



Bright Horizons

Rev. Bruce Hitchcock, Executive Director

Deborah Schaffer, Associate Director

Angie Brown, Editor

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FEINSTEIN HUNGER CHALLENGE



There is still time to contribute to the Feinstein Matching Funds pledge by Rhode Island Philanthropist Alan Shawn Feinstein. He has pledged to proportionately match donations of funds marked for hunger from **March 1 thru April 30, 2004**. It's time to start sending in your donations! Help us fight hunger in the Upper Ohio Valley by sending in your contribution today. Please be sure to mark "*Hunger*" in the memo if donating by check.

From Shame to Grace

One of the things I learned about Senegal on a recent VIM mission trip is that a society based upon shame can become very twisted. In Senegal, if a person goes to jail for committing a crime, that person's family will disown them. If a person converts to Christianity from Islam, the family will disown them. If a man wants to have a second wife and the first wife will not give permission, she can be divorced; which is a public disgrace or shame for her. The attempt is to control people by shaming, shunning, and even violence. Those who have no family are easy prey for those who wish to beat, rob and rape. Without family support the entire community will treat you as an outcast. This leads to poverty, loneliness, homelessness and eventually death.

The United Methodist Church has a very special mission to the women in prison. The UMC provides one meal a day for the women. This is necessary because the prisons will provide only one meal for women. (Men get three.) Now the women get two meals a day. The second part of the mission is one of reconciliation. The UMC works to bring about reconciliation between prisoners and their families. If a reconciliation can be achieved all kinds of evil can be avoided. This is a difficult and time-consuming task. Families are very reluctant to take back members who have shamed them. This is the ministry of reconciliation that Paul teaches about in II Corinthians 5:18. There has even been some softening of position regarding those who have converted to Christianity. The UMC also provides education for men, women and children in prison.

The experience of shame is alive and well in America. A few months back a woman stood in line for food at the warehouse. She looked like my grandmother. Her hair was well done. The coat she wore was clean and respectable. Her shoes and pants were in good condition. Everything looked neat except for the tears rolling down her face. As we talked she said to me, "I am ashamed to be here. My husband and I used to be the ones doing the giving and helping. He is gone now. I don't have enough to eat. I am so ashamed." I do not know why there is an attitude of shame in culture for those who cannot make ends meet. Hunger and poverty is not the result of laziness, stupidity or improper behavior. It is the result of an economy that does not pay living wages, those who have refused to help those in need, and the unspoken prevailing view of people being of relative worth. The economy defines the value of a worker depending upon category. God defines the worth of people based upon a crucifixion and resurrection. In God's eyes people are of the highest value. Their worth is based upon Jesus Christ and not how much money a company can make off a worker.

Somewhere along the line we have forgotten that grace always trumps shame. In Senegal, grace trumps shame. In America, grace trumps shame. In our hearts, grace is the basis of our value and identity. Yes, even in our hearts grace trumps shame. A life and society based upon the rock of grace will always overcome and transform lives and societies based upon shame.

-Love, Pastor Bruce

Annual Volunteer Luncheon



*Volunteers, a work
of the heart.*

Friday, April 23, 2004
12:00—2:00 PM

First Westminster Presbyterian Church
235 North 4th Street
Steubenville, OH 43952

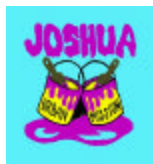


Please RSVP by April 16, 2004
Please call 740-282-2911 or 740-282-8010.

During the year 2003, many groups, churches and individuals combined efforts and gave over 36,000 hours of volunteer time at Urban Mission. It would be impossible to thank each volunteer individually for all of their hard work. Therefore, we would like to thank everyone collectively, with a celebration in your honor!

If you, your friends or anyone you know volunteered at Urban Mission during 2003, please share the news of this luncheon with them. Invite them to share in the celebration, as we say thank you a very special group of hardworking individuals.

JOSHUA Ministry Opportunity



We are in need of churches who would like to host one of our many groups coming to work this summer in the JOSHUA Program. The duties of a Host Church include preparing and serving a breakfast on Monday morning and a dinner on Thursday evening.

Being a host church is wonderful way of taking part in a groups visit to our area. We encourage our host congregations to visit the worksite during your week of hosting and maybe even help with one or two of the projects. Would your church consider being in ministry this summer and serving as a host church? If you would like to be a part of this special ministry, please call Shannan today and schedule your church for service.

Host churches needed for the following weeks:

July 19-22	July 26-29
August 2-5	August 9-12
August 16-19	

Protein Products Needed

We are still in need of your help to supplement the cost of purchasing meat and protein products for our Food Distribution. Proteins such as Tuna and Salmon, beans, chili, and peanut butter and other canned meats are needed. Would you, your church, or group consider donating these items? If you can help with these food items, please bring them to the Warehouse at 311 North 6th Street. Thank you for helping us with this need.

Minority Health Month

April is Minority Health Month in Ohio. Special events will be held throughout the state to provide Health Education and raise the awareness of the Health issues of Minorities and promote healthy lifestyle changes. Enclosed is a calendar of events. Please plan to attend. Tell your family and friends. All events are open to the public and some events target specific groups. Please feel free to contact me at 740-282-8010 for additional information concerning any event. Remember: "Good Health Real Wealth".

-Sharon Kirtdoll, Community Developer

Annual Shoe Giveaway

Spring is here and the time has come for yet another Shoe Distribution. This years distribution will be held on **May 3, 4 and 5** at the Warehouse. We need your good clean shoes for men, women and children. We are in special need of women's sizes 10-12 and men's 14 & 15. We are also collecting purses and hats. Please bring them to the Warehouse, 311 North 6th Street, by **April 23, 2004**.



