

February
2009



NEIGHBORHOOD MINISTRIES:

Putting Jesus First and Changing Lives!

The Good News

Newsletter



Profoundly Simple Ministry

By Mark Samuel, Executive Director

I am constantly amazed at how simple, and yet how profound, God's call is for us in reaching out to others. The biggest organizations in the world have complex policies and procedures in place to ensure that everything received gets to where it is supposed to go. Neighborhood Ministries also has policies and procedures in place to ensure that every donation, whether monetary, food, clothing,

whatever, goes to the people that really need it. You would think that God, infinitely larger and

“Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.” Matthew 25:40

wiser than the biggest organization we have, would have some mammoth plan for addressing human needs. Yet, his wisdom in caring for others is summed up simply: If someone is hungry, feed them. If they are thirsty, give them something to drink. If they need clothes, clothe them. If they are sick, look after them. If they are in prison, visit them.

I don't believe there is a person in the United States who is not impacted by our current economic condition. More and more of my friends are finding themselves out of work. I came from a meeting recently with a bank executive who said that the bank had to terminate some employees that day. He told me that people were in tears because their jobs had been eliminated.

We are no longer working only with people who have lived in poverty for many years. Some are recently unemployed and don't know where else to turn. Some are facing foreclosure and aren't sure where they are going to live.

There are days when I feel overwhelmed with the responsibility of caring for so many people. What provides me comfort is the reminder that we are not called to save the world. That is God's job. We are not called to end poverty. Jesus said the poor would always be with us. We are called simply to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, minister to the sick and visit the imprisoned.

This type of ministry happens by meeting people where they are and helping to address needs one person at a time. We have

been very busy the past few months evaluating how we can meet the ever increasing needs we see. We are partnering with churches to provide more afterschool programs for children, to increase the flow of food and clothes to those that desperately need them, and to share the love of Christ profoundly, yet simply.

These simple acts can mean the difference between a child being fed and a child going hungry. They can mean that a child goes to school instead of staying home because they have no school clothes. They can mean the difference between hope and hopelessness.

As we serve ever increasing needs, we struggle to meet our financial responsibilities and are confronted with some difficult choices. Needs are increasing and our support has been declining. Please keep our needs in your prayers and help us help others in any way that you can.

Afterschool Program Going Strong

By Kim Travis, RV Program Director



We started our afterschool program this year. The children from our Kirwan Center are being transported to our Rockford Village center so that we can have group together. Mondays and Tuesdays are for Kindergarten-6th grade. Wednesdays are for everyone K-12th grade. On Mondays and Wednesdays the children come down for homework time/Educational experience, crafts, baking, computers, and structured games. Tuesdays are our trip days and "free play" days. That means that they can do their homework and play games, draw, color, etc. Every day we have Bible devotional time and a meal. We developed a new system for taking attendance and for rewards and incentives. When the children arrive, one of our teen volunteers signs the children in and gives the child his/her name tag that is worn at all times. On the name tag is a line for each of the 3 days of the week that we have group, and circles for each staff member to mark their behavior. At the end of the week the children receive prizes based on attendance and behavior. On Wednesdays Mr. Mac From YUMADOP (Youngstown Urban Minority Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Outreach Program) meets with the youth 10 years and up and then Mr. Rick, a retired school teacher, has a robotics program with the youth that are in 7th grade and up.

Each week we have chosen a different theme. The first and last week of this month the theme is Black History. We baked Homemade Biscuits this week and they were a huge hit! Especially when Ms. Patricia brought out the jelly and Mr. Gerald brought out the syrup!!! We also had a craft on significant African American People, word searches and time for poetry about Black Leaders. Our devotions centered on important African Americans and how they drew strength from God and The Bible.

How You Can Help!!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: We are currently looking for volunteers to help with homework and other educational activities, crafts, baking, structured games and registration/attendance. You can come one time, one day, one month, whatever fits your schedule. We would love to have you join our team!

THE PERFECT CHURCH GROUP PROJECT: To support our afterschool incentive program we need donations of small prizes \$1-2 toys, Little Debbie Snacks, small bags of chips etc. (they seem to like Doritos, Cheetos, and Hot stuff the best!), small bags of cookies, crackers etc, small drinks, like hugs or juice boxes. We also need baking supplies: Sugar, flour, powdered sugar, mixes (muffins, cookies, cakes), cooking oil and spray, shortening, and icing. If postage is an issue we can accept Visa gift cards and then purchase the items that we need at Save-a-Lot or another discount store.



52 bowlers and many friends came out to bowl and cheer for our first annual SnoBowl.

