

THE HOMELESS OUTREACH, INC.

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12419 Lusby Ln.
Brandywine, MD 20613

NEWSLETTER

January, 1998

As we begin the new year, we begin with hope and anticipation of this becoming a great year. I'd like to thank Carol Leo for the hard work she has put into this ministry, and all of the volunteers who are enthusiastic about helping the children at the shelters.

This ministry is about making a difference in the lives of those less fortunate, especially homeless children.

I've been busy with passing out sandwiches to street people and taking clothes to Spring Road and Park Road Shelters. I believe when we help those in need and do all we can for them, God will bless us according to His riches. This ministry needs help from anyone who feels for others and has compassion to help the needy. A blanket distribution is tentatively set for February.

In whatever condition we find these people in, God has called us to make a difference in their lives. They are important to God, so they are important to me.

If you're reading this letter and you care about doing something good for someone this year call or write to let me know. God will bless you for it.

*Blessed is he that considereth the poor
The Lord will deliver him in time of trouble.
Psalm 41:1*

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May God's best be yours always,

Otis Moton

♡ UPCOMING EVENT ♡

GOSPEL VALENTINES PARTY - Sunday, Feb. 22nd. We are collecting **hygiene items such as soap, tooth brushes, tooth paste, shampoo, deodorant** to be given as gifts to the children and families at this party. Contact Carol Leo, (301) 567-9500 or (301) 423-6466 or Otis Moton (above) to contribute or participate. Thank you for your labor of love! ♡ ♡ ♡ ♡ ♡

OUTREACH TO THE CHILDREN

This past year, we had some very wonderful times of outreach and ministry to the children and their mothers from some of downtown Washington's shelters. The two most recent events were our "Back-To-School" Party in late August and our Christmas party held on December 14, 1997. Larger-than-usual crowds attended both parties but the Lord's provision was more than sufficient.

Besides the Park Road and Spring Road Shelters, we have now added a third family shelter to our outreach list, "The Community of Hope" located on 14th and Belmont Streets, Northwest. This is part of the reason for our larger crowds. We are glad to welcome them to our special children's events, and it is an opportunity to reach more souls for Jesus.

Notable about the "Back-To-School" Party was the fact that we were inadvertently locked out of our usual large meeting hall in St. Stephens' basement and had to use the much smaller room upstairs. Somehow 85 chairs stretched to accommodate 140 people. The children without chairs sat on the stage floor and it was actually more exciting for them to sit up there. The tiny kitchenette upstairs had to accommodate the cooking for all those people, in lieu of the spacious downstairs kitchen we are used to, but thanks to the Lord and the efforts of people like Valerie Washington the meal was cooked and served. In spite of the increased chaos, everybody was able to participate in the craft project and made a paper bag puppet with a scripture verse glued on and each child was given a bag of school supplies.

We had the pleasure of being introduced to a new children's ministry at this party; that of Lovey the Clown. Lovey (Antoe Allen), who is a part of Hillbilly Harriet's Ministry from Evangel Assembly in Clinton, Maryland was present to teach on the true love of Jesus vs. the false love of the world. With her rainbow colored hair and bright cheerful smile, as well as sack of candy, she was a popular figure among the children.

Lovey was back with us at the Christmas party and this time Hillbilly Harriet (Diane McConatay) and her whole team were present, as well. They brought with them a complete stage set for the Christmas story and, as Hillbilly Harriet opened up her children's ministry in her usual rollicking way, with banjos strumming, square dancing and hee-hawing, suddenly she was into the Christmas story. Costumes were produced and before we knew it the children from the shelters were clothed as a complete nativity scene cast of angels, shepherds, wise men, Mary and Joseph, sheep, donkey and cow. And as she read the message, they were instructed on acting out their parts. The children were fascinated as the story unfolded and their parents were blessed to see their children on stage in a Christmas story re-enactment. The story ended with the offer of salvation and children and parents bowed their heads to receive Jesus into their hearts. Hillbilly Harriet passed out beautiful hand-designed Christmas Story coloring books with special buttons inside to wear, to each child, following the production.

Throughout the afternoon, there were many other special events

and guests that showed up to make this party meaningful in a fun way and in a spiritual way to the families from the shelters.

Gail and Sylvester Williamson from National Church of God held a singing contest (where everybody won) for six select candidates. We heard some very creative versions of "Jingle Bells."

Marianne Benson, singer and Pete Hyde, keyboardist were there to bring Christmas carols to us throughout the day. Andria Leo, from National Church of God sang "Mary's Song." Shawne Forte' danced in praise and worship to the Lord as we ended the party, following the prayers that were prayed for salvation.

Gifts of toys and warm winter hats, mittens, socks, etc. were so amply provided that almost everybody got two of everything. What a miracle of provision, once again! Thanks to all individuals and groups who made the effort to donate or participate.

