



BRIGHT HORIZONS

Rev. Bruce Hitchcock, Executive Director

Angie Brown, Newsletter Editor

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Holiday Helpers Needed!

As you can imagine, it takes lots of willing hands to make all of our programs successful, especially during the Christmas season. Do you have a few hours or a day that you can help Urban Mission provide a Happy Holiday to those in need?



If you would like to volunteer during the holidays, or if you have a question about any of our Holiday programs, please give Linda a call at 740-282-2911. She will be glad to work with you and share the Spirit of the Season!

“Forgotten Lessons”

In the wake of recent disasters, my perspective as a person who lives in Christ is not just to see the suffering in the crisis but the chance to give, suffer with people and to care and give thanks for what we have. As Americans, we are being reminded of a lesson we once knew. We knew what it meant to sacrifice and suffer with someone. We knew what it meant to care for our fellow man, to share what we had and to help wherever we could. This is the forgotten message of many Americans.

I recall a song that I use to sing with my children and the words still ring true today. Some of the words were, “All we really need is food in our bellies, love in our families and a song for our hearts.” As a “wealthy” nation, we have forgotten about the simple things. As we see what has happened on the Gulf Coast, we now see that basic necessities are all we really need. After that, everything else is icing on the cake. It’s not what we have in the amount of material possessions but our relationship with each other and choosing to love, through it all.

We’ve learned many lessons in the midst of suffering. We’ve seen the generosity of millions of Americans that opened their hearts and wallets to help after Katrina. People from all races and colors rushed to the aid of their fellow man. It wasn’t about black or white but

about humanity and lifting up someone in need.

I recall a story of a two towns. One was in Florida and one in Texas. The population of these towns consisted of all Caucasians. After the disaster, both communities opened their doors to two African Americans families from New Orleans. They accepted these families into their communities and showed the

*“Lord and King, you have reached out your great and powerful arm. You have made the heavens and the earth. **Nothing is too hard for you.**” -Jeremiah 32:17*

rest of America a wonderful lesson about loving and caring for one another in the time of need. These are the things that we should be grateful for during this month of Thanksgiving.

As Executive Director, I see many acts of generosity to be thankful for right here in the Ohio Valley. I am thankful for the many churches, businesses and individuals who support the Mission all year through. I am thankful for those coming in to receive what they need. No matter how much we give to those in need, the more we as a Mission are blessed.

When we live in Christ, we can see beyond the disaster and see the chance to grow as people. Suffering is not always something to run from, but to embrace. We can love and grow during times of suffering if we choose to do so. **We may grow weary as humans but if we continue in God, nothing is too hard for Him and it becomes easier for us!**

-Love, Pastor Bruce



Thanksgiving 2005



THANKSGIVING BAG PACKING

Tuesday, November 15
Starting at 9:00 AM

THANKSGIVING DISTRIBUTION

Wednesday, November 16
9:00-12:00; 1:00-3:00
Thursday, November 17
9:00– 12:00

Lunch will be served for volunteers. Please RSVP at 740-282-2911 if planning to help.

THANKSGIVING DRIVE UPDATE

Registrations have been completed, food ordered, and with your help we will be able to provide all the ingredients for a Traditional Thanksgiving Dinner for 1,200 families.

Each basket costs \$35 to put together and will be distributed to low income families throughout the Ohio Valley. Many donations have already come in but we still need your help to reach our goal of \$42,000. Please consider sending in your donation today. (If donating by check, please include **“Thanksgiving”** in the memo).

Holiday Programs at Urban Mission

OPERATION CHRISTMAS STOCKINGS



This fun project involves filling a Christmas stocking or Holiday gift bag with toiletries and other items for a teen female or male. The stockings (approximately 200-250) will then be presented to teens 13-18 years of age just before Christmas.

Suggested items to include are **soap, toothbrush, toothpaste, deodorant, comb/brush, shampoo, conditioner, cologne/aftershave, talc powder, lipstick/compact, hair spray, hair combs, barrettes, nail polish, cotton balls, Q-tips, jewelry, and restaurant gift certificates (McDonalds, Burger King and etc.).**

If you would like to participate in this wonderful program please contact Linda at 740-282-2911 and sign up. Please have the stockings back to the Mission by **Friday, December 9, 2005.**

SANTA'S RECYCLE SHOP



Each year we have several families who do not make the deadline for registering their children for the Christmas Kids Program. In order to help these families have toys for their children, we will have **“Santa’s Recycle Shop”** on **December 20 and 21 from 9:00 – 12:00 and 1:00 – 3:00** at our Warehouse.

