

Helping to end homelessness one person at a time.

April 2011

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WANT TO VOLUNTEER?

Fill out a volunteer application at
www.findlaymission.org!

**Member of the Association of
Gospel Rescue Missions**



HELPING YOUR NEIGHBORS

Have you ever thought that poverty and homelessness could happen to you? Most of us feel safe from those concerns since we have worked hard to secure a life that keeps us from falling into "hard times." However, the fact is that many hard-working people in our city live on the edge of poverty. They are only a paycheck away from homelessness if they lose their jobs. Some people who find themselves in such a situation don't realize the desperate state they are facing until this happens.

Homelessness for any reason is a human tragedy that affects an individual or family for many months.

The reason that it may take months is because of the difficulty of finding a job, finding transportation, saving money in these economic hard times, and finding affordable housing. This is why we have adjusted our operation to allow people to stay as long as it takes to end homelessness in their lives. Our research shows that on average this takes 4 to 5 months. Most of the people we shelter are from the Hancock or Seneca county areas.

So we are helping our neighbors who are facing a very difficult time.

This Easter as we take time to reflect on the life of Jesus and His triumphant resurrection, remember that Jesus loves and cares for all those who are facing difficult times. He offers each hope. We see in the example given in Matthew 15:32-38 how with five loaves and two fishes, He fed thousands. As Jesus presented Himself as the Savior, He was also concerned for those who were hungry. Many today still face hunger and homelessness.

Your faithful financial donation helped the City Mission provide over 33,390 meals last year and offer over 9,300 nights of shelter.

We ask for the help of all who can provide a financial gift to continue to feed and shelter all those who come to the Mission this year, because the need is growing. Please send a donation, if you are able. Any amount will help. Thank you for all you do to help others in need.

Daniel Hicks

Executive Director



HELPING WITH HOPE



Mary came to us with her 9 year old son Billy. She told me that she had been offered a good job, but the job was from 5AM to 5PM, so Billy's care was going to be an issue for her.

The job would create several problems. Mary would need to leave for work very early in the morning and Billy could not be left alone in their room at the Mission. With no car where do you take your child at 4 AM? Also she would not be able to meet him at the bus stop after school and there would be no place for him to wait until she could get off work and resume his care.

From every angle she tried to approach this job; there was a road block. This is not an uncommon story for women who have

young children to care for. The road blocks can be large, the solutions less than perfect, and the frustrations spill over into every part of your life.

Mary wanted that job and the hope of a better life, but it was not to be. She longed to cook and take care of her son in her own home. This dream kept her hope alive and she soon found the job that would allow her to do just that.

Mary and Billy moved out of the Mission just two months to the day after they had come to us in need of a hand up. Challenges turn into success with hope and faith and a sprinkling of help from those who care to lend a hand.

Karen Crawford

FEINSTEIN FOUNDATION CHALLENGE

It's that time of year again! The annual Feinstein Foundation Challenge Grant began on March 1 and runs through April 30, 2011. During this time, all financial and food donations designated "Feinstein Challenge" count toward the City Mission's portion of the one million dollar giveaway by Alan Shawn Feinstein.

Feinstein's goal is to motivate donors to give to hunger fighting agencies all across the country. You can read about the grant in our Spring Appeal letter or on our website at www.findlaymission.org.

Bev Atkins

HELPING OUR NEIGHBORS IN NEED



The City Mission's New Life Directions Program does not just work with men who are homeless. Last year a local family was concerned about what to do with their 20 year old son who was struggling with depression and alcoholism. This young man, whom we will keep anonymous, had a desire to change, but had lost direction. Moreover, his parents were at their wits end. Not knowing what else to do, they literally pulled up to the doors of the City Mission, dropped off their son and drove away.

I believe this act was one of the most loving things that his mom and dad could have

done. Later they stated it was very hard for them to set this boundary, but things had to stop. This brought this young man to a crossroads. Over the next few months he had to make tough decisions. God began a new work in his heart and we saw Romans 12:1-2 at work before our very eyes.

Now this man is restored to his family. He has been working consistently since leaving the Mission and is considering going to college this fall. We praise God for the opportunity to help a family in such a way right here in our community!

Dewey Harris

HELPING LOCAL PEOPLE



I had seen Bill here before, dropping in for meals, always pleasant, but sporadic in his appearances, coming once in a while. In conversations, he always said he was fine, things were doing okay. He just appreciated having the extra help with a meal once in a while.

But last year things changed. Bill came in with a different story. He had gotten in trouble through poor judgment on his own part, and was having to start over after the legal system was done with him. It had been a few years since I had seen him, actually, but he had a quiet determination in his voice and manner that he wanted to put the past behind him and get his life back on track.

