



Community News

November 2003



This summer I was a missionary in the most unlikely place...

by Jessie Oliver

...my own hometown. I can't even begin to explain how God stretched me, opened my heart, and filled my heart with His compassion, hope, love, and patience. I had been sheltered in my own rural, Christian existence and led to believe that the need in the Terre Haute area was minimal. This is a lie; I was overwhelmed this summer by the needs of children in our very own community.

My primary responsibility this summer was to 3rd-5th grade girls. These girls took over my heart and are now forever a part of my life. I would like to share a few of the issues that my girls dealt with this summer to get a feel for some of the needs in our backyards. These little girls dealt with poverty, homelessness, evictions, parents using and dealing drugs, witnessing a shooting, verbal abuse, and sexual abuse.

If you don't think that the children and teens at 14th and Chestnut Community Center can use you, you are lying to yourself. One thing that the center is always short is

volunteers. It would mean the world to a child with nothing, to have someone invest an hour a week or month with them, or even more. These children are starved for positive attention and love, and God has given you the ability to share that. For those of you who cannot physically volunteer at the center because of work schedules or other various reasons, I challenge you to commit to an hour of prayer for the center each week, and consider what financial gifts you could give. When we consider the blessings that God has given us, we are crazy not to invest something into these children and teens. These children need more than food in their grumbling tummies and clothes on their backs; they need the love and affection of Christians. God is asking you to do this, not just me.

God is doing something great at the center, something that staff and volunteers could never do on their own. Besides witnessing the pain and suffering, this summer I experienced God's power, mercy,

strength, grace, love, and brightness in a dark place. I witnessed children asking God into their hearts. I listened as they told me how great God and Jesus are without the worldly reasons to say so. Please listen to God and pray about committing to your talents to God at the center. Because as Ephesians 3:20-21 says, "Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine according to His power that is at work within us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen." Let's bring glory to God in TERRE HAUTE!



Written comments from
a child we serve *with her
own spelling...*

"I like coming to the Center
because....

1. It's the most "funnest" place
to go
2. The cool field trips
3. Bill, Paul, and Stacie
4. My favorite helpers Donny,
Bethany, and Jana
5. The pageants and talent
shows
6. I need clothes and "your"
kind "enough" to provide them
7. The Center is the only way I
get to see my friends

You at the Center are my only
hope of success besides
school."

Liaison Link

Several congregations have agreed to select a liaison from their congregations to serve on our Liaison Link Board. Pastor Aaron Wheaton of Mt. Pleasant selected the first liaisons, Clay and Nicole Akers, to coordinate activities between Mt. Pleasant and the 14th & Chestnut Community Center. The efforts of Clay and Nicole in involving the Mt. Pleasant was such a success (a food drive challenge brought in over 2000 items of food for Grumbling Tummies Café) that we decided to expand on the idea. Liaisons have been appointed from Calvary Temple, Northside United Methodist Church, Memorial United Methodist Church, Seelyville United Methodist Church, Mt. Pleasant United Methodist Church and Christ United Methodist Church.

We invite all
congregations to appoint a
liaison to the Liaison Link
Board. Please call Stacie at 232-
3126 for more information or an
application. The next meeting
will be held on November 13th at
5:00 PM at the Community
Center



Growing Up *by Hannah Mayberry*



When you look at it from one perspective, I became an adult this summer, while working at 14th & Chestnut. I turned 20 years old, no longer technically a teenager, but a "young adult." Speaking in practical terms, my internship at the Center made me grow up in a much more important way. I was responsible for a group of small boys, very rambunctious, very loud, very fast, very elusive little boys. They were quite a responsibility, a responsibility I initially didn't think I could handle. In fact, I was very hesitant about working at the Center for that reason. But I came to gladly embrace my responsibility as the summer went on, and as I came to love the Center kids.

Sometimes I felt completely out of my league, they had questions I couldn't answer, problems I couldn't solve. Sometimes I was simply overwhelmed with trying to keep them in line, my reserves of patience tapped. Yet moments like those were worth the stress, because there were also genuinely satisfying moments when I felt like I'd helped one of them, or at least made their day a little more enjoyable. I think there's a lesson there, one that's important to the process of growing up: sometimes you mess up and sometimes you succeed, and you have to accept that and refuse to let fear of failure hold you back. That's a lesson I learned from a bunch of little boys who weren't even born yet when I started high school.

Sharing Holiday Love and Blessings

Many upcoming opportunities for sharing God's love and your blessings at the 14th & Chestnut Community Center abound. A Thanksgiving meal will be prepared and served on November 25th (5:30) for the children and their families. We will distribute Thanksgiving Food Baskets on that evening to all of the families. We also prepare and distribute Thanksgiving Take-Home Food Packs for the children since we will be closed for two days at Thanksgiving.

