

November  
2008



Thanksgiving



# The Good News

## Newsletter

NEIGHBORHOOD MINISTRIES:

Putting Jesus First and Changing Lives!

### We Need Your Help!

By Mark Samuel, Executive Director



As I write this, it is 4:30am. I have gone downstairs so as not to awaken my wife while I toss and turn. The truth is, I have come to an impasse and I know it. As I look back I have done just

about everything I can to avoid this moment. I have asked staff to cut back on spending as much as they are able. I have asked them to take on additional responsibilities instead of hiring more people to meet the growing needs we are facing. My family has cut back on spending to account for cash flow concerns. In each newsletter we share with you the value of what we are doing. We let you know how important we are to so many people. We show you the dedication and compassion we have as we serve others. And now I come to the moment I have tried to avoid. I am pleading for your help.

If it were up to me, I would rather not ask for help. It is not because I am a typical guy, although I do have some difficulty stopping to ask for directions. It is because I do not want anyone to feel pressured. I know many churches are struggling as we are and I am uncomfortable asking for help from those who also are facing financial challenges. But, as I said earlier, I am at an impasse.

The impasse came as a result of two things that happened yesterday afternoon. Though not the first time for either

one, this time it had an impact because they occurred on the same day. First, we did not have enough money in our checking account to pay staff. Though the money will arrive eventually and staff will be paid this time, my concern is that, if we do not have a sizeable amount of money in reserves by the end of the year, we will not have enough to carry us from January through May, when giving is traditionally low. We are already operating a bare-bones budget. There is nowhere else we can cut.

Secondly, we received a phone call yesterday afternoon from a woman asking for food. I asked if she could wait until the next day when our office manager was in to take care of her. She said she did not have enough food for her family dinner that night. We were able to scrape together a dinner for her family. We are getting more and more calls for help every day and I don't believe they will decrease any time soon.

In order for us to start 2009 without making staff or program cuts, we need to raise an additional \$50,000 by the end of the year. I need your help to carry the burden for those who depend on us for even the simplest of needs. Many people depend on us, not because they are lazy, but because they are stuck and do not know where else to turn. Your donation today will provide assistance so that a family does not have to turn to illegal or immoral ways to take care of their needs. Your donation today will help us to con-

*(Continued on page 2)*

(Continued from page 1)

tinue providing opportunities for children from good families to get the educational support they need to succeed in school. Your donation today will enable us to continue providing transportation for children with medical appointments, job training for teens, and meals for children living in low income neighborhoods. Above all, your gift today will enable us to continue bringing the gospel message to children, some who will never set foot in a church. For them, Neighborhood Ministries is their church.

Since 1913 the Lord has been providing for our needs. I know that He will provide for our needs now and I ask that you pray with me, asking for His leading and provision during this time. I also ask for your prayerful consideration of support.

**Your partnership makes a difference!**

**Thank you to the Youngstown/Mahoning Valley United Way.** Their support of our family assistance program, after-school program and teen job training program makes great things possible for our children and families. Giving from the United Way comes through both grants and designations from individuals.

## Thank you to our Foundation Partners

One of the blessings we have is the partnership we enjoy with local foundations. As result of our relationships with local foundations, we have found not cold institutions that simply give away money, but real people committed to making a difference in the communities we serve.

This past year we have been blessed by grants from:

Albin P. and Jean L. Dearing Fund  
of the Community Foundation  
Community Foundation of the Mahoning Valley  
Feinstein Foundation  
Hine Memorial Fund  
Home Savings and Loan  
Lipscher Charitable Fund  
Raymond John Wean Foundation  
Ruth H. Beecher Foundation  
Walter E & Caroline H Watson Foundation  
Warren P. Williamson Fund  
Youngstown Foundation

**Thank you for you continued support  
in so many ways!**



▲ Our children love to get out and swim. Thanks to a grant from United Way, we are able to take our children to the YMCA every week for swimming. Many children have told us that they learned how to swim from our trips to the YMCA.

▼ Staff member Gerald Hamilton shared some lighter moments with some boys from our Rockford Village center, playing a game of monopoly with them. In the communities we serve, our centers are safe places where children can go to play and learn.



---

## Service to Others

By Tamika Williams, Rockford Village Staff



It's that time of year again. The leaves are falling, the air is crisp and God's splendor is shown through the leaves changing their color. This is my favorite time of year. Not just be-

cause of the fact that I have a birthday in October, but because it reminds me of harvest time. Harvest time can speak of natural as well as spiritual manifestations.

The holidays will soon be coming and as they approach, a scripture comes to my mind. The Bible tells us in Mark 10:45 that Jesus' purpose on earth was to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many. That's what we are

called to do as well. To serve. We can follow Christ's example by giving our lives in service to our families, neighbors, communities and even strangers God may bring our way. As the holidays are approaching, let us remember one of our most important roles we have as Christians, and that is to

serve. Only through servitude will one be able to become the greatest in the Kingdom of God. Be blessed!



Tamika serves others through her work with one of our K-3rd grade after-school groups, which meet M- Th. Group time includes homework help, Bible study, games, crafts, field trips and a hot meal.

---

## Thank you to our Church and Individual Partners

"As soon as I get a job I am going to help Neighborhood Ministries because they have helped me so much... I have to stop now or I am going to cry." This was told to us by a gentleman we have been helping. He has been through a very difficult time the last few years. We have provided him with not only food and transportation, but also a listening ear and people who love and care about him. Now he is ready to get a job, something he has wanted to do for a long time. Over 50% of our total budget comes from individuals (28%) and churches (23%). Because of your generous support we have been able to reach out, one person at a time, and share the love of Jesus Christ. **Thank you for partnering with us, so that we can, together, change lives.**

## Thank you to our volunteers

Many have asked us how we do so much with the few staff we have. The answer is that we have hundreds of volunteers that give their time freely and lovingly. Volunteers make it possible for you to receive this newsletter by preparing the mailing each month. Volunteers make it possible for us to have food distributions every month by picking up the food from our local food bank and also distributing it. Volunteers have cleaned and repaired our buildings. They have sorted donated items. Our GEMS auxiliary is a group of volunteers that does their own fund raising and then gives the money back to Neighborhood Ministries in the form of cakes for kids, food vouchers for families in need, Christmas gifts for children and so much more. **Thank you to all of our volunteers. We could not do it without you!**

For information on how you can become involved with our GEMS auxiliary, contact Mark at (330) 755-8696.

Don't forget to check us out online at [www.ohionm.org](http://www.ohionm.org).

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  
Youngstown, OH 44505  
(330) 744-1446  
Fax (330) 744-1456

**Fairview Center**

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

www.Ohionm.org

Ohionm@aol.com

**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.**



Top Hat Productions

# The Renaissance Yuletide Festival

December 5th, 6th,  
12th & 13th

Enter into merriment & meal at court  
each evening at 6:30 PM

The King's Tax  
27.00 per person

Seating by reservation only • Period dress optional  
Call: 330-755-6412  
Fairview Arts & Outreach Center 4220 Yo-Poland Rd.  
Youngstown, Ohio 44514

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

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

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

75 Jackson Drive, Campbell OH 44405

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
CAMPBELL, OHIO  
PERMIT NO. 29