The good news was that over the next several months Bill was ultimately successful in doing

just that. While his recent past haunted him and prevented him from several job opportunities, he persisted and endured until he found meaningful employment and was able to save up to get his own place.

Bill's example at the Mission was significant, because others watched his struggle and his drive to succeed and it was an encouragement to them not to give up.

When Bill finally left the Mission, it was with a level of respect from both staff and other residents that came from the attitude of staying the course, following the plan, and never giving up. Congratulations, Bill!

Jim Davison

On Common Ground 2011

The Annual Easter Sand Sculpture event at the Fairgrounds, April 17 to 24, will be accepting non-perishable food donations to benefit City Mission and Chopin Hall. This very special on-going event will culminate in a sunrise service on Easter Sunday. Go to www.WalkingOnCommonGround.com for details.

KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS

It is time for those of you who have participated in the Kroger Community Rewards program in the past to **re-enroll** in the program. Starting April 1 you can sign up at

www.krogercommunityrewards.com.

When you sign up, you will receive a Kroger.com account which will allow the Mission to earn extra cash every time you use your Kroger Plus card. This program provides City Mission with funding based on a percent of your purchases. If you shop at Kroger and have not participated in the past, this is a simple way to help the Mission.

On Common Ground 2011
EASTER SAND SCULPTURE
April 17 - April 24
Hancock Co. Fairgrounds
1017 E. Sandusky St. • Findlay, Ohio

Sunday, April 17
Creation of Easter Sand Sculpture
LIVE MUSIC - 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM
The Morse Family Gospel Singers, McComb

Monday, April 18
Creation of Easter Sand Sculpture
LIVE MUSIC - 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM
Music by Parkview Christian Worship Team, Findlay

Tuesday, April 19
Creation of Easter Sand Sculpture
LIVE MUSIC - 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM
Music by Bill Phillips, Findlay

Wednesday, April 20
Creation of Easter Sand Sculpture
LIVE MUSIC - 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM
Music by Melody Road, Fostoria

Thursday, April 21
Creation of Easter Sand Sculpture
LIVE MUSIC - 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM
Music by Rob DeBouver, Findlay

Friday, April 22
Completion of Easter Sand Sculpture
KIDS EVENT - 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Let the kids get sandy learning with Roger Powell & volunteers

LIVE MUSIC
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM Music by Christie Gerschutz, Findlay
7:00 PM - 8:00 PM StoneBridge Church Worship Team, Findlay

Saturday, April 23
COMPLIMENTARY LUNCH - 11:00 AM
Lunch provided by Kathy's Korner Restaurant, Arcadia

MEET THE ARTIST - 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM
Roger Powell, artist, will be available to answer questions about the sculpture

LIVE MUSIC
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM Music by Jericho Road, Findlay
5:00 PM - 6:00 PM Music by Broken Ground, Mt. Blanchard

SUNRISE SERVICE
Easter Sunday, April 24
6:30 AM - 7:00 AM
Service by Pastor Neil Norheim
Music by Community Choir, The Power of the Cross
Walter Metcalf, Amazing Grace, on bagpipes

Accepting non-perishable food donations to benefit Chopin Hall and the Findlay City Mission.
www.WalkingOnCommonGround.com



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RETURN
 SERVICE
 REQUESTED

We are on the web!
www.findlaymission.org

*The pictures that are used in this monthly publication, unless specifically noted, are not of actual homeless people.

The City Mission of Findlay is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. All donations to the Mission are tax-deductible to the full extent provided by law. Your contributions are greatly appreciated. Checks may be made payable to City Mission of Findlay.

HELP US WITH OUR NEEDS LIST!

- Disposable gloves for food prep
- Canned meats
- Fruit punch
- Coffee
- 39 gallon trash bags
- Napkins
- Bathroom tissue
- Window cleaner
- Gallon size storage bags
- Shaving razors

DID YOU KNOW?

The total number of nights of lodging for 2010 (9,301) has nearly tripled in the last two years. (In 2008 the total was 3,577.)

Our Mission Statement:

The City Mission exists to share the passion of Jesus Christ with the needy and homeless by providing compassionate care through meeting their physical and spiritual needs.



MEMORIALS/HONORARIUMS

Donations to City Mission for January 2011 have been made in honor or in memory of:

- | | |
|----------------------|------------------|
| Ada Bash | Russell Essinger |
| Ralph Bishop | Doris Ferguson |
| Otho Businger | Warren Ferguson |
| Richard Chapman | Lucille Ingold |
| Jeffrey Drummelsmith | Diane Schroeder |

When you make a memorial donation, please give us the name and address of the individual or family to whom the acknowledgement should be sent.