Our collection of new winter coats, gloves, and hats has begun for the children and youth. Many cold winter nights we watched our children leave on dark evenings to walk to their homes. The coats, hats, and mittens you graciously donated last year allowed us to bundle

them up with love and warmth for the walk home. We hope to be able to keep them warm this winter with new coats!

With Christmas and our celebration of Christ's birth also comes the reminder to love and help those less fortunate than us. We will bless our children and their families with a Christmas dinner and church service on December 18. We will also distribute Christmas food baskets on that evening. We will host Christmas parties complete with Christmas fun, food, and gifts for the children on December 11th. Temple UMC is collecting Christmas gifts for all of our children once again this year. We will send home Take-Home Food Packs with

the Children for when we close on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

All of these upcoming ministries offer many areas in which congregations, classes, organizations, and individuals can serve with time, talent, and donations. If you or your church would like to assist with any of these special events, please call us at 232-3126.



2003 Golf Fundraiser A Success

by Dave Harrah



The 14th & Chestnut Community Center's First Golf Fundraiser was a successful outing. The fundraiser raised \$6,137.00, for the operation of the center. The Golf Fundraiser committee would like to thank all the persons who participated in the outing, the hole sponsors, and the businesses that gave us donation for prizes. We had 70 golfers and 48 hole sponsors, a lunch buffet before the outing, and prizes for the golfers. The first place winners were the First National Bank and Trust team, the second place was Labor Temple Association team, and Third place was Indiana Mechanical Contractors team. I would like to give special recognition to Bob Bozarth, Ginny Rundel, Mary Jensen, Kristin Marlin, Brooke Sullivan, and Bill Felts for helping make this fundraiser a success. They all work hard either planning the Golf Fundraiser Outing, and working the day of the outing.



Meet Cathy White

I thank the Lord for allowing me to be a part of feeding the hungry. Even before I met Jesus my heart was always broken for meeting the actual physical needs of people. Now I understand that the Lord has been training me all my life for this ministry and others I am involved in now. Never before have I felt I was in the perfect will of the Lord as I am now. I am a transplanted Southern Bell who gets no greater joy than seeing people give their lives to our Savior, and then sharing His love in a tangible way. Jesus said when we do it to the least of these, we actually do it unto Him.

I am also currently leading worship at Calvary Temple on 25th, work with the kids some at Grumbling Tummies, and one to

two times a year I go to Romania on a mission trip to work with orphans. How I would love to have a food ministry on the streets of Romania for all the homeless children!

I am so proud of ALL the volunteers who give of their time and lives in this ministry. I know that the Lord sees the hearts and I know as they give it will be given unto to them.



A special thanks to our new volunteers, Rick and Pat Eldred. We call them the organization specialists! Recently, they have so graciously donated and put in new shelving

Our Cupboard Needs Filled

Mother Hubbard's Cupboard is still in desperate need of food. The pantry is close to bare. Catholic Charities is also low on food, so we really need individuals and Churches to help out. If you could start a food drive or take an offering for the Pantry it would be very helpful!!!

If you have any questions, please call Bill Felts or Cathy White at 812-232-3126.

Items Needed:

Canned meat - any kind or combinations (beef stew, etc.)
Canned fruit (no peaches)
Canned Juices

Canned Soups (no tomato)
Canned Pork & Beans
Spaghetti Meat Sauce
Cereal - Any kind
Macaroni & Cheese
Pastas - Variety (No elbow macaroni)
Boxed Potatoes
Boxed Dinners (Hamburger Helper, etc.)
Crackers
Cake Mixes
Flour & Cornmeal
Sugar
Cooking Oil
Dried Beans
Money for Meat and bread
Canned Potatoes
Canned Peas
Canned Mixed Vegetables

and reorganized the pantry, and made some tremendous improvements. They also did the same for Grumbling Tummies. We all can never thank them enough for allowing the Lord to use their talents.

All of us in the food pantry want to send a special thank you to all of you who donate food or money. We could not make it without your help. We are an awesome team working together for the good of this community and ultimately for this city. It is our prayer that as we give food to the hungry, people will see the real bread of life.

Love in Jesus
Cathy White

How Time Flies! by Paul Brown

Well, a year has gone by since I entered the doors of the 14th & Chestnut Community Center and what a year it has been. A year where I have experienced being “Po-Po” the Clown to helping judge the Little Miss Chestnut pageant. In between, the day-to-day challenges of helping to keep the Center operating makes life hectic. It has been a year of growing and learning how best to help Bill keep things on an even keel at the Center and of helping Stacie to keep 50-60 children where they belong and orderly.

