

International Volunteer Travels to Great Lengths to Help the Homeless

Lena Jakobi started volunteering at a food pantry last March in her homeland of Germany. Her parents didn't tell her she had to and it wasn't a requirement at her school. She just felt that she wanted to do something to help people. She heard about the pantry, or "tafel," and would have liked to donate money or food but didn't have the resources to do so. "I don't go to work so I can't give donations very well, so I decided to work there as a *donation*," Jakobi said. After a few months, the tafel closed for the summer and with a break before her university classes resumed, Jakobi decided to come to the United States and see how similar organizations work here.



Her mother's friend knew Pastor Jonathan Wilson, who leads Bible study at the Elgin Wayside Center. Arrangements were made for Lena to stay with the Wilsons and volunteer at the Wayside Center.

Jakobi arrived in Elgin Aug. 11 and stayed until Sept. 7, working at Wayside Monday through Friday for the

duration of her trip. She helped serve breakfast and lunch each day, input data into the Wayside computer system and sort clothes. She has also participated in the women's and group Bible study sessions.

Homberger Tafel opens to give out food just once each day — it does not provide daylong services like Wayside, and the food is not served as a meal. Individuals are given food they can cook at home. But sometimes donations are not enough to meet the need at the tafel. Then Jakobi has to say no, or say she can only give smaller amounts of food.

"That's what I like here (at Wayside)," Jakobi said. "You don't have to say no.

You prepare breakfast and lunch and you can give as much as you want because there's always enough." Jakobi has been amazed by the amount of donations and their variety at Wayside.

(adapted from Daily Herald article)

SAVE THE DATE:
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2013
WALK-A-MILE IN MY SHOES

You can make the difference! Experience what it's like to walk in the shoes of the homeless and learn how you can help transform the lives of the most vulnerable this winter.

Elgin Wayside Center will hold our Annual Winter Walk to help homeless men, women and children at the center.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
ABOUT WALK-A-MILE

Call 847-695-4405 or visit:
www.elgin.walk-a-mile-wcm.org



Register to walk today www.elgin.walk-a-mile-wcm.org/registration



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.

Please visit and "Like" our page on Facebook @ Wayside Center Elgin

The Elgin Wayside Center
IN TOUCH

A ministry update of Wayside Center's programs for the homeless of the greater Elgin area to keep friends and supporters informed regarding ministry development and opportunities.

Friendship Dinner Report

Unprompted, nearly everyone rose to their feet simultaneously as the Chicago Tabernacle Choir sang their final worship anthem. About the same time, a dinner attendee leaned to a friend and remarked, *I feel like we are in Heaven*. An evening that started with a beef and chicken dinner was now feeding the souls of those who had taken the time out of their schedule to be present.



On the evening of October 25, over 300 people gathered for Wayside's Annual Friendship Dinner in downtown Elgin. After dinner, the Chicago Tabernacle choir, led by Chrissy Toledo, made their way to the platform. With Moody radio personality Mark Elfstrand as M.C., stories were then shared of how lives are being touched by the Wayside Center. A video presentation was shown of one young lady, though coming from a life of abuse and confusion,



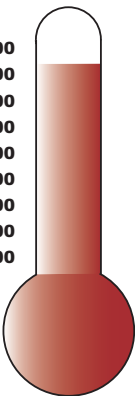
was able to find God and direction at Wayside. In another presentation, a professor and his wife from a local Christian University shared how the volunteers and staff at Wayside were instrumental in helping

them adopt a baby from two of our homeless guests. While the Wayside Center often helps people out of homelessness, in this instance a young life was spared from ever entering it. Following the ministry report, the highlight of the evening for many was the presentation by Bill Rieser. Bill shared his life story, beginning with a fatherless childhood full of abuse and anger; teen years with a mixture of sports and painful experiences; and an adulthood of addiction followed by redemption and transformation.

For days following the dinner, guests called, emailed, and sent letters to the staff of the center thanking them for organizing a wonderful dinner gathering. Only heaven will reveal the true impact of the evening, but many guests that evening were able to come to terms with their own struggles with sin, their own hurts from the past, and their need for dependence upon the Lord Jesus. While guests came expecting to give, the Lord returned to so many in attendance a cup that ran over.

Almost There!

50,000
45,000
40,000
35,000
30,000
25,000
20,000
15,000
10,000



With a dinner goal of \$50,000, the gifts collected at the Friendship Dinner fell short by less than 10%. Anyone who was unable to participate, but still wanting to help with the shortfall may send a check marked "Dinner" on the memo line or envelope. Thank you to everyone that worked, prayed, and gave.

