

Bright Horizons

September 2002

Rev. Bruce Hitchcock, Executive Director Deborah Schaffer, Associate Director Angie Brown, Newsletter Editor

A Life Transformed!



Did you know . . .

In 2001, the Hutton House housed 112 adults and 97 children who otherwise would have been on the streets? This is just one of the many Mission story's of God taking broken lives and mending them together with the help of the Hutton House Homeless Shelter.

A woman and daughter have been staying in our homeless shelter, the Hutton House. She is a small woman who battles cancer, poverty and being an only parent. She has blonde hair and the look of a difficult life can be seen in her face.

When she first came to our area, she had very little hope. It was almost as if she came to die. In fact, she came to Steubenville so her daughters could get to know her father in case the Cancer won the battle of life and death.

They recently moved from

the Shelter to their own apartment. Mom has an expression of confidence and peace on her face. I wish we would have taken a "before and after" photo. Her face is transformed!

She received a safe place to stay, some life skills classes and the opportunity to volunteer at the shelter. She received a little love and respect from our staff. Now she is employed, providing for herself and daughter and in every way displays one who is reborn to live.

The little girl ran up to me and said, "Pastor Bruce,

guess what?! I have my own room now!" She displayed the simple joy of having a place to call home. Her room. Her space.

Hospitality is a gift from the Holy Spirit. Never confuse our shelter with secular shelters. We offer what God gives. Thank you for supporting our ministry. Everyday we are blessed by seeing people transformed from hopeless, helpless souls to people blessed by God's mercy.

Love, Pastor Bruce

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Love that Shows

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!! Praise the Lord!! This past week we received a gift of \$5,000 to help pay off the warehouse mortgage. Not only does this gift save both principal and interest, it allows us to look toward the day when that monthly payment can be used to purchase food for the hungry. Thank you God for such generous servants. Only six more such gifts would pay off this mortgage and help us to provide for our hunger programs. Could the love of the Lord be speaking to your heart also?

Each month, the Urban Mission warehouse packs and distributes over 750 bags of groceries to hungry families in need. This is just one aspect of the Mission helping those in need.

Annual Charity Golf Scramble

Steubenville Country Club
Monday, September 30, 2002.
Entry Fee (per person):



\$100 (tax deductible)
Price Includes: 18 holes, Cart, Lunch, Dinner and Prizes.
Registration will be from 11 AM -12 Noon
Shot Gun at 12 Noon.
To register, call the Urban Mission at : 740 -282-8010

What A Summer!

My first summer at Urban Mission has been an exciting, rewarding and busy one. First there was the Children's Summer Program. The first week we had 108 children signed up! The program was 5 days a week for 6 weeks and boy were they busy that whole time. The program covered character building, math, reading, sign language, music and art. Once a week there was a field trip. The most favorite field trip the children went on was the Llama Farm. They were able to pet the llamas and take them for a walk. The children kept thanking us for giving them a fun summer.

Then there was the Mission Rejoice Picnic. What a fun time that was. The children were able to go swimming as well as the adults. But, most of the adults stayed at the shelter playing bingo. After the picnic was over a special 8 year old girl who had been homeless and recently moved into her own home said more than once, "I want to thank everyone for giving me the best day of my summer". What a heart moving moment that was!

Our Carnival was loads of fun but a lot of work. The amount of work that goes into it was astounding. However, our staff and volunteers did not seem to mind all the effort in order to give our community 4 hours of fun. All were exhausted at the end of the day but all had smiles on their faces as well.

Then there were the Joshua groups that

came from different states to help repair the low income homes in our area. For some of the adults this was their vacation time they gave up in order to serve. What a joy it has been meeting these folks and getting to know them. I have shared meals with some of the groups and sat during devotionals. What a blessing it is to fellowship with other believers.

