



Bright Horizons

Rev. Bruce Hitchcock, Executive Director

Deborah Schaffer, Associate Director

Angie Brown, Editor

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The Need is Growing!

The Urban Mission's Annual Scholarship Dinner was truly an awesome event. This year over 200 persons attended the Dinner, of which a large portion of the proceeds go towards providing four \$650 scholarships to low-income persons to further their education. The night was full of surprises as two special people received flowers and certificates for outstanding work and invaluable contribution over the years at the Mission. Those awards went to Jane Caswell who has worked with the finance committee for many years and Gay Warren, former Executive Secretary. Other Honorees of the night were: Nanie Wineman & Robert Payton, Female & Male Volunteers of the Yr., Helen Ziarko, Quiet Servant Award, Quinn AME, Church of the Yr., and Atlas Gas, Business of the Yr. Local Media agencies were also honored with the Executive Directors Award. These included: WTRF TV 7, WTOV TV 9, Wheeling Intelligencer, The Herald Star Newspaper, Froggy 103.5/WSTV Radio. The Urban Mission staff and volunteers would like to thank every person who helped make this event possible. We truly could not accomplish the things we do without the help and support of those throughout the Upper Ohio Valley. You are the greatest!

"Sir, do you have money for utilities?" "Do you have money for rent?" "Do you have money for a bus ticket?" "Do you have food, blankets, shelter, hats, gloves, or coats?" "Can I come in to get warm?" "What are we going to do?" "Where are we going to go?" "What is going to happen to us?" They have cut off our benefits, electric, heat and water.

The big word for 2003 is NEED! We are currently experiencing huge growth in all kinds of needs throughout the Steubenville/Weirton area. Other agencies engaged in helping low-income people, report the same rapid increase of need. This is also reflected in the budget battles taking place in our state and National arenas.

The Urban Mission is especially concerned about the proposed budget submitted by Gov. Taft. He is proposing the elimination of line items that fund emergency homeless shelters (The Hutton House), transitional homeless shelters and Community Development Corporations. We do not want to see the Hutton House closed. Each year approximately 100,000 citizens of Ohio use emergency homeless shelters. We believe the State of Ohio should have a basic commitment to homeless Ohioans. These line items are relatively small. Do these line items represent a lean, clean, effective program for our state? The practical implications of closing shelters are troublesome to say the least. Cutting off funding does not make homelessness go away. This change in funding will cause a shift in responsibility. Instead of going to shelters, the homeless population will end up in hospitals,

jails and agencies like child protective services. Our healthcare, justice and child welfare systems are already overwhelmed. Reduction of services and resources for low-income Ohioans is a disaster for everyone in the State. How long can we do more for less? What if we can't tighten belts anymore? People keep talking about a painful budget. I wonder how many state legislators and people in the Governors administration will lose basic sheltered and nutritional needs in this proposed budget. I do not believe we can balance the budget upon the backs of Ohio's poorest citizens. The needs are growing and Ohio is eliminating funding. Something is terribly wrong with this situation. Please join me in making your views known to our State Representative John Domenick, our State Senator, Gregory DiDonato, and Governor Bob Taft by writing to them.

In your letters please express your support and prayers for the very difficult task of legislating and governing. Governor Taft and Senator DiDinato and Representative Domenick need our prayers. Simply ask them to restore funding for line items 440 emergency shelter grant, 406 transitional shelter and 431 CDC program. Will you please praise Gov. Taft for establishing recordation fees as the dedicated source of funding for the Housing trust Fund. This is a good move to ensure affordable housing for low-income people in Ohio. Your letters of support and concern will make a difference. Thank you for helping to secure the existence and operation of the Hutton House.

Love, Pastor Bruce

State Senator: Gregory DiDonato, 30th District, State House, Columbus, OH 43215
State Representative: John Domenick, 117 N. 3rd Street, Steubenville, OH 43952
Governor Bob Taft: 77 South High Street, Columbus, OH 43215-6117

Please write.