The Christmas meal of turkey, gravy, potatoes, beans, cranberry sauce, rolls and dessert was sumptuous, once again, thanks to the talented and dedicated efforts of those who labor in the kitchen. Special thanks, this time, to all of these ladies and men who have been so faithful for so long to serving in this ministry. May God bless each of you in 1998!

Please remember to pray for these families. It is my prayer that each one of them has experienced or will experience a genuine encounter with the Lord and that there is new and permanent hope and joy in their hearts following these times of ministry that the Lord has given us with them.

Special Thanks to:

Eunice Saunders & Employees from Allied Signal Technical Services
Joan Bujarsky & Believers' Victory Christian Center, Waldorf, MD
Diana McConatay, Antoe Allen & Ministry Team, Evangel Assembly of God Church, Clinton, MD
Nancy Tolman & Corkran Methodist Church, Temple Hills, MD
Pastor Butler & Word of Life, Springfield, VA / buses
Joe Meszarros & Naval Research Lab
Karnes family, for bringing a whole bakery, enough desserts for a thousand people.
The Special Ed Dept. of James Ryder Randall Elementary School, Fort Wash., MD
Doug Douglas, John Thomas, Cozart Lowrey, Bus-Drivers
Wanda Stewart-heading up gift distribution
Valerie Washington-heading up food preparation
Lori Bledsoe & the Girls' Ministry, National Church of God, Fort Washington, MD for serving.
"Labor of Love" NCOG Thurs. night class, crocheted hats, mittens, scarves

All the faithful donors and participants!

BLANKETING THE CITY WITH LOVE

The Homeless Outreach, in conjunction with Goad International, National Church of God and other local churches is about to launch out on a major blanket distribution drive. The plan is to distribute 1,000 blankets to desperately needy men, women and children who exist throughout the coldest months of the year in the outside environs. "Home" to many of these people is the corner of a city block where steam emanating out from a grate is the only warmth they will experience all winter. They are suffering physically, mentally and spiritually.

Without God's intervention, their plight would be hopeless. We plan to visit these people on specified dates in an organized campaign to bring not only the warmth of blankets and of food in the stomach, but also the eternal warmth of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. Each blanket which Goad International is supplying will be accompanied by a Bible. Each blanket will also have written on it a scripture, John 3:16: *"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."* Prayerfully, the strength and power derived from God's Word alone will cause lives to be changed and hearts to be turned over to the Lord Jesus Christ.

If you are interested in participating in any of these blanket outreach events coming up in early Feb., (Tues., Feb. 4, Fri., Feb. 7, 7-9:30 p.m.) contact Otis Moton (301) 372-8218 or Carol Leo (301) 423-6466, (301) 567-9500. **SANDWICH-MAKERS, & COOKIE & CUPCAKE BAKERS WILL BE NEEDED! ALSO, DONATIONS OF FRANKS AND BEANS AND WARM MEN'S CLOTHING ARE BEING ACCEPTED.** Thank you and God Bless you!

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THANKSGIVING AND CHRISTMAS, IN THE SPIRIT

*Submitted by Carol Leo, Children's Party
Coordinator*

*¹³"But When thou makest a feast,
call the poor, the maimed, the lame,
the blind; And thou shalt be
blessed; for they cannot recompense
thee: ¹⁴for thou shalt be
recompensed at the resurrection of
the just." (Luke 14:13-14)*

A turkey dinner with all the trimmings along with a variety of other events caused our Nov. 3, "Early Thanksgiving" outreach program to the children and the parents from the Park Rd. and Spring Rd. Shelters to be a wonderful time of celebration and love. The party attendance was low, (approximately 50), but this way there was more of everything to go around including personal attention to give to the children by our many workers and ministers.

The anointed youth drama team from the *Laurel Tabernacle Church* was present under the direction of *Pastor Durant Kreider* and *Jay Schauffle*, to put on their humorous skits with the serious message that are so effective in reaching young and old alike

with the Gospel. When altar call was given children from tots to teens came forward to receive Christ.

Warm hats, mittens, childrens' books, new articles of clothing for mothers and children and sample bags of Revlon products were passed out to everyone present.

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Christmas was another anointed time of fun, games, and ministry but on a much larger scale. This time there were well over 200 children, teens and mothers in attendance to partake of the feast that we had to offer. Dinner included fried chicken and a steamship round of beef, as well as side dishes and desserts so kindly donated by *Eunice Saunders* and her co-workers from *Allied Signal Technical Services* who decided to cancel their Christmas party and let the The Homeless Outreach have the benefits of food already ordered.

The beautifully correographed "Gospel Dancing" of *Shon Forté* and her young partners truly blessed the crowd. As Shon's group danced, they also testified to the goodness of the Lord and what He has meant