

The Homeless Outreach, Inc.

Inside this Issue

- 1 Message From the Director
- 1 Upcoming Events
- 2 Report on Outreach Activities: Valentines/Easter
- 3 New Outreach Projects Shelter Needs
- 4 Thanks to the Churches

UPCOMING EVENTS

Spring Celebration, April 27
Residential Program Center,
Arlington, VA

Women's Workshop, May,
date TBA. Shepherd's Cove
Shelter, Seat Pleasant, MD

Summer Cook-Out, June 22
Cosca Park, Clinton, MD for
families from: Community of
Hope, Care Management Park
Rd., Spring Rd., Shepherd's
Cove. **Collecting:** tooth
brushes, tooth paste, T-Shirts
(new, all sizes)

Back to School Parties,
August 23, 24, St. Stephen's
Episcopal Church & Shepherd's
Cove for families from:
Community of Hope, Care
Management Park Rd., Spring
Rd., Shepherd's Cove, Agape
House **Collecting:** back packs,
binders, paper, pencils, binders,
glue, scissors, notebooks,
crayons, etc.

**To donate or participate, call
Carol Leo, 301 423-6466; 301
567-9500 x150 or Bertha
Fenwick 301 292-2658 !**

Message from the Director

Carol Leo

Throughout the Word of God, there are promises to the poor, and also many promises for those who help the poor.

James 2:5 Harken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him?

Proverbs 22:9 He that hath a bountiful eye shall be blessed; for he giveth of his bread to the poor.

There are also strong admonitions and punishments for those who ignore or mistreat the poor.

Proverbs 28:27 He that giveth unto the poor shall not lack: but he that hideth his eyes shall have many a curse.

What is the purpose of owning material wealth? Part of it is so that those who have it can have compassion on those that don't.

Ephesians 5:28 Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth.

Last week, at a Volunteer Appreciation Event put on by the Community of Hope that Bertha & Charles Fenwick and I attended, we were encouraged by the testimony of a former shelter resident who has now come through the Community of Hope program and is living on her own in an apartment.

This woman and her children had been in the shelter for a couple of years, so we had ministered to them many times at our various events.

She let us know, first and foremost that she and her children are now in a church every Sunday. She is attending college now, but no

matter how busy she gets, she is putting God first. She is doing well in college and has a 3.1 GPA, but is determined to raise that to a 3.5.

Her appreciation for what we had given her poured out, as she thanked us for all the items we had supplied them with, when her family had nothing. She pointed to the notebooks she now uses in college and said she had received them at our back-to-school party. The sleeping bags we had given to them a couple of years ago are kept with great care, for she said that there were many times when the heating system was broken in the shelter and those sleeping bags kept the family warm. Her children were always so blessed by what they received at our parties.

As she continued to thank us, my spirit rejoiced, knowing that God was giving us a rare moment of confirmation; letting us see the end results, the fruit of the labor, that we don't too often get to see, due to the high turnover rate and transitory nature of the families who we minister to in the shelters. This woman assured us that there were many more who had been as blessed as she and her family were by what we had done for them.

To God be the glory! The appreciation she expressed extends to everyone who has made this ministry possible over the years. Thank you for your unselfish and faithful giving. Please continue praying and believing God for victory in the lives of the shelter residents. The saving work of God in a life manifests both now and into eternity!



Celebrating God's Love

The Valentine Outreach held at Shepherd's Cove Shelter on Feb. 8, 2003 was a wonderful time of sharing and ministry for the 15 mothers and 20 children who were present that day. Workers from the NCOG Hispanic Youth Team led rousing praise and worship. The mothers and children also were ministered to by the NCOG children's dance team. Sister Brenda Anderson of Compel Them Outreach Ministry shared the Word and the altar call that followed was truly anointed of God, as nearly all the mothers came forward for prayer, many in tears unto the Lord. To God be the glory! (See next page for an interview with Rev. Brenda Anderson.) A delicious meal was served and large bags of hygiene and socks/underwear were distributed.



Resurrection Day Celebration

Praise the Lord for what He did through our Easter Outreach 2003! Approximately 120 children and parents were present on Sun., April 13, 2003 to partake of the Easter Celebration and service hosted by Evangel Assembly of God Church on Old Branch Ave. in Camp Springs, MD. Children were ministered to by the high energy Gospel presentation of Hillbilly Harriette & Friends; parents went into the sanctuary and witnessed a moving Easter Drama. In all, there were 88 in the children's ministry who came up to receive the Lord and 11 from the adult section. We truly give God all the glory and extreme thanks goes out to all the ministries of Evangel Assembly; Pastor Cain & Pastor Chris; as well as to the NCOG Fresh Fire Youth Team; the NCOG Hispanic Youth Team and the Gaithersburg New Life Baptist Youth Team & Corkran Methodist Church. Below are photos from the event. Thank you for praying and giving!



Families Arrive



First Taste of Spaghetti



Praise & Worship Team



Hillbilly Harriette Preaching the Word



Fifty Family Bags were packed by our workers (above) & distributed. Bags were full of hygiene articles, several pairs of underwear & socks for every person, new children's books, puzzles, baby products & New Testaments! Praise God!



