

Psalm 46:1 "God Is Our Refuge And Strength, An Ever Present Help In Trouble."



# Help's on The Way

Issue 10 Fall 2006

In this issue of the newsletter I want to share a few thoughts about volunteering, and on being a disciple of Jesus Christ. Firstly, a **volunteer** is a person who chooses to act in recognition of a need, with an attitude of social responsibility without concern for monetary profit. A **volunteer** is also a person who offers himself or herself for service without being forced to do so. A **volunteer** is someone who willingly gives unpaid help in the form of time, service or skills through an organization or group.

Secondly, a **disciple**, from the Greek word mathetes, which is simply translated as "a learner". A **disciple**, from the Latin discipulus, a pupil) is one who receives instruction from another; a scholar; a learner; especially, a follower who has learned to believe in the truth of the doctrine of his teacher; an adherent in doctrine. A **disciple** is a pupil or follower of a religion, a person, or a movement. As Christians we are to be **disciples** of Jesus (Luke 14:26,27). We follow in the teaching and example of what He said and did. A **disciple** is a convert but not all converts are **disciples**. As **disciples** we are to bear our cross daily (Matt. 16:24). This means to live and die for Him if necessary (Matt. 16:25). The ministry of Help's On The Way is able to help clients because we have a core group of **volunteers/disciples** who regularly support the ministry with their time, talents and abilities. As an organization, we know that we need to continually encourage this core group of volunteers, and to also encourage those of you who have volunteered at our Client Services Center on an occasional basis to continue to do so.

I have a top-ten list of reasons why volunteering, and disciplining in service to the clients of Help's On The Way is a positive experience, not only for the clients, but for the volunteers as well.

1. Volunteers are presented with opportunities to solve problems. God gave us a brain, and He wants us to use it to help His children. This activity of problem solving is something we can model for others, and something that can be modeled for ourselves as well. The old quote goes something like this, "The person who has all the answers, doesn't understand the question. In short, volunteers, working with others, continue to develop their problem solving skills.
2. Volunteers are presented with opportunities to develop relationships with other volunteers and clients in a supportive atmosphere. It appears that one of the universal truths about human beings is their God-given desire to be in relationship with others. Wherever you care to look, people who enjoy developing relationships are spiritually and emotionally healthy.
3. Volunteers are presented with opportunities to learn about people in their community who may not be a part of their regular social circle. All of us tend to stick to the group of people with which we are most familiar, it feels safe and comfortable to do so. Unfortunately, this habit of limiting our social contacts to those who share a common history, work experience, religious affiliation, and or level of education prevents us from developing intimacy with others. Intimacy, in this sense, is meant to convey a level of understanding of others such that we view them as being human beings with the same cares, concerns, hopes and fears that we all share.
4. Volunteers are presented with opportunities to focus on the needs of others. When we encounter truly needy people we realize how truly blessed so many of us are. **(Please see page two)**

## HELP'S ON THE WAY 2

### From page one

5. Volunteers are presented with opportunities to learn about helping resources available in their community, and are able to share this information with church, family and friends who are in need.
6. Volunteers are presented with opportunities to grow spiritually, emotionally, and cognitively. Use it or lose it.
7. Volunteers are presented with opportunities to learn new skills, be it in relating to others, working with others.
8. Volunteering with others who recognize that we have a responsibility help others improves our spiritual, mental, and physical health by presenting opportunities to interact with others in a safe, friendly atmosphere.
9. Volunteers at Help's On The Way come to know, on a personal level, how neighbors in our community are struggling to meet the most basic of human needs. I view this opportunity as a method of exercising our ability to empathize with and have compassion for our neighbors in need.
10. Our most important reason for volunteering is based upon the words of our Savior recorded in the book of Mathew. "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me."

### Volunteer Opportunities

**Client Assessment Team** - On Thursday evenings from 6:00 until 8:30 PM, volunteers meet with and assess the needs of clients on an individual basis. Volunteers use our assessment tool to help the client present their physical, emotional, and spiritual needs, and to make a determination about what services will be provided. All new volunteers work with an experienced counselor until the new volunteer is confident about the process. If this is an area of volunteer service that is of interest to you, please call our Client Services Center at 734.776.3184 and leave a message. You may also email our, Director of Volunteer and Human Resources, Helen Davis at [helen.davis@helpsontheway.org](mailto:helen.davis@helpsontheway.org)

**Sorting and Stocking Team** - Our Tuesday sorting and stocking team meets at the Client Service Center on Tuesday evenings from 6:30 until 8:30 PM. The team has taken on the responsibility of sorting clothing and arranging the clothing in our free-shopping area. The team also unpacks and stocks the food that has been donated and or purchased for our clients. This team works for approximately two hours, and your assistance would be greatly appreciated. If this is an area of volunteer service that is of interest to you, please call the Client Service Center at 734.776.3184 and leave a message. You may also email our, Director of Volunteer and Human Resources, Helen Davis at [helen.davis@helpsontheway.org](mailto:helen.davis@helpsontheway.org).

