

February 2006



Bright Horizons



Rev. Bruce Hitchcock, Executive Director Angie Brown, Newsletter Editor

Year 2005 In Review

Year end reviews are good for examining our performance. Usually, one can find a number of achievements and a number of areas that point out new areas for ministry. These reviews also help evaluate the value of existing programs. Sometimes people operate under the assumption that statistical reviews should be like the stock market; steady gains over a period of years. That assumption is a mistake for reviews and stock markets alike. The Mission is in the people business. Specifically, we meet the needs of people in the areas of food, shelter, clothing, compassion and love. Many numbers are up over the previous year. This is a reflection of the community, economy and the means to meet expectations. A few numbers are down. Our distribution of Thanksgiving baskets is lower than 2004. A sister charity ended up with a large gift that they used for Thanksgiving grocery certificates. As so, fewer people came to the Mission for help. At Christmas, we had a large increase over 2004 because other charities reduced the number of families served.

This review is a snapshot of Urban Mission. I urge you to keep this report handy. Very few people realize the extent of the ministries provided by you and God through Urban Mission. We are very pleased to present you with the following ministry report for 2005.

NATIONAL AWARD

- Second Harvest Award for the most diverse services.
- Received national recognition from the Points of Light Foundation for excellence in community service.

GROCERY DISTRIBUTIONS (started in 1975)

- 1,222 low-income families in OH & WV received help.
- 827 Families received Thanksgiving Baskets.
- 580,853 pounds of groceries distributed.

SOUP KITCHEN (started in 1994)

- 19,092 hot meals served

HUTTON HOUSE HOMELESS SHELTER (started in 1988)

- 101 children & adults resided in the Homeless Shelter
- Average length of stay: 93 days
- 305 "life skills" classes presented for Shelter Residents on budgeting, parenting, nutrition, conflict resolution, child safety, etc.

JOSHUA SUMMER WORK CAMP (started in 1989)

- 16 groups (310 people) from Pennsylvania, Illinois, Delaware, North Carolina, Wisconsin, New York, Iowa

and Ohio completed 98 repair projects for 33 low-income home owners and Urban Mission.

NEIGHBORHOOD COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CENTER (started in 1977)

- 23rd Annual Coat Give-A-Way: 2,000+ coats & items
- 15th Annual Minority Health Month
- Lupus Education and Support program (started in 1999)
- Parish Nurse Program, now in its 11th year
- Women's Health Committee, now in its 7th year
- Math Excellence Program, now in its 4th year
- Greater Steubenville Community Development Corporation founded in 2005.

CHILDREN'S SUMMER PROGRAMS

- 13th Annual Street Carnival (a day of free fun, music, food, games, rides and prizes for 1,400+ kids and adults)
- Field Trips for about 85 children

OTHER PROGRAMS

- 17th Annual Hutton Scholarship Program (four \$650 scholarships awarded)
- Mission Rejoice (Saturday worship and fellowship meal), started in 1992
- Back to School supplies given to 500+ youth
- Emergency Assistance: 765 individuals helped with groceries, baby needs, good will and misc., began in 1973
- Craft room activities and projects, began in 1993
- Ceramics group activities and projects, began in 1993
- 4th year for Food for Seniors and Sight for Students

CHRISTMAS PROGRAMS (started in 1990)

- 894 children received toys and gifts
- 278 teens received Christmas stockings

VOLUNTEER SERVICE

- 40,497 hours of volunteer service

IN-KIND DONATIONS (Food drives, coats, shoes and etc.)

- Hunger Ministries donation of items= \$113,926
- Christmas Ministries donation of items= \$42,625
- Hutton House Homeless Shelter donation of items = \$14,701
- Value of coats, shoes and Back to School supplies = \$4,894
- Total In-Kind Donations (vol. hrs., goods & professional services) for 2005 is **\$421,938.**

-Thank you for all of your love and support!-

Jelly Beans Needed



This year's Easter treat bags will be given to the families at the April 20 food distribution.

We are in need of **700 bags of jelly beans by Friday, April 14, 2006**. If you would like to help, please contact Linda Smith at 282-2911. Let's show what we can do to share the message in the colors of the jelly-beans! (*see below*)

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JELLY BEANS

By S.A. Cooke

If the number of jelly beans produced each Easter were lined up end-to-end, they would circle the earth almost three times. According to the National Confectioners' Association, Easter is the second most popular candy eating occasion. Fifteen billion jellybeans, 2 million marshmallow chicks, and 60 million chocolate Easter bunnies are produced for this holiday.

What do Easter eggs and jellybeans have to do with the holiest celebration of the year? To people who don't know Jesus, they are goodies left by the Easter Bunny for children to find. For Christians, they can be not only a sweet treat, but also an effective tool for celebrating and presenting the message of salvation.

