

# DIRECTOR'S CORNER



James Lukose, Executive Director

# **Abundant Life and Abounding Love**

Some people know from a young age what career path they desire to choose, others don't find their niche until later in life. It is human nature to seek a career that satisfies one's own desires, but is it possible there may be a greater purpose? It would appear so, as Paul writes in Ephesians 2:10, For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

God calls us to do good works, preparing us in our careers as we gain knowledge, skills, understanding, and capability, to fulfill His calling in His timing to accomplish His purposes. Nothing we do, nothing we learn, nothing we see or experience is ever wasted.

Moses spent 40 years in the palace in Egypt, second to the pharaoh, then 40 years in the wilderness when God returned him to his calling: to deliver His people out of Egypt from their bondage. Moses was met with many challenges as he labored for the Lord and, as we know, his work was not in vain. 1 Corinthians 15:58: Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

Currently, at Wayside Cross Ministries (WCM), we have several committed volunteers/ministry pillars, who come from or have retired from "corporate" or "professional" positions, to answer God's call to serve. These volunteers include a retired United Airlines pilot (and his wife), a retired Human Resources executive, a professional business manager, a food quality manufacturing professional, a clinical perfusionist and a retired associate engineer. Although this is only a small example of the many volunteers who serve at WCM, it paints a picture of how God prepared them to fulfill His call.

Because we receive the abundant life, we abound in the work of the Lord. In John 10:10, Jesus says: *The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.* 

There is no greater reward than to work for the Lord, knowing we have abundant life; thereby, we abound in love.

As you read through the pages of WCM's Stewardship report, you will become more aware of the many people who are using their God-given gifts and talents for His Kingdom.

We are devoted to continuing to provide compassion and empowerment to all the residents and clients who are willing to come through our doors. But without your help it would not be possible, and so we trust we can count on you again in 2017 with your prayers, financial and volunteer support.

Your partnership with WCM reflects the heart of God as we together serve Christ this new year, faithfully administering His mercy!

In His bond,



## 2017 WALK A MILE IN MY SHOES



What a day for a walk! The 11th annual Walk a Mile in My Shoes took place on Saturday, February 11th, in 40+ degree weather, much different from many of the previous winter walks, when the temperatures were well

below freezing. Once again, Aurora University's baseball and softball teams showed up in big numbers – we are so grateful for their commitment to this annual event!

Thank you, as well, to all the walkers who gave up a Saturday morning to support Wayside Cross Ministries' Lifespring Center and Urban Youth Ministry. And a heartfelt thank you to our corporate sponsors!

Over 140 walkers delighted in the unseasonably warm temperatures this year. After completing the walk, they returned to the John R. Harkness Center to enjoy a hot pancake breakfast, served by the residents of Lifespring Center and a few of the youth who participate in the programs offered by Urban Youth Ministry.

We are already preparing for next year's walk, so we hope to see you there...but no promises about the weather!







# **MINISTRY IMPACT**

## **Master's Touch Ministry**

- 41 men graduated Master's Touch Program
- 23 men completed "Designed for a Work"
- 31 graduates found full-time jobs
- 25 men reconciled with wife or family
- 49 men made professions of faith in Christ
- 6 men promoted to full-time resident assistants
- 1 man promoted to resident staff
- 7 men resided at our discipleship house -Horizon

## **Lifespring Ministry**

- 639 Bible studies and practical skill classes were taught by our volunteers this year
- 3 women graduated from the program
- 7 women made a profession of faith
- 4 women showed remarkable improvement in their communications skills
- 1 of the 15 families showed remarkable improvement in parenting skills
- The 8 women that entered Phase III of the program (the Phase they can begin work) all obtained jobs

## **Urban Youth Ministry**

- 3,444 meals served to children of low-income families
- 269 children participated in youth programing with 68 participating in more than one program
- 28 churches and organizations collaborated to provide free bus transportation/field trips/ baseball equipment/building use/Christmas and Easter gifts
- 560 total hours were volunteered by interns from Illinois State University and Moody Bible Institute
- 21 students participated in free instrument rental and orchestra lessons for 24 weeks
- 120 new winter coats to the children of UYM programs
- 950+ service hours given by 68 volunteers
- 100% of after school and summer camp participants were presented the Gospel