If you have any new or used toys, games, etc. please consider donating them for this program. We ask that these items be in *very* good condition (toys in good working order, puzzles without missing pieces, books not colored or written in, etc.). Toys can be delivered to the warehouse located at 311 North 6th Street in Steubenville, OH, Monday–Friday, 9 AM–12:00 PM and 1:00 PM–3:00 PM.

CHRISTMAS KID’S ADOPT A CHILD PROGRAM



Have you signed up to be a part of the **Christmas Kid’s Adopt a Child Program** yet? This program provides Christmas gifts for low-income children, ages 12 and under. Linda still has many names of children that need to be adopted. If you would like to help with this program, please call Linda at 740-282-2911. All gifts should be returned to the Urban Mission by **Friday, December 9, 2005.**

MITTEN AND HAT TREE



Each year we fill a large Christmas tree with hats, mittens, gloves, socks and underwear for parents to take for their children when they pick up the gifts from our Christmas Kids Program.

If you would like to help with this project, please mail or bring the items to the main office (301 N. 5th Street) or to the warehouse (311 N. 6th Street) in Steubenville. Please have the items to the Mission by **Friday, December 9, 2005.**



NCDC Lupus News

LUPUS AWARENESS MONTH RECAP

October was Lupus Awareness Month. Several activities were held throughout the month to raise awareness of Lupus and to provide support to individuals and their friends and families living with Lupus.

One of the special events was a Lupus Talk Show at the Martin Luther King Center. Our special guests were Shelby Zarotney of WTOV 9 and Angela Suggs of Jefferson Community College. We also had a comedic performance by Albert Dawson. This was a night filled with information presented in a different way.

LUPUS SUPPORT GROUP MEETINGS

November 15: Martin Luther King Center

November 30: Schiappa Library

December 2: Steubenville High School

December 13: Martin Luther King Center

Funding is provided by the Ohio Commission on Minority Health.

Coat Giveaway a Success!



Some of the folks receiving coats at the Giveaway.

The **Annual Coat Giveaway** was held on October 24-26. Over **2,000** coats and other accessories were given out.

Thank you to the churches, groups and individuals who donated used and new coats.

There was a very good selection to choose from. We thank you for always coming through for us and helping to make this winter a warmer one for those in need.

Healthy Bingo



Mark your calendars now for **Healthy Bingo**. It will be held on **Wednesday, December 7 at 12:30 p.m.** in the Unity Kitchen. Make plans to join us for this fulfilled informative event. Healthy Bingo is sponsored by Women in Action Against Cancer Coalition.

Parish Nurse News: Carbon Monoxide Facts

Did you know that over 200 people in the U. S. die each year of **carbon monoxide poisoning**? Do you know all the sources of carbon monoxide in your home? Do you know the symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning? Let's take a minute to examine these questions.

Carbon monoxide (CO) is a colorless, odorless gas that is poisonous. It is produced by incomplete burning of many fuels. Heating sources using natural gas, LP gas, oil, kerosene, coal or wood all may produce CO. Other sources that produce CO are burning charcoal and running cars.

People become unintentionally poisoned by CO in many ways. Faulty fuel-burning appliances (furnaces, ranges, water heaters, and room heaters) can produce CO. Burning charcoal in an enclosed area (the home, garage, vehicle, or a tent) can lead to CO poisoning. Leaving a car running in an attached garage can also lead to CO poisoning.

The symptoms of CO poisoning are similar to the symptoms of the flu. These include headache, fatigue, shortness of breath, nausea, and dizziness. Because many people mistake the symptoms of CO poisoning for symptoms of the flu, tragic deaths can occur.

Ways you can prevent carbon monoxide poisoning:

*Have appliances installed by professionals and checked on an annual basis. Inspection should include chimneys and flues for blockages, corrosion, disconnections and loose connections.

*Install a CO detector/alarm in a hallway near sleeping areas

in your home, but do not use this as a substitute for proper maintenance of appliances.