What began as an AARP position of basically checking in children has become a job of many responsibilities and duties. I have come from not knowing the name of a child to knowing each child’s name, needs, and personality. What a difference a year has made in so many of the children. Many who were unruly, troublesome, and who had so much distrust of us at the Center last year have taken a 180-degree turn and have emerged live butterflies out of cocoons as completely new individuals. They see life in a new and different light than they did a year ago.

For me, my position here at the Center has changed from one which I was hesitant to take to one which has been one of the most fulfilling for me emotionally in my many years of work experience. I have a tremendous feeling of need here and feel so appreciated for the effort I put into this position.

To express in words what the 14th & Chestnut Community Center does for the neighborhood and the children who live here, is difficult to do. A person needs to visit the Center and see the results of the effort we put forth to reach both the neighborhood and the lives of the children who attend regularly.

What next year will bring, I do not know, but I do know that it will be exciting to see what children we reach and what changes we see in their lives. I pray for God’s guidance in the coming year in how to reach each child and improve their lives.

Feeling and Caring is Living Work

by Tim Voll



Many miracles and wonders were being done through the apostles, and everyone was filled with awe. All the believers continued together in close fellowship and shared their belongings with one another. They would sell their property and possessions, and distribute the money among all, according to what each one needed. (Acts 2:43-45 TEV)

Since you are reading this story, you probably already have some connection with the 14th and Chestnut Community Center. Consequently, you likely know about most of the ministries at the center. In fact, you are probably one of the many servants who volunteer your time, talents, and treasures.

Additionally, you are on a variety of committees and have a leadership role in your home church. Your righteous resume is long and spans decades of work for the Lord. And you are tired. Burnout is more than a concern because it is a part of your hectic schedule. You try your best to confine it to your days off, but sometimes those days are too full to accommodate additional troubles.

As I click down these thoughts and check off another task on my to-do-today list, I wonder how. How can there be so much stuff to do? How much can I get done this afternoon? How many things will have to wait until tomorrow? It seems too big to think about. The weight of the world is compressed to my shoes. Tomorrow, I will need to buy new gel inserts again, if I have time.

The role of the servant is numbing. Feeling and caring is living work. Where did the apostles find the love to start the church? In chapter two of Acts we read about the fellowship of the apostles, and their love for each other. Love, fellowship, and family between servants, churches, and communities may seem like an obvious answer to the many needs we face. Some would argue that yes we are connected, and yes we do work together. But how do we measure “connectedness” and togetherness? Do we share all our possessions and properties according to each one’s needs? Jesus teaches that *he who keeps his life will lose it, but he who loses his life for my sake will find everlasting life.*

Lives are being changed every day at the 14th and Chestnut Community Center in Christ through you. What would result from more servants, more love, and more fellowship? Can you remember the world looking at the church and filled with awe?

POPCORN

The Boy Scouts at the 14th & Chestnut Community Center are selling popcorn. 73% of the profits will stay with the local troop. Please help the boys raise money for their annual expenses and equipment. To place an order, send a message to thdist@abcs.com including your name, address, phone number, e-mail address and the items that you would like to order. If you have any questions, send a message or call 812-232-3126 or 1-800-919-8168. The popcorn will arrive around Thanksgiving and you can pay when you pick it up.

Growing at the 14th & Chestnut Community Center

By Stacie Marlin

Growth can be seen and assessed in many different ways at the 14th & Chestnut Community Center. This fall we have witnessed many nights where we have served 60+ children. This is nearly double the number of children who were being served last fall by our free, after-school program. On one recent Monday night, we witnessed nearly 90 hungry children, youth, and adults being fed a warm, free meal. Serving a night at Grumbling Tummies Café is an eye-opening experience for many. Hungry lines of children don't just exist in far off places such as Africa. Lines of hungry children form in Terre Haute, Indiana.

It has been exciting to see growth in the area of volunteers serving at the Community Center. Many new congregations, organizations, businesses, and individuals are serving in this inner-city ministry. As the number of volunteers grow to serve our children and youth, we watch relationships grow and blossom. Many of our children are in need of love and attention. The smaller the child to adult ratio, the more

opportunities exist for these relationships to develop.

We are honored to be God's servants here at the Community Center, doing what He has asked us to do. We are blessed to witness the growth in the personal lives of these children. Pastor Felts, Paul, and I have marveled this month at how much better the children are acting and how few children have been in time-out and trouble this fall. Where we once saw anger and hatred in certain children's lives, we are now seeing forgiveness and a gentler spirit. The children and youth are reaching out to one another when they see each other hurting. They ask for prayer for one another, their families, and themselves. Several have accepted Christ as their Savior this fall and we are blessed to know that lives are being changed in many ways here each day – spiritually, physically, academically, and socially.

