



Urban Mission Ministries, Inc.

BRIGHT HORIZONS

Rev. Bruce Hitchcock, Executive Director

Angie Brown, Newsletter Editor

March 2005
Inside this issue:

Annual Scholarship Dinner	2
Volunteer Luncheon	2
NCDC News	3
Parish Nurse News	3
UMM Calendar	4

Feinstein Hunger Challenge



In an effort to eliminate hunger in the U.S., Rhode Island Philanthropist

Alan Shawn Feinstein has pledged to proportionately match donations of funds marked for hunger from March 1 thru April 30, 2005. Now is the time to start sending in those pennies you've pinched and the funds you've set aside for this program.

If you haven't sent in a contribution yet, please consider doing so and helping us fight hunger in the Upper Ohio Valley. Please be sure to mark "Hunger" in the memo if donating by check.

Thank you for thinking of those less fortunate and helping to fight hunger.

"The Meaning of Servanthood"

During the last few weeks, I have had two extraordinary conversations. The first involved a company that has quietly supported the Urban Mission for many years. I called to offer an award to the company. The owner talked about helping without any kind of recognition. He was glad that we appreciated the company, but wanted nothing else except the opportunity to serve. In a day and age when everyone wants the attention of the nation it is extraordinary to find a man and a company seeking only the opportunity to serve. That is why the Philippians passage came to mind. Here is a man and a business dedicated to the principles of Jesus outlined in the Holy Scripture. They have come to into the knowledge of real servanthood.

The second conversation involved a long time volunteer of the Mission. While the volunteer was working, I expressed appreciation for her service. The volunteer laughed and said, "I am the one who appreciates you!" (Meaning the Mission). The conversation went along the lines of a confession. "I never cared about people before coming to the Mission." You folks taught me to love people." "I a

ways thought I had to be perfect. The Mission taught me that I don't have to be perfect and that people make mistakes. I can accept myself! Imperfections and all! Now that I am past myself I can serve others."

There is an extraordinary community at the Urban Mission. We have the staff; which is a diverse group. We have our friends who come as clients. We have a large volunteer pool. High Schools send classes and groups to help pack groceries. The East Ohio Correctional Center sends volunteers to work on a daily basis in the Warehouse. Some folks come and work here for court ordered community service. AARP workers often spend time at the Mission. Church youth programs come for service and church groups cook, clean and serve at the Mission. Mission teams from all over the nation come to volunteer at JOSHUA. Pastors spend time loving people here at the Mission. All of us are bound together with the cords of God's Love and Ever Present Holy Spirit. Most of these volunteers do not want recognition. They simply want to do the job!

-Love, Pastor Bruce

If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being likeminded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross! Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. -Philippians 2:1-11

Urban Mission's Scholarship Dinner a Success!

The Annual Scholarship Dinner was held on Saturday, February 19, 2005 at Calvary Pentecostal Church. The proceeds of the dinner go toward providing four \$650 scholarships to low-income persons to further their education. St. Mark's Lutheran Church also donated \$1,000 toward the scholarships.

The Dinner was a celebration of the all the ministry accomplishments of the past year. The Dinner also honored volunteers who have contributed to Urban Mission during 2004. Among the honorees were Mary Lee Behrens and Mike Olexia, Jr., Female and Male Volunteers of the Year; Nola Johnson, Quite Servant Award; Church of the Lakes UMC and Crossroads UMC, Churches of the Year; Riesbeck's Food Market, Business of the Year, and Dr. Gary George, Executive Director's Award.

This year's theme was "Great is thy Faithfulness". Through the faithfulness of God we were able to provide for the needs of those within our community. And,

through the efforts of our volunteers, we were able to accomplish our goals of feeding the hungry, housing the homeless, listening with compassion and serving with love. The service of the volunteers was a major highlight of the evening. In 2004, hundreds of servants extended an astounding 52,868 hours of service to the Mission!

The evening also included a tribute to our troops who serve this country. Rev. Paul Bigsby of Harmony UMC in Mingo Junction, OH offered a prayer of protection for those serving in the armed forces and a prayer for peace for the families of those who have lost their lives in the service.

A wonderful evening was had by all who were in attendance. We extend a Special "Thank You" to every person who helped make this night a success and to those of you who continue to share your blessings to those in need within the Upper Ohio Valley. Your generosity will never be forgotten! Thank you for your faithful service.

Jelly Bean Challenge

Red is for the blood He gave,
Green is for the grass He made,
Yellow is for the sun so bright,
Orange is for the edge of night,
Black is for the sins we've made,
White is for the grace He gave,
Purple is for His hours of sorrow,
Pink is for our New Tomorrow.

A bag full of jelly beans, so colorful and sweet,
Is a prayer, is a promise, is a small child's treat.



Not only are we making sure the children have jelly beans for Easter, with your help all of the adults will have them also. Working together, we will be able to provide jelly beans for all the families coming to the distribution in March. **We are going to need 670 bags of jelly beans so that means we are really going to have to work fast so that the Easter Bunny will be able to get his work done and on time!**

Because Easter is March 27, our first distribution will be on March 17. Because of this short time frame, the jelly beans will need to be at the warehouse (311 North 6th Street) on or before **Tuesday, March 15**. If you would like to help, please contact Linda Smith at 282-2911. Let's all work together to put this "colorful" program together and on time!!

