

Mission . . . POSSIBLE!

July 2009

A Quarterly Newsletter from the
Celebrating 15 years! 1994-2009



Notes from the Director

By: Rev. Roger Lutze, Executive Director

FUTURE FOR EASTSIDE MISSION

I have been asked to share a little about what we are looking at in the area of growth for the Flint Eastside Mission and there are a lot of exciting possibilities for us in the future.

The first thing that comes to mind is the effort to purchase a walk-in-freezer. A walk-in-freezer would be a wonderful addition to the operation and will assist us as we continue with both the lunches we serve and the food that is distributed to the people who come to the food pantry. Our present situation is that we use 11 home quality freezers to store food that must be kept frozen. The expense of operating these freezers is quite high and we are still limited in the amount of food that can be kept. An eight by eight foot walk-in-freezer should be more economical to operate and would more than double the room we have to store frozen food. The cost of this project is coming in at about \$8,200.00

Our next big project is an addition to the clothing house. Presently when people come to donate goods to the clothing house the donations are brought in through the front door, the same door that people who want to shop at the clothing house use to enter and leave. This often causes a large traffic jam at the front door. With the planned addition to the rear of the clothing house we will eliminate the traffic jam, make it easier to drop off donations and give us room to store the donated items until they are sorted for the proper distribution. With the addition we will remodel some of the clothing house so when our patrons come to do laundry they will have a folding table available along with a new janitor closet and

storage are for baby items. This is a big project that we are hoping we can begin work on soon.

The Mission has purchased a small piece of property behind the clothing house and we are working to purchase a second piece of property beside the clothing house. These pieces of property can be used for the back to school bash, Bible School and eventually parking space. We will be able to purchase this property very reasonably from the Land Bank.

The major reason for this land purchase and any additional purchases will be for the eventual purpose of adding on to the Mission and New Life Church of the Nazarene. At the present time we are serving lunch to an average of over 100 people daily and the church is running about 80-100 in attendance. Our building is overflowing! With the Lord's help we are planning to add a dining room on ground level as well as a worship center. No exact plans have been drawn up for us and we realize the cost will be high but we believe we serve a great God and He has great people who care about the needs of the poor. We ask that you join us in prayer as we look to a future with room to do all we can to "give a hand up" to those in need here on the Eastside of Flint.

FEINSTEIN FUNDING FOR FLINT EASTSIDE MISSION

A word of thanks to those who extended themselves to make additional donations to the Eastside Mission in order to help us receive an additional donation from the Feinstein Foundation. Your help in giving us higher donations during March and April is greatly appreciated. We will receive our portion of the \$1M distribution around the end of July.

MEMORIAL DONATIONS

April - June: This quarter we received donations in memory of the following:

Granvel Ford

Robert Prince

LEGACY OPPORTUNITY

Even those of us who are looking forward to heaven hesitate to talk about our last days. This subject often makes people uncomfortable and often we find it hard to approach – but it is a fact we will someday face. Have you wondered how your family and friends will remember you at the end of your life? Are you interested in helping to make sure that ministries that you support are able to keep going for many years? I am convinced it is important not only to live our life to honor our Lord Jesus Christ but also to honor Him in our death.

On our web site is a link to the Nazarene Foundation. At this website you will find information on several ways to make a legacy donation to the Flint Eastside Mission. Please take time to look at the options we have to fund the Flint Eastside Mission as we reach into the community with the love of Jesus Christ.

UPCOMING EVENTS

You may be aware that each summer we are blessed to have East Flint Church of the Nazarene and their children and youth workers bring a "Vacation Bible School" to the Eastside Mission and New Life church of the Nazarene. This year will be the third year that I have been involved and it is a wonderful experience. We have noticed that workers have come from several churches in the area to help with the games, the food and the group activities.

We are looking forward to this great event again this year during the week of August 24th. We will finish the week by having our "Back to School Bash" where we distribute book bags, backpacks and a lot of school supplies on Sunday, August 30th, 3:30-5:30pm. Our aim is that every young person who comes to the "Back to School Bash" will go home with a backpack, and all the items needed to start the school year. The "Back to School Bash" is a carnival event with games, cotton candy, popcorn, hotdogs and other good things to eat along with the school supplies. If you are want to get one of those boosts to your energy, to see God at work, to bless some young children, get your church involved in this extraordinary event. You will be blessed!

VOLUNTEER NEWS

We started April with great volunteers. I would like to mention two that come very regularly. Don Morey and Heidi Ewing come each Tuesday, which is when we do the prep work for the rest of the week. Don and Heidi have peeled, chopped, shredded, pulled, ground and cut everything from onions to turkey meat.

