

MISSION Update



Washington Street
MISSION

408 N. FOURTH STREET • SPRINGFIELD, IL 62702 • (217) 544-9011

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Robert John Kane

President

Larry Lipka

Vice-President

Brian Watkins

Secretary

David E. Beatty

Treasurer

Laura Catherwood

Ralph C. Fuhrken

Roberta Kay

Thomas O. Kay

Paul Paoni

Robert Paoni

Raven Pulliam

Stan Welch

Larry Yarrington

BOARD MEMBERS EMERITUS

Philip Hanna

Martha Lorton

Charles H. Northrup

Marianne Stowers

Robert C. Walbaum

MISSION STAFF

Kenneth E. Mitchell

Executive Director

Mary Lynn Mitchell

Associate Director

Scott Brindley

Adult Ministries Director

Danny Yocum

Scott Wilcoxson

HOLIDAYS BRING CHALLENGES TO MISSION MINISTRIES

The holiday seasons around Thanksgiving and Christmas are joyful times for most of us. But these seasons can be very difficult for many of the needy people we serve at the Mission. As they look around and see other individuals and families enjoying the holidays, their own circumstances and lack of resources often seem even more bleak.

More families need warm clothing from our free clothing shop during this time. More men are seeking the warm, safe place and the stability provided by our transition house.

The holidays can also be difficult for the children and youth we serve. School work is becoming more challenging and peer pressures are often pushing them in the wrong direction.

Providing Thanksgiving and Christmas food baskets are one of the extra ways we minister to families during the holidays. While other social service agencies provide food for a much larger number of families, we focus on the families with children or youth who participate in our afterschool tutoring and Bible study programs.



A special Thanksgiving dinner for the children is one of the highlights of the season for us.

As the ministry challenges increase during these holiday seasons, we need your support more than ever to meet as many of these needs as possible.

Important life skills are learned by youth from the Mission at Bible camp during the summer. Taking care of personal possessions and getting along well with other people are two of these life skills. But, most important, these youth are learning that Jesus Christ can make a real difference in their lives.



YOUTH PROGRAMS EXPAND DURING SUMMER AND INTO THE FALL

With a growing number of children and youth involved in the Mission's afterschool tutoring and youth programs, another evening of activities was added this summer.

Youth in middle school (grades 6 through 8) now participate in a Bible study program on Monday evenings. Most of these youth were active in the afterschool tutoring program when they were younger.

Now they are able to invite their friends and broaden the circle of lives that are being reached with the message of the love of Jesus Christ.

Expanding the youth programs was possible because of the assistance of college intern Kate Johnson during the summer. Continuation of the expanded program will be carried on by the regular Mission staff and volunteers.

Elementary school children meet at the Mission for the afterschool tutoring program on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons. They are picked up after school in the Mission van and arrive at the Mission at 4:30 P.M. With an hour of one-on-one tutoring, a dinner, Bible time and some free time, the children remain at the Mission until about 7:00 P.M.

"It's hard to be effective as light when you spend most of your time in the lighthouse with lightkeepers. . . . When we don't understand our true mission, we easily believe that conformity to church expectations is more important than engaging our world. . . . Our connecting identity is that we are Jesus' people who intentionally engage the world with the reality of his love and truth."

-- Joseph M. Stowell, *The Trouble with Jesus*
(Chicago: Moody Publishing, 2003), pages 61 and 63.

High school youth continue to come to the Mission on Thursday evenings for Bible study and free time. Participation in the group helps them avoid negative peer pressure and introduces them to the kind of solid Bible teaching and discipleship they need in their lives.

Now the middle school youth have a group of their own.



The pastor and other leaders of Loami Baptist Church smile as they accept the Mission's first-ever Rainbow Award. The church has been a consistent and generous supporter of the ministries of the Mission over many years. The award was presented by Mission treasurer David E. Beatty following a Sunday morning worship service.

Youth from the Mission enjoy a special end-of-the-summer field trip to City Museum in St. Louis. This unusual museum in an old shoe factory provided hours of fun, adventure, and discovery for the children. Gargoyles, secret tunnels, old airplanes, caves, and fish tanks were among the items the youth were able to explore. Taking the children on field trips is an important step in broadening their horizons and helping them experience more of the world. Field trips also provide opportunities for us to spend time with the children and show them God's love in action.



