

September 2009

Faithful Servant

Servant's Heart of Indy

Dear Friends and Supporters,

Wow! Can you believe we have been serving the needs of families for six years already? It has been several years since our last newsletter, we apologize for that. Our goal is to send out one at least quarterly to keep everyone plugged into the loop. Sending info via e-mailings is the wave of the future and much more cost effective too. Once we get the hang of it we can get out special announcements and events to you as well.

God continues to bless us. We have seen new groups of volunteers and churches come along side us in the ministry. Our pledged monthly support is now up to \$1,100 per month. We have seen God use us to minister to refugees from an oppressed nation, provide furniture for families that have nothing and even partner with other like ministries by sharing resources. We have had young people from schools and churches do food drives and raise money to help us. We have a faithful Board of Directors that work tirelessly to keep the ministry wheels turning.

Our newsletter contains articles from our Volunteers of the Year, dates of upcoming events and a story about God filling the truck. Below you will see some statistics from then to now and our weekly needs. Enjoy!

In His Service,

Bill

P.S. A huge thanks to Linda Pea for creating our very first E-Newsletter. Let her know how much you enjoyed it. God is using her gifts in a mighty way.



Servant's Heart has been serving Beech Grove families and the surrounding zip codes for six years now.

Number of families served per week 2004: 10
 Number of families served per week 2009: 65-80

Number of lives touched each month 2004: 150

Number of lives touched each month 2009: 650-700

Number of families served since 2003: 2,646

Weekly Staple Needs: 560 cans of vegetables, 140 cans of fruit, 70 boxes of cereal, 140 cans of soup, 140 pasta meals, 140 cans of meat, 70 jars of peanut butter & jelly, 70 bottles of shampoo, 70 packs of toilet paper, 70 gallons of soap **Cost: \$1046.00**

Volunteer Opportunities & Events

Sept. 15th - Beech Grove Fall Festival Booth Setup 6:00 p.m.

Sept. 16th - 19th - Beech

Volunteers of the Year

Joanne Smith, Susan Wood, and Phil Wood were announced as the Volunteers of the Year at our annual volunteer picnic on July 25th at South Grove Park in Beech Grove.

Joanne:



Grove Fall Festival Booth,
Walk in Parade

Oct. 17th - Euchre Party
(Hornet Park Community
Center)

Nov. 20th - Thanksgiving
Staging (Grace
Evangelical Church)

Nov. 21st - Packing
Thanksgiving Boxes
(Grace Evangelical
Church)

Nov. 23rd - Turkey Drive
Thru (Servant's Heart
Pantry)

Nov. 26th - Cook & Deliver
Thanksgiving Dinner to
Shut-ins & Senior Citizens
(South Emerson Church of
God)

Dec. 5th - Christmas
Shopping for Families

Dec. 6th - Spaghetti
Dinner/Auction (Hornet
Park Community Center)

Dec. 12th- Christmas
Shopping for Families

Dec. 18th -
Christmas Wrapping Party
(South Grove Intermediate
School)

Dec. 19th - Christmas Gift
Distribution/Santa
Shop (South Grove
Intermediate School)

Board of Directors

Bill Boone
Chairman

Linda Pea
Vice Chairman

Angie Wright
Secretary/Volunteer

About two and half years ago I was talking to Glenn Gossage about my retirement and that I thought in my extra time I would like to do some volunteering. Glenn and Darlene go to the First Baptist Church of Greenwood. We talked some about his association with Servant's Heart. Soon after that I set a time to talk with the Volunteer Coordinator to put me on the schedule. I have been volunteering since then. It is rewarding to know how you can help others.

That November I helped with the Thanksgiving Drive thru. I had not done anything like that before. Didn't know what to expect. Once I saw all of the other volunteers and the board members so dedicated to helping people in this community. I knew I wanted to be a part of it.

At Christmas you can just see all the care and love that is put into helping so many families have a wonderful Christmas. Some might not have a Christmas if it wasn't for the Servant's Heart. You can just see the expressions on the children when they open their gifts. It's priceless.

When I'm at the pantry and a client will ask for something special that they need for a family member, I go in the storage area and look for the items and almost everytime I was able to find what the person wanted. When I give it to them they are so thankful. Sometimes we have to see others that are less fortunate to realize what we have. God does provide and loves all of us.

Susan and Phil:

Bill talked to our Close Knit Friends and I knew I wanted to be involved with Servant's Heart because Bill had such a passion for helping others.

Phil and I met with another Board member and then we made a visit to Servant's Heart on a Thursday evening to see how the pantry operated. We decided that we wanted to be involved and were trained to work in the office.

