

VINEYARD OUTREACH MINISTRY
AN ECUMENICAL, LOCAL CHARITY
BASED IN THE INNER-CITY NEIGHBORHOOD OF VINE

November

Holiday Newsletter

2011

Dear Friends:

As this year fades gently back into winter, we pause to give thanks for all of you who have donated your resources and your time to the well-being of people in need of care - not the care that enables or destroys human dignity and self-respect, but the kind of care that says - "You are visible. You are wanted. You are known. You are loved."

We give thanks for the support of the Reformed Church in America and the Christian Reformed Church, Parchment Christian Reformed Church, Heritage Christian Reformed Church, Second Christian Reformed Church, Westwood Christian Reformed Church, Bethel Reformed Church, Second Reformed Church, Trinity Lutheran Church, Lord of Life Lutheran Church, St. Thomas More Student Parish, the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph and NuWay, Inc. You saw to it that battered men, women and children found safe places to go in this inner-City neighborhood where no one could beat, mistreat or steal from them while at our Multicultural Community Center or other assistance and program places. You helped many find the comfort and peace that only God can provide for a wounded heart, a damaged mind, or a body in pain.

We give thanks for the support of the Dorothy U. Dalton Foundation, the Anna C. Gamble Foundation, and the Irving S. Gilmore Foundation, Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, Pfizer Foundation, Pfizer United Way Employee Designated Funds, Kalamazoo Community Foundation Named Fund Accounts. You made it possible for adults and children to eat, create, play and study in places where the intrinsic value of a human being is known and celebrated by our staff and volunteers. You helped them enjoy life beyond the parameters of this inner-city neighborhood and experience new opportunities for growth.

We give thanks for the skilled professionalism and other supportive help of these local business and providers: Allied Mechanical Services, Attention to Detail Cleaning Services, DeNooyer Chevrolet, Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety, J.O. Galloup Company, Mall City Mechanical, NuWay Thrift Stores, Prospectus Tax and Accounting, Rathert Law Offices, Rose Pest Solutions, Vine Neighborhood Association, Willis Law, Wired Solutions, LLC, Woolf Excavating, and Zwart Electric. You helped us keep costs lower, maintain our well-used properties and protect the resources necessary to provide the activities, programs and services that have assisted, educated, empowered, transported program adults, children and teens.

We give thanks for the committed efforts of our seasoned volunteers. You made it possible for children to see themselves mirrored beautifully in your loving, laughing or tender faces. You helped adults, children and teens feel safe. You employed discipline when it was necessary and lavished praise when it was needed. You played with them and protected them. You fed them and encouraged them. You helped them to do their homework and elevate their self-esteem. You listened with love to young and old alike. You played games and swam with them. You prayed with and for them. You delighted in their achievements and you cried when they were suffering. You worked to raise money for them and you cared what happened to them. You painted, plowed, raked, swept and cleaned the Community Center and its grounds. You did this all with no thought of yourselves.

We give thanks for the countless donors who helped to offset budget costs with donations of food, coats, hygiene products, blankets, shoes, crayons, markers, books, gift cards, gloves, mittens and hats, pajamas or helped us meet budget expenses with checks and loaned us beautiful spaces and places to take program adults and children for fun and relaxation.

May God bless you all with gratitude, joy and peace during this holiday season.

Catherine Dance, Director/Pastoral Worker

VINEYARD OUTREACH MINISTRY
811 S WESTNEDGE AVENUE
KALAMAZOO, MI 49008
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**"...for I was hungry and you gave me food,
I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a
stranger and you welcomed me. I was naked
and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited
me. I was in prison and you came to me."
(Mt.25:35-36)**

UPCOMING HOLIDAY FUNDRAISERS/ Pecans & Gift Wrapping

**1. Handmade Holiday Pecans - Hot & Spicy or Sugared - 3 ounces Packaged decoratively,
\$6.00 suggested donation.**

Call for pre-orders by November 30th or available for pick up on December 5th.

**2. Ministry Gift Wrappers at Barnes & Noble on Sunday, December 11th, from 5 to 9.
Proceeds from donations benefit the ministry.**

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

- 1. Board Members responsible for fund-raising, publicity and staff support: 3to5 hrs per mo**
- 2. Program volunteers responsible for dependable, healthy interaction with staff and program members: 1to2 hrs per wk/6 wk to 12 mo commitment depending on program**
- 3. Holiday Pecan Fund-Raiser volunteers needed to help us roast, coat, package pecans on Friday, December 2nd and Saturday, December 3rd or market and distribute them on December 5th.**

MINISTRY BOARD

**Chris Middleton, President & Treasurer
Margaret Fleckenstein, Vice President
Mandy Sutton**

**Patrick Dumler
John Huizinga
Bruce Shurtz**

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