OUR MISSION

To share the love of Jesus Christ with the people of Springfield by providing opportunities that meet their spiritual and physical needs.

CHURCH SUPPORT IS ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL

Washington Street Mission partners with local churches in the Springfield area to share the love of Jesus Christ with people in need. We help churches accomplish their mission as we engage in the specific ministry opportunities God has given us.

Rather than competing with churches for volunteers and resources, we encourage people to support their individual churches. We see Washington Street Mission as an extension of the ministries of the many individual churches who work with us in advancing the kingdom of God. We know that kingdom work is bigger and broader than any individual church or ministry organization.

Churches support our ministry in a wide variety of ways that are all absolutely essential. Many make significant financial contributions to the Mission as part of their regular outreach budget. Other

churches encourage individuals to contribute to the Mission as part of their regular giving.

Many churches include Washington Street Mission among the volunteer and service opportunities that they regularly promote. Volunteers from a wide range of churches spend time with the children in our afterschool tutoring program, help sort and distribute clothing in our free clothing shop, serve coffee and doughnuts during our neighborhood coffee hours each weekday morning, and volunteer their time performing a variety of other tasks.

Church groups are also primarily responsible for the Saturday morning breakfasts we try to offer about twice each month. They buy, prepare and serve breakfast to an average of 175 people each time a breakfast is offered.

While each church supports the Mission in a different way, the support of all of them is appreciated and absolutely essential to continue the partnership that is our ministry in downtown Springfield.

CAN I DESIGNATE MY DONATION FOR A SPECIFIC PROGRAM AT THE MISSION?

Absolutely! We welcome designated donations for specific programs at Washington Street Mission. Here are some suggestions for specific programs you can support with designated donations.

Transition House. The Mission's transition house provides a safe place for men to move off the streets and into a productive life. Since its opening in November 2002, the house has ministered to over 150 men. Designated donations to cover costs of operating the house are always appreciated.

Restroom and Laundry Facilities. Expanded restroom and laundry facilities at the Mission have been on the planning board for several years. The need is becoming more urgent, but the project is likely to be costly. You can help move this vital project forward by designating your donation specifically for this purpose.

Bible Camp Scholarships. Taking children and youth to Bible camp in the summers is an important ministry of the Mission. A designated donation of about \$120 covers the cost of one child for one week of Bible camp.

School Scholarships. The Mission currently sponsors three children at Calvary Academy. Your donation can help insure that we can continue to make a difference in the education of these children.

Summer College Internship. Providing an opportunity for a college student to work at the Mission during the summer has been a valuable outreach to both the children we serve and to the college student. Your donation can be designated to support this significant program.

To designate your donation for a specific project or program, simply fill in the "designated gift" line on the donation card, in the memo line on your check or on a separate note. Your designation will be acknowledged in the receipt for your gift.

Thank you for your continuing support.



Kate Johnson served as a college intern at the Mission this past summer. A student at Truman State University in Kirksville, Missouri, and an active member of Laurel United Methodist Church, Kate primarily helped plan and direct activities for children at the Mission. Here she enjoys one-on-one time in the coffee hall with one of the girls in the Mission's afterschool tutoring program. The compassion and sensitivity Kate brought to her work were significant contributions to the Mission's ministries. Now she will return to college to continue her studies with a greater appreciation for the significant needs and challenges of urban ministry.

MISSION INFORMATION RESOURCES AVAILABLE

We hope you take time to review the enclosed Mission Report. This handout is now available to provide quick information about the ministries of Washington Street Mission. Its handy size and simple format make it ideal for distribution in church bulletins or on a literature table.

Please let us know if you would like us to provide additional copies for your use, especially if your church is sponsoring a missions conference or community ministries emphasis.

You will also find valuable information about our ministries at the Mission's new web site. Simply go to www.WSMission.org and check it out. The development and hosting of the web site was provided entirely without cost to the Mission.

Since the web site is new, we would also appreciate your suggestions about how to make it most useful to meet your needs.