


Inside


 In Everything Give Thanks

 Searching for Direction

 Evacuees Arrive in Milwaukee

 Calling All Volunteers

 Internship Begins for Concordia Senior

 Count On Me!



Penetrating Lives for Lasting Change.

6647 W. Mill Road
Milwaukee, WI 53218

Address Service Requested

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
MILWAUKEE, WI
PERMIT NO. 5116

The Milwaukee Outreach Center



OCTOBER 2005

In Everything Give Thanks

Thanksgiving is a very important celebration at The Milwaukee Outreach Center. Even in the aftermath of tragedy, adversity and loss, it is essential that we pause and reflect on God's goodness to us. As long as we have breath we can praise God that He is bigger than all these things.

The Psalmist reminds us that "the Lord Himself is God; it is He who has made us, and not we ourselves. We are His people and the sheep of His pasture. Enter His gates with thanksgiving..." (Psalm 100:3,4). As the Good Shepherd, He knows exactly what we need so we will wholly trust Him and acknowledge Him as Lord of lords and King of kings. "Giving thanks in everything" is a core value stressed in the New Testament "for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus" (1 Thessalonians 5:18). The little word "in" is huge because it does not say "give thanks for everything" but "in everything."

In any and every circumstance we can be thankful. More often than not we see adversity as an interruption in our lives and thankfulness is the furthest thing from our minds. We tend to be in a hurry to get back to normal and fail to see that God first wants us to stop everything and worship Him with praises and thanksgiving from our hearts. Afterwards, if we listen closely, we will hear that He has something specific in mind for us.

In these challenging times we can be confident that God is "working in us that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever" (Hebrews 13:21). Again, that little word "in" is huge.

So it is God's will for us to pause and in everything give thanks to Him for being God. Last year we had over 350 volunteers serve 2,100 roast turkey dinners with all the trimmings. A wonderful

way to celebrate Thanksgiving is to love those who are often forgotten in the inner city. Come with your family on November 24 for an hour and a half and volunteer as a table host, table server, kitchen server, prayer counselor, musician, or clean-up crew member.

You can reserve your spot as a volunteer by completing the registration information in the Count On Me section of this newsletter. Register as soon as you can because these spots fill up. Your contribution is also needed for providing Thanksgiving dinners. Please turn the page for details.



"Though the fig tree should not blossom and there be no fruit on the vines, though the yield of the olive should fail and the fields produce no food, though the flock should be cut off from the fold and there be no cattle in the stalls, yet I will exult in the Lord, I will rejoice in the God of my salvation" (Habakkuk 3:17-18).

The Milwaukee Outreach Center | 414.760.0334 | Fax 414.760.0399 | www.tmoc.org | email: tmoc@tmoc.org

Executive Director's Update



Michael Rintelman
Executive Director

At our open house in September, one of our many guests asked me how the last year has been. I said that it was like Charles Dickens' words from his novel *A Tale of Two Cities*: "It was the best of times; it was the worst of times." During the more difficult times, which have been few, God intervened, blessed and protected The Milwaukee Outreach

Center (TMOC) in spite of the many distractions that were meant to discourage us. During the times of blessing, which have been many, God has encouraged, rejuvenated and blessed us with His faithfulness and grace.

One explanation for His blessing and protection was stated profoundly by Will Hope in the front page article in this newsletter. I can tell you that through the distractions, our staff and board gave thanks! We gave thanks in the midst of some of the challenges that we each faced. It was during our times of thanksgiving that I

could sense the prayers that were being said on my and TMOC's behalf.

As we begin preparations for Thanksgiving and Christmas, we are reminded of God's overwhelming blessing to those that serve Him. In spite of the many tragedies that have gone on around us this year with the tsunami in January, Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in September, we are reminded of God's goodness, grace and sovereignty. Although some have lost their lives and others their material possessions, we see the Gospel being taken with relief workers to South Asia and a renewed spiritual interest in the gulf region on our nation. God's people, united in our faith in Jesus Christ, are reaching out with tangible acts of Christian service.

As you begin to reflect on God's grace and provision to you, please know that we at TMOC are thankful that you have allowed us to be a part of God's grace and provision to those we serve on a daily basis. Without you, many would be without hope in our community and nation. For that, I say Thank You!



Searching for Direction

Most of the people who attend our Phoenix Life Skills class are looking for direction in their lives. Some have been unable to find a job whereas others may have lost a job. For five days and 40 hours of instruction our Phoenix students discover things about themselves and gain insight about the world around them.

A Yellow Page ad was Tracy Stabenfeldt's introduction to The Milwaukee Outreach Center (TMOC) and its Phoenix program. A recent graduate of Waukesha County Technical College, Stabenfeldt was impressed by what TMOC had to offer people looking for employment.

The session on paradigms helped Stabenfeldt the most. In Phoenix a paradigm is the lens through which we view life. Our lens becomes distorted when others consistently lie or distort the truth for their (not our) benefit. A paradigm shift occurs as we choose to cleanse our lens by consistently applying truth that comes through healthy relationships.

This session examined how people learn to view the world through damaged lenses. Stabenfeldt commented, "It was very helpful to see the different ways people scratch our lens and the ways to counteract this."

