

# WAYSIDE CROSS MINISTRIES WCM **IMPACT**

NOVEMBER 2011

## INSIDE

- **Director's Corner**  
Page 2
- **Volunteers**  
Page 2-3
- **Master's Touch Picnic**  
Page 2-3
- **Christmas**  
Page 4
- **Elgin Center Bridge to Life Update**  
Page 5
- **Heritage Society Supper**  
Page 6
- **Urban Youth Ministries**  
Page 7
- **New Life Corrections**  
Page 8
- **Lifespring Center**  
Page 9
- **Walk A Mile Annual Campaign Update**  
Page 10

Please remember your Annual Campaign Contribution



WCM IMPACT  
is the newsletter of  
Wayside Cross Ministries



Jerry Rose, President and CEO of TLN and James Lukose WCM's Executive Director.

## TLN

On Tuesday, September 27<sup>th</sup> a special episode of Significant Insights with Jerry Rose aired on TLN (Total Living Network) with the focus being Wayside Cross Ministries. The program was shown live on Tuesday with a repeat airing on Wednesday, September 28<sup>th</sup>. Our Executive Director, James Lukose was live in the studio with Jerry Rose and they showed footage that had been taken a few weeks prior at WCM.

Jerry Rose and his wife Shirley, (Executive Producer and Co-host of "Aspiring Women") along with their son Greg and two grandchildren, came in about a month before the live show aired. They took some time to sit down with the residents to talk and pray with them. They did some interviews, a few of which were shown during the

show, to really tell the background stories of a few men in the Master's Touch program. TLN has a real heart for compassion ministries. They weren't just there to talk and shoot footage for the show but they also took an opportunity to serve. They spent the entire lunch hour serving the men, manning the serving area, washing dishes and making sure that everything was clean afterward.

Overall it was a great experience and a wonderful partnership between Wayside Cross and TLN that showcased the work that God is doing in the lives of our residents. We thank Jerry & Shirley Rose for their willingness to serve and partner with our ministry.



Jerry and Shirley Rose serve lunch to residents of WCM.

Through the partnership between Wayside Cross Ministries and Total Living Network there is more being done than just creating awareness. TLN has partnered with WCM to collect donations through the end of the year. These donations will help purchase coats, gloves, hats, meals, shelter and recovery programs for our residents. A Christian business leader has volunteered to match your donation dollar for dollar up to \$2,000. We encourage you to tune into TLN as they will continue to air the program that was filmed live on September 27 for an opportunity to learn more about the ministry and partnership with TLN.

## DIRECTOR'S CORNER

# The Virtue of Compassion



**James Lukose**  
**Executive Director**

On a scorching day in the middle of one of the hottest summers in recent memory this past July, the air conditioning went out at the Lifespring Center, leaving the women and children living there facing 100-degree temperatures. After almost 15 years since it was installed, it wasn't going to be an easy or cheap fix. We were looking at a \$20,000 price tag for a new system. No easy challenge!

At the same time, God was leading one of WCM's supporters to make a phone call.

The same day I found out about the need to replace the air conditioning, this friend called to check on how the heat was affecting the ministry. When I told him about the problem at Lifespring, he said he would check with his wife and see what they could do to help. An hour later, he called back to say they wanted to underwrite the entire repair cost.

This story exemplifies Godly compassion, one of our five core values at WCM. Our caring friends displayed a deep awareness of the strife others were experiencing and then found a way to relieve it. Like the Good Samaritan and Jesus healing the sick, lame and the blind, 'biblical compassion is more than a feeling, more vigorous than empathy.' It is a virtue *in-deed!* It demands action.

The pages of this issue of **WCMIMPACT** are filled with other stories of compassionate acts, such as June Young who organized a picnic for our men this summer, Jerry and Shirley Rose and family served meals to Master's Touch Ministry residents and Bob Dahlstrom's many years of dedicated service to WCM's Annual Campaign.

I hope you will be encouraged and challenged to have a Godly heart of compassion and be similarly spurred to invest in hurting people to bring about healing, restoration and transformation.