***Never** burn charcoal or use portable fuel-burning camping equipment inside an enclosed area, such as the house, garage, vehicle, or tent.

***Never** leave a car running in an attached garage even with the garage door open.

***Never** service fuel-burning appliances without proper knowledge, skills, and tools. Refer to the owner's manual.

***Never** use gas appliances such as a gas range or oven or a gas clothes dryer for heating your house.

***Never** use unvented fuel-burning appliances in any room with closed doors or windows or in rooms in which people sleep.

If your CO detector/alarm sounds, hit the reset button. If it continues to sound, call 911 or your fire department and go outside into the fresh air. What should you do if you do not have a CO detector/alarm, and you think that you or someone else might have CO poisoning? Call 911 or go to the emergency room immediately. Tell the health care professionals that you suspect you or the other person has CO poisoning. If you are suffering from CO, your home will need to be inspected to detect the source of the CO. Once the source is detected and repaired, you can return to your home.

CO poisoning can be deadly, but it can be detected and prevented. If you have any further questions about carbon monoxide, you can receive additional information from the Consumer Product Safety Commission.

-Michalene A. King, RN, MSEd, MSN



At Urban Mission, miracles are an everyday occurrence. Webster's Dictionary defines a **"Miracle"** as an extraordinary event manifesting divine intervention in human affairs. Truly, that is what Urban Mission is as a whole, a **"Miracle"**. Every month we see the Lord provide for all of our needs, whether it be enough funds to purchase food or large donations of meat from individuals in the community to be used for the Unity Kitchen and distributions. **Miracles happen here!** As the Holiday season approaches, the Urban Mission staff would like to share with you some of the many miracles we have witnessed during the Holiday's.

As a contributor to our many programs, have you ever wondered exactly how you have made a difference? Well, this is our chance to let you know! In our November and December newsletters, our staff will be sharing wonderful stories of Holiday miracles they have witnessed in the past few years. We hope you will enjoy these as we give you a first hand glimpse as to the impact on others that your donations have made.

-Love, the Urban Mission Staff

"The Power of Having Faith"

It was toward the end of the month and I knew the lunch crowd would be large that day. Unity Kitchen is a place our friends can come for a free hot lunch and lessen the burden of gathering enough food for another meal.

I had prepared the lunch menu for the day. We were going to have something out of the norm, pepperoni pizza as the main dish. During the morning, volunteers helped prepare the side dishes and a few sweets for dessert. As the lunch hour was approaching, I had begun to cook the pizza in our large industrial ovens.

Based on the crowd at hand, I estimated that each person could have 1 ½ slices of pizza along with the other dishes. It was 11:45 a.m., just fifteen minutes before serving time when I took the pizzas out of the oven. As I began to divide them into portions, something didn't look right with the pizza and I knew I had a big problem. I could not serve the pizza to anyone. I panicked. It



One of the hot meals served in Unity Kitchen.

was time for lunch and I had no pizza to serve!

The panic on my face was evident to everyone in the kitchen. Rob, one of the volunteers, asked me to call a local pizza company named Vocelli and ask them for a donation for lunch. I told him no way. I couldn't ask them on such short notice. It was lunch time and everyone was busy. Rob looked at me and asked if he could use the phone. He made a call and talked quietly in the corner. Within no time hot delicious pizza with cheese running down the side, was delivered to the Mission. There was enough for everyone to have three or four slices!

That day we all saw the power of having faith. God show up and show out. I thank Rob for his faith and Vocelli Pizza for their kind heart. But most of all, I thank my Lord for His continued faithfulness to the Unity Kitchen.

-Rev. Toni Hubbard, Unity Kitchen Director

"An Overwhelmed Heart"

I really enjoy working at Urban Mission, especially at Christmas time. I love watching the reaction of parents and grandparents coming in to pick up their children's gifts.



I remember one Christmas a Grandmother came in to pick up the gifts for her granddaughter. The workers took her name and number and brought out her gifts. One of

them was a new bike for her granddaughter. The lady started to cry because she was so overwhelmed and happy because of the gifts. It was an emotional moment for all of us. My eyes were also filled with tears just to see the happiness that this gift brought to the grandmother. Thank you for helping make this moment of joy possible. Happy Holiday's!

