. "A lot of times, actually, it makes people's day, and they are thankful that somebody notices what they do."

The organization earlier this decade prompted Mayor Pat Moeller to create Hamilton's City of Character Committee, which explores ways that Hamilton can become more of a city of character. Serving on that organization are various churches, civic clubs, Hamilton City Schools and Badin High School, and chambers of commerce.

As part of Character Week, Sunday has been named Compassion Sunday, with local churches encouraged to address the issues of character and compassion in their sermons, Moeller said.

The organization on Saturday will host an 11 a.m. event at Miami University Hamilton's building at 221 High St. called "Building a Community on Compassion and Civility." The group will offer a presentation about its efforts, and how others can join the campaign and create new chapters. The program, which will include refreshments, will last less than an hour, according to organizers.