We are truly grateful for your partnership and generosity.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James".

*PS. On page 4, take a moment to look into the eyes of the children. Won't you show compassion for the children this year and give them a special Christmas they will remember?*

## HOPE OUTREACH

# Volunteers from Oklahoma

Throughout the year we have multiple volunteer groups that come in from churches, schools, and community groups all across the local area and even from out of state. Many of these groups are looking for an experience that will enable them to connect with the people we minister to at Wayside Cross and make an impact in their lives. Often times what happens is that the people in the groups are just as affected by their experience as the people they are serving.

Over the summer we connected with First Baptist Church of Geneva. They were looking to place volunteer groups all over the Fox Valley area for a leadership seminar they were hosting. This week-long seminar had a specific focus on compassion and serving and the groups who came were from churches across the country.

Our partner group for the week was Awake Student Ministries from First Baptist Church

## MASTER'S TOUCH

# Picnic

For the third consecutive year, First Presbyterian Church (Aurora), provided a spectacular end to summer for residents of Master's Touch. June Young, along with her family and a number of dear brothers and sisters in Christ from "1st Pres" treated our residents to a "classic" picnic at Phillips Park on August 14<sup>th</sup>. The afternoon comprised a sumptuous cook-out, games and fellowship. As evidenced by the accompanying photos, everyone enjoyed the day.



Volunteers from Awake Student Ministries from First Baptist Church, Muskogee, Oklahoma.

of Muskogee, OK. They had a real desire to interact with the residents of Wayside Cross as well as a desire to truly bless us through the work that they did throughout the week. These students were some of the most passionate and hard-working youth that we have had. Not only did they work hard but they were able to finish every project that we gave them in half the allotted time. The most impressive part of this volunteering opportunity was listening to the students as they did debriefings in our chapel. They had a real grasp of what it means to be a follower of Jesus Christ and how serving and compassion are a part of that call.



Wayside Cross Ministries Staff, Volunteers and Residents enjoy a good old-fashioned Picnic.





**Will their days be merry and bright?  
It's up to you!**



*"I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all people."  
Luke 2:10*



**Look into their eyes - who wouldn't want to give them a Christmas full of every good thing?  
And if we don't do it...no one will.**

**So with every Christmas card you write this year, remember the less fortunate in our community. They need emergency care and education, counseling and hope to build a stable future. Together let's make their days merry and bright - now and for the rest of their lives!**

**See our attached Christmas Wish list envelope.**

ELGIN

# Sometimes There Is More Peace & Joy In Homelessness

Outside the morning skies were still darkened from a chilly fall rain. Inside a vestibule, adult twin sisters watch with their seven well-groomed children for the school bus to arrive. A scene that does not seem unusual, in fact somewhat wholesome, takes on a new twist when you realize the two single moms are not waiting in their apartment lobby, but in a homeless facility.

These two families traveled to Elgin from out-of-state because they learned of an opening at an emergency shelter. Unfortunately, the facility could only accommodate them for 90 days.

For now the school bus full of children, some of whom can be cruel with their comments, watch the homeless kids board the bus and nonchalantly look for empty seats.

Far from home and any family support, the twin moms spend their days looking for work, assistance, and housing.

On the same morning seeing the smile and big eyes of a five-year-old girl named Taylor (not her real name) is a reminder of why the Wayside Center is open. With several homeless friends looking on and offering advice, each morning Taylor completes her homework with her mom as she anxiously waits for afternoon kindergarten to begin.

Incredibly happy and innocent, one wonders if she is in denial or just clueless about what is going on. Then you realize that she is probably just so relieved to be away from the violence and chaos that the family was subjected to in their previous living environment.

