

May 2012

Bright Horizons

A Newsletter Ministry of Urban Mission

Rev. Ashley A. Steele, Executive Director

Angie Brown, Newsletter Editor

A WORD FROM OUR DIRECTOR

A few weeks ago, several Ohio Valley pastors met with the City Manager of Steubenville, as well as, the Steubenville Police Chief, to discuss matters of crime in the city. It was the first of what many hope will be continuing conversations surrounding this issue. It was an encouraging discussion as the participants seemed to be on one accord—something must be done.

"Your people will rebuild the ancient ruins and will raise up the age-old foundations; you will be called Repairer of Broken Walls, Restorer of Streets with Dwellings."

– Isaiah 58:12

Whether we hear about it on the nightly news or experience it first hand, crime affects all of us. It disturbs the peace of a city, a community, and even in families. Crime rips through the very fabric of our society, and does not discriminate.

What must we do when faced with the issue of crime or any threatening matter? Cower in fear, look away, or take action? Many have already begun to pray, fast, and even march along the city streets as a witness for peace. These are commendable efforts and I encourage you to join this good work.

During the meeting I asked the officials to share with the group where they felt the "gaps" where in the system. "*Where to begin*" was the response. With high illegal drug use, prostitution, poverty, hunger, and the absence of teaching right vs. wrong, the issues are many, and the resources are few.

What must we do? Perhaps this is the answer:

The other night, my husband and I were at a community function. I overheard him tell someone, "*my wife and I are in the bridge building business.*" I laughed when he said this as he's the one who builds bridges for a career. The more I thought about it, however, we, as followers of Christ are called to be bridge builders - to bridge the gaps of a city, a community, and even in families, if needed.

At the Urban Mission, we are called to bridge the gap between meals for people. Our local health center bridges the gap between sickness and health for people. Homeless shelters in the area bridge the housing gap many experience. Churches in the area do so by bridging the gap between God and man.

Where are you called to bridge the gap? How has God equipped you to care for those around you? We may not eliminate all the issues that surround us, but we can certainly do our part. Join us in the coming months as we work together to bridge the gaps in our community.

God bless you,

Rev. Ashley Steele



HUNGER-A RISING ISSUE IN AMERICA

We have all watched the commercials on television and we have all received the phone calls concerning world hunger. Yes indeed, there is a definite problem worldwide with this issue. But, the same problem is evident and the problem is right in our own back yards, or most importantly, right in our own homes.

Hunger in America is becoming a major issue and more and more folks are bringing attention to the issue. With 1 in 5 kids in our country struggling with hunger on a daily basis, a move to end childhood hunger in America by 2015 has been founded. An ongoing partnership between Food Network and Share Our Strength's No Kid Hungry Campaign now exists. They have put together a new documentary, "Hunger Hits Home". This film takes a first-hand look at the crisis of childhood hunger in America through the eyes of the parents, children, anti-hunger activists, educators and politicians on the frontlines of the battle.

Foodbanks and hunger programs throughout the country rely on federal nutrition programs to help feed hungry Americans. These programs are authorized through the Farm Bill, which expires at the end of September 2012. In March I received a request asking Urban Mission to join The Ohio Association of Second Harvest Foodbanks urging Congress to protect nutrition programs, particularly, The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly known as food stamps. The benefits of this program are targeted at our most vulnerable neighbors. 76% of SNAP households include a child, elderly person, or disabled person, and these households receive 84% of all SNAP benefits.

Hunger is a national problem, and it needs a national solution that combines the resources and strengths of both private charity and a strong federal safety net. Charity can do a lot, but foodbanks cannot fill the gap if TEFAP commodity support does not increase or cuts are made to critical programs like SNAP.

As part of constituent groups representing over 1.8 million SNAP recipients in Ohio and the many other low-income and food insecure people in our state, I am proud to say that on behalf of Urban Mission, I added my signature to the letter that was sent to Senator Sherrod Brown.

