

January  
2010



NEIGHBORHOOD MINISTRIES:

Putting Jesus First and Changing Lives!

# The Good News

## Newsletter

### Starting the Year Right

By Mark Samuel, Executive Director



Welcome to 2010! I realize that we are already several weeks into the year, but the year is still new, with so many possibilities and opportunities. We were blessed to receive enough

in donations to finish 2009 without a deficit. With that said, our challenge is that we do not have enough money in reserves to carry us through March, when we typically receive several foundation grants. That means we remain dependent on the Lord to work through many churches and individuals to cover our expenses. And we remain dependent on the Lord to provide the vision for what we will do in 2010. **What a great way to start the year, dependent on the Lord!**

As we start 2010 we will see an increase in the number of families we are serving at our Kirwan Homes Community Center. For the past 7-8 years we have seen a drastic reduction in the number of children and families living in the community around the center. To meet new families and establish relationships, we are having Community Night's every other Thursday with activities for both children and adults. Our Clothing Bank will be open as well. In February we will be offering free tax preparation services for the city of Campbell. We are specifically targeting the Hispanic community in Campbell and have been blessed by the dedication of many

volunteers willing to be trained to help others.

What is especially exciting to me is that some of our volunteers are individuals we have been able to help in the past. They are dedicated Christians coming back as volunteers to help others as they were helped. And the help is significant. One of the new Hispanic volunteers could not get a job without background and drug screenings. We were able to provide a much-needed loan to help her get the job, which she did. She has since repaid the loan and regularly helps out at our Rockford Village Center. She has also arranged for her church to come out and do outreach events once a month on Saturdays.

In addition to what is happening at our Kirwan Center, we are running after-school programs at our Rockford Village and West Side Community Centers, providing emergency food at three sites, operating two Clothing Banks, and caring for hundreds of families every month through food distributions, emergency help and so much more. We are able to do this, not through the strength and resources of our staff and volunteers, as important as that is. We are able to do what we do because we are dependent on the Lord to provide both the vision and the resources.

We appreciate your prayerful consideration in partnering with us by supporting us as the Lord leads.

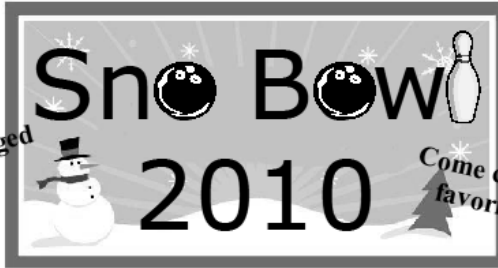
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**You can now make credit card donations online at [www.ohionm.org](http://www.ohionm.org).**

**Come join the fun!**



Non-bowlers  
are encouraged  
to attend!



Come cheer on your  
favorite bowler!

**When: Sunday, February 21st, 4:00pm—7:00pm**  
**(Registration will begin at 3:30pm)**

**Where: Kay Lanes in Girard (841 South State Street)**

We are asking each bowler to collect sponsorships to support Neighborhood Ministries' after-school programs. While we encourage bowlers to collect as many sponsorships as possible, \$10.00 in sponsorships is all you need to bowl for free!

- Individuals and teams (5 to a team) are welcome. Bowlers will be matched with teams if they do not have one.
- Each bowler will bowl two games, one regular game and one fun bowl. Shoes are provided for each bowler.
- Mystery prizes will be awarded for a variety of categories, including most money raised, best score, worst score, etc.
- Food will be available for a donation during the Sno Bowl, thanks to our GEMS auxiliary, with proceeds benefiting Neighborhood Ministries.
- For more information and forms call (330) 755-8696 or email us at [ohionm@aol.com](mailto:ohionm@aol.com).

## The Date Has Changed!

Please note that the date has changed for our annual Sno Bowl. If you received information previously, please update your records and plan to join us on February 21st for a great evening of fellowship while raising funds for our after-school programs. You can download forms from our website at [www.ohionm.org](http://www.ohionm.org).