Nicolene Daley came to Phoenix upon the recommendation of her counselor at the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation. Born in Jamaica, Daley lived in Florida before coming to Milwaukee two years ago.

The biggest frustration in her job search is the application process. "After applying, I follow up with a phone call and I'm told to call in two weeks. When I call after two weeks, I'm told that they are no longer hiring."



The first students to attend Phoenix (September 12-16) at TMOC's new facilities included: (left to right: Brad Shaw, Monia Ayers, Tracy Stabenfeldt and Nicolene Daley).

For Daley, the most helpful part of the week was learning about her personality and understanding her attitudes. She observed, "I value honesty, kindness, joyfulness, and respect and love for others."

Both Stabenfeldt and Daley are reminders that your gifts and support provide meaningful opportunities for people to find direction through the services and programs of The Milwaukee Outreach Center. In all of our programs we present Jesus as the answer to life's deepest struggles and hardest challenges. Thank you for your generosity in helping us make this possible.

Count On Me!



Today I'm enclosing:

- ___ My monthly commitment of \$_____
- ___ A special Thanksgiving offering for
 - 5 dinners (\$15) 10 dinners (\$30) 20 dinners (\$60)
 - 50 dinners (\$150) other (\$_____)

We would like to volunteer on Thanksgiving for...

- 1st shift (10:00 - 11:30)
- 2nd shift (11:45 - 1:15)
- 3rd shift (1:30 - 3:00)

Mail, fax, or email (tmoc@tmoc.org) your registration as soon as possible. We will contact you with final details. Due to the large amount of volunteers, phone registration is not possible.



Name _____
(first) (last)

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

List other volunteers who will be coming with you.
Children must be at least 10 years old.

United Way Donor Choice Giving

The United Way has a community-wide approach to both raising and distributing charitable gifts. Within this broader context, donors can choose to designate to a specific organization like The Milwaukee Outreach Center or give an unrestricted gift to help a broad range of health and human development agencies. United Way's single community-wide campaign is a means for individuals to support many worthwhile services with a single gift.

Evacuees Arrive in Milwaukee

Over 200 evacuees from Hurricane Katrina are being cared for at the Tommy Thompson Youth Center at State Fair Park. The Milwaukee Outreach Center (TMOC) has been coordinating spiritual care volunteers to work with the Salvation Army. Each volunteer takes a two-hour shift to listen, pray and counsel with people from New Orleans. Call TMOC if you would like to volunteer for this important ministry. Service groups (11-15 people) are also needed to assist with the noon meal. This involves set-up, serving and clean-up from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm.

We are also working with Operation Blessing to assist churches and communities in clean-up and reconstruction projects in the Gulf Coast. Next month's newsletter will have more details. In the meantime please pray how God would use you, your time, treasure and talents to assist our neighbors during these challenging days.



U.S. Secretary of Commerce, Carlos Gutierrez, addressed State Fair Park volunteers, visitors and evacuees at a National Day of Prayer gathering in September. Various pastors and community leaders offered prayers for families and victims of Hurricane Katrina.



Barb and Rich Dumke (back) from Brookfield Assembly of God are some of the many spiritual care volunteers assisting Chaplains Jan and Thom McMahan of the Salvation Army at State Fair Park.

Internship Begins for Concordia Senior

Melissa Whiting is a senior at Concordia University in pursuit of a bachelor's degree in social work with a minor in ministry. Part of her graduation requirement is an internship with The Milwaukee Outreach Center (TMOC).

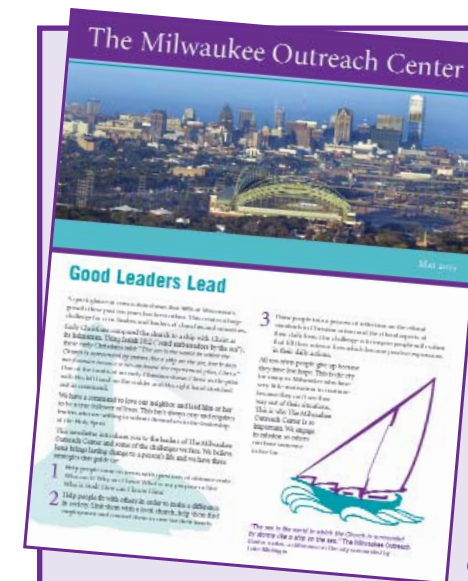
She will be working with Bill Lange, Director of Phoenix Life Skills, and assisting Gary Shoultz with counseling clients.

Her home is in Elk River, Minnesota but since coming to TMOC she feels like she has "four new dads." Her first impression is that TMOC is a friendly place. She is looking forward to knowing how to work with clients and integrating her faith in meeting their needs.

Please remember Melissa in prayer and greet her by name when you see her.



This fall Melissa Whiting began her internship in counseling and social services at The Milwaukee Outreach Center.



Monthly newsletters from The Milwaukee Outreach Center are available for your church or organization. Spread the word so others can become involved in the latest opportunities for outreach and ministry.

Spread The Word

Volunteers are needed to place TMOC's monthly newsletter in foyers of churches and other locations. If your church or organization would like a holder and copies of our newsletter along with a bulletin announcement, please call TMOC. This is a great way to mobilize your people for outreach and ministry in our community.