## **Hope Outreach**

- Up to 90 men at one time were provided daily, real-life work experience in our warehouse, transportation department, maintenance shop, housekeeping department, and Hope Chest Resale Store
- 9 ministry vehicles maintained with an average of 6,000 miles per month
- Scheduled, transported, sorted, and refurbished over 500,000 donated items including clothing, furniture, household goods and other miscellaneous objects. These items were sold at the Hope Chest Resale Store, Sweet Charity Resale Store or distributed to under-resourced men, women, and children in the community or within one of Wayside's ministries
- Through our Community Outreach program, assisted local churches with 42 family referrals for clothing, housewares and furniture
- Collaborated with World Relief in Aurora to provide clothing and housewares for 111 refugee families
- 1,037 bales at 800 lbs. each of clothing and 769 bags of shoes at 50 lbs. each were recycled with the majority of those items going to third world/developing countries
- Partnered with 4 local churches to host Compassion Drives with the purpose of collecting clothes, furniture, and other household items that could be used in our Hope Chest Resale Store as well as other areas of our ministries
- Operated 16 donation bins at partner churches, for a total of 7,989 bags/175,758 lbs. of donated clothing
- Proceeds from our Hope Chest Resale Store, Sweet Charity Resale Shop, along with our income from recycling clothing, shoes, and scrap metal totaled \$527,189, all of which went to fund the ministry efforts at Wayside Cross Ministries

## New Life Corrections Ministry

■ While it's important that we minister to the inmates & staff in all jails & prisons, the State Prison System has been a great resource for volunteer involvement, so we sought to increase ministry there. So, how did we end up? God supplied two more Team Leaders (now 10 total), so we had a team of 8-10 volunteers in the Illinois Prisons on average of every seven days (37 2-day seminars + 12 Literature Distribution teams). We added the FREEDOM FROM FEAR 2-day seminar so we could minister in the two female State Prisons. We continued our level of ministry in the local facilities (Stateville Prison, DuPage, Kane, Kendall & McHenry County Jails, & the IL Youth Center in St. Charles). And, our volunteer training continues with two One-Day Seminars & two week-long Chaplain's Training Academies per year. To handle all this increased activity. God has provided Linda, Dick and Pracha as incredible volunteer office helpers. God has also increased our income level to the point where we now have a part-time Chaplain at NLC, Al Tierney. Thank you Lord.

## Elgin Wayside Center

- Over 18 people placed into life change programs
- 182 monthly volunteers
- 197 new individuals served
- 300 total individuals served
- 7,611 guest sign-ins
- Over 11,417 meals served
- 22,833 cups of coffee served
- 1,370 loads of laundry
- 832 Bible studies conducted
- 3,349 showers
- 4,862 clothing items issued guests

# **MINISTRY LEADERSHIP**

#### **Board of Directors**

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Debbie Butler - Executive
Assistant
Diana Nelson - Accounts
Manager

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Tom Hartman - Chair James Lukose Gary Meyer Diana Nelson D. Peter Pabon Thomas B. Wells

#### **Construction Committee**

Kirk Albinson Tom Hartman - Chair James Lukose Al Tierney Steve Wise Ken Van Kley

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Birnie Harper - Annual
Campaign and Business
Development Coordinator
David Hiatt Administrative Assistant
Pamela Keith - Grant
Manager
Gabriel Weckesser IT Coordinator
Rebecca Monrean Church/Donor
Development Manager

#### **Elgin Wayside Center Staff**

David Fassett Elgin Center Coordinator
Tim Lindquist - Guest
Coordinator
Phil Wood - Director

# **Elgin Steering & House Committee Members**

Paul Clements
Joan Couris
John Diasio
Nancy Dietsche
Gary Jenkins
Marcia Geu
Gene Heckenberg
Gary Meyer - Chair
Kathryn Odell
Trisha Sheridan

#### **Hope Outreach Ministry Staff**

James Brown Scheduling Coordinator
Michael Ciepley Housekeeping Supervisor
Todd Holland - Maintenance
Supervisor
Melvin Hintson - Warehouse
Coordinator
Steve Wise - Hope Outreach
Manager
Harold Wright Transportation Manager