We also have 6 regulars on Thursday: Rick & Vicki Hosler, Autumn Howard and Lynn Spencer. Sue Clark and Kathy LaBell come weekly to serve in the baby room at the clothing house and Frances Wilkenson and Cliff & Kathy Hull make bi-weekly visits to the kitchen to help with our Wednesday lunches. These volunteers are essential to the smooth operation of the Mission. Thank you!

The week before Easter we were blessed to have a group of teens from Harbor Christian School, and they pitched in wherever asked. This is the third year that I know they have been here to help us and it is always a pleasure to have them here.

A very active group of Boy Scouts from the Flint area came to the Mission the evening of April 9th to begin clean up of the lot behind the garage and clothing house. They cut brush, picked up trash, and loaded a full truckload of branches into a pickup for disposal. Boy Scout troop #316 did a wonderful service to the Mission in a short time and we appreciate their help.

We received a great truckload of food from a food drive spearheaded by the youth of West Flint Nazarene. Thank you for such a splendid donation this month.

Youth groups also came to work at the Mission: first, about 17 from The Plymouth Church of the Nazarene, and also a group of 12 young girls from a Flint Youth Sorority program were here to serve a meal on Saturday also.

WORD OF APPRECIATION

WoJo's Garden splendors again donated flowers to spruce up the garden areas around the Mission and the clothing house. We also will be receiving a donation from WoJo's in the amount of 10% of sales from June 4 & 5 from our friends that mentioned they were shopping to benefit the Eastside Mission. As I write this we have not received notice of the amount yet but we say thank you to all who shopped and added to this donation and we thank WoJo's for sponsoring this fundraiser.



Pastor's Corner

By: Pastor Bob Cattane

I wish everyone who receives this newsletter could be here on a daily basis to see what we see. It is obvious that things are falling right in line with what we believe is God's plan for this place. Like John the Baptist, we are preparing the way for the fullness of God to be shown to the Eastside of Flint. The people that attend the church here at the Mission are on fire to spread the gospel throughout this area. Many new people continue to come to church because they have heard that this is the place to be, and that everyone they talked to said that they felt the Holy Spirit here like never before. God has great things in store for this corner and as the shepherd of my first flock, I continue to be in awe of what God is doing through a rag-tag group of people on the frontlines of ministry.

In His service
Pastor Bob

MISSION GOLF ADVENTURE

- *Saturday, September 13 @ 9:00 a.m.*
- *Genesee Valley Meadows, 5499 Miller Rd. Swartz Creek*
- *18 Holes with Cart, Lunch, Prizes, Fun, Fun, Fun!*
- *\$75.00 per person/ \$300.00 per team*
- *Gather your teammates and contact the mission to register. The sooner the better!! Men and women welcome for this fun golf outing.*

Mission Stats: March-May '09

Meals served:

March	1719+394 Seconds
April	1447+598 Seconds
May	1318+524 Seconds

Pounds of food from Food Bank of Eastern MI:

March	13,689
April	7089+9511 lb food truck
May	4930

People fed through our pantry:

March	514
April	635
May	543

Clothing distribution:

March	205
April	275
May	256

2009 Children's Day

By: Sammi Justice

On June 13th, the skateboarding team from Brighton Church of the Nazarene came to the Mission for the second annual Children's Day. 30+ kids gathered for the skate demonstration followed by testimonies given by the skaters. To add to the fun of the day, there was also an inflatable, cotton candy, and popcorn. Special thanks to Rod from Brighton Church, in helping to make this day possible. Also, thanks to West Flint Church of the Nazarene for popping the popcorn. Unfortunately, I was not able to attend this event because of a death in the family. I had intended to take pictures. So, I've included pictures of the guys skating at their skate park in Brighton . . . just to give you an idea of their awesome talent!





P.O. Box 90238
Burton, MI 48509

Stamp

Return Service Requested

Everyone has a Story ...

By: Sammi Justice

This month I'd like to share a bit about a gentleman that I met recently. His name is Marty. He used to work at a lumber yard before getting laid off. He's been a part of the Mission family for 10 years, sometimes receiving help, sometimes giving help to others. Marty feels that it's important for him to give back to the Mission anytime that he's able. Whether it be donating clothes outgrown by his kids (ages 15, 5, and 2), helping to distribute turkeys at Thanksgiving, or anything other help he can provide.

No matter the situation, Marty finds joy in life in the "small things". Recently, the family found an abandoned puppy hiding under a porch. They've taken the puppy in as a gift for the kids. Times are hard Marty as of late. He donates blood plasma twice each week to earn a bit of cash. Marty feels that this is not only a way to help out his family, but his community also. His first wife was kept alive for quite some time on the kindness of others through blood transfusions.

One thing that struck me is Marty's favorite quote, learned during his youth: "Destiny makes us brothers. No one goes alone. What I will bring unto the life of others, shall come back to us on it's own." – St. Vincent DePaul