Blankets for Warmth

It was the needs of this severely cold winter that gave birth to the Blankets for Warmth program. It was one of the coldest days of the winter. It was snowing and with the wind chill factor it made it near zero. Everyone was layered with clothes trying to stay warm. Very few people were outside that day. A man I have never seen before stopped by the Urban Mission, instantly you knew he was cold. As I engaged him in conversation certain details of his life started coming out. He recently had heart surgery and was in a nursing home recovering. He wanted to transfer to another nursing home and due to a mistake which he admits was his own fault, he ended up on the streets with no place to live. I found out that he was sleeping in a garbage dumpster down the street from the Urban Mission. My heart broke as I was trying to hold back the tears. I wanted to rescue this man from the harsh elements outside and make everything alright for him. But, that day he did not want to be rescued. Perhaps it was due to embarrassment, pride or even confusion that caused him to run out the door when I discovered his sleeping arrangements. Eventually, he did get into a shelter and receive the help he needed. But, make no mistake about it he is only one of the homeless in our city living outside during this cold winter.

Mary is an elderly woman who is not capable of taking care of herself. She lives with her son and his girlfriend who are also dependent on others. Mary told me that she was cold because she did not own a blanket to keep her warm. She had a thin sheet she used but it did not do much.

The phone rings everyday with callers asking if the Urban Mission helps with utilities and rent. Many have had their electricity turned off or were in danger of getting it turned off. If you drive downtown before the sun rises you will see a line forming outside one of our local agencies which helps people with their utilities.

There are a lot of cold people in our community. Being homeless is not new nor is having your utilities turned off. But the smallest things we can do to help can make a big difference. Providing blankets to our homeless and poor is one of those small things. And some churches, groups and individuals have already begun to collect sleeping bags and blankets. Starkdale Presbyterian Church was the first church to respond. Thanks to them and others Mary has a warm blanket to wrap up in. Three of our homeless people have been given sleeping bags. It is all because of your generosity that is showing the love of Christ to the poor and downtrodden.

-Deborah Schaffer, Associate Director

A New Hunger Program

We are excited to announce a new hunger initiative at the Urban Mission. Mid Ohio Food Bank is partnering with the Mission to bring the Commodity Supplemental Food Program to Jefferson County this year. The program will provide a box of commodities weighing approximately 35 lbs to anyone 60 years of age and older who has an income of 130% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines.

Family Size	Annual Income	Monthly	Weekly
1	11,674	973	225
2	15,756	1,313	303
3	19,838	1,653	382
4	23,920	1,993	460
	For each additional member		
Add:	4,082	340	78

Jefferson County has 200 spaces available for this program. We are currently accepting applications. If you or anyone you know is interested, please call Linda Poe at 740-282-2911. We expect our space to go quickly. April is our target month. We expect Jefferson County to receive 84,000 pounds of food annually. This will be a big addition to the 700,000+ pounds of food distributed through the Mission in 2002. The best news is that the CSF Program will cost the Mission absolutely no cash! We will unload and distribute the already packed boxes but will pay nothing for the food! Praise God!!

Jelly Bean Challenge

The Easter Bunny is making plans for a visit to Urban Mission. He has told me he is going to deliver Easter treat bags for the families who come in to pick up their groceries at the April Food Distribution. But, he also shared with me he needs some help. He wants to make sure there is a bag of jelly beans for every family. After all, what is Easter without jelly beans?! That means if we are going to help him with his goal, we are going to need **600** bags of jelly beans!



Would you like to help Mr. Bunny reach his goal of 600 bags of jelly beans? If so, please contact Mr. Bunny's helper Linda Poe at 282-2911 and let her know. You can also deliver them to the warehouse at 311 North 6th Street. Let's all work on this together to help the Easter Bunny with this project.

A Volunteer Tribute

To have a friend is such a special gift from God. And when you can claim to have several friends, you have indeed been blessed. When you and those friends can work together to do God's work, then what can be said . . . the actions speak for themselves. I have many wonderful friends that have been placed in my life and I feel so blessed. Most of my friends have given and done beyond the norm in order to help others. My friends have worked many of the programs of Urban Mission this past year. As a matter of fact, these friends share in the 51,161 hours of volunteer service that was provided during the year 2002.

There is usually an annual Volunteer Luncheon held in February. This is Urban Mission's way of saying "Thank You" to everyone. Due to cutting costs in order to meet the needs of the hungry and others, this year's luncheon had to be cancelled. But that does not mean I do not want to thank you for all the hours you have given! I want to take this time to thank each of you, not only for the hours you have given, but for being part of what life's splendor depends...the making of friends. I look forward to working with many of you again in this year. And as we travel through this New Year together, may you each be blessed as many times as I have been. This poem says to each of you what my heart feels . . .