The Elgin Wayside Center
1732 Berkley Street, Elgin, IL 60123-7030

Office: 847 695-4405, Fax: 847 695-4657

Please visit and "Like" our page on Facebook @ Wayside Center Elgin

Elgin Wayside Center is a division of Wayside Cross Ministries

WINTER 2012

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DuPage Initiative Launches

Modeled after the Elgin Wayside Center, DuPage County area churches are joining forces to launch Wayside DuPage just in time for the cold weather months. Events leading up to the launch on Tuesday, November 27 include a prayer and praise dedication service with Tanya Egler and the Wheaton College Gospel Choir at the host church in Glen Ellyn.

The center will offer a safe haven and warming center two days a week at Peoples Community Church on Park Boulevard in Glen Ellyn. Filling in the gap and complementing the opportunities that are already available at night and on weekends, the Center seeks to share loving care and the Gospel message with the homeless in DuPage. Volunteers are needed to provide



meals, teach Bible studies, pray with the guests, and do case management. Churches are also needed to sponsor families. The strategy for DuPage is to get every homeless person somehow connected, surrounded, and resourced by a local church.

Won't you help? Join us December 14th at 7:30 pm for a Christmas Concert to benefit the Homeless of DuPage.

Come and enjoy a Christmas Concert! Friday, December 14th at Fellowship Church at 7:30 pm. Free admission, love offering taken.

Our Special Guests are Pianist Paul Sanchez and Soprano Kayleen Sanchez, presenting the original arrangements of your favorite Christmas carols.

Funds received will go toward establishing a day site for the homeless in DuPage during the cold winter months.

To volunteer or for more information contact Phil Wood at 630-926-5694, or email at pwood@waysidecross.org.



CHRISTMAS CONCERT

to Benefit the Homeless of DuPage

When: Friday, December 14, 2012
Time: 7:30pm

Special Guests:
Pianist Paul Sanchez & Soprano Kayleen Sanchez

Original arrangements of your favorite Christmas carols

Love offering will be taken

FREE ADMISSION

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

to Benefit the Homeless of DuPage

When: Friday, December 14, 2012 **Time:** 7:30pm

Funds received will go toward establishing a day site for the homeless of DuPage during the cold weather months.

To volunteer or for more information please contact Phil Wood at 630-926-5694 or email pwood@waysidecross.org

Concert located at:

Fellowship Church
130 Shawnee Drive
Carol Stream, IL 60188

Employee of the Year

Josh Bray, the Operations Manager at the Wayside Center, has never met a stranger. Having previously lived in both Dallas and Atlanta, he has a gift for relating to people from all walks of life and all different types of upbringings. Six years ago he was putting that skill to work as a successful salesman at an auto dealership. The Lord, however, had other plans for him and led him to contact Wayside. This resulted in a full-time position at the center, where he has served faithfully for over five years. In August, Josh was recognized by Executive Director James Lukose as the Employee of the Year for all of Wayside Cross Ministries. In addition to the Wayside Center in Elgin, Wayside Cross Ministries is comprised of five other ministry divisions that minister to hurting and at-risk segments of our society.



A CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY CHECKLIST

– needs and opportunities at the Wayside Center

- ❑ Volunteers for Christmas and New Year's Day
- ❑ Church groups and organizations willing to sponsor a month of a specific necessity (i.e., napkins, plastic forks, laundry soap, or coffee creamer)
- ❑ Ongoing need for new socks, hats, gloves, underwear, hand and foot-warmers, or used boots
- ❑ Bible Study Leaders and Counselors for women and children
- ❑ Churches willing to sponsor, walk alongside, pray for, and encourage a homeless individual or family



Barb Waddle Recognized for Outstanding Service



Collaboration is a foundational pillar of how ministry happens at Wayside. Coming alongside of churches and other organizations is the only way Wayside continues to function effectively. One such area ministry is Women of Grace and Dignity. Recently, long-time Wayside volunteer, Barbara Waddle, was recognized by their organization for her outstanding service to the guests at Wayside Center.

Precious in the Sight of the Lord is the Death of His Saints



The Wayside Center of Elgin would like to honor the passing of Mary (Mother) Bell on September 2, 2012. Mary was a long time volunteer at the Center who tirelessly devoted herself to serving the needy and hurting in our community. She was quick to speak of the love of Jesus and about how true life change could only be achieved by trusting in Him. She will be greatly missed but we rejoice in the knowledge that she is with our Lord. We extend our sympathies to the family she left behind.