Each jellybean color is assigned a different meaning, message and Scripture verse, according to the gospels. Over the years, cute prayers and poems have evolved and show up frequently on witnessing tracts, bookmarks and other Christian paraphernalia. There are hundreds of variations and versions of the poems and prayers; however, most convey the same glorious message – the plan of salvation. The following is one example:

Red: For the blood Jesus shed on the cross at Calvary; precious wine.

Green: For growing in the Lord; palm branches

White: His Grace; the glory of the resurrection

Yellow: Eternal Life; the sun

Speckled: Stands for sin in our lives; fish and sand

Black: Our sins

Purple: For the hour of sorrow His family and friends experienced

Pink: For new tomorrows

Orange: Edge of night

Thanks a Bunch!

Hutton House would like to thank the wonderful folks at Magnolia UMC for their generous donation of household goods. Members of the church purchased all of the items listed in our January 2006 hope box. Praise God for such wonderful friends of the Mission!

Mayors Report on Homelessness

In 20 U.S. cities (80 percent of the total surveyed), the number of requests for emergency shelter increased by an average of 13 percent over the last year, according to the annual report on hunger and homelessness released late last month by the U.S. Conference of Mayors and S&Dexho. In 22 of the cities (88 percent), the requests for shelter by families rose by an average of 15 percent.

Other findings included:

- The length of time that people experienced homelessness over the past year averaged 5 months.
- Low-income households spent an average of 46 percent of their income on housing over the past year, according to the cities' estimates.
- An average of 14 percent of the requests for emergency shelter by homeless people overall and 32 percent of the requests by homeless families alone are estimated to have gone unmet during the last year.
- In 88 percent of the cities, emergency shelters may have to turn away homeless families due to lack of resources; in 79 percent they may also have to turn away other homeless people.
- Assisted housing programs currently serve 33 percent of the total low-income households that are eligible.
- The average waiting periods for public housing and Section 8 vouchers are 24 and 27 months, respectively.

A copy of the report, which includes qualitative and quantitative data on each of the cities surveyed, is available at www.usmayors.org. (*This article was originally published in the January 2006 issue of the COHHIO newsletter.*)

Fast Facts:

*Did you know the Urban Mission Hutton House Homeless Shelter served **101 homeless persons** in 2005? This is made possible by a grant from the Ohio Department of Development and generous giving from folks like you.*



Mission Rejoice Hosts Needed

Have you called to schedule your church or group for a Saturday night Mission Rejoice service yet? The calendar is still open for 2006. Your church can come to prepare and serve the meal and provide the preaching or one or the other. The calendar is filling up fast. Don't miss your chance to touch someone's life with the love of Christ. Call Toni at 740-282-8010 to schedule your group today!



Feinstein Hunger Challenge



It's that time again! We have received another challenge from Rhode Island Philanthropist Alan Shawn Feinstein to proportionately match donations of funds marked for **HUNGER** from **March 1 thru April 30, 2006 only**. Your donation toward this program makes you a partner in the most successful grass-roots campaign to fight hunger of all time.

Mark your calendars and pinch your pennies between now and **March** and help us fight hunger in the Upper Ohio Valley.

Unity Kitchen Helpers Needed



Do you have a few hours to spend each week helping others? Please consider volunteering at the Unity Kitchen. We are in need of volunteers to help **Monday through Wednesday of each week from 9 AM-1:30 PM**. There are many tasks available to help with, including preparing the food and desserts, serving the meal and clean up work. If you can share of your time to be a blessing to someone else, please call Toni at 740-282-8010 Monday through Wednesday to arrange a time to visit the Unity Kitchen.

Applications Now Available



Joshua Applications are available to area low-income homeowners. Stop in and pick one up or call and one can be mailed to you.

In order to be eligible, you *must* own your home and provide proof of income and ownership. Please be aware that Joshua projects are *not* completed on a first come, first served basis, but rather by the abilities of the groups coming and the work that needs to be done. For more information please call Brenda at 740-282-8010. **The deadline for applications to be submitted is April 14, 2006.**

Robert E. Hutton Memorial Scholarship Applications are available to low-income students of any age wanting to pursue **higher education**. Proof of income and letters of acceptance and reference are required in order to be eligible for a scholarship.

For an application, stop by Urban Mission or call us at 740-282-8010 and an application can be mailed to you. **The deadline for applications to be submitted is March 15, 2006.**

Parish Nurse News: Amblyopia

In January, we looked at one of the diseases of the eyes that can lead to permanent loss of vision. Let's stay with that theme and look at a condition of the eyes that can lead to permanent loss of vision. That condition is amblyopia.

