



Inside this issue:

Appreciation Luncheon	2
JOSHUA Hosts Needed	3
Parish Nurse News	3
UM Calendar of Events	4

Matching Funds Campaign Successful!



Our Annual Matching Funds Hunger Drive came to a close on April 30. We received many monetary and food item donations toward the campaign. Rhode Island Philanthropist, Alan Shawn Feinstein will proportionately match all donations received toward the Challenge.

Many thanks to all those who participated in the effort. We will receive our portion of the funds from Mr. Feinstein in the upcoming weeks.

Valley Gospel Fest
Saturday, May 10, 2008
12:00-7:00 p.m.
Ft. Steuben Berkman
Amphitheater

Guests Include: Ashley Cleveland, three-time Grammy award winner, Jonathan White and Dr. Curtis Lewis and the Aliquippa Church in the Round Choir

Admission is free!

Folks are invited to bring a canned good for donation to Urban Mission. Plan to join us for this joyous and uplifting day!

Myth Versus Fact

The Christians of the Upper Ohio Valley are facing serious challenges in mission. The poverty rate in our area has reached 18.2%. In 2007 one thousand and nine new families joined our hunger ministries. That is a 79% increase. At the same, time food and transportation costs increased. Eggs used to cost about \$7,400 a year. This year, the cost will go over \$20,000 if prices remain the same. The average income of the people who are a part of the Hunger Ministries at Urban Mission is \$8,000 a year. Over 60% of participants are 17 and under, or over 65. All these figures and facts are staggering when you think about the individuals represented. Most sobering to me is the average annual income of \$8,000.

There is an ongoing myth about poor people taking advantage of the system. In light of the above facts and figures it is difficult to see how anyone is taking advantage of Urban Mission. Yet, I am asked on a regular basis to comment upon those who are *using* the system. Somehow, I cannot see how any kind of serious abuse can take place. What petty abuse that could take place is nothing compared to the abuses of wealthy corporations. Should anyone be worried about Urban Mission and abuse in the face of record setting profits for oil companies? How many billions of dollars are enough in one year for the oil companies?

Should anyone be concerned about the poor at the Mission compared to the outrageous profits of the Health Insurance Industry? The Health Insurance Industry provides no services to patients. Doctors cannot practice medicine the way they were taught due to the control exercised by the Health Insurance Companies. Hospitals struggle to make ends meet while Health Insurance Corporations thrive. The consumer's money should go to those who provide health care, and not to a "do nothing" health insurance corporation.

I could go on venting and complaining about abuses (unscrupulous mortgage companies), but the point is made. If someone gets away

with scamming Urban Mission that means a poor family got two bags of groceries instead on one...a family that makes about \$8000 a year. Some folks are honestly concerned about fraud. We work hard at the Mission to make sure everyone qualifies and follows all the procedures. Yet, there is a deeply cynical part of me that believes people use the myth of "abusing the system," not to help. To the Christians I say this, Jesus Christ asks us to give to the poor and needy. He never gave us an excuse not to help. John 3:16 says, "For God so loves the world...". Notice that there are no qualifiers in the verse. For example, the verse does not say, "For God so loved the world, except poor people...". Sometimes money becomes a bigger god in our hearts than Christ who redeems us.

Why is there such a bias against the poor in our culture and in our churches? We accept daily abuse and lies from our politicians and those who exploit our economy for personal greed and gain. Yet, we do not have conversations about those who have money and abuse the system. Are we really so shallow in thought and heart to believe that a well-dressed crook is ok, while an honest poor person has something wrong with them? It is far easier for me to live with the poor at Urban Mission than it would be to live with the executives of the Oil Industry and the Health Care Industry. The poor ask me for help because they need it. The Oil and Health Industries take my money by exploiting the government, the market place and due to plain old greed.

The next five years promise to be difficult for Urban Mission and the poor. Costs are up and the need for help is up. The poor will suffer in these difficult times. Yet, we will all thrive knowing without doubt who is present with us, who has saved us and who is guiding us toward a future that is secure and without blemish. Our salvation continues in the life of Jesus Christ. Our needs are already cared for. Rest in peace and in the knowledge of Jesus Christ, Savior and Lord.

-Love, Pastor Bruce

Appreciation Luncheon a Success!