-Kitty Lancaster, Custodian

“The Spirit of Giving”

At the Mission, Christmas is always a fun yet extremely busy time. A lot of planning and hard work goes into the many Holiday programs, especially the Christ-



Some of the brand new bicycle for the Adopt a Child Program.

mas Kids adopt a child program. From decorating the sanctuary and office area for distribution day, to volunteers registering parents for the program; there are very few dull moments at the Mission during the Holidays.

One year, just a few days before toy distribution day, the office area was packed with gifts for the children that had been adopted. A diligent crew was working hard to sort the toys into order and move them into the sanctuary before pickup. With over 500 children adopted out, the sanctuary filled up quickly with more gifts still being brought in by the minute.

It is always a joy for us to show those dropping off gifts the fully decorated sanctuary with the toys and gifts that have already been delivered. One particular husband and wife had come in to drop off gifts for the child they adopted. As usual, we offered them a peek into the sanctuary to see all the bags and boxes of gifts that people had brought in. The pews were overflowing and all

along the back and side walls of the sanctuary stood brand new bicycles. In amazement, the couple inquired as to if the bikes were for the kids in this particular program. I explained, that yes indeed, many people had opened their hearts and wallets a little wider and brought in new bikes for the kids. With excited, almost childlike grins, the couple asked, “Could *WE* bring a bike in?!?!” My answer was that sure they could *have* brought a bike but we really appreciated the gifts that they had already purchased. The couple gave a short glance between themselves, which appeared to me as two ornery children looking for trouble, then quickly said, “OK, we’ll be back in a few!”.

The delightful couple left but within a few hours, the doorbell rang again and yes... they were back! This time the husband carried a large cumbersome box up the steps to the office area. He sat the box down and pulled off the bag to reveal his bounty. These wonderful people had gone out and purchased a brand new tricycle for the child they adopted! As if that wasn’t enough to bring tears to our eyes, the man asked if we had a tool box. This wonderfully kind couple spent the next hour putting the tricycle together so it would be all ready for the little one on Christmas Day. With a few ribbons and bows on the handles (also provided by the couple), the tricycle was tagged and placed in the sanctuary for the family to pick up. This was just one of the nearly 80 bicycles that lined the walls of our sanctuary that year.

These friends of the Mission truly represented the “Spirit of Giving”. They could have chosen to perhaps save their money and purchase gifts

for their own children or family and friends. But instead, they chose to give above and beyond what was asked of them. They reached into their pockets and deep down into their hearts and gave to someone less fortunate. This is just a one example of the love that this community shows Urban Mission each year. With cost of living prices soaring and gas prices at an all time high, people still choose to dig a little deeper into their pockets to help make sure that the children of this community have a reason to celebrate on Christmas Day. To this couple and to all who have donated and continue to contribute to the Mission, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts. Urban



Toys and Gifts lining the sanctuary pews on toy distribution day.

Mission is indeed a place of constant miracles. We make a difference because you choose to be a part of giving to those in need. May this Holiday Season bring many joys to each of you!

-Angie Brown, Exec. Secretary



Watch your December newsletter for more stories of faith, hope and love as we continue our special edition insert of Holiday Miracles!

NOVEMBER 2005

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Upcoming Events in November 2005

1	Hunger Committee Meeting	10:00 AM
2	Program/Evaluation Committee Meeting	2:00 PM
5	Mission Rejoice	6:00 PM
7	Parish Nurse (Every Monday)	11:00 AM
8	Finance Committee Meeting	6:00 PM
12	Mission Rejoice	6:00 PM
14	Parish Nurse	11:00 AM
15	Packing for Thanksgiving (see page 2)	9:00 AM
16	Thanksgiving Distribution	9-12; 1-3
17	Thanksgiving Distribution	9-12
17	Board of Directors Meeting	4:30 PM
19	Mission Rejoice	6:00 PM
21	Parish Nurse	11:00 AM
22	CSFP Senior Food Program	1:00 PM
24-26	Closed for Thanksgiving (No Mission Rejoice)	Offices Closed
28	Parish Nurse	11:00 AM

Hope Box for Hutton House

- 2006 Calendars
- Christmas Decorations
- Alarm clocks and wall clocks
- Pots and Pans
- Towels and wash cloths
- Dish towels and dishcloths
- Personal care items
- Cleaning supplies
- Mops, brooms and dustpans
- Batteries all sizes
- Light bulbs