Hands Raised to Receive Christ



Dancing for Joy



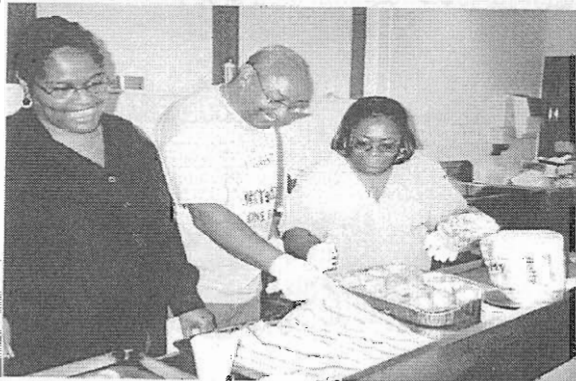
Thank You!

NEWS FROM THE SHELTERS

Community of Hope II, 1413 Girard St., N.W. In 2002, this shelter had significant changes. Their Educational Enrichment Program has expanded and they have added a computer lab. Of the children from this program, 85% experienced improvement in reading, math & behavior.

Although the Community of Hope I building located on Belmont Street, N.W. was permanently closed at the end of last year, plans are in the making for a new facility to open at 2nd Street, S.E. The target date for opening is sometime in 2004. This facility will have special emphasis on helping families with substance abuse problems. Please keep Community of Hope in your prayers.

Shepherd's Cove Shelter, Seat Pleasant, MD Due to a large budget cut last year, Shepherd's Cove is very much in need right now. Meals on weekends are provide solely by volunteers. There are certain Saturdays and Sundays each month that are not covered regularly. If your church or group would like to sponsor a meal once a month for Shepherd's Cove, call Leah Cooper or Andrea Cosans at (301) 322-3093. In addition, many other services have had to be curtailed at the shelter. If you or your group would like to volunteer, contact the shelter directors at the above number. Thank you and God bless you!



Bertha & Charles Fenwick in conjunction with the Homeless Outreach and Debra Nelson, have recently started preparing food for lunch & dinner for the Shepherd's Cove residents on the first Sunday of every month. To God be the glory for their ministry!

The Homeless Outreach has begun monthly workshops at Shepherd's Cove Shelter. On April 11, 2003, Brenda Anderson, Juanita and Carol Leo shared on the topic of "Dress for Success/God's Beauty Shop." By teaching on life skills topics we are attempting to give shelter residents tools for more effective living. Because the Bible is replete with practical knowledge, we are also able to share His Word. Below is an interview with Rev. Brenda Anderson. Sister Anderson calls herself a "reality preacher" because her background and experiences have brought her face to face with the harsh realities of life, as well as a life-changing encounter with the living and true God.

Q: How long have you headed up Compel Them Outreach?

A: *Since 1981 (22 years)*

Q: Briefly describe your ministry.

A: *We minister to the inner city; to socially, physically, emotionally, financially disadvantaged people. We share the Gospel, have weekly feeding & clothing distribution and have seminars on topics such as: dress for success; jobs; articulating properly; job interviews; self esteem.*

Q: There was a time in your life that you were in a situation similar to that of a lot of the mothers and children we minister to in the shelters. Can you briefly describe that?

A: *Before I got saved, I was homeless with three children. We slept in the park. I was a substance abuser; hopeless and a misfit.*

Q: How is it possible that your life seemed that hopeless and yet today you are a role model and minister in the lives of others?

A: *In 1978 I accepted Jesus Christ as my Lord and personal Savior. He takes nothing and make something. He took my fragmented life and rearranged it according to His will.*

Q: Would you say that these mothers and children in the shelters can also have changed lives?

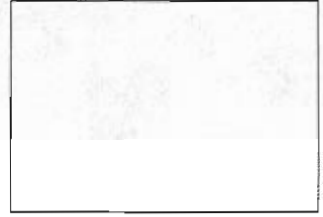
A: *Yes, there's not only light at the end of the tunnel, but there is light in the tunnel. That's where I sat so I know what they're going through and I know change is possible. Christ always has a way out.*

Q: What is the greatest advice you would give to someone who is living as a homeless, dysfunctional person today?

A: *Accept Jesus Christ as Lord and personal Savior, so you can begin to live in spite of the situation.*

Thank you, Brenda, for your enlightening and inspiring comments and ministry!

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



ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me. Matthew 25:40

Thank you!

Hillbilly Haven, Inc.

Evangelical Assembly of God Church Camp Springs, MD

Drama/Music Ministry

Women's Ministry

Youth Ministry

Compel Them Outreach
S.E., Wash., D.C.

New Life Baptist Church, Gaithersburg, MD

Youth Ministry

National Hispanic Youth Ministry
National Church of God, Ft. Wash., MD

Believers Victory
Washington, MD

D.C. Vision

Corkran United Methodist Church
Temple Hills, MD