**Phone Message Team** - Our phone message team passes along messages from volunteers and clients to the various members of our organization. Help's On The Way provides the cell phone, and covers all costs associated with this system. Most often, callers to our phone system are assisted by simply listening to the recorded message, and do not require further assistance. This volunteer position is quite flexible, as the volunteer can respond to messages at their convenience. History tells us that this volunteer position would require three to four hours per week. This volunteer position augments our methods of communication, especially for clients and or volunteers who do not have access to the Internet. If this is an area of volunteer service that is of interest to you, please call the Client Service Center at 734.776.3184 and leave a message. You may also email our, Director of Volunteer and Human Resources, Helen Davis at [helen.davis@helpsontheway.org](mailto:helen.davis@helpsontheway.org).

# HELP'S ON THE WAY

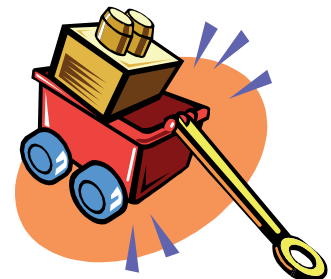
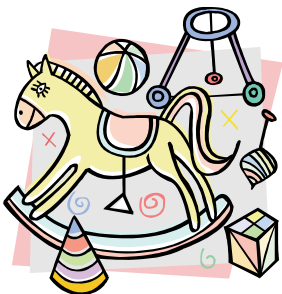


## *“CELEBRATION OF CHRISTMAS”*

### *The Greatest Gift was given for all*

During the month of November, clients have been providing information to our volunteers to help determine the most age appropriate toy for their child or children. On Tuesday, December 12, 2006, volunteers will gather with the parents of the children at the Client Service Center for light refreshments, the singing of Christmas Carols, a time of prayer, and the distribution of toys. We have depended greatly upon the generosity of both volunteers and donors to either provide a toy, or to make a financial donation for the purchase of toys.

**Please note** that it is not too late to donate a toy or to make a financial donation to this program. Checks may be sent to our corporate address, Help's On The Way, 6784 Edwards, Belleville, Michigan 48111-1136. Please make checks payable to, Help's On The Way, and in the memo line of the check please write, **'Toys for Christmas.'** You may also drop off your donated toy on Thursday, December 7, 2006 between the hours of 5:30 and 8:30 PM.



### The Changing Face Of Poverty

**As an experiment, close your eyes and imagine a person at a soup kitchen or food pantry. We most often imagine that person as being somehow quite different than ourselves. At Help's On The Way we are seeing in our newer clients evidence of an economic migration from full employment to a position at or below the level of poverty. The article below gives a thumbnail sketch of the economic plight facing many of our Michigan neighbors.**

In a dramatic sign of its ailing economy, Michigan's household income has dropped dramatically. More children have joined the ranks of the poor, and the number of people living below the poverty level jumped in the suburbs, according to recently released data from the American Community Survey.

The figures show Michigan's median household income fell more than any other state in the nation during the last six years. Median income was \$46,039 in 2005 – 12 percent less than what it was in 1999, when adjusted for inflation. None of the 28 counties and 21 municipalities for which data was reported showed a rise in median household income between 1999 and 2005.

The news was grim in other areas, too.

In 2005:

- 19 percent of children in Michigan lived in poverty, up from the rate six years earlier.
- Almost a third of the state's African Americans lived below the poverty level.
- Detroit remained one of the poorest big cities in the country, with almost a third of its residents living below the poverty line.

Cities and townships posted drops in median household incomes ranging from 6 percent to 24 percent and poverty rates increased in all but three cities.

The hard numbers bear out what metro Detroit and Michigan residents have experienced as many teeter between financial survival and financial ruin. As the auto and manufacturing industries sputter along, people are not only losing their higher-paying jobs, but they are also losing their homes to foreclosures and being forced to take lower-paying work.

The income numbers were coupled with poverty data showing that in metro Detroit communities such as Troy and Clinton Township, the number of people living below the poverty level – making less than about \$20,000 for a family of four – has about doubled in the last six years. The number of children under 18 living in poverty in those same cities also jumped during that time. For example, 459 children lived in poverty in Troy six years ago. By 2005, that number leaped to 2,000, according to the new census estimates.

Detroit, with 31 percent of its residents and 45 percent of its children living below the poverty line, remains one of the poorest big cities in the country, neck and neck with Cleveland (32 percent of its residents living in poverty).

Of note is how this economy has really found its way into what is not considered the typical poor. Poverty is finding its way into the **lower middle class and middle class**. Those who never thought they would are now seeking financial help.

In the tri-county area, Macomb County saw the biggest jump in the number of poor people. Six years ago, 44,000 people lived in poverty in the county, but the latest estimates show that number jumped to almost 71,000.

