

AN UPDATE OF MASTER'S TOUCH MINISTRY



A DIVISION OF
WAYSIDE CROSS
MINISTRIES

lifeCHANGE

JUNE 2015



BOWLATHON SET FOR AUGUST 17th

The 10th annual Master's Touch Bowlathon Fundraiser will take place on Monday, August 17, 2015, from 7:00pm to 9:00pm, at Funway Ultimate Entertainment Center, 1335 South River Street (Route 25), in Batavia.



Over the years, this event has proven to be a fun-filled evening. Here's the format:

■ Bowlers register by contacting Master's Touch Director Randy Tomassi at (630)723-3422, or rtomassi@waysidecross.org. **We encourage you to put together a team of five bowlers, but you are welcome to register as a party of one, two, three, or four.**

■ Bowlers ask family, friends, work associates, etc. to sponsor them by making a donation to WCM's Master's Touch Ministry. Our goal is to raise \$20,000 or more; we will hit this target with 100 bowlers each raising \$200 or more.

■ Bowlers bring their donations to the Bowlathon and enjoy 2 hours of bowling, pizza, and soda pop.

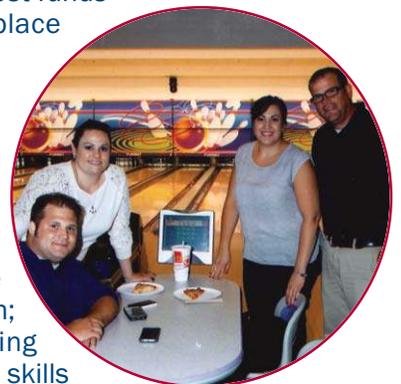
■ Prize awards ("red pin" strikes, most funds raised, etc.) and raffles take place throughout the evening.



The funds raised will be used to continue the work that Our Lord began over 85 years ago in Aurora, namely: to share the gospel of

Jesus Christ with all who walk in our doors; to feed and house the men in our residential program; to provide necessary teaching resources, education, and job skills

that will allow men who have lost control of their lives as a result of drugs, alcohol, or some other destructive behavior pattern to experience life transformation, enabling them to return their families and society as God-honoring members.



Please contact Randy Tomassi at (630) 723-3422, or rtomassi@waysidecross.org for further information, or visit www.waysidecross.org.

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DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Thanks for taking the time to read *Life Change*, a periodic newsletter intended to keep you abreast of how Our Lord is at work in our Bible-based, Christ-centered residential program for men who are seeking a permanent solution to the crisis of a broken life. As the cover story reports, our annual Bowlathon, at which we hope to raise \$20,000, will take place on Monday, August 17th. The back page discusses our Annual Friendship Dinner, which was held on May 12th, at which close to \$55,000 was raised.

In what has become an annual tradition, I will use this space to contextualize these dollar amounts by “connecting the dots” of the Master’s Touch financial picture.

Our annual operating expenses total \$315,000. This translates to approximately \$300 per month, per resident. This is a remarkably low number. (For example, the average monthly cost per inmate in an Illinois prison is well over ten times that amount).

There are three primary factors that explain our financial efficiency:

1. We truly are a volunteer-driven ministry. The vast majority of the teaching, preaching, and mentoring within our program is provided by volunteers from the Body of Christ. Without volunteers, we would cease to operate.
2. The annual gross salaries of all five Master’s Touch staff members, including me, total a modest \$107,000.
3. As a result of receiving donations and discounts from numerous vendors, we are able to feed our residents (an average of 85 men) three meals per day, plus snacks, for \$21,000 per year. This translates to approximately \$60 per day.

I trust that you’ll agree that we take our stewardship responsibilities very seriously.



Randy Tomassi
Director,
Master's Touch
Ministry

For the current fiscal year, which ends on August 31, 2015, we expect that WCM enterprise-level fundraising, donations to our General Fund, and the portion of revenues from WCM’s Hope Chest Resale Store that are allocated to Master’s Touch, will total \$200,000. The remaining \$115,000 (\$315,000 - \$200,000) must be met through donations designated specifically for the Master’s Touch ministry. By God’s grace, we have received almost \$95,000 of this amount to date, so we are looking for the Bowlathon to put us “over the top,” by raising \$20,000 or more.

In light of what I’ve shared here, won’t you please support our Bowlathon? There are several ways in which you can do so — raising funds by bowling, by financially supporting a bowler, or by donating a raffle prize. Thanks so much for your consideration.

Please remember us in your prayers. If you have any questions concerning The Master’s Touch Ministry, please call me at (630) 723-3422, or email me at rtomassi@waysidecross.org

May Our Lord richly bless you.

A handwritten signature in red ink that reads "Randy". The signature is written in a cursive style and is set against a black rectangular background.

Randy Tomassi
Director, The Master's Touch Ministry

ANOTHER STEP FORWARD FOR MELVIN

Master's Touch Resident Coordinator Melvin Hintson graduated from Waubensee College on May 21st, having completed The Human Services Program, and earning an Associate in Applied Science Degree. This accomplishment is the latest development in the life transformation process that Our Lord began in Melvin's life almost seven years ago.

As we've previously shared in *Life Change*, Melvin enrolled in our program in September of 2008. At that time, his life was completely unmanageable, as a result of years of destructive behavior including, drugs, alcohol, criminal activity, incarceration, etc. As a Master's Touch resident, Melvin worked through his various issues through our Biblically-based curriculum, which was supplemented by weekly one-on-one mentoring sessions. He also worked full-time in our work rehabilitation program. Additionally, he completed a personalized regimen of math, reading, grammar, and writing skills in our Greenawalt Learning Center.

After completing our six-month program, Melvin served as a graduate Resident Assistant for several months. Since November 1, 2009, he has served on the staff of WCM as a Master's Touch Resident Coordinator. He has been a member of Covenant of Grace Orthodox Presbyterian Church since 2009.

In late June, Melvin will sit for the exam which, when passed, will earn him the credential of Certified Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Counselor. Please join us in thanking Our Lord for His continuing work of transformation in the life of Melvin Hintson, and in praying for Melvin's success on the upcoming exam.



**Randy Tomassi, Director (left)
and graduate Melvin Hintson (right).**

FRIENDSHIP DINNER A MEMORABLE EVENING

On Tuesday, May 12th, 200 people attended The Master's Touch Friendship Dinner at Gaslite Manor in Aurora. The evening included: a sumptuous buffet dinner; an update on the ministry from Randy Tomassi; and a testimony from current Master's Touch Resident Assistant Charles Duncan who, along with Master's Touch resident Eduardo Mendoza, provided the music for the evening's program.

Once again, Mark Elfstrand, host of "Let's Talk" (AM 1160, Hope For Your Life), served as Master of Ceremonies.

The evening's Guest Speaker was Pastor James Ford. He is the senior pastor of Christ Bible Church of Chicago as well as the president of Impact Ministries. His Bible-based, Christ-centered message was a blessing to all in attendance.

The generosity of the attendees resulted in close to \$55,000 in donations to the ministry, for which we are very thankful.

Plans for next year's Dinner are already underway, so be sure to check out the next issue of Life Change for the details.



Pastor James Ford.