Lazy eye or amblyopia is a condition in which there is reduced vision in an eye that cannot be corrected by glasses or contact lenses. Amblyopia is not caused by an eye disease. The most common causes of amblyopia are strabismus (crossed eyes), a difference in vision in each eye, or a blockage of an eye due to trauma or eye drooping. Amblyopia usually affects one eye. For some reason the brain does not fully acknowledge images sent by that eye. If vision is good in one eye and blurred in the other, the blurred visual images will be blocked. This blocking of images by the nervous system is an active process. If this is allowed to continue, there will be a permanent decrease in the vision in the eye with amblyopia, which cannot be corrected with glasses or contact lenses.

Amblyopia by itself is difficult to detect. When amblyopia is associated with strabismus or other problems, it may be more easily detected. Amblyopia can be detected



by an eye doctor during a comprehensive vision examination. Treatment consists of glasses, eye drops, exercises, and/or patching the eye with good vision. Treatment is most successful if it occurs between the ages of 6 months and 2 years, but treatment after this time can be fairly successful. Treatment of amblyopia after the age of 6 years is more extensive, but every child with amblyopia deserves an attempt at treatment.

It is estimated that three percent of children under the age of 6 years have some form of amblyopia. Amblyopia causes more visual loss in persons under the age of 40 than all the injuries and diseases combined in this group. Amblyopia can be treated, but it must first be detected. Remember that all children should have their eyes checked by their pediatrician. If there is some abnormality, then the child should be seen by a pediatric ophthalmologist, a physician who specializes in children's eye problems. The ophthalmologist can perform tests for amblyopia and other eye disorders and prescribe treatments. Our eyesight is a wonderful gift from God, which needs to be protected. Early detection and treatment of amblyopia can preserve that wonderful gift.

-Michalene A. King, RN, MSED, MSN

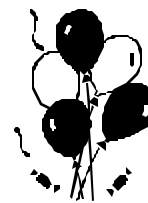
Annual Celebration and Scholarship Dinner

February 16, 2006; 5:30 - 7:30 PM

The Rose Banquet Hall

680 Lovers Lane

Steubenville, Ohio 43953



On Thursday, **February 16, 2006**, Urban Mission will hold the **Annual Celebration and Scholarship Dinner** at The Rose Banquet Hall. This will be a special evening of celebration with food, fellowship and inspiration. The event will **begin at 5:30 p.m. and end at 7:30 p.m.** A special program is being planned to celebrate an exciting and fruitful year.

This annual celebration and scholarship dinner will be a combined effort of the Scholarship Committee and the Board of Directors of Urban Mission. A portion of the proceeds will go toward providing four (4) scholarships to area low-income residents to further their education.

We invite you to be a part of this special evening by reserving your ticket today. Tables are available for churches and groups. Individual tickets are also available for **\$20 per person**. The deadline for dinner reservations is **February 6, 2006**. Tickets are not available at the door and must be purchased ahead of time.

If you have any questions about purchasing tickets or making a donation, please call the Mission at 740-282-8010. We look forward to seeing you at the dinner!

Reservation Form

Annual Celebration and Scholarship Dinner

Thursday, February 16, 2006

Name: _____

Phone: () _____ Number of Dinner Reservations: _____

Amount Enclosed (\$20 per individual ticket): _____

Scholarship Fund Contribution of \$_____ enclosed.

Total Amount Enclosed: _____

If you would like your tickets mailed, please enclose a **self addressed, stamped envelope**.

Reservation Deadline: February 6, 2006

February 2006

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LABEL

Upcoming Events in February 2006

1	Program/Evaluation Committee	2:00 PM
2	NCDC Meeting Greater Steuben. Community Development Corp. Meeting	4:00 PM 5:00 PM
4	Mission Rejoice	6:00 PM
6	Parish Nurse	11:00 AM
7	Hunger Committee	10:00 AM
11	Mission Rejoice	6:00 PM
13	Parish Nurse	11:00 AM
14	Packing for Food Distribution	10:00 AM
14	Finance Committee	6:00 PM
16	God's Pantry Food Distribution	9-12; 1-3
16	Urban Mission Annual Celebration and Scholarship Dinner (see insert for details)	5:30 PM
18	Mission Rejoice	6:00 PM
20	Parish Nurse	11:00 AM
21	CSFP Senior Food Distribution	1:00 PM
25	Mission Rejoice	6:00 PM
27	Parish Nurse	11:00 AM

Lupus Support Group Meetings



**February 21, 2006; 6 p.m.
Our Place in the Ville**

**February 27, 2006; 6 p.m.
Trinity Medical Center
East**

**For additional information
about the Support Group meet-
ings, please call Sharon at 740-
282-8010.**