We continue to collect Campbell Soup Labels. For more information on what we are collecting, visit us on the web at [www.ohionm.org](http://www.ohionm.org)

## Celebrating Christmas

What a great December we had. We provided Christmas baskets for 95 families, thanks to White Cross donations from all over the United States. We had a family Christmas dinner at our Campbell location and had more children there than we have had in a long time. More than 50 children and their parents went caroling through the neighborhood and then went back to the center for dinner, gifts from our GEMS volunteers, and the telling of the Christmas story. Our Rockford Village family celebration included Top Hat Productions vocalist Julie Palumbo. Our West Side children held a "trashy" fashion show. To everyone who helped with these events, Thank You! Relationships are made and lives are changed because we are all working together to share the love of Jesus Christ.



Just a reminder: We have a new mailing address.

Neighborhood Ministries, PO Box 640, Campbell, OH 44405

## Hard Work Pays Off

By Tamika Williams, Program Assistant



One of the goals we are working on in our groups is to have the children reach their appropriate reading level. One problem we faced was not knowing how to find out each child's reading level. We had no program or procedure in place to assess this. It took

some time and research, but we were able to purchase a reading software program that shows the expected reading level and their true reading level. The true reading level score shows the child's ability to comprehend sentences and paragraphs. It also shows how much above or below grade level a student is reading based on how they scored on the reading test. After the test is given, a list of vocabulary words is provided. These are words they should know in order to maintain the level they are at or advance to the next level.

They say that a little goes a long way. I really believe that is true. It may not seem like the little things matter much at a particular moment, but in the end, it all adds up. For example, there is this one girl in my group who is in kindergarten. She only knew about 10 letters of the alphabet when she first started coming to the center in October. She did not know what sound each letter made. After working with her with flash cards and using the reading program, she made significant progress. She not only knows most of the letters of the alphabet, but associates a picture to the sound the letter makes (i.e. "H" for hat, etc.) I was so glad to know that our hard work is paying off, even if it means taking things little by little. It all adds up in the end. I say this to tell you that what you do for Neighborhood Ministries does makes a difference, no matter how little it may seem to you.

**"To the world, you may be one person, but to one person you may be the world."**

Our Good News Choir is made up of children from our after-school program on the east side of Youngstown. In addition to singing for the homeless for Thanksgiving, they also traveled to our Kirwan Community Center to be a part of their Christmas caroling. The Good News Choir is directed by one of our teens, LereSean Jackson.



### GEMS Fund Raiser

Our GEMS volunteers are raising money for a variety of ministry projects and they are asking for your help. They are selling magnets which can be placed on your car or refrigerator. The lettering and border are blue and the "t" in trust is maroon. They wanted to let people know that we put our trust in God.



The magnets are \$5.00 each (a little more if we need to mail them). To show where your faith lies and to support this outreach, please contact your GEMS representative or call us at (330) 755-8696.

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:

**Business Office** (330) 755-8696  
 PO Box 640 Fax (330) 755-8699  
 Campbell, OH 44405 mark\_samuel@ohionm.org

**Ministry Sites**

Kirwan Homes 75 Jackson Street Campbell, OH 44405	Rockford Village 1402b Dogwood Lane Youngstown, OH 44505
West Side 304 Matta Avenue Youngstown, OH 44515	Fairview Arts and Outreach 4220 Youngstown-Poland Road Youngstown, OH 44514

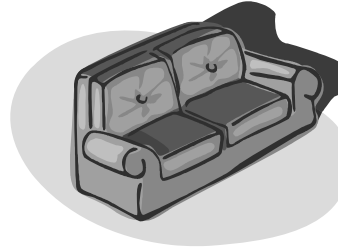
Website: www.ohionm.org

**Can You Help Us Care For Others?**

We have clothing banks in two of our community centers and we need your help.



We are currently seeking donations of the following:



Clean, gently used clothing  
 Furniture  
 Household Items

Volunteers are also needed to sort clothing and prepare for distribution.

**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**

**Thank you for considering  
 this extra giving opportunity.**

Donations can be dropped off on Wednesdays between 9:00am – 5:00pm at the Kirwan Homes Community Center, 75 Jackson Street in Campbell, Ohio. To schedule a drop off time for our West Side center, please give us a call.



For more information about donations or volunteering, please call (330) 755-8696.

Thank you for your help and support!

*Please remember your church and Neighborhood Ministries in your will.*



Mahoning Valley United Way.

tion and the Youngstown/  
 The Trumbull Baptist Associa-  
 Baptist Churches of Ohio,  
 Baptist Churches, the American



**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

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