Our Annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon was held on Friday, April 18, 2008 at Wintersville United Methodist Church. Our theme was, “**Volunteers: The Heart of Our Community**”.

The Luncheon was in celebration of all the volunteers who collectively donated **44,322 hours of service** to Urban Mission in 2007. Over one-hundred volunteers attended the Luncheon, which was catered by Manfred’s Restaurant. Our 2007 Volunteers of the Year were presented with plaques in honor of their exemplary service. Musical entertainment was provided by, “Four for Him”. Candle-lighting and a memorial reading was given in honor of volunteers who passed away in 2007.

Special thanks to Judy Manfred and her crew for their outstanding work. Thanks also to “Four for Him” who sang many uplifting songs including a rousing performance of, “I’m Proud to Be an American”. Thanks also to the dozens and dozens of volunteers that help make Urban Mission what it is. We couldn’t accomplish all that we do without each of your contributions! God bless you as we continue to work together in 2008.

-Linda Smith, Program Director

Hutton House Thanks

Every year, the Hutton House Homeless Shelter provides temporary housing for over 150 children and adults. This is the only area shelter providing housing for families. We recently received this letter of appreciation for the work of Debra, our Shelter Director and the staff of the Hutton House.

To the Hutton House Staff:

I was recently a guest at the Hutton House. I began my stay in the Shelter in February and was able to find permanent housing in early April. This letter is to express my great appreciation to the staff members at the Hutton House.

My particular circumstances were unusual and extremely difficult. The staff members at the Hutton House went above and beyond in offering emotional support and referrals to many different community agencies that I was not aware of prior to staying at the Shelter. The staff members were instrumental in helping me find housing, looking for employment and clearing up other matters related to my children. In addition, I found the programs to be informative and useful.

I participated in both the parenting and budgeting programs. Both programs offered valuable information. I found the programs to be so useful that I will continue to attend when possible. If I ever had a friend with children facing homelessness, I would, without a doubt, refer them to the Hutton House.

Debra Bryan (Director), Wendy Mottle (Resident Manager) and Ms. Sandra (Program Director) and Rev. Bruce, thank you for all of your help.

Sincerely, Concetta S.

We are grateful for this success story and are happy to share in Concetta’s joy!

Fast Facts:



In 2007, 192 persons resided in the Homeless Shelter, of which 118 were children. A total of 276 “Life Skills” classes were presented to residents on budgeting, parenting, nutrition, etc.



Good Used Shoes Accepted

Our Biennial Shoe Giveaway is coming up soon! If you have **good condition** used shoes for children, men or women, please consider donating them for this program. Please deliver all shoe donations to the Urban Mission Warehouse, 311 N. 6th St., Steubenville by **May 9, 2008**.

Shoe Giveaway

May 19-20, 2008

9:00-12:00; 1:00-3:00

Urban Mission Warehouse
311 North 6th Street, Steubenville



Do You Recycle?



We’ve been hearing lots of things lately about “Going Green” and recycling to conserve our resources. There are many things we can do to help preserve our Earth. Have you ever flipped open a soda pop and just thrown the tab away? Did you know it can be recycled? Several children’s hospitals and charities benefit from the recycled pop can tabs. If you would like to recycle these tabs for charity, please bring your tabs to Urban Mission at 301 N. 5th Street and they will be recycled to benefit others.
(Idea submitted by: Peg Bell, Ceramics Instructor)

Minority Health Month Highlights



Our Annual Minority Health Month programming was successful. Many events were held throughout April to raise the awareness of health issues facing the minority community.

“Shall We Dance?”: A ballroom and line dancing class instructed by Roland Ford that incorporated dancing as exercise. Over thirty adults threw on their dancing shoes for this enjoyable class.

Men’s Health Breakfast and Prostate Cancer Screening: Over fifty area men attended these events. Discussion and early detection are the keys to fighting this disease.

Health Screenings: Area podiatrists and health professions held health screenings such as foot examinations, blood sugar and blood pressure testing. Knowing your numbers is important!

Thanks to all the volunteers who helped throughout the month and special thanks to Lisa Thomas, Carmen Thompson and Patti West for their hard work. **Remember, Good Health Begins With You!**

-Sharon Kirtdoll, Community Developer



JOSHUA Host Churches Needed

Our first JOSHUA team will be arriving in a few weeks. We still have several weeks available for Churches who would like to serve as a Host for work teams coming to our area.

