

THE HOMELESS OUTREACH, INC.

NEWSLETTER



Volume 20 Issue 3

www.thehomelessoutreach.org

September 2008

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UPCOMING EVENTS 2008

Oct. 10 7-8 pm	Fall Fellowship Shepherd's Cove
Nov. 14 7-8 pm	Thanksgiving Fellowship Shepherd's Cove
Nov., (Date/ Place TBD)	Thanksgiving Outreach
Dec. 14 Set-up 1:30- 3:30 pm Event 4-6 pm Place: TBA	Christmas Outreach For Shepherd's Cove, Community of Hope, Hope Apts., Spring, Rd., Families Forward, Park Rd.
COLLECTING	New toys for children of all ages, new winter hats, scarves, mittens, gloves, good, used winter coats and wraps

Contact Bertha Fenwick, 301-292-2658 or Carol Leo, 240-475-4219 to donated or participate.

Thanks to all for your faithful support!

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR, *Carol Leo*

My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth. 1 John 3:17-19

"Actions speak louder than words," is a well-known saying. Due to circumstances beyond our control, our recent Back-to-School event and our monthly Shepherd's Cove outreaches have been demonstrations of this axiom. Our sound equipment and acoustics are less than perfect. In fact, in the new gymnasium (with no acoustics) that we were in for Back-to-School, the cries of the babies and voices of the children were magnified many times. Multiply one child's cry by 100 children and babies and it is easy to see that there was a great cacophony of noise that far surpassed the sounds of our words coming over the microphones. We had singers, praise dancers and a speaker, but it is not certain how much of the verbal message actually was heard. Somehow, our message of Christ's love came across without words.

When every child from pre-school to high school was smilingly handed a new box of crayons or markers upon entering the door, a message was sent. As the mothers watched us putting out clothing and scurrying around to set-up and prepare for serving, they knew that somebody was demonstrating concern for their personal needs. The fact that we were behind schedule and did not quite "have it all together" this time, simply told them that we were struggling too; our lives were not always perfect and smooth. When the liturgical dance duo had to stop before their presentation was over, due to the faulty sound equipment, our audience from the shelters clapped and cheered anyway. They saw people who cared, but were prevented by circumstances beyond their control from carrying out their plan.

When Pastors Eliz and Sam smilingly beckoned the children to come forward, they willingly came up front. The eagerness with which they absorbed the message, that they were each "so special to God" was reflected in their smiling faces and in the simple praise songs that they sung loudly and enthusiastically at Eliz's prompting.

Minister Barbara Lewis, whose ministry is primarily to women who have been abused, was able to lovingly give words of help, encouragement, and wisdom. The Spirit of her message was clearly heard, although the actual words may have been muffled due to our acoustic situation. The response of women and children coming forward to receive prayer from her and the other prayer counselors, as she finished speaking, was evidence enough that the message had been understood.

She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness. Proverbs 31:26

Back-to-School 2008



Greta Newsome prepares backpacks for distribution

The annual back-to-school event took place on Sun., Aug. 17 at the National Church of God. Although we had problems with sound and acoustics, we had wonderful results in ministry. The presence of God's love in the spirits of our workers was contagious and we saw many, many smiles of joy and heard many expressions of gratitude. Prayers and praises were sent up to God. A large group of people came forward to pray at altar call time. Many souls were won to Christ.

We were able to distribute backpacks with full range of school supplies to 300 children this year. Besides those from the five area shelters, needy children in a local Maryland school and a local Virginia school received backpacks. We were also able to send a box of backpacks on a mission trip to Alabama. Praise God for His provision and care through our many wonderful volunteers and donors!

Shepherd's Cove Outreach

Every second Friday of the month we continue to bring a team to Shepherd's Cove Shelter in Seat Pleasant, MD, where we have workshops for young and old. It is a great opportunity to meet with individual women and children, and to allow them to share their hearts one on one. Prayer, on an individual basis is always very welcome here. We have had anointed women such as Phyllis or Juanita Maclin come to minister to the women. Recently, Greta Newsome from Evangel Assembly and Minister Barbara Lewis from Victory Chapel have come to share messages with the women. They share from their own life experiences and have been used of God to touch the hearts of the women, with a commonality of experience. They have imparted the hope, joy, and blessing that they have received as they walk with the Lord.