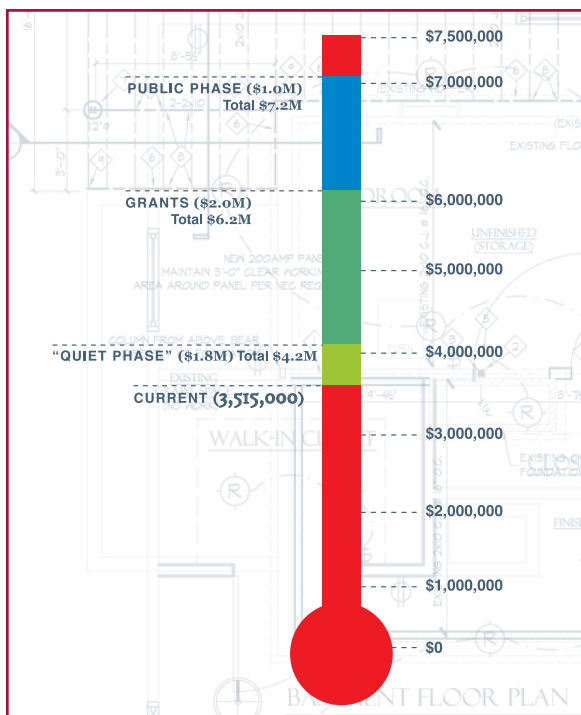
Sometimes there can be more peace and joy in a shelter than in a troubled home, at least for those who find refuge at Elgin Wayside Center. The Center is a place to go for individuals and families who have no place to go. It is a place that not only warms the body but the soul. When hurting people come to us



we offer shelter from the cold, nurturing meals and we surround them with God's love and acceptance.

Holidays are particularly difficult for homeless families. This week alone we had at least a dozen guests under ten.

You can help us make their Christmas merry and bright by donating to Wayside Center. See our wish list on the enclosed envelope.



## BRIDGE TO LIFE

# Bridge to Life Update

We are pleased to report that to date \$3,515,000 has been raised for this campaign.

A recent highlight in the campaign was a fundraising banquet, spearheaded by 3 ministry friends that was held on Thursday, September 15<sup>th</sup> at the Arrowhead Golf Club in Wheaton. Approximately 67 guests attended the event. Pledges and gifts received at this event to date totaled \$315,000. We are very grateful for the generous support of ministry friends.

This is a bold undertaking. To achieve this goal Wayside Cross will need the generous support of many caring individuals, churches, businesses and foundations.

You are invited to participate and become an active partner in making this vision a reality.

James

# Heritage Society

In 1998 the Board of Directors formed the Heritage Society to honor and thank donors who had included WCM in their estate plans.

Our experience over the past 15 years has been that very few benefactors who have left bequests have informed WCM of our inclusion in their estate plans.

We've had to wait until someone dies before we can recognize their generosity.

We want to honor and thank our generous benefactors while they are alive.

Therefore WCM is expanding the perimeter of membership in the Heritage Society to include living benefactors who

have faithfully and generously made financial contributions to the ministry over the past 20 years with contributions totaling \$5,000 or more.

We thank God for these ministry partners. Year after year making generous gifts, they provide a bedrock of support, for the on going work of the ministry.

Members of the society will be recognized in WCM's upcoming Annual Report. In addition, they will receive informational mailings periodically and will be feted at an annual Heritage Day Luncheon.



# Suppose

**SUPPOSE** a burned out family lost all their household furnishings. Would you replace their loss?  
**YOU DO - WHEN YOU GIVE TO WAYSIDE**

**SUPPOSE** an evicted family asked for temporary shelter. Would you take them in?  
**YOU DO - WHEN YOU GIVE TO WAYSIDE**

**SUPPOSE** that someone's son or daughter has a drinking problem. Would you house, feed, clothe and counsel with them?  
**YOU DO - WHEN YOU GIVE TO WAYSIDE**

**SUPPOSE** a homeless, wayward person is seeking spiritual counsel. Would you help him become a member of the family of God?  
**YOU DO - WHEN YOU GIVE TO WAYSIDE**

**SUPPOSE** a mother came to you on a cold winter day with a 2 year old whose bare, cold feet were turning blue. Would you give them shoes and socks?  
**YOU DO - WHEN YOU GIVE TO WAYSIDE**

All of the above 'supposes' and many, many more actually happen at WCM. Your on-going contributions are vital to WCM's continued service to people's needs.