One of the last programs of the summer was the Back to School Give Away. Thanks to the Big Bear donation given to the Urban Mission in May we were able to give brand new clothes to children going back to school. The response to this was so great I feared that we would run out of clothes within the first hour we began the give away. But, my fears proved wrong when at the end of the day there were clothes left over. We were able to share these with other missions in need. Due to the generosity and kind heart of Theresa Givens we were able to give free haircuts to the children going back to school. Not only did she give the free haircuts but she explained to the children how to take care of their hair and gave out bags of hair care products. Then the grand finale was distributing the school supplies. Not only did the bags contain the usual school supplies but thanks again to the Big Bear donation we were able to include a couple of items that normally would not have been given.

One meaningful memory of this summer was when an 81 year old man walked into the Mission and said that he was hungry. He was stranded in our city since the day before and was trying to get home. The Unity Kitchen was closed and the workers were just about to go home when he came in. They got a plate for him and watched as he devoured the food. As he turned around and walked out one of the workers who has volunteered for many years started to cry and said, "Truly that man was hungry". It has been an eye opener for me at how many people come through here saying that they are stranded in Steubenville and want to get home. They have no place to sleep nor anything to eat. This is a need that I did not know existed in our city.

To sum it all up this has been a very moving and joyous summer. Watching the number of people come into the Mission with needs then watching how the Lord met those needs was astounding. I have started to keep a journal of all the awesome things God does around here. I have a feeling that journal is going to be filled up in a short amount of time because this is a place where miracles happen and God's love is vividly seen. And thanks to you who support us in all different ways you are part of this miracle, used by God to touch the poor and the hurting.

Deborah Schaffer
Associate Director

JOSHUA Season A Success!

We never like to see things come to an end, but this year's JOSHUA program is winding down for the year 2002. It seems as if we were just getting started. The weeks have flown by and we have just about wrapped things up. There were 20 week long groups that came here to the Steubenville area to lend a hand with whatever was in need of being done. A lot was accomplished by each and every group. Porches were built, wheelchair ramps were put up, wood siding was repaired, roof sheeting was replaced, roofs were reshingled, others had new rolled roofing applied, and last but not least, hundreds of gallons of paint was applied; both interior and exterior. These groups also helped with the preparation and distribution of food from our pantry. Volunteers got to work in the soup kitchen each week assisting Toni Hubbard. In its totality, these groups accomplished 29 public assistance projects and dozen of projects right here at the mission this summer. These volunteers gave their time and their money to accomplish the JOSHUA mission. We owe these volunteers, both young and old, a debt of gratitude. More importantly we have to recognize that this is the example of Christ that we are to show to the world so that all might come to know His love. These volunteers have shown our community that love of Christ. All volunteers took home a certificate from the Urban Mission, plus many memories as they worked and made new friends here in the Steubenville area. Our sincere hope is that they took home much, much more. May God bless them as much as they blessed those whose lives they touched here. Isn't that what it's all about?

Wayne Barcalow, Joshua Director

Parish News: School Safety

Everyone talks about child safety during the summer months when school is out, but we also need to think about child safety needs when they are in school. Both children and adults must be aware of the special child safety needs involving school.

Children arrive at school in buses, cars, vans and some even walk. How many of us pass at least one school on our way to work everyday? We may be passing the school when children are arriving and or leaving. We need to remember to drive no more than 20 miles per hour through the school zone. Children may be anxious about arriving at school or leaving and may not be alert to traffic. We adults must be especially careful when driving through these school zones. Remember that the younger the child, the more cautious we must be. Small children are harder to see, so be really cautious around grade schools! We must also pass school buses on the road. Remember that if a bus is stopped we must also stop. If children are departing from the bus, make sure that all the children are safely on the side of the road before you start to drive.

If your child must come home alone after school, make sure they know some basic safety rules. With all the child abductions lately, it is extremely important for Parents to review home safety with children of all ages. Never open the door to strangers or let anyone know that they are home alone. Give them a number of a friend or neighbor they can contact if there is a problem. Teach your children to dial 911 in case of an emergency and have important numbers and information posted by the phones so that the child can easily give that information to emergency personnel. Remember we need to watch out for our children now that school is back in session. Following a few simple rules and being an alert driver can keep all of our children safe.