Michigan households, as a whole, experienced a 12 percent decline in median income between 1999 (data collected in the 2000 Census) and 2005. With the exception of Oakland County households, which lost 11.7 percent of their buying power, the remainder of the tri-county saw household income dropping faster than the statewide average. Macomb County household income fell by 12.6 percent, while Detroit households experienced an 18.8 percent drop. Wayne County households experienced a 14.4 percent decline in median household income.

**The significance of these large decreases is the fact that, even with poverty rates increasing, there are a rising number of households that have seen their income edging closer to the poverty line. When this is combined with the fact that more and more households are losing health insurance and the cost of basic necessities – food, clothing, shelter, gas for heat and transportation, etc. – are continuing to rise, it is obvious that the tri-county area's safety nets are being stretched to the limits.**

**Clients Served... From The Beginning**

Since the incorporation of, Help's On The Way in October of 2001 a total of **7,751 families or individuals** have presented themselves at our Client Service Center for intake and assistance. During that time we have assisted **13,279 adults**, and **14,933 children**.

**Clients Served... 2006**

For **calendar year 2006, through November 11, 2006** a total of **2,549 families or individuals** have presented themselves for intake and assistance. During this current year we have assisted **4,711 adults**, and **4,570 children**.

**Communities Served... 2006**

Our ministry **serves nearly fifty communities** with the greatest portion of clients reporting their residence to be Inkster, Michigan. Also prominent in our client demographics are the cities of Dearborn Heights, Detroit, Ecorse, Lincoln Park, Romulus, Taylor, and Westland, Michigan respectively.

**Client Race, Sex, and Income... 2006**

Our collected data indicates that fifty-six percent of our clients are, African-American, forty percent are Caucasian, with the remainder of our clients reporting that they are Middle-Eastern, Hispanic/Latino or Native-American. The data also indicates that seventy-three percent of our clients are female, and twenty-seven percent are male. As self-reported by clients, the average annual income for families, and or individuals was found to be approximately seventy-seven hundred dollars.

**Client Relationship Status... 2006**

Our collected data indicates that twenty-three percent of our clients are married, thirty-seven percent are single, thirty-two percent are single parents, and six percent are widows or widowers.

**Client Military Service and Disability Status... 2006**

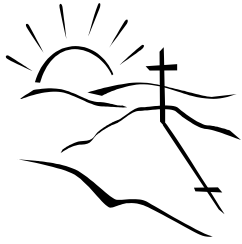
Our collected data indicates that nearly nine percent of our clients have served in the United States military. Data also indicates that thirty-seven percent our clients have some type of disability.

**Client Assistance—Basic Needs... 2006**

Virtually one hundred percent of our clients who requested food were provided an allotment food. Seventy-eight percent of our clients requested, and were provided an allotment of food, and clothing. Six percent of our clients requested, and were provided with food and clothing. This same six percent requested and were provided with either, small electrical appliances, pots, pans, towels, linens, lamps and or home decorations when these donated items were on hand.

**Client Assistance with Spiritual Needs... 2006**

Twenty-five hundred clients were provided with prayer cards with which to list the spiritual issues with which they currently struggle. These cards are returned to volunteers for the purpose of praying for the clients needs. One hundred thirty-five clients requested, and received a copy of the Holy Bible. Sixty clients requested, and were provided information related to where they might find a house of worship in their community. Fifty-on clients asked volunteers to lead them in a prayer of salvation. In addition, many clients received copies of the, "Daily Bread Magazine," and books, periodicals, and other literature related to the Christian faith.



Place  
Postage  
Here

Help's On The Way  
6784 Edwards  
Belleville, MI 48111-1136

Address Label

**Corporation Officers**

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Vice President - Jim Kelly

Treasurer - Frank Housholder

Secretary/ - Shannon Schmitt

Executive Director - Bill Swift

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Frank Housholder—President, Frank Housholder PC

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Shannon Schmitt - Registered Nurse, CDE, Sinai Grace Hospital

Bill Swift

Helen Davis

Mark Crowther—The Gingerbread Trim Company

Walt Hyvari

**Mission Statement**

"Help's On The Way," is a, non-profit 501 ( C ) ( 3 ) incorporated organization, that works to provide nutritional meals, clothing and household items to the community mission field. We define the community mission field, simply as, 'all of God's children.'

**Mission Project**

Our current mission project is the establishment and operation of a facility that will meet the needs of the community as defined above. This building is located at 5358 South Beech Daly Road, in Dearborn Heights, Michigan.

**Our Vision**

With God's grace, Godly inspired leadership, and the assistance of volunteers, both near and far, we hope to accomplish the following:

- Feed and or provide food to those in need.
- Develop and administer a, "clothes closet," for those who are in need.
- The collection and redistribution of donated household items such as furniture and appliances.

Our Client Services Center is located at 5358 South Beech Daly Road in Dearborn Heights, Michigan, one and one-half miles south of Michigan Avenue. We are open for client intake each Thursday, with hours of operation being six to eight-thirty PM. **Clients must be in line by no later than 7:30 PM.** For a complete listing services and times of service, and types of donations we presently accept, please call 734.776.3184, or visit our web site.

**helpsontheway.org**