Annual Volunteer Luncheon

April 29, 2005

First Westminster Presbyterian Church
235 North 4th Street
Steubenville, OH 43952
12:00 PM – 2:00 PM

*"Volunteers are Stars
in Our Eyes!"*

"We need to listen to God because it's not what we say but what He says to us and through us that matters."

...Mother Teresa

Many of you followed this thought during the last year by coming in and giving of yourselves to help both the staff of Urban Mission and the wonderful folks that we serve. Volunteers, this will be your day to shine! It is the time for the staff to say thank you.

If you gave of yourself last year, and know of others who did the same, please mark this date on your calendar. It will be a fun time for everyone. **Please RSVP on or before Wednesday, April 20 at 282-2911.** We hope to see you there!

Annual Shoe Giveaway



Due to limited space at our Warehouse, our shoe giveaway for this year has been cancelled. We are appreciative of the efforts of churches, groups and individuals who donate for this program.

We are however asking that you please do not collect or bring in any shoes this year, as we will have no place to store them. But what about the coat giveaway? Yes, we will have space available in the fall for the coat giveaway.

Executive Director to be Honored

Rev. Hitchcock will be one of the honorees at the Ecumenical Community Awards Banquet sponsored by Quinn AME Church on Saturday, March 5, 2005. The Banquet will be held at St. Florian Hall in Wintersville. Rev. Hitchcock will be honored for his community service and spirit of brotherhood. Congratulations Rev. Hitchcock!



NCDC News

Family Expo 2005
Wednesday, March 23, 2005
5:00—8:00 PM

Steubenville High School
North 4th Street
Steubenville, OH 43952

Look for the NCDC and Math Excellence display at the Steubenville High School Family Expo.

Applications Still Available

Applications for the **Hutton Memorial Scholarship** program and the **JOSHUA Home Repairs** program are still available. If you or someone you know would like an application for either of these programs, you may stop in and pick one up or call the Mission at 282-8010 and one will be mailed to you.

The deadline for the Scholarship applications to be returned is **April 1**, and the deadline for JOSHUA applications is **April 15**. Please note: Applicants must be of a low income household and meet other eligibility requirements in order to qualify for these programs.

Parish Nurse News: Safe Environment for Children

Creating a safe environment for children is the responsibility of all adults. Children come in contact with adults in many places, including: homes, schools, churches, stores, and playgrounds, just to name a few. Children have different safety needs depending on their age and developmental level. Some children have special needs due to a medical or physical disability. How can a responsible adult find the appropriate information to provide a safe environment for the children in his/her care?

As an elementary education pre-service teacher who is also pursuing an associate's degree in Computer Information Systems, the author has a unique perspective on this situation. Using her computer skills and her knowledge of growth and development, the author has investigated resources available on the Internet. The following is a description of several websites that adults can use to find information that will keep our children safe in different environments.

http://www.ncjrs.org/html/ojjdp/psc_english_02/intro.html This website provides information about child abductions and how to prevent them. It also provides information about leaving a child or teenager home alone.

<http://www.safekids.com> This website provides informa-

tion to parents, children, and teenagers about staying safe on the Internet. It has links to articles about staying safe online, and other child friendly information, like a "safe kids online song" and an online safety quiz.

<http://www.allsands.com/Kids/Health/index.htm> This website provides many links related to many different health topics. Some of these include: healthy eating, childproofing your home, and childhood illnesses.

<http://www.cdc.gov/doc.do/id/0900f3ec802270e4> This website is the A-Z list for infant and children health topics from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). There are many links for other pages on the CDC website. The CDC is a very reliable source for information about health topics.

Many of these websites provide numerous links for other information. It was not feasible for the author of this article to investigate each and every link on the site. If you find something that seems questionable, contact your health care provider or one of the parish nurses.

The author of this article is Lisa M. King, who will be graduating in May with an associate's degree in Computer Information Systems and a bachelor's degree in Elementary and Early Childhood Education.

March 2005
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

LABEL

Upcoming Events in March 2005

1	Hunger Committee Meeting	10:00 AM
2	Program/Evaluation Committee Meeting	2:00 PM
2	NCDC Meeting	4:30 PM
5	Mission Rejoice	6:00 PM
7	Parish Nurse	11:00 AM
8	Finance Committee Meeting	6:00 PM
12	Mission Rejoice	6:00 PM
14	Parish Nurse	11:00 AM
15	OH Food Packing	9:00 AM
17	God's Pantry OH Food Distribution	9-12; 1-3
19	Mission Rejoice	6:00 PM
21	Parish Nurse	11:00 AM
24	God's Pantry WV Food Distribution	9-12
24	Board of Directors Meeting	4:30 PM
25	CLOSED FOR GOOD FRIDAY	Closed
26	Mission Rejoice Easter Service	6:00 PM
28	Parish Nurse	11:00 AM

Hope Box



- Canned Food
- Silverware
- Small Microwave
- Paper Products
- Cleaning Supplies
- Sets of dishes
- Cooking utensils
- Pots & pans