Households are facing impossible choices among food, home heating, gasoline, rent, medicine and other basic needs. Millions continue to struggle with hunger. Nearly one in five Americans said there were times they didn't have enough money to buy food that they or their families needed in 2011. No state was immune from this challenge: in Ohio, 19.8 % of households stated they struggled in this way. Rates for families with children are higher.

This is the time to strengthen, not weaken, our nation's nutrition safety net. I am proud to tell you that if you go to page 4 of the letter sent to Senator Sherrod Brown and look at the fourth line from the bottom of the page, you will see 'Urban Mission, Steubenville' joined this fight to end childhood hunger in America by 2015. I cannot think of a better way to lose a job!

-Linda L. Smith, Program Director



The Mission will be closed on Monday, May 28, 2012 in observance of Memorial Day. We take the time remember those who have given their lives in service of our country. You will never be forgotten.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Administering all of the programs the Urban Mission provides requires the help of staff and many volunteers.

We are currently looking for faithful volunteers to be a part of our Committees that oversee various programming.



How can you help? Volunteer to be a part of a committee. **What does this require?** Most committees meet just once per month for an hour or two at most.

Here is a list of Committees we are looking for volunteers to serve on:

Buildings and Grounds: If you have a background in construction, engineering, custodial work or maintenance this may be for you.

Finance: If you have a background in finance (bank, investments, taxes, etc.) or just love crunching numbers, perhaps you may fit here.

Hunger: If you have an interest in working on the new choice pantry, allowing clients to choose their own food products, this committee is for you.

JOSHUA: If you enjoy mission work or have knowledge of building projects and/or construction, consider this committee.

Program and Evaluation: If you have an eye for planning, thinking strategically, challenging the status quo, this is the perfect committee for you.

Public Relations: If you're good at networking, event planning, and fundraising and even public speaking on behalf of the Mission, join us and help us spread the word about the Mission to our area.

Scholarship: If you love to help the young people in our area and are interested in helping select worthy area students to receive scholarships, we'd love to have you.

Prepared to join a committee or need further information about a particular area of ministry? Just give our volunteer coordinator, Linda Smith a call at 740-282-2911 and she will be happy to get you set up with the area of ministry that fits you best or answer any questions you may have.

CELEBRATING PARISH NURSING IN MAY

During the month of May, we celebrate National Nurses Week from May 6th to May 12th, which is the birthday of Florence Nightingale, the founder of modern nursing. Nightingale believed that she was called by God to become a nurse when she was a child. It took her many years to convince her parents to let her attend nursing school and become a nurse. Her work in nursing is still recognized today.



Registered nurses work in many settings, one of which is faith communities. Modern parish nursing began in the mid 1980's through the vision of a Lutheran minister, Reverend Dr. Granger Westberg. His experiment to place health care professionals, including nurses, in churches proved to be successful. He discovered that the nurses were able to give specialized care to the people in the church and surrounding community. The name parish nurses was given to those original nurses, but a more inclusive name, faith community nurses is now used to include nurses from all faiths.

In order to be a parish (faith community) nurse, a nurse must receive specialized education either from a college or through an organization that is approved by the International Parish Nurse Resource Center (IPNRC) to teach their curriculum. Parish nurses practice holistic or whole person care which includes care of the body, mind, and spirit. Parish nurses have a unique role in their congregations. Although parish nurses do not perform hands on care such as change dressings or administer injections, they do perform many services. These services include such activities as teaching, referrals, counseling, coordinating volunteers, developing support groups, and integrating faith and health. According to the IPNRC, approximately 65% of parish nurses work as volunteers in their faith communities. Many of these nurses work limited hours, but are available to the parishioners before and after services.

You may be wondering why a registered nurse would give of his/her time and talents in the church. After spending many years as a parish nurse and talking with hundreds of parish nurses, I believe it is easy to answer that question. Just like Florence Nightingale, these nurses believe they were called by God to be nurses and they believe that God has called them to be parish nurses. Many of these nurses, myself included, can give you examples of the care they have given to their church members and the satisfaction they have received from giving that care.