Speaking of on-going – within the past year we have received a number of contributions from ministry friends who included WCM in their estate plans. Gifts from these estates will be used to ensure that our programs and facilities will meet our future needs as well as the needs of today. Because of the thoughtfulness of these friends, WCM will live out its vision of becoming a ministry of rescue, restoration and renewal empowered by Jesus Christ.

Regardless of your assets, your estate gift of any size can make a huge difference for people in our community. A carefully designed estate can benefit both your family

and Wayside Cross Ministries.

Start with an up-to-date will or living trust. Contact your financial planner, lawyer, or accountant for help in establishing a charitable gift. You can make gifts of cash, stocks, real estate, insurance policies and personal property. You can name Wayside Cross Ministries as a beneficiary of your life insurance, pension plan or IRA.

I have an excellent brochure on basic estate planning I will send you free. If you desire, I will also be happy to assist you in finding an estate-planning lawyer in your area who can help you.

Please contact me at 630-892-4239 x226.  
Wayne Greenawalt

UYM

# Mentoring Weekend

By Emily Wood

As the beautiful warm weather of summer was at its peak, local churches and non-profit ministries in the Fox Valley area teamed up to host a mentoring weekend for men in the surrounding areas. From Friday, June 24th-Saturday, June 25th, the Men's Step-Up weekend was underway. Local churches including: Village Bible Church, First Presbyterian Church, Warehouse Church and Family Bible Church banded together with local ministries: Urban Youth Ministry, Teen Night, Triple Threat and Riverworks to host the events of the weekend.

On Friday night, kids from Urban Youth Ministry and Teen Night and men from the churches involved met at Village Bible Church in Sugar Grove for a night of pizza, ice cream, dodge ball and a movie. The purpose of this night was to emphasize the importance of mentoring and generational relationships. The culmination of the night was the watching of the movie, "The Secrets of Jonathan Sperry." This is a movie about a man and his impact on mentoring of youth in his community.

The next morning began bright and early with workshops and classes taught by local ministry leaders in the Fox Valley area. The afternoon consisted of men and their kids from the church getting involved in local ministries that reach out to at-risk youth in Aurora. Men volunteered in several areas including: the UYM

Baseball All-Star game and Home Run Derby, basketball in Jericho Circle, Riverworks bike repairs by Triple Threat, and a canoeing and fishing outing.

All in all, both the mentors and mentees were impacted by the weekend. The program focused on the importance of Christian mentoring allowing youth and local ministries the opportunity to fellowship.

"Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men."  
Matthew 4:19



Youth Director David Wood prays before the ANBL All-Star Game.



Men from Village Bible Church help coach during the ANBL All-Star Game.



Volunteers assist Triple Threat with bike repair at Copley II Field.



Pastor Scott Cap having fun with kids.



A girl from Aurora shows off the fish she caught during the fishing outreach.



Equipping Pastor Scott Capp, enjoys canoeing with an Aurora boy during Saturday's outreach.



## NEW LIFE CORRECTIONS

# Escaping Prison's Parenting Trap

By Alissa Groeninger, Tribune Reporter, July 14, 2011

Ariel Gomez sat among a handful of fellow inmates at a round table inside an education room at the Pontiac Correctional Center and opened up about the troubling path that led him to a life behind bars.

Tom Beatty, a chaplain and director of the New Life Corrections Ministry, paced around the room listening to Gomez, 31, and twenty-five other men talk about their lives, their anger, their drug and alcohol abuse and, most importantly, their roles as fathers.

During a two-day program called "Transforming Incarcerated Dads," Beatty lectured on problem-solving and led the volunteer inmates in group discussions about what it means to be a Christian dad.



