



December 2013

Rev. Ashley A. Steele, Executive Director Angie Brown, Newsletter Editor

TRUE JOY

At the end of this month I have the privilege of officiating a wedding for a special friend. With the wedding only a few days before Christmas, the couple has decided their theme will be "JOY." A wonderful and timely theme!

The term JOY is referred to a lot during the Christmas season. It's on our Christmas cards, it's in the songs that we sing, and it's spoken in our churches.

But with the great need we see in our communities and around the world, I must tell you I sometimes find it hard to be joyful... or to be more truthful, I feel guilty feeling joyful.

This year the Urban Mission is seeing record numbers of families coming in for assistance. People who have lost their jobs... those whose food stamps have been cut... those who are seeking help for the first time just to keep things afloat. It is heartbreaking.

As we prepare for Christmas, I question whether I should have the same pep in my step that inevitably comes when I hear my favorite Christmas tune... "Home for the Holidays."

I can't help but think to myself, "What if someone doesn't have a home?" "Or food to eat around the dinner table?" "Or gifts to open on Christmas morning?"

"Joy to the World"

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King; Let every heart prepare Him room, And heav'n and nature sing, And heav'n and nature sing, And heav'n, and heav'n, and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let men their songs employ; While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains. Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy!

And then I am reminded of the true meaning of Christmas.

"Joy to the World, the Lord Has Come!" He has come to conquer sin, death, poverty, and sickness!

Yes, we can have joy because of Him.

And... we have the opportunity to spread JOY to all we meet - whether it be in the form of food, or in the form of Christmas gifts, or hats and gloves, or coats.

Friends, you bring me JOY through your generosity, your prayers, and your love.

May you have a JOY FILLED and meaningful Christmas!

Merry Christmas!



Rev. Ashley

Rev. Ashley



Our Turkey Meter has Popped!

We are excited to announce that we reached our Thanksgiving Baskets goal! What a wonderful Thanksgiving the families we serve were able to have.



On November 20-22, over 1,000 families came through the lines to receive a Thanksgiving Basket. It was cold outside but there were certainly warm hearts all around!

We are thankful for those who sent funds in to purchase a food basket; collected items for the Thanksgiving Challenge; hosted Thom Turkey; helped pack and distribute the baskets; and all those who prayed for the Mission. Thank you for caring for those in need in our community!

I Am Thankful..

As I write this article, I am anticipating sharing Thanksgiving with my family. We will gather at my sisters and her husband, Bob, will be largely responsible for preparing the turkey and all the trimmings. Following dinner, we will share the fun and laughter that always accommodates the times we are together. For family and sharing time together, I am thankful.

Urban Mission has completed another wonderful Thanksgiving Food Distribution having provided more than 1,200 bags of food to families. For a staff and group of volunteers that continue to serve in love, I am thankful.

At the same time the bags of food were being presented to the families in the dock area of our Warehouse, I was in my office working on our Christmas programs. Our largest program, Christmas Kids, started out with over 400 children to be adopted. Once again, friends of Urban Mission stepped up and helped to get every child adopted. For friends who follow their hearts to make sure these children have Christmas presents, I am thankful.

Now I am anticipating the days the families will be coming in to pick up the packages for their children. It will be a hectic time for the workers, but watching everything unfold to provide the beauty of Christmas is wonderful. For the families who come to us for assistance, I am thankful.

The last Christmas program we hold is our Santa's Recycle Shop. So many friends have donated new and gently used toys to be taken upstairs for the Shop. Groups of individuals have helped do the sorting and cleaning and putting these toys in place. The parents coming in to shop are the parents who did not register their children anywhere for Christmas assistance. To be able to provide assistance for these parents, I am thankful.