#### **Hope Chest Resale Store Staff**

Chris Corsaut - Staff Cashier/Team Leader Michael O'Kier - Assistant Manager Carlos Rivera - Staff Cashier/Team Leader

#### **Sweet Charity Resale Shop Staff**

Assistant Manager
Roseann Stachura Staff Cashier/Team Leader
Carol Blackwell - Staff
Cashier/Team Leader

#### **Hope Outreach**

Steering Committee Linda Kennedy - Chair John Long Mary Lou Molter Steve Wise

# **Lifespring Ministry Staff**

Morgan Baumert - Case Manager Marquerite Blitch - Case Manager Jody Cantey - Director Heather Michael - Shift Supervisor Weekends

#### **Lifespring Partners**

Craig Hershey Janet Hershey Rem Fairlamb Cynthia Pogue Jen Sheldon Lynda Strom

#### **Master's Touch Ministry Staff**

George Bavas - Kitchen Supervisor David Bialachowski -Assistant Kitchen Supervisor Charles Duncan - Resident Coordinator (volunteer) Felix Kombwa -Coordinator Blaine Thompson -Resident Coordinator/ Team Leader Randy Tomassi - Director

#### Master's Touch Transformation Leadership Committee

Mark Cantey Ray Glinski Jerry Kennell Felix Kombwa John Long - Chair Keith Schauer Randy Tomassi Brad Van Horn

# **New Life Corrections Staff**

Stati Steve Madawick - NLC Senior Chaplain Linda Hilderbrant -Office Assistant Al Tierney - NLC Chaplain

#### New Life Corrections Advisory Board

Wayne Greenawalt Dave Haidle Bob Milliman Brian Polencheck Larry Reckner Jeffrey Roberts John Schumacher Joe Slawek

#### Sustainability Committee

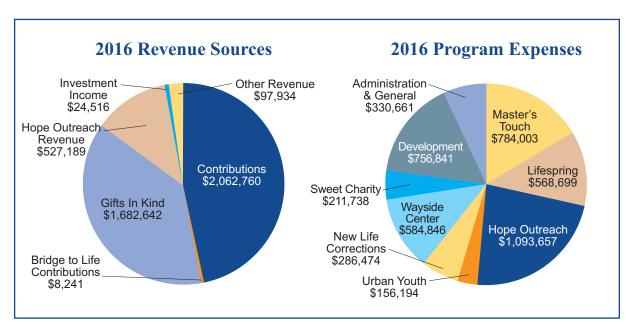
Tom Hartman - Chair Linda Kennedy John Long James Lukose Peter Pabon Tom Wells Craig Zimmerman

# **Urban Youth Ministry Staff**

Enrique Aguirre - CHAMPS Mentor Jess Bonifas - Camp Counselor Heather Christensen - Camp Site Coordinator Allie Hofsummer - Camp Counselor Steve Madawick - Senior Coordinator John Pilmer - ANBL Site Coordinator Osvaldo Ruiz - CHAMPS Mentor Robin Sterkel - Program Coordinator Nate Underwood - Camp Counselor Audrey Whybrew -CHAMPS Mentor/ Camp Counselor Emily Wood - CHAMPS Mentor/Camp Counselor Nate Wood - Camp Counselor

#### Walk-A-Mile Committee

Jody Cantey
Tamira Mason
Mary Lou Molter
Wes Molter
Rebecca Monrean - Chair
Cassandra Rosales
John Ross
Robin Sterkel
Judy Zehr



This year's Annual Campaign told a familiar story at Wayside. It was about a man who had no other place to go. He found open doors at Wayside Cross Ministries and the Master's Touch program. He walked in those doors, committed to the program and graduated a transformed man. Now he has a good job, a good church and a solid life.

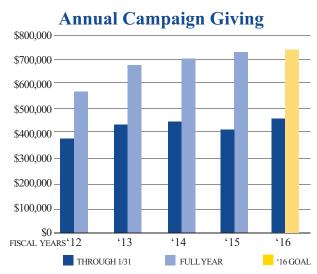
This story, and many others like it, occur because of the support of the loyal Wayside donors. Our Heritage Society honors the donors who have contributed at least \$3,500 over the course of fifteen years or more. The Society has almost 500 members who, in total, have donated many millions of dollars. You can see the list on pages 14 and 15.