Bowlers raised over \$1,700 in pledges, which will support our afterschool programming. Thank you to all our bowlers and sponsors. Special Thanks to our Event Sponsors:

Ray and Tammy King
First Baptist Church (Girard)
West Side Baptist Church
(Youngstown)



More pictures are online at
www.ohionm.org

It's Not About Me

By Gerald Hamilton, Special Projects Coordinator



This summer Christian Centers around the United States will be holding their first ever National Youth Leadership Conference at Franklin College in Franklin, Indiana.

"It's Not About Me" 2009 will offer youth served by Neighborhood Action Programs (NAP) of American Baptist Churches the opportunity to be a

part of a great week of leadership training that will focus on their relationship with God, each other and their community. This conference will allow youth ages 13-16 the opportunity to be mentored by ABC-USA youth who have demonstrated a strong walk with Christ in their home, their church and their community. These youth put their training and leadership skills on display while working as peer leaders last summer at the National Youth Gathering in Estes Park, Colorado.

While attending "More Than A Week" in Estes Park I encountered many great youth leaders who had a vast array of interest and talents, but who all wanted to share their love for Jesus Christ with other youth. Over the next week of this conference I watched youth, minister to each other, pray for one another

and create bonds that I think may last a lifetime. As the conference closed and the kids said their tearful good-byes and talked about going home and making a difference in their communities, I thought about our kids at Neighborhood Ministries and the other NAP centers across the country. I thought to myself, "What makes these kids any different from the kids we serve at our centers?" I could only come up with one answer...opportunity!!

While working to put this conference together with other Program Directors from around the country, we wanted to put programs in place that would help equip the youth with leadership skills that could be used in any situation. We also wanted the youth to understand that leadership is more than talk, so we included a service project that will allow the youth to give back to the community. I am a strong believer that, when given the opportunity and training, our youth can and will be great leaders in their community, school, and church. As God shines his light upon this conference and fills the hearts and minds of the youth with His love, they will understand that "It's Not All About Me"!

We Need Your Help Feeding the Hungry

For the past 10 years, Alan Shawn Feinstein has been giving away \$1 million each year to anti-hunger agencies throughout the country. He writes:

"WHATEVER YOU DONATE TO THIS AGENCY, I WILL ADD MONEY TO IT. THE MORE YOU GIVE, THE MORE OF MY \$1 MILLION THEY'LL GET—THANKS TO YOU! **Please give whatever you can - I will gladly add some of my money to yours.** (My \$1 million will be divided in full proportionately among the agencies receiving donations toward my offer.) Thank you for sharing my heart, and the hope that—someday—no one will ever go hungry."

With our buying privileges we can feed a family of four for one week for less than \$10. Still, the number of families we serve each month means we need to raise thousands of dollars each year just for food. If we receive a donation of cash or food between March 1st and April 30th, the Feinstein Foundation will add a portion of the \$1 million dollars to it.

Would you please consider a donation of food or funds to feed the hungry?



The Good News Newsletter is a monthly publication of Neighborhood Ministries. To contact us for tours, speaking engagements or other special needs, please write or call the following:

Kirwan Homes

75 Jackson Street
Campbell, OH 44405
(330) 755-8696
Fax (330) 755-8699

Rockford Village

1402 B Dogwood Drive
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Fax (330) 744-1456

Fairview Center

4220 Youngstown Poland Rd
Youngstown, OH 44514
(330) 755-6412

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Just a Reminder...

The Youngstown Foundation will provide a 5% match for any gift of \$100.00 or more given to Neighborhood Ministries. Donations can be made out to The Youngstown Foundation with a note earmarking the gift to Neighborhood Ministries. Donations can be sent to:

**The Youngstown Foundation
PO Box 1162
Youngstown, OH 44501**

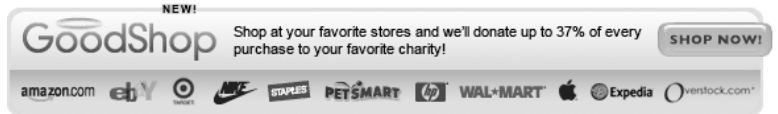
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this extra giving opportunity.**

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To sign up, visit www.goodsearch.com. Select Neighborhood Ministries (Campbell, OH), as the non-profit organization you wish to support, and then do what you do already. Each year Goodsearch will send us a check based on the number of searches and the amount of shopping done.

Please remember your church and Neighborhood Ministries in your will.

Affiliated with the American Baptist Churches, the American Baptist Churches of Ohio, The Trumbull Baptist Association and the Youngstown/Mahoning Valley United Way.



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