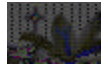




BRIGHT HORIZONS

Rev. Bruce Hitchcock, Executive Director

Angie Brown, Newsletter Editor



The Year 2007 in Review

GROCERY DISTRIBUTIONS

- 2,282 low-income families in OH & WV received help.
- 810 Families received Thanksgiving Baskets.
- 696,620 pounds of groceries distributed.

SOUP KITCHEN (started in 1994)

- 18,790 hot meals served

HUTTON HOUSE HOMELESS SHELTER

- 192 children & adults resided in the Homeless Shelter
- Length of stay: 90 days
- 276 “life skills” classes presented for Shelter Residents on budgeting, parenting, nutrition, conflict resolution, child safety, etc.

JOSHUA SUMMER WORK CAMP

- 12 groups (314 people) from Delaware, Illinois, New York and all over Ohio completed 89 repair projects for low-income homeowners and Urban Mission itself.

NEIGHBORHOOD COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CENTER

- 25th Annual Coat Give-A-Way: 2,310 coats & items
- 17th Annual Minority Health Month
- Lupus Education and Support Program
- Parish Nurse Program
- Women’s Health Committee
- Math Excellence Program
- Greater Steubenville Community Development Corp.

CHILDREN’S SUMMER PROGRAMS

- 15th Annual Street Carnival (a day of free fun, food, games, rides and prizes for 1,000+ kids and adults)
- “Diva Day”: A day spent with young ladies promoting love, friendship and appreciation of self.

OTHER PROGRAMS

- 19th Annual Hutton Scholarship Program (four \$650 scholarships awarded)
- Mission Rejoice Saturday worship and fellowship meal
- Back to School supplies given to 300+ youth
- Emergency Assistance: 1,016 individuals helped with groceries, baby needs, etc.
- Craft room activities and projects
- Ceramics group activities and projects
- Food for Seniors
- Sight for Students

CHRISTMAS PROGRAMS

- 697 children 12 and under received toys and gifts through “Christmas Kids”.
- 181 teens received Christmas stockings
- 116 Families (323 Children and Teens) received toys and stockings through “Santa’s Recycle Shop”.

VOLUNTEER SERVICE

- 44,322 hours of volunteer service

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

- Hunger Ministries donation of items= \$101,205
- Christmas Ministries donation of items= \$83,271
- Hutton House Homeless Shelter donation of items = \$13,503
- Value of coats, shoes and Back to School supplies = \$12,378
- Total In-Kind Donations (volunteer hours, goods and professional services) for 2007 is **\$580,292**.

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

A word from the Board of Directors

Romans 12:5-6 states, “So in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given us.” There is no better description of the Urban Mission. A place where many compassionate and talented people – each blessed with different gifts and abilities -- come together in Christ to serve our brothers and sisters who have the greatest need for food, shelter or help with education.

We are pleased to announce the above Ministry report. It shows the profound impact that your contributions have made in our area. On behalf of the Board of Directors, we are truly awestruck by and thankful for the monumental accomplishments of Rev. Bruce, the Mission Staff and all of the volunteers and donors. Through God’s grace and guidance, the Mission continues to be a vital beacon of hope for the poor and disadvantaged in our area.

~Dr. Dave Schaefer, President

Feinstein Matching Funds Hunger Drive



Each year the Urban Mission receives a challenge to raise money and collect food from Alan Shawn Feinstein. He then divides \$1,000,000 between the organizations across America who have accepted his challenge. This is not a dollar for dollar match. We will however receive a percentage based upon our rank of all agencies collecting food. One of the benefits of the program is that any food item donated counts a \$1. For example, if you donated a can of green beans, not only would the Mission benefit from the food, but we can also count that as \$1 toward the cash match.

