

VOICE

of compassion

"There is
a time...
to build..."
Ecclesiastes 3:3



Thanks to you, the men
and women at Cherry Street
are building new