We are at the pantry one Thursday night a month. We also wanted to help with the Thanksgiving and Christmas events. We try to give as much time as we can to these events.

At Thanksgiving we are collecting food and helping to box it up to be passed out at the Turkey Drive Thru. At Christmas we shop, wrap and try to adopt a family to shop for.

Any one of us could be shopping at the pantry if our circumstances were to change. We love the people involved with Servant's Heart. We try to treat those who come to the pantry just the way Jesus would treat them. We may be the only Jesus that these people see. We love what we do.

"Pack the Truck Challenge"

What: Our goal is to collect 5,000 food items in 4 days

When: Sept. 16th - 18th 6-10 p.m.
Sept. 19th - Noon - 10 p.m.

Where: Our booth at the Beech Grove Fall Festival 515 Main St.



Coordinator

Bill Hurt
Treasurer

Nita Rich
Member at Large

Lori Towles
Member at Large

Anna Williams
Member at Large

Food items needed are:

Canned Veggies: green beans, corn, potatoes, carrots, peas, spinach

Canned Fruit: fruit cocktail, pears, applesauce, peaches, pineapple, mandarin oranges

Misc. items: canned soup, peanut butter, jelly, spaghetti sauce, canned meat, pasta meals, cereal

Thanksgiving Assistance Program

Our holiday assistance programs during 2008 included supplying complete Thanksgiving dinners for 301 families on the Tuesday before Thanksgiving and delivering 47 hot dinners to the elderly and shut-ins in Beech Grove on Thanksgiving morning. These efforts touched the lives of 1,283 people. We expect to see an increased need this year and have estimated groceries for 350 families.



2009 Thanksgiving Needs:

- 4,900 lbs of turkey
- 912 cans of green beans
- 912 cans of corn
- 772 boxes of stuffing
- 644 boxes of mashed potatoes
- 623 cans of yams
- 772 jars of gravy
- 420 pies
- 420 whipped cream
- 548 dozen rolls
- 350 cans of cranberry sauce.
- Estimated cost: \$13,701

Would you or your group be interested in sponsoring any items on this list?

thanksgiving@servantsheartofindy.org

God fills the truck

We were donated a box truck last fall not knowing how God would use this tool. He first filled it with food for our Turkey Drive Thru and then filled it again with gifts for Christmas.

This spring God used it several times to help families with furniture. Many times it had several pick-ups in it at one time. When we got a call from one of our volunteers about the Chin families, Rob knew we had a truck full of furniture. Could the truck load of furniture be directed to the Chin families. They are members of the local Chin Evangelical Church. There are about 50 families, with about 500 members, that have fled Myanmar (Burma) with just the clothes on their backs. These families have planted

a Garden of Hope at the Midwest Food Bank and are sharing the produce (about 11,000 lbs to date) with agencies who participate with the Midwest Food Bank in fighting hunger. When we pull into one of the two apartment complexes on the Southside where they are living, they are sitting on the curb eager and willing to unload the truck and spread the wealth among their families. Many families had nothing in their apartments and were sleeping on the floors. God had filled the truck with furniture, kid's clothes and even bags of toilet paper.

Several weeks had gone by from our first meeting. God started filling the truck for their second load. When a short time ago, we got a call from one of our church members that his a 90+ year dad was moving to a smaller place. They had excess furniture and other household items that were no longer needed. We filled up the truck with furniture and as we were about to leave the son asked if we could use any of his father's clothes. Boxes of clothes were added to the rest of the donations in the truck with one special box.

One Saturday we came back from an event in Franklin Township and received a phone call from Dikte, the leader of the Chin people, about coming to the pantry and going thru the contents of the truck. They came that afternoon in their van and started unloading the truck and determining what they could get into the van to take back to their families. Then they came upon the special box of suits. They had never had suits and immediately began trying them on in the back of the truck. The suits were perfect for them since they were all small statured like the 90 year old man. It was the best gift they could have been given and were very happy to have them. Their smiles broke all language barriers. They were eager to wear them to church the next day. We never know when we pick up a donation how God will use it but He does. He already is preparing someone to receive the item at just the right time.

How could God use you in our ministry?

1. Holding the staff and board up in prayer.
2. Volunteering at the pantry
3. Becoming a pantry partner for \$1.00 a day
4. Volunteering for special events
5. Serving as a board member
6. Leading a pantry team
7. Adopt a family at Christmas

Contact

Pantry Phone Number: (317) 788-9433

Leave your name, number, service interest, and when you may be contacted.

God will supply our need. Will you let Him use you?

Come and be the hands and feet of Jesus in the local mission field serving the needs of families