Chaplain Tom Beatty, a former inmate and addict who's now the director of New Life Corrections Ministry, prays with prisoners at Illinois' Pontiac Correctional Center as part of the Fatherhood Initiative. He hopes teaching convicts to be better men will help keep their kids out of jail. Michael Tercha/Tribune Photo

A former drug addict who had trouble with the law, Beatty could empathize with the men he's now trying to help. He found himself unable to change, he said, until he read the Bible.

"I put my trust in Jesus, and He changed my life," Beatty said. "We can learn to be the kind of men that God created us to be so our kids can catch it from us."

The program is part of the Illinois Department of Corrections' Fatherhood Initiative, which operates on the theory that by teaching inmates to be better fathers, they can help them keep their children from making the same mistakes they did and reduce the inmates' recidivism. They're hungry to be better fathers.

"The way men parent — even from prison — makes a big difference in whether a child will follow in their footsteps. A child is seven times more likely to be incarcerated if a parent has been in prison. In the end, it's the child who is a victim of incarceration," said Debbie Denning, IDOC acting chief of programs and support services.

"Many fathers in prison don't know what to say to their children. Through these programs, men learn to communicate by making children feel special, following through on promised calls and letters and setting a standing date to talk so children can look forward to that time," said Emily Ruskin, orientation and reentry services coordinator for IDOC.

Gomez, who is scheduled to be paroled in 2018, said "The men are working to respond positively to difficult situations, rather than yelling or resorting to violence. I think it gets me ready for situations that I react wrongly to."

Many of the men don't have solid

relationships with their own fathers, Beatty said. Gomez's father went to prison for drug crimes, he said. "If I had somebody that would have shown me how to be a man, better choices may have been made," Gomez said. "My dad never told me he loved me."

The Fatherhood Initiative teaches men to open up, make better decisions, develop confidence and deal with victimization they've faced or inflicted on others, Ruskin said.

Gomez was sentenced to 35 years in prison for a 1997 murder. He and his wife have two children. The family visits Gomez once a week and speaks with him by phone every Sunday. Gomez also participates in a weekly parenting class.

Once out, Gomez says, "I will be there for my children, communicate with them and love them."

"The family is working to give the kids a better life," said Gomez, who received his GED in prison. While two days doesn't seem like a lot of time, Beatty wants to give the inmates an incentive to become better fathers. (The original program is eight, 2 hour classes that meet once a week in many local institutions).

"I pray that the men get excited about the fact that they can have a positive influence on their kids," Beatty said.

Editor  
Debbie Butler  
Executive Director  
James Lukose

### DIVISIONS OF WCM

- MASTER'S TOUCH
- LIFESPING MINISTRY
- NEW LIFE CORRECTIONS
- WAYSIDE CENTER ELGIN
- URBAN YOUTH MINISTRY
- HOPE OUTREACH

### Mission

To honor God by loving and serving the afflicted and powerless through sharing the Gospel of forgiveness and hope in Jesus Christ by empowering them to be disciples of Christ.

### Vision

To be a Christ-centered ministry pursuing excellence through transformed lives for God's glory.

### Core Values

CHRIST-LIKENESS  
COMPASSION  
COMMITMENT  
COLLABORATION  
COMMUNITY

### Wayside Cross Ministries

215 E. New York Street  
Aurora, IL 60505-3491  
Phone 630 892-4239  
Fax 630 892-4259  
www.waysidecross.org  
Email: dbutler@waysidecross.org

Donate on our website  
[www.waysidecross.org](http://www.waysidecross.org)



LIFESPRING

# Auction Update



## Cirque de Vie! A True Celebration!

Lifespring held its 7th Annual Benefit Auction at the Fox Valley Country Club on Sept. 24, 2011. Cirque de Vie was the theme this year and colorful it was! Over 175 guests were bidding on various auction items using our newest change – bidding via cell phone. Watching guests bid against each other in friendly competition kept the phones and people buzzing all night! Over \$98,700.00 came in from the Auction to benefit the program of Lifespring Ministry. Thank you to the 15 member Lifespring Partner committee who worked for an entire year to make this all happen and to our financial supporters who made the evening possible. We thank God for His goodness!