Christ asked each of us to make disciples of the nations of the world and as we do He promises that He is with us always (Matthew 28:19-20). And as we go about this work, John 13:35 tells us that Jesus' followers will be known by the love we show for one another. Daily at the 14th & Chestnut Community Center we see love growing by leaps and bounds for each child, youth, adult, volunteer, and staff member. God is so faithful to His children!

a poem from a 10 year old girl the Center serves (with her own spelling)...

"Wether"

The wind blue my
Tears away. The rain
Frightened my cry. The
Sun dride the day.
The leaves colored the
ground.
Wind blue the leaves.
The winter color
brightened
The ground.
The sun melted the snow
To water.
The flowers bloomed and
the
Flowers perfumed the
Earth.

Help to Beat the Heat (Bills)

Even after the installation of insulation donated by Memorial UMC last winter, our heating bills at the Community Center averaged \$1200-\$1500 per month. A self-addressed envelope is enclosed in this newsletter if you are able to bless us with a donation to help keep the Center warm this winter for the children we serve, we will be most grateful.

Why Garrett Volunteers



Why I volunteer.

I first began volunteering to give me something to fill my days up last year when I had no job. I found about 14th & Chestnut Community Center from the bulletin at church one Sunday last August. The bulletin was filled with all types of information about service projects and volunteering and 14th & Chestnut jumped out at me. I wanted to do something that involved working with kids and this was the perfect opportunity so I jumped right in. That Monday after church I called the contact number and spoke with Eldora Brown. I showed up that afternoon for a tour and started volunteering the next Tuesday, which was the first day of the after school program for last year. And every since then I have never regretted volunteering at the Center.

I chose to volunteer for several different reasons. The first reason was to fill my days last year since I had no job. The reason I continued to volunteer is because I feel that God calls us all to do some type of service and he placed 14th & Chestnut right in my lap. In 1Corinthians 12:4-6 Paul tells us *“There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men.”*

Going to see the kids makes my days every time that I go to the center, no matter how aggravated I am with them. There has always been at least one thing happen each day that makes me come back the next. During my summer break I wanted to come up and visit with the kids that I came to love and care about during the past year but I never had the chance. As the school year was approaching I knew that I had to have a job this year, and I knew that I wanted to volunteer. I applied for at least twelve different jobs hoping for flexible hours so I could continue to volunteer but did not receive a phone call from one of them. I began the year volunteering again still hoping for a job and I finally got one with the math department at school. This way I was able to work and volunteer because I made my own schedule at work.

I came back this year because I love the kids and I know that God wants me to be here. There are times during the day when I will question why I am here, and I always receive the answer, I am there for the kids. It is important as a volunteer to remember to put the kids first. They are the reason for the center and should be the reason we volunteer. You will be made fun of at times and be picked on every chance that they get, but you must look past that and see that they enjoy you being there and spending time with them. These kids are human beings and deserve to be treated like them. Don't feel sorrow or pity for them, be joyous that they are at the center trying to stay out of trouble and they need good role models to look up at. Become their friends and get to know things about them and their families and truly truly care for them.

May God bless those who do his will.
Garrett Schindler

THREE CHEERS FOR CHANCES FOR INDIANA YOUTH!

Karen Speedy and her terrific organization CHANCES FOR INDIANA YOUTH have been a tremendous asset to our programming at the 14th & Chestnut Community Center. We wanted to take this opportunity to thank them for the support they have given to us. Through these opportunities, many doors have been opened for the children and youth we serve.

- ❖ **CHANCES provided funding for our 3rd-high school students to build leadership skills this summer through the Wilderness Adventure Program.**
- ❖ **CHANCES provided funding that helped our children and youth to remain off of the streets and out of trouble during the summer months. Many field trips, educational opportunities, leadership training, and our summer carnival were made possible by funding provided through CHANCES.**
- ❖ **CHANCES has enabled us to bring the SURVIVAL SKILLS program for our teenage girls. This funding will purchase the initial program curriculum, assist with training expenses, and support the program throughout this school year. Vital skills are taught to our youth through this program.**
- ❖ **CHANCES is a tremendous supporter of our free fall after-school program.**

Words are inadequate to express our gratitude for this great organization.
THANK YOU CHANCES!

**14th & Chestnut
Community Center**
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812-232-3126

Executive Director
Rev. Bill Felts

Program Director
Stacie Marlin

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Tim Voll, Paul Brown, Garrett Schindler

**Meet our new director of
Mother Hubbard's Cupboard...Cathy White**

Golf Outing Recap

The mission of **Kingdom's Kids** ministry is to provide school age children with educational, cultural, spiritual and recreational activities so that they might experience God's love in Christian community, gain a sense of self-worth as children of God, and learn to live by Kingdom values.

Newsletter Design by *Cathy Porter*

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