Why should Churches and Christian organizations consider a contribution? The Bible is full of stories about food, sharing and hospitality. Jesus attended meals in the homes of many people. Some people were unacceptable to the Pharisees of the day. Jesus found people hungry for his word and hungry for food. He fed 5,000 and many more after thanking God. Jesus attended wedding celebrations the involved elaborate hospitality involving food and drink. Jesus taught about banquets and feasts urging the servants to compel the people to come in from anywhere and everywhere. His last meal on this earth was attended by his disciples and established the sacred meal, Holy Communion. In addition to these biblical examples, we are directly taught to care for the needy by feeding, clothing, healing and loving the poor. In short, Christians feed people because Jesus did and Jesus expects us to.

Why should schools, civic groups, businesses and others consider a contribution? We live in a society that is intimately bound together. The living and working conditions of each person has a direct relationship with the living and working conditions of every other one in society. Is it good for our community to have hungry senior citizens and hungry children? (Approximately 60% of the people receiving food at the Urban Mission are under 18 or over 65!) Undernourished senior citizens are in danger of poor health, loss of mental function, and poor driving habits. Undernourished children perform poorly at school compared to children with adequate nourishment. This problem plays out throughout the life of the Child and our society. You can choose to build a better community.

We do not see starving children in Steubenville like we see in other parts of the world. What we see is a shortage of food before social security checks and paychecks arrive. Those last days of the month are critical times in the lives of the elderly. They are out of money and hungry. We fill in the gap. Many working families run out of food before that next paycheck arrives. We fill in the gap. Please choose to follow Christ and/or choose to build your community by making a donation to the Urban Mission and starting a canned food drive. All of the money and all of the food collected will be used to feed the poor of the Ohio Valley.

~Rev. Bruce Hitchcock



Important Notice: March Food Distribution

The food distribution for the month of **March is on Thursday, March 20**. It is very, very important that the families come in on that day to pick up their bags. As a rule, we have families that come in on the Friday following the distribution. That Friday will be Good Friday and we will be closed for the Easter Holiday.

The Monday following Good Friday is Easter Monday and we will be closed on that day also. I am sure our families will want their bags of food for the Easter Holiday.

We are giving everyone this information at the February distribution. If you know anyone who comes here for assistance, please share this information with them. We want to make sure everyone possible is prepared for the holiday weekend.

~Linda Smith, Program Director

Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon

"Volunteers: The Heart of Our Community"

Friday, April 18, 2008

12:00 PM

Wintersville UMC

702 Main Street

Wintersville, Ohio 43953



Save the Date!

Watch for more information in our next newsletter.



Jellybeans Needed

Good News...The Easter Bunny has delivered the first 10 bags of jellybeans!! That means we only need 840 more bags to meet our goal. We will be giving the treat bags to the families during the March 20th food distribution. So, as you can see time is of the essence!!

Please have your jellybeans delivered to the warehouse no later than Monday, March 17. If you have any questions about this information, please give Linda a call at 740-282-2911.

Scholarship Applications Available

Robert E. Hutton Memorial Scholarship applications are available to students of any age pursuing higher education. If you would like an application, please stop by Urban Mission or give us a call at 740-282-8010 and one can be mailed to you.

Vehicle Donations Accepted

Do you have a used vehicle you would like to donate to Charity? Hutton House is accepting vehicle donations for our homeless families. By donating a vehicle, you can receive the full "Fair Market Value" tax-deduction. If you are interested in donating your used (working) vehicle, please call Debra at 740-282-8903.

Shoe Give-a-way '08



It's time to start collecting your good used shoes for our **shoe giveaway**, set for **May 19 and 20**. We need shoes for children, women and men.

Please be sure shoes are in **good, wearable condition**. Shoes can be dropped off at the Warehouse, 311 North 6th Street, Steubenville by **Friday, May 9, 2008**.