If you are fortunate enough to have a parish nurse in your faith community, be sure to thank him or her during National Nurses Week. If you do not have a parish nurse and would like to find out more about parish nursing, you can visit the IPNRC website at www.parishnurses.org. There are materials at that site that can educate you and your congregation about parish nursing.

-Michalene A. King, PhD, RN, CNE

MAY IS LUPUS AWARENESS MONTH

May is now Lupus Awareness Month in Ohio. We have joined others states and the (LFA) Lupus Foundation of America to observe Lupus Awareness Month in May. Look for our display at your local pharmacy.



Common signs of lupus are:

- Red rash or color change on the face, often in the shape of a butterfly across the nose and cheeks
- Painful or swollen joints
- Unexplained fever
- Chest pain with deep breathing
- Swollen glands
- Extreme fatigue (feeling tired all the time)
- Unusual hair loss (mainly on the scalp)
- Pale or purple fingers or toes from cold or stress
- Sensitivity to the sun
- Low blood count
- Depression, trouble thinking, and /or memory problems

For more information: Contact Lupus Foundation of America Web site: www.lupus.org, SLE Foundation 800-745-878 or on their website at www.lupusny.org. Local information contact us at Urban Mission.

Lupus Optimal Health Program is funded by the Ohio Commission on Minority Health

GOOD SHOES NEEDED

Our Shoe Distribution is in just a few short weeks. We are still in need of good shoes for this event. Do you have shoes you or your children have outgrown? Is your shoe closet overflowing with shoes you no longer wear? We can put your shoes to good use by providing them to someone in need! We accept tennis shoes, dress shoes, sandals, boots and shoes of all kinds for adults and children.

You can drop off any new or used shoes at the Mission's Warehouse at 311 North 6th Street, by May 11, 2012 .

Are you in need of a pair of shoes? Stop by:

May 21, 22 or 23, 2012; 9-12; 1-3
Warehouse Ministry Center
311 North 6th Street, Steubenville

You can pick up a pair of shoes free of charge. All are welcome!

FEINSTEIN HUNGER CHALLENGE

Our Annual Feinstein Hunger Challenge came to an end on April 30, 2012. Throughout the months of March and April, the community responded to our challenge to collect funds and canned goods for this program.



Thank you to everyone who donated funds and/or food toward this project. Mother Teresa said, "If you can't feed a hundred people, then feed just one." Whether you contributed \$5 to feed one or \$500 dollars to provide food for a hundred hungry neighbors, each donation was greatly appreciated!

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

LABEL

MAY 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 No God's Pantry Hunger Committee Mtg.	2 No Program/ Evaluation Committee Mtg.	3 NCDC Mtg 4:00pm	4 <i>National Day of Prayer</i> 	5 Mission Rejoice 6pm
6	7 Parish Nurse 11am Lupus Mtg. 6pm	8	9	10	11 Deadline to bring in shoes for the giveaway.	12 Mission Rejoice 6pm
13 <i>Mother's Day</i> 	14 Parish Nurse 11am <i>Bishop and Order of Elders visit JOSHUA</i>	15 Packing for Food Distribution 9am <i>Bishop and Order of Elders visit JOSHUA</i>	16 Food Distribution 9-12; 1-3	17 Food Distribution 9-12; 1-3	18 Food Distribution 9-12; 1-3 Lupus Program- MLK Center 6pm	19 Mission Rejoice 6pm
20	21 Parish Nurse 11am Shoe Distribution 9-12; 1-3	22 CSFP Senior Distribution 1pm Shoe Distribution 9-12; 1-3	23 Shoe Distribution 9-12; 1-3	24 UM Board Mtg 4:30pm	25	26 <i>No Mission Rejoice Memorial Day Weekend</i>
27 <i>Pentecost</i> 	28 <i>Memorial Day</i> 	29	30	31 NL Folding 9am		