In addition to our sharing of the Word of God in music and teaching, we share arts and crafts activities each month with the shelter residents. These activities, originally aimed at the children, have proved to be so popular with adults, that we always include them. Mothers and children never go away empty-handed, but have hygiene supplies, clothing, snacks and their own handmade craft project to take back to their rooms. This monthly ministry continues to grow in momentum and grace.

21st Annual Help the Homeless Walkathon

When: Saturday, November 22, 2008

Time: Registration opens at 7:00 a.m.

Pre-Walkathon Program begins at 8:30 a.m.

Walkathon begins at 9:00 a.m.

Where: National Mall Washington, D.C., Smithsonian Metro Station

Preregistered check-in is on the Mall at 7th Street NW.

Event Day Registration is between 12th and 14th Streets on the Department of Agriculture lawn, across Jefferson Drive from the National Mall.

Transportation: Metro recommended. Take the Orange or Blue Line to the Smithsonian Station. Metro opens early at 6:00 a.m.

Cost: Preregistration: \$15 for youth (age 25 and younger) and \$25 for adults. Event Day Registration: \$15 for youth and \$30 for adults.

Please note that Families Forward, Inc.; United Communities Against Poverty; Community of Hope & Coalition for the Homeless are 4 of the agencies that can be chosen as beneficiaries of your donation. These 4 agencies represent the 5 area family shelters with which The Homeless Outreach is most involved. For registration, donations or more information go online to <http://www.helpthehomelessdc.org/site/PageServer>.

Family Picnic 2008

Our annual picnic outreach took place at Cosca Park on Sunday, June 22. Once again we experienced one of God's signature miracles for this ministry, beautiful weather in the midst of severe storm predictions.

This year, we were blessed with the presence of a local Boy Scout Troop, Troop 316. Scout Charleston Pinkney made this outreach to the homeless children his Eagle Scout project. Charleston has a heart of compassion for the homeless and spent nearly a year doing an extensive clothing drive and recruiting other scouts to participate. The scouts collected dozens of bags of high quality, new & used clothing, much of it children's. The bountiful supply of clothing was well patronized by the women, men, teens, and children from the 5 shelters present.

The scouts also provided games such as bowling and dodge ball to the delight of the many children. Boy Scout Troop 316 served in every capacity at our picnic, including moving heavy picnic tables, cooking and serving food, and helping with cleanup.



The picnic served as a tool of God's blessing into the lives of these families. Marianne Benson (right, center) ministered in song and encouraging word; Juanita Maclin (left, left) brought a message and prayed for all who requested it; Bob Wirrans (lower right) of the Gideons, testified and handed out New Testaments to all takers, Bertha and Charles Fenwick and team provided a dynamite picnic lunch. Many others ministered in loving ways to the families throughout the day.



Annette Roberts serving

Charles Fenwick, Chief Chef



Patrick helping Bob hand out Bibles



To God be the Glory and Thanks to all who Served!

Thanks for all your help!

The Homeless Outreach, Inc.
4114 27th Ave.
Temple Hills, MD 20748

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



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Ways to Participate

- Singing
- Puppets
- Skits
- Preaching
- Cooking

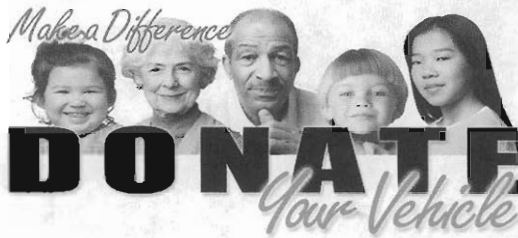
Providing: Food, Hygiene Articles, New Underwear,
Socks, New Hats, Gloves, New Toys, Cash Donation

Or helping in any other way

Contact Carol Leo, 240-475-4219 or Bertha Fenwick 301-292-2658

Check out our website: www.thehomelessoutreach.org

for the latest information



THE HOMELESS OUTREACH

Has teamed up with

VOLUNTEERS OF AMERICA

Call Carol Leo, 301 423-6466 or Volunteers of America, 1-800-407-2600 to make tax deductible donation of your used car.

(Make sure to tell them it is for The Homeless Outreach, Inc.)