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 a wonderful way of taking part in a groups visit to our area.

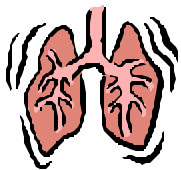
Below is a list of dates still available. If your Church is interested in hosting a group, please contact the Mission at 740-282-8010.

June 16 & 19 June 23 & 26

June 30 & July 3 July 21 & 24

August 4 & 7

(Note: The dates listed are the **Monday** Breakfast meal and the **Thursday** Dinner.)



Parish Nurse News: Breathe Easy Month

The American Lung Association has identified May as Breathe Easy Month. There are many diseases that can affect one’s breathing. Let’s talk about asthma, a common breathing disorder that affects persons of all ages.

Asthma is defined as intermittent and reversible obstruction of the flow of air in the airways. Asthma attacks can be triggered by many factors which include environmental factors such as allergens, dust mites, cold air, tobacco smoke, fumes, and odors. Other factors that can trigger asthma attacks are upper respiratory infections, exercise, and unknown causes.

Symptoms of an asthma attack include an increased number of respirations and wheezing, which is louder when the person exhales. The person experiencing an asthma attack has difficulty breathing and may be unable to complete a sentence of more than five words between breaths. If the asthma attack is severe, the person can develop a bluish discoloration of the lips or nailbeds, an increased heart rate, and changes in level of consciousness.

Management of asthma begins with individualized, personal education. The person is taught how to use medications to manage his/her asthma attacks and how to determine when to contact a health care provider. Each person with asthma will receive specific types of medications to control symptoms, which may include a combination of

medications. Some persons with asthma receive daily medications in an attempt to prevent episodes, while some persons only receive medications, such as inhalers, to use when symptoms occur. Some persons with asthma use both daily medications and inhalers for asthma attacks. It is extremely important that each person with asthma take only the medications that are prescribed by the health care provider. Education also includes avoidance of potential triggers for attacks and symptoms that require immediate treatment by a health care provider.

If a person’s asthma attack cannot be controlled, it can be fatal. Approximately 5000 persons die each year in the United States from severe airway obstruction caused by an acute asthma attack. As with any health problem that can cause airway obstruction, asthma can be a serious health problem.

There are many resources available to learn about asthma. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has many resources available on their website at www.cdc.gov and the American Lung Association has resources available on their website at <http://www.lungsusa.org>. You can also obtain information about asthma from the parish nurse or your family doctor. Take the time to learn about asthma so that you can be prepared to offer assistance if someone experiences an asthma attack.

-Michalene A. King, PhD, RN



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

Non-Profit Org.
 U.S. Postage
 PAID
 Steubenville, OH 43952
 Permit No. 103

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

LABEL

Urban Mission: "Listening With Compassion; Serving With Love"


Upcoming Events in May 2008

3, 10, 17, 31	Mission Rejoice Service (Saturdays)	6:00 PM
5, 12, 19	Parish Nurse (Mondays)	11:00 AM
6	God's Pantry Hunger Committee Meeting	10:00 AM
7	Program/Evaluation Committee Meeting Lupus Support Group Meeting: Trinity East Medical Center	2:00 PM 6:00 PM
8	Neighborhood Community Development Center Meeting Greater Steubenville Community Development Corp. Meeting	4:00 PM 5:00 PM
13	Packing for Food Distribution Finance Committee Meeting	9:00 AM 6:00 PM
15	God's Pantry Food Distribution	9-12:1-3
19	Lupus Support Group Meeting: Martin Luther King Center	6:00 PM
19-20	Biennial Shoe Giveaway at the Warehouse, 311 N. 6th Street	9-12; 1-3
22	Board of Directors Meeting	4:30 PM
24-26	Closed for Memorial Day Holiday. No Saturday Mission Rejoice Service on the 24th.	Closed
25	CSFP Senior Food Distribution	1:00 PM
29	UM Newsletter Folding	9:00 PM

Unity Kitchen Needs

The Unity Kitchen is in need of the following items:

- ⇒ Disposable Foil Pans
- ⇒ Dish Towels
- ⇒ Dish Rags
- ⇒ Aprons



If you would like to donate any of these items, please drop them off to the Mission at 301 North 5th Street, Steubenville.