FRIENDS

If nobody smiled and nobody cheered
 And nobody helped us along;
 If everybody looked after himself,
 And good things all went to the strong;
 If nobody cared just a little for you,
 And nobody thought of me,
 And we all stood alone in the battle of life,
 What a dreary old world this would be!

Life is sweet just because of the friends we have made
 And the things which in common we share;
 We want to live on, not because of ourselves,
 But because of the people who care.
 It's giving and doing for somebody else;
 On that all life's splendor depends.
 And the joy of this world, when it's all added up,
 Is found in the making of friends.

-Author Unknown

Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap.

-Luke 6:38

-Linda Poe, Program Director

Life Lessons:

"Lord Hire Me for One More Year"

My mother had a saying at the beginning of every new year, "Lord, Hire me for one more year". She passed this message on to her children. She also said that we should not judge another person until we have walked in their shoes. No one can know what another person has gone through in their lives. We were taught to always try to do something good for someone else, even if it was only a kind word. But most of all we should believe in ourselves. We need to help one another so that they can have the courage to believe in themselves. We are never to make anyone feel that they are beneath us. And most of all, trust in the Lord because He will carry you through whatever situation you are in. Each of us should be thankful for the things we have. These are the life lessons that were passed on to me and I strive to live them.

-Robert Payton, Warehouse Assistant Director

"A Second Opportunity"

Greetings in the name of Jesus! It will be 13 years since the Mission Rejoice children's program. Mission Rejoice is Urban Mission's Saturday evening church service. Ever since I was a child I have always wanted to go into missions, so when I heard about the Mission Rejoice program needing someone I thought surely this was a second opportunity to fulfill my dream of Missions work. I heard the Lord say, "Step into the water". I thought surely not I! But I did and I was anointed and prayed for and what a mission road it has been! Many children have passed by our way in the years gone by. Some are now grown and married with children of their own. They come by from time to time to catch up. What a joy knowing that some of them have accepted Jesus Christ as their Savior. That is just one of many rewards over the past 13 years that I hold close to my heart.



The Mission Rejoice Children are all smiles with Grandma Helen by their side!

I write this because I believe that God is calling someone out there to a "second opportunity" to serve in a special mission somewhere. If you read this and know that it is you God is calling, do not turn away for the reward is great. Step out into the water, as I did many years ago and become what God has put in your heart to do. Make good use of your second chance.

~With Love,

"Aunt" to "Grandma", Helen Porter

March 2003

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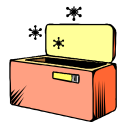
Upcoming Events in March 2003

1	Mission Rejoice-Bethany College	6:00 PM
3	Parish Nurse	11:00 AM
4	Hunger Committee Meeting	10:00 AM
8	Mission Rejoice-Mt. Pleasant Friends	6:00 PM
10	Parish Nurse	11:00 AM
11	Finance Committee Meeting	6:00 PM
15	Mission Rejoice-Gnadenhutzen UMC	6:00 PM
17	Parish Nurse	11:00 AM
18	Packing of OH Food Distribution Bags	9:00 AM
20	God's Pantry Ohio Food Distribution	9-12; 1-3
21	Program/Evaluation Committee Meeting	2:00 PM
22	Mission Rejoice-Mt. Zion UMC	6:00 PM
24	Parish Nurse	11:00 AM
26	Lupus Meeting	6-8 PM
27	God's Pantry WV Food Distribution	9-12
27	Board of Directors Meeting	4:30 PM
29	Mission Rejoice-Harsh Memorial	6:00 PM
	<i>Bible Study every Friday at the Mission by Min. Toni Hubbard</i>	4-6 PM

The Hope Box

Our needs are:

- Electric Pallet Jack
- Sewing Machines
- Seven (7) Gifts of \$1000 to pay off the warehouse mortgage.



The Hutton House is in need!

Our needs are:

- Diapers size 5, 6 and larger.
- VHS VCR
- Light bulbs
- Towels and Wash cloths
- Dish towels and dish cloths
- Cleaning supplies (oven cleaner, trash bags, dish soap, toilet tissue and paper towels)

Note: We thank you for your generous donation of furniture items, but we are currently still not able to receive furniture donations.