

Mission . . . POSSIBLE!

April 2008

A Quarterly Newsletter from the



A Note from the Director...

By: Rev. Roger Lutze, Executive Director

For about two years we have published the Power of ONE . . . on the back page of "Mission . . . Possible!" Have you taken a look at the numbers and how the income increases when we all work together with just small amounts? Please do not just pass this page by as extra filler but take a look at it and ask God what he would have you do to help meet the needs of those less fortunate that live so close here on the Eastside. If you have not been a donor to the Flint Eastside Mission previously, please consider one of these levels of support this month.

I just read in a Nazarene publication that "12.8 million [U.S.] children are living in poverty, and the number of severely poor persons is growing by 26%." From U.S. Government statistics, "Children represented 35.2% of the people in poverty and [were only] 24.9% of the total population." Jesus said we would always have the poor among us and we are His hands and feet to give assistance to those around us that are in need.

A couple talked to me this past month and they are beginning to send the Eastside Mission a check for \$1.00 per week for each member in their household. Now, I know that many of you give much more than \$1.00 per week per household member (A great big word of thanks!), but also there are many that are stretching to give the \$1.00 amount. This year we are asking a lot from our supporters and yet I am confident that God will lead and,

through His grace, our needs will be met by the wonderful people who have continued to support the Eastside Mission these many years. As the economy here in Michigan continues to drop and jobs become more scarce, it is our faith in God that will help us to weather the bad news months. He will not fail His people.

Tax-wise Giving Explained ...

All donations to the Flint Eastside Mission are **tax deductible**. You will receive a receipt for every cash donation made to the Mission. A married couple may make a donation of \$400.00 for a possible final cost of \$92.00, depending on your personal tax bracket.

EXAMPLE:

Gift amount \$400.00 x 27% *federal tax rate*
= \$108.00.

Gift amount \$400.00 X 50% *Michigan Tax Credit* = \$200.00.

Total tax savings \$108.00 + \$200.00 = \$308.00.

Final cost \$400.00 – \$308.00 = \$92.00.

Please keep in mind: The Flint Eastside Mission is not engaged in giving legal or tax advice. You may wish to seek the advice of you own advisors for specifics in your situation.

Volunteers are GREAT!! ...

The Months of January and February brought us a number of good volunteer groups to share in the ministry here at Flint Eastside Mission. We served lunch on February 16th paid for by the Community Baptist Church of Troy. They brought 19 helpers that day and we served a

great lunch and enjoyed great fellowship. We also had a family from Richfield Nazarene that day that helped as well.

Unfortunately we had to cancel the group from East Flint Nazarene scheduled to come the week of February 9, because of the heavy snow, I am sure they are rescheduled for a later date.

Fundraising Opportunity ...

What to do with all those newspapers? They seem to collect without our really knowing how it happened. We have a solution that will help in a number of ways. Get together with some friends, such as a Sunday School Class or Youth Group and collect lots and lots of newspapers. Bundle, box or bag them and when you have a good load of those pesky newspapers call CBC Recycling at (810) 239-5040 to inform them you are going to bring a load of papers for Flint Eastside Mission. Then take them to CBC Recycling at 1801 S. Saginaw Street, Flint. They are located just a little south of the I-69 Saginaw Street exit. They take newspapers, office paper or cardboard but it must be bagged or boxed separately. For each ton of newspapers/cardboard that CBC receives that were collected for us we get a check for \$40.00. The newspapers are recycled, you get rid of those pesky things, and the mission gets an additional donation. We all win!! For additional information please contact Rev. Roger Lutze at (810) 767-312 and leave a message if we are not available when you call.

Debt Payoff ...

In the January edition of "Mission...Possible!" we asked the great list of people that support Eastside and receive our newsletter to prayerfully consider helping to pay off a bit of debt before Barb Burdine retires in April. Some of you have already responded, but let's review the numbers again ...

Considering that there are 71 organized churches on the Eastern Michigan District, if:

- 1 church gives \$1,000 +
- 5 churches give \$750 +
- 5 churches give \$650 +
- 10 churches give \$500 +
- 10 churches give \$400 +
- 10 churches give \$300 +
- 10 churches give \$250 +
- 10 churches give \$150 = **\$24,000!!**

Feinstein Foundation to End Hunger...

Through the end of April, Eastside is keeping track of all **monetary** and **food** donations that come in so that we can apply for a special grant from the Feinstein Foundation. The foundation will grant monies, proportionately matching the giving to qualifying organizations that helps to feed the hungry, up to \$1,000,000! This is an excellent opportunity for us to boost our funding during what can be a low giving time of year.

For more information, please visit:
<http://www.feinsteinfoundation.org/>

Health Access comes to Eastside ...

Volunteers from Health Access now visit the Mission weekly. Representatives interview people and make referrals for health care. Alongside this great outreach, they also provide blood pressure blood sugar screening. A very special thanks to the volunteers that make this possible!!

Easter Dinner Fundraiser ...

On February 28th, a fundraising dinner was held at **Flint First Church of the Nazarene** to help cover the cost of the annual Easter Dinner. \$577.00 was raised that night. Thank you to Flint First for hosting this dinner and thanks to the volunteers that helped to make it run smoothly!

Easter Dinner ...

On March 22nd, Easter Dinner was provided at the Mission. There was a very special visitor also!



EB and Barb

Please grant me a bit of editorial creativity with the above picture. I know that the "Bunny" is all about the kids. . . but I just had to include this picture this year. I told Barb I'd add a note about it though: I've had the privilege to work with this great lady for two years now. With retirement so close at hand, I have one thing to say: thanks for the laughs and all that you've taught me Barb!

In all, 463 meals were served, 676 Easter baskets were delivered, and 38 volunteers came out to help. Thanks to everyone that was involved!!



Kids choosing a stuffed animal after talking to the EB!

Story Hour ...

Beginning back in February, Sammi Justice has been holding story hour for pre-school aged children on Wednesdays at 11 A.M. So far, it's gotten off to a slow start, but the word is getting out! Please pray for this opportunity for ministry.



Pastor's Corner ...

By: Pastor Bob Cattane

The atmosphere at the Mission continues to change. More people are proclaiming Jesus as their Lord and Savior than ever before. I have been talking to everyone that comes through the food pantry to make sure they are attending a church in the area. I am so proud of how my congregation has been witnessing throughout the week on the Mission floor. I can remember when I first started at the Mission and I was the only one talking about God other than the staff. This is no longer the case. Now, the Holy Spirit has been working in the lives of the people here like you wouldn't believe. God is softening the hardest of hearts and transforming men, women, and children. Someone asked me what we did to a woman who frequents the Mission. She was once a very angry individual. She now is constantly smiling and is now attending both Sunday service and Wednesday night Bible study. My response was that what is happening here at the Mission is miraculous, but it has nothing to do with us. God has created a symphony through us, His instruments, and it sounds better than the greatest of orchestras.

"Some wish to live within the sound of a chapel bell; I wish to run a rescue mission within a yard of hell." -- C.T. Studd