As part of our Annual Campaign kick-off, volunteers handwrite postcards to inform donors that the campaign has begun. This kind of personal touch contributed to a significant increase in donations. In addition, the \$450,646 contributed to date is fifteen percent higher than the same period last year.

We always have need for more campaign workers to

address postcards. If you can contribute a few hours in late August (from the comfort of your home), we would love to have you help. Please contact Birnie Harper by email (bharper@waysidecross.org) or call him at 630.723.3427.

We thank God for the generosity of the men and women who contribute to our efforts here.



## The Value in a Personal Mission Statement

Randy Johnson, a retired Motorola Human Resources executive, firmly believes that "personal mission statements" are valuable tools. In fact, it was Randy's own personal mission statement, "to love, enjoy, affirm, and be near God, family, and friends; maximize my investment of time, health, energy, and money," that led him to become a volunteer with WCM's Master's Touch Ministry.

Like many of our volunteers, Randy had become familiar with WCM over the years. It wasn't until recently, however, that Randy, who serves as a volunteer with numerous other organizations, found himself with the time available to consider opportunities to serve at WCM. Master's Touch Director Randy Tomassi "jumped at the chance" to add Randy to a team comprising dozens of mature Christian men from the Body of Christ who drive our Bible-based, Christ-centered residential program of life transformation for men seeking a permanent solution to the crisis of a broken life resulting from drugs, alcohol, or some other destructive behavior pattern.

On a regular basis, Randy Johnson now meets "one on one" with 11 of our program graduates to help them craft their own personal mission statements, and to lay out the initiatives which, over the next three to five years, will enable their mission and vision to be achieved. What a blessing this has been for our grads! We thank Our Lord for using all of the faithful volunteers who invest in the lives of our Master's Touch residents, to His Glory.



# **BUILDING UPDATE**

# Phase II of the Wayside Campus is Complete

We are pleased to announce that the building project is complete! There are no words to express our gratitude for the generosity of the numerous people who helped bring this project to a close. God prepared the hearts and the means of those who contributed to this project, for the fulfillment of His purpose: the transformation of lives.



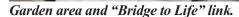


#### THE CHAPEL

When you walk into the newly restored chapel at Wayside Cross Ministries, it is not unusual to feel a sense of calm. The chapel provides

a sense of refuge or safety, as in a sanctuary, and promotes an environment for worship; both of these things are beneficial for the men in the Master's Touch program who attend chapel every night.







Inside the walkway.



Back parking lot.



Landscaped hill and stairway to the Hope Chest store.



Waterfall in garden.



Garden area.

#### **HOPE CHEST**

If you have not been in to shop at the Hope Chest resale store recently, you're in for a big surprise the next time you step through the doors. The store has been completely renovated, from ceiling to floor and wall to wall. We are grateful to all those who donated materials, provided financial support, and/or



toiled relentlessly to finish the renovation in a timely manner; it looks like a new store! There are loads of treasures to shop for, from jewelry to furniture to clothing, books to shoes to household items. Stop in soon – your treasure awaits you!















# It's Astonishing How God Prepares Us

It is astonishing how God uses the twists, turns, bumps and even cliffs we encounter on the road that is our life to bring us to where we can best be used by Him. I grew up in a dysfunctional family that suffered from many addictions and eventually led to my parents' divorce. My own marriage ended because of my husband's addiction. I found myself as a single parent of an infant in a city far from any support system. In time, and thanks to the grace of God, a truly godly woman friend, and my family, I was able to make it through some very scary, tough times.

The grace of God was in my choosing to enter the field of nursing, as none of my family members were in the medical field. I received my BSN from Lewis University and later became a certified Clinical Perfusionist. Perfusionists run the heart-lung bypass machine during open-heart surgery. Only God could have put those opportunities in my path. I know without a doubt when I encounter the residents of Lifespring, that there but for the grace of God, go I.