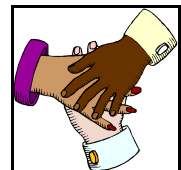
Michalene King, RN, MSEd, MSN, Associate Professor of Nursing, West Liberty State College.

The Holiday's Are Coming!

Now is the time to look ahead at your calendars so you can schedule time to come in and lend a hand during the holidays. We are moving into a very busy time with lots of activities taking place. And these activities need many hands, such as yours, to help them move along smoothly.

Listed below are the holiday activities scheduled for this year. Please check over the list and mark your calendar as to the times you would like to help us during this busy time.

- 1. REGISTRATION FOR THANKSGIVING/CHRISTMAS KIDS COAT DISTRIBUTION**
October 21, 22, 23, 24, 25 9:00 – 12:00 & 1:00 – 3:00
- 2. PACKING BAGS FOR THANKSGIVING**
November 12 Beginning at 10:00 AM
(Lunch will be provided for volunteers)
(Please let us know if you are coming. Too many volunteers can be as bad as not enough volunteers.)
- 3. THANKSGIVING DISTRIBUTION**
November 13 9:00 – 12:00 & 1:00 – 3:00
November 14 9:00 – 12:00
- 4. WEST VIRGINIA DISTRIBUTION**
November 21 9:00 – 12:00
- 5. CHRISTMAS TOY DISTRIBUTION**
December 19 & 20 9:00 – 12:00 & 1:00 – 3:00
- 6. MISSION REJOICE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE**
December 21 6:00 to 8:00



Together with your help,
hand-in-hand, we touch
thousands of lives.

Our “Stockings for Teens” program has grown each year since we started with it. So we are going to do it again this year. To those of you who have helped in the past and to those who want to know more about this program, we’re waiting for your call. We’ll help you and/or your group to get started with this project.

Now is also the time for deciding if you would like to help with the Christmas Kids project. We anticipate another year of more than 500 children who will be on our list. We’ll assist you with whatever number of names you, your family or group would like to adopt. By participating in this program, you will be putting gifts under Christmas trees where there may not have been any. However you decide to help during the holidays, give Linda a call at 282-2911. She’ll be glad to add your name(s) to her “Holiday Helper” list.

Linda Poe, Program Director

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

LABEL

Upcoming Events in September 2002

2	LABOR DAY-UM Closed	
7	Mission Rejoice-Harsh Memorial Church	5:00 PM
9	Parish Nurse	11:00 AM
10	Hunger Committee Meeting Finance Committee Meeting	10:00 AM 6:00 PM
11	Program Committee Meeting Trinity Health Van	9:30 AM 11:00 AM
14	Mission Rejoice-Mt. Pleasant Friends	5:00 PM
16	Parish Nurse	11:00 AM
17	Packing Bags for Food Distribution	9:00 AM
18	Evaluation Committee	10:30 AM
19	God's Pantry Ohio Food Distribution	9-12; 1-3
21	Festival of Caring: No Mission Rejoice	
23	Parish Nurse	11:00 AM
25	Trinity Health Van	11:00 AM
25	Lupus Meeting	6:00 PM
26	God's Pantry WV Food Distribution	9-12
26	Board of Director's Meeting	4:30 PM
28	Mission Rejoice-Hubbard UMC	5:00 PM
30	Parish Nurse	11:00 AM

SOUP KITCHEN

Toni Hubbard, our Unity Kitchen Coordinator is in need of help in the Soup Kitchen on Monday's, Tuesday, and Wednesday's. If you or your group can help, please call Toni at 740-282-8010 to set up a time.

NCDC News!

On Friday, August 23, 2002, the Annual Back To School Supplies Give-a-way was held. God blessed us to be able to provide much needed school supplies to over 450 children. It is because of the love that you show in monetary donations and in donating these supplies that help us to provide for the youth of this community.