1 Thessalonians 5:18 reads...*'In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.'*

Melody Beattie writes...*'Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life. It turns what we have into enough, and more. It turns denial into acceptance, chaos to order, confusion to clarity. It can turn a meal into a feast, a house into a home, a stranger into a friend.'*

It is the second sentence written by Ms. Beattie that I connect to. Our distribution has allowed our families to share in that feast. My sister's house will turn into a home as we all gather as a family. And many, many strangers became friends to Urban Mission as they provided their help with both holidays. It just doesn't get any better than that! For this is the will of God in Christ Jesus!

Thanks to everyone for all that you do...have done...and will do to continue to assist Urban Mission in doing God's work. God bless each of you!

~Linda L. Smith, Program Director

Mission Christmas 2013

The trees are up, the offices have been decorated and the holiday spirit is in the air at the Mission. We invite you to partner with us this holiday season. We have several programs to choose from if you are interested in helping those less fortunate have a merrier Christmas.

Mitten Tree



A 7ft Christmas Tree is placed in the office area and "decorated" with donated goods. Items accepted for this project are gloves, hats, scarves, mittens, socks and underwear (new items only please). Parents will be able to choose items from the tree for their children when they pick up their Christmas gifts. Please bring donations to the Mission at 301 North 5th Street by Monday, December 2. (Mitten Tree items will also be needed for the Recycle Shop. You can drop them off by Monday, December 16, 2013.)

Operation Teen Stockings

Stockings or gift bags (works better because items will stand) are filled with personal toiletry items for teen girls and boys. Ideas of items to include are shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, toothpaste/brush, lotion, body wash, aftershave, hairbrush, comb, gum, candy, razors, makeup, perfume, jewelry, cologne, etc. You can also include gift certificates from McDonald's or other fast food restaurants or anything else you think a teen would enjoy. Please bring donations to the Mission at 301 North 5th Street by Monday, December 2, 2013. (Stockings will also be needed for the Recycle Shop. You can drop them off by Monday, December 16, 2013.)



Santa's Recycle Shop



This program is for parents who do not have their children registered with any agency. Donations of gently used and new toys are used for this program. Ask your children and grandchildren to clean out their toy boxes and share with boys and girls who might not have Christmas presents. Please have items to the Warehouse at 311 North 6th Street by Friday, December 13, 2013.

Hutton House Christmas

The Hutton House Emergency Shelter for families is in need of help for Christmas. For many of the homeless families residing in the Shelter, Christmas becomes a very trying time. You can help bring joy to a family in need this Christmas. Consider adopting a family or providing small gifts for under the Christmas Tree. If you are interested in helping our families have a Merry Christmas, please call Debra at 740-282-8903.



Christmas Bingo Party



Wednesday, December 18, 2012

1:00 p.m.

Urban Mission Unity Kitchen

301 North Street

Steubenville, OH 43952

(Immediately following lunch.)

Free and Open to All!

Sponsored by Women In Action Against Cancer

Holiday Distributions and Special Dates



Thursday & Friday, December 5 & 6, 2013

**Christmas Kids Gifts
Teen Stockings
Mitten Tree**

Urban Mission Church, 301 North 5th Street
9:00-12:00 & 1:00-3:00

Saturday, December 7, 2013

Steubenville Christmas Parade

Downtown Steubenville
12 Noon

Look for the Mission Float!



Wednesday - Friday, December 11- 13, 2013

December Food Distribution

UM Warehouse, 311 North 6th Street
9:00-12:00 & 1:00-3:00

Tuesday & Wednesday, December 17 & 18, 2013

Santa's Recycle Shop

9:00-12:00 & 1:00-3:00

UM Warehouse, 311 North 6th Street



Saturday, December 21, 2013

Mission Rejoice Candlelight Service

UM Church, 301 North 5th Street
6:00 p.m.

(All are welcome to attend!)

Mortgage Assistance Available



The Urban Mission and the local Community Housing Improvement Program (CHIP) have come together to help area residents with past due mortgages.