I have been volunteering at Lifespring on and off for several years. I wanted to increase my volunteer time after leaving my job, but wasn't sure how best to serve at Lifespring. I learned there was always

a need at the reception desk, so I chose to fill that need and, over the past three years, have gradually increased my serving as 'receptionist' to several times a week.

I love interacting with the residents as they go about their day. I especially enjoy talking to potential new residents about the program. And God's preparation to serve for His purpose has provided me opportunities to utilize my nursing background in various circumstances at Lifespring.

I always look forward to my time at Lifespring. I am grateful that God blessed me with a nursing background, a provision that has allowed me to fulfill His purpose.

- Sandra Sibert



# **God Prepares Us for His Purpose**

When I look back at my life, I can see how God was preparing me to fulfill His purpose. My childhood was such that I was required to be organized, detailed, a conflict and problem solver, caregiver, and a good listener. When I was nine years old, my parents divorced and I became the caretaker of eight other siblings. It was difficult, and many times I asked "why me?". However, now as a Believer in the Lord, I see this was His way of preparing me for what was to come.

The Lord blessed me with two great jobs. I resigned from Underwriters Laboratories after almost 24 years as an Associate Engineer and recently retired from a manufacturing facility as a Quality Assurance Manager. In 2001, I began serving at Elgin Wayside Center. There I was able to use the skills God had developed in me in previous years.

After serving at Wayside for a while, my friend, Tim, joined me in serving there. A couple of years later, that friend became my husband. After a few years of serving together at Wayside, Tim and I began a ministry, inviting guests into our home to encourage them in their walk with the Lord. We wanted to instill hope, restoration and spiritual growth into their lives. We learned, however, that God never stops preparing us for His purpose: in November 2016, Tim became an employee of Elgin Wayside Center.

I continue to serve in a volunteer capacity, alongside my husband. Our desire remains the same as we serve those in need: to see them grow spiritually and to know the Lord personally. And as a bonus, we



get to minister to their physical needs as well. I know, without a doubt, that God uses all things for good to those who love Him! (Romans 8:28).

I look forward to seeing what God has in store for us at Wayside. I am grateful for the path God has provided me, from childhood to vocation, and now in ministry at Elgin Wayside Center.

As always, we say "Here we are Lord, send us".

- Lori Lindquist

## From Participant to Staff Member

All of Urban Youth Ministry programs are free to all participants. The Aurora Neighborhood Baseball League season begins in May and goes to the first of August. After school clubs, winter camp, and a seven-week summer camp round off a year of programs offered by UYM. One of our goals at UYM is to start kids in our bible based programs in first grade and transition them to volunteer work in middle school, and then add them on as staff during their junior and senior year. UYM's mission is to give children hope in their future through Jesus Christ!



Enrique Aguirre: from UYM participant to staff member. Book Club new this year.





UYM kids open their Bibles every day during all of our programs!

### What's In A Gift?

We are so blessed to have volunteers like Lisa Gillespie. Lisa was first a customer at Sweet Charity; she loved the store and soon found out there was a need for volunteers. In no time, Lisa was signed up and ready to take on the task at hand. The need for someone to sort was greatest, and Lisa embraced this need as her own. She created a system that keeps the merchandise flowing from back room to show room, working three full days a week to keep up the pace of sorting through the abundance of donations Sweet Charity receives on a regular basis.

Lisa is not only a hard worker, but she is very personable, very friendly, and so helpful with customers, and is well-liked by her co-volunteers.

What's in a gift? God prepared Lisa with the gift of a servant's heart and a joyful spirit. Her gift does not return void as she promotes the kind of atmosphere Sweet Charity wants its customers to experience: a friendly smile, a helpful hand, and dedicated volunteers with hearts to give back.

Our volunteers are the driving force of what we are able to accomplish, and Lisa is just one example of the many volunteers that make Sweet Charity a great place to shop!



Lisa is still smiling even after just completing a sorting project in an area that was waist-high in donations.

# HERITAGE SOCIETY

The Heritage Society was created in 1998. Membership includes benefactors who have faithfully and generously made yearly contributions to the ministry. We thank God for you, year after year, and your generous gifts. You've provided a bedrock of support for our ongoing work.

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