Minority Health Month Kick-off Event

"Connect to Health"

Monday, March 31, 2008; 12:00 Noon

Emanuel Church of God in Christ
128 South 5th Street, Steubenville, Ohio

Parish Nurse News: Poison Prevention



Every year during the month of March, we observe "National Poison Prevention Week", which will be observed March 16th- 22nd this year. When we think about poison prevention, we think about young children who accidentally consume substances that are harmful to them. The two most common substances are medications and household products. Let's look at some of the problems with both of these substances and the measures we can take to prevent accidental poisonings.

One problem area, especially with young children has been medications. Curious toddlers open bottles of medication and eat the medication because they think it is candy. Childproof medication lids have helped with this problem but are not 100% childproof. Young, curious children can spend time twisting and turning the lid until it comes off. For that reason, it is still necessary to place all medication in an out-of-reach area, preferably in a locked cabinet. This includes prescription medications, over-the-counter medications, vitamins and herbal supplements. Children's medications are flavored and in various forms, such as fizzy drinks or lollipops, which increases the potential for accidental overdose. Some adult medications are also dispensed in those forms for persons who cannot swallow pills or capsules. A newer form of medication is "patches", which are applied to the body for a period of time, and the medication is absorbed through the skin. A young child could mistake these patches for "band-aids", apply one of more of these medicated patches and receive an overdose of the medication. Strong narcotics are dispensed in both patches and lollipops, so it is extremely important that medications in all forms be locked away from young children. If a child observes an adult taking one of these medications, the adult must tell the child that the preparation is medication and can only be used by that adult.

Another problem is household chemicals including cleaning products and other substances. All cleaning products that are dangerous must be placed out of reach of children, preferably in a locked cabinet. Many cleaning products smell like fruit or other foods, so make sure that these are kept out of a child's reach. Always keep all products in their original containers, as putting the product in a different container can lead to a dangerous situation. Years ago I was working on the pediatrics unit of a local hospital. A toddler was hospitalized, because he drunk scented oil for an oil lamp. The oil had been placed in a soda pop bottle and put into the garage. The child opened the bottle and drank the oil. He became ill and was taken to the hospital. This was a life-threatening condition, as he could have died from drinking the oil. All of this could have been prevented if the oil was properly stored in its original container and placed in a locked cabinet.

Keep the poison control number in a prominent place. If you think that your child has consumed a poison of any kind, pick up the child and the container and call the poison control number. They will give you instructions. You may also call 911 if you are unsure about the situation and need emergency attention.

Our precious children need our protection. Remember that if it is inconvenient for you to get a medication or a household product, then it is also inconvenient for a child to get that product. If you are not currently practicing poison control in your home, then take the time during poison control week to make your home safe.

~*Michalene A. King, PhD, RN*

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

LABEL

Upcoming Events in March 2008

1, 8, 15, 22 & 29	Mission Rejoice Service (Saturday's)	6:00 PM
3, 10, 17 & 31	Parish Nurse (Monday's)	11:00 AM
4	God's Pantry Hunger Committee Meeting	10:00 AM
5	Program/Evaluation Committee Meeting	2:00 PM
6	Neighborhood Community Development Center Meeting Greater Steubenville Community Development Corp. Meeting	4:00 PM 5:00 PM
11	Finance Committee Meeting	6:00 PM
18	Packing for Food Distribution	9:00 AM
20	God's Pantry Food Distribution	9-12; 1-3
21& 24	Offices Closed for Easter Holiday	Closed
22	Mission Rejoice Easter Service	6:00 PM
25	CSFP Senior Food Program	1:00 PM
27	Newsletter Folding Board of Directors Meeting	9:00 AM 4:30 PM
31	Minority Health Month Kickoff: Emanuel COGIC (See Page 3)	12 PM



Lupus Support Group Sessions

Wednesday, March 5, 2008

Trinity East Medical Center
 Walter & Pat Howard,
 Coordinators

Monday, March 17, 2008

Martin Luther King Center
 Patti West, Coordinator

If you, a friend or family member have Lupus, please join us for one of these informative and fun sessions.