Currently the Mission can accept up to 8 families with past due mortgages to assist in bringing their mortgage and utilities up-to-date. The program is available to residents of **Jefferson County, Ohio ONLY who DO NOT live within the City of Steubenville.**

In order to qualify for an application, the following criteria **must** be met:

- *The property must be owned directly by the applicant,*
- *Applicant must have a gross family income below 80% of the current median income for Jefferson County*
- *Applicant cannot own any other property including vacant lots*
- *Applicant must provide proof of ownership, proof of past due mortgage and any utility bills*

For additional information concerning this program, please contact Lisa Thomas at 740-282-8010, ext. 203 Monday, Wednesday or Friday between the hours of 1:30 and 4:00 p.m.

Applicants are accepted by appointment only.

Parish Nurse News: World AIDS Day

On December 1, 1998, the first World AIDS Day was commemorated. This day was set aside to remind everyone about this disease, which has affected 33 million people worldwide to date. This year we will commemorate the 24th World AIDS Day.



AIDS (Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome) is caused by an infection with HIV, the Human Immunodeficiency Virus. This retrovirus attacks the body's immune system and leads to various infections and types of cancer. There is no vaccine to prevent HIV infection, but anti-retroviral medication can decrease a person's viral load. A person taking anti-retroviral medication, who has a decreased viral load, has a manageable chronic illness. Unfortunately there are people in some undeveloped countries who are unable to receive these medications. Without medications to decrease the viral load, these people will die from infections or cancers. HIV/AIDS affects people of all ages including children, and continues to be a worldwide health problem.

This year the campaign for World AIDS Day is "Getting to Zero—One Person at a Time". The goal is to mobilize organizations to become involved in raising awareness of this disease. What can you do to increase awareness of HIV/AIDS? There are many resources available to increase awareness of this deadly disease. On World AIDS Day, we wear red ribbons to increase awareness of AIDS. In addition to wearing a red ribbon, you can receive resources from many sites available on the internet. The following websites can supply you with information: worldAIDSdayNW.org, www.cdc.gov, and www.who.org. All of these sites have up-to-date information about HIV/AIDS that you can use for education and awareness.

HIV/AIDS has caused millions of deaths worldwide and it continues to be at epidemic levels in some countries. Let's take some time on December 1st to increase our awareness of HIV/AIDS and to educate others about this disease.

-Michalene A. King, PhD, RN, CNE

Mission Rejoice Calendar Open

The 2014 calendar is open for Churches wishing to serve as Host Churches for our Saturday evening Mission Rejoice Service.



Mission Rejoice is held each Saturday from 6-8 pm at the Mission, 301 North 5th Street, Steubenville. Worship begins at 6 pm in our beautiful sanctuary followed by a meal served in our Unity Kitchen at 7 pm.

We invite Churches, Sunday School classes, Missions groups, singers and groups of all kinds to host a service. The group can provide the preaching and the meal or one or the other. If you would like to serve, please call Rev. Toni Hubbard at 740-282-8010 or email us at mail@urbanmission.org. We would love to have you join us!

Urban Mission Ministries, Inc.
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What's Happening in December 2013?

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 Parish Nurse 11am	3	4 Bible Study 10am 1pm	5 Christmas Kid's 9-12; 1-3	6 Christmas Kid's 9-12; 1-3	7 Steubenville Christmas Parade 12
8	9 Parish Nurse 11am	10 Packing for Food Distribution 9am	11 Food Distribution 9-12; 1-3	12 Food Distribution 9-12; 1-3	13 Food Distribution 9-12; 1-3	14 Mission Rejoice 6pm
15	16 Parish Nurse 11am Peace Walk 5pm	17 Santa's Recycle Shop 9-12; 1-3	18 Santa's Recycle Shop 9-12; 1-3 Healthy Bingo 1pm	19 CSFP Senior Food 1pm	20	21 Candlelight Mission Rejoice
22	23	24	25 <i>Merry Christmas!</i>	26	27	28 No Mission Rejoice
Offices Closed for Holiday Break						
29	30	31				
Offices Closed for Holiday Break						