Did you know?

In 2003, Urban Mission distributed 1,201 pairs of shoes and other accessories in just three short days? This is only possible through the generous giving of friends like you.



Jelly Bean Challenge

Mr. Easter Bunny is in need of your help to provide every family with a bag of jelly beans during the April distribution. He is going to need **800 bags**. If you can help Mr. Bunny with this challenge, please contact Linda at 282-2911 or you may deliver them to the warehouse, 311 North 6th Street before Monday, April 12. Let's all work on this together and help Mr. Easter Bunny provide every bag of jelly beans needed!

K-KID'S Dinner

The Annual K-KID'S (Keeping Kids In-volved During Summer) Ham loaf dinner is coming up! The dinner will be held on **May 7, 2004 from 46 PM** at the Wintersville UMC Church, 702 Main Street, Wintersville.

This dinner is the only fundraiser for our children's summer program. Tickets can be purchased in advance by calling the Mission at 740-282-8010. The cost is \$6 for adults and \$3 for children. Mark your calendars now and plan to attend. Carryouts available.

Craft/Education Director Needs Help

Experienced seamstresses are needed to sew curtains for Hutton House. A recent donation from JoAnn Fabrics and Crafts will provide curtains for the newly acquired ten-unit building. Materials, equipment and work space for this project are available in the craft room of Urban Mission Ministry Center on Fridays, 10:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.

The Program Room at Hutton House needs a combined TV-VCR. Our present TV is old and unreliable. This is used for parenting programs, Hutton House Friends, Hutton House Teens, mental health programs, as well as other occasions. This would be a great mission project for a Sunday School class.

Several sewing machines in the craft room need the attention of a good repair person. If you are skilled in this area, we would appreciate knowing if these machines are worth repairing or if they should become spare parts.

We are thankful for your donations of crafting supplies. These are sorted, stored and used as needed in the many projects created here. Thirty plus people enjoy the crafting facilities, equipment, supplies and fellowship provided here weekly. We have also been blessed by your gracious and prompt responses to our requests. The plea for an art teacher resulted in volunteers for acrylics, watercolor, and drawing. Thanks, ladies!

If you can help with any of the needs mentioned above, please call Sandra, 740-282-2911.

- Sandra Chandler, Education Director

Parish Nurse News: Alcohol Awareness Month

April is Alcohol Awareness Month. Alcoholic beverages have been around for a long time. Ancient civilizations learned to make alcoholic beverages. These beverages have been consumed with meals, at social gathering and even at religious celebrations. Although alcoholic beverages are common, consumption of alcohol is responsible for many problems. Let's look at some of those problems.

Persons can become addicted to alcoholic beverages. There are actual changes that take place in a person's nervous system when he/she becomes addicted to alcohol. Alcohol addiction can lead to such things as job loss, violence, and health problems. Some research has shown that alcohol addiction runs in families. If you have a parent or other close relative who is an alcoholic, then you need to be careful about consuming alcoholic beverages.

Another problem with alcohol is teenage drinking, especially binge drinking. Unfortunately many young persons think that they have to drink alcohol when they are at parties or they go away to college. Every year there are stories about young persons who died after binge drinking. Binge drinking involves drinking a large amount of alco-

hol over a very short period of time. The alcohol acts as a poison in the person's body and the person can die. In many of these cases, friends thought that the person was just sleeping off the alcohol, but the person was actually in a coma. We need to educate young people about the dangers of alcohol, especially binge drinking.

An additional problem with drinking alcohol is driving under the influence. Every year many people are killed by drunk drivers. There are laws that allow the drunk driver to have his license removed after a certain number of DUI's, but the laws are not always effective. Everyone needs to be aware of persons who seem to have had too much to drink and find a way to get this person home without allowing him to drive. Alcohol depresses the central nervous system, which slows the person's reactions and also alters his perceptions. Persons under the influence of alcohol cannot drive safely.

Educate yourself about the dangers of alcohol, so that you can protect yourself and others.

-Michalene A. King RN MSED MSN

April 2004

**Urban Mission Ministries, Inc.
301 North Fifth Street
Steubenville, OH 43952**

Phone: 740-282-8010

Fax: 740-282-8514

**E-mail: mail@urbanmission.org
www.urbanmission.org**

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LABEL

Upcoming Events in April 2004

3	Mission Rejoice: Doylestown UMC	6:00 PM
5	Parish Nurse	11:00 AM
6	Hunger Committee Meeting	10:00 AM
7	Program/Evaluation Meeting	2:00 PM
9	CLOSED FOR GOOD FRIDAY HOLIDAY	
10	NO MISSION REJOICE	
12	Parish Nurse	11:00 AM
13	Packing of Food Distribution Bags Finance Committee Meeting	9:00 AM 6:00 PM
15	Ohio Food Distribution	9-12;1-3
17	Mission Rejoice: Bethany College	6:00 PM
19	Parish Nurse	11:00 AM
22	West Virginia Food Distribution Board of Directors Meeting	9-12 4:30 PM
23	Annual Volunteer Luncheon -First Westminster Office Closed 12-2 PM	12-2 PM
24	Mission Rejoice: Lincoln Avenue UMC	6:00 PM
26	Parish Nurse	11:00 AM
28	Lupus Meeting	6-8 PM

HUTTON HOUSE NEEDS

We need your help to complete the new Hutton House apartments. If you can donate any of these items, please call Debra at 740-282-8903.

- Curtain Rods
- Cell Phones for Emergency Use
- Complete single and double beds
- Couch beds
- Sets of dishes, silverware, cooking utensils, pots/pans