Some of the items available for the silent auction.

Our newest method of bidding - via cell phone.

# Kicking & Screaming All the Way!

By Joy Moreno

I came to Lifespring in September of 2004. I was referred to Lifespring from another program after I gave birth to my second son Gabriel. Coming from a hick town outside of Boston, Massachusetts it was definitely a very big and scary transition for me and my 3 month old son. I was determined to raise my son and not be forced to give him up due to the fact that I had nowhere to go. His father was incarcerated when I was 5 months pregnant for physical abuse on me and had never been in my son's life. I just knew God had big plans for me and Gabe and so I continued my adventure, kicking and screaming all the way!

The very first friend I made was Marquerite Blich (one of the Case Managers at Lifespring.) She took me under her wing and just loved on me like no other. That was probably my first true encounter of the love of Christ and for that I am forever grateful. I became physically ill at Lifespring and was unable to work so with the support of the staff they agreed to let me work

toward a degree. I received my Associates degree in Christian Studies, which I completed soon after graduating the program. I also became licensed to teach the courses as well. I never thought I could ever accomplish something as great as this!

I have been attending The Vineyard Church in Aurora since I moved here and still serve there to this day. I enjoy teaching the children in Kidzone and have recently accepted the position of Outreach Coordinator for the church. I now go out on Saturdays, hit the streets and just love on and pray for people. I am married now with 4 boys, ages 15 down to 4 months and absolutely love my husband and my family. When I am not at home being a wife and mom I work a part time job where I've been just a little over 5 years now. My passion is youth and hope to someday be a youth pastor and work with at-risk teens. I am an avid athlete and so hope to one day use the talents God gave me to reach out to youth in this area.

I cannot say statistically how many women make it after going through the



program at Lifespring Ministries but I can say this: I MADE IT! If it weren't for the program I don't know where I would be today. I am thankful for Lynda Dorsch and Marquerite Blich for all of their love and guidance while I was there and to the countless others who selflessly keep this program going.

I guess I will end by asking you all to ponder this: Jesus Christ honestly would have gone to the cross for just one of us! Just imagine all of the lives over the years that have been saved because of Lifespring Ministries. Who wouldn't want to give to such a Christ centered place? Jeremiah 33:3 says, "Call to me and I will answer you. I will tell you great and unsearchable things that you do not know." That is what Lifespring is all about!



## Wayside Cross Ministries

215 East New York Street  
Aurora, Illinois 60505-3491

Address Service Requested



**Walk-A-Mile In My Shoes**  
Saturday, February 11, 2012 8:30 am.  
Wayside Cross Ministries, Aurora

For more information about Walk-A-Mile,  
call Scot Thurman (630) 723-3408 or  
[sthurman@waysidecross.org](mailto:sthurman@waysidecross.org).

**Walk-A-Mile in My Shoes Elgin**  
Saturday, February 11, 2012 8:30 am.  
Evangelical Covenant Church 1565  
Larkin, next to the Larkin High School

For more information contact Josh Bray at  
(851) 695-4405 X303 or  
[jbray@waysidecross.org](mailto:jbray@waysidecross.org).

## Annual Campaign Update

### Distinguished Service Award

At the Wayside Cross Ministries "Kick off Event" for our Annual Campaign fund raiser in September, Bob Dahlstrom was presented with the Annual Distinguished Service Award for his faithful service as a worker for 30 plus years.



Bob joined the Wayside Campaign Team 14 in the late 1970's. Because of his diligence and effectiveness as a worker, in 1982 he was promoted to team captain.

Bob and his wife Lois attend Christ Community Church in Saint Charles. He has a strong Christian witness in the Batavia community. This past year he was presented the "Loyal Batavia Friends Award" at the Annual Brotherhood Banquet.

We are honored to have Bob as a Campaign worker and we truly thank him for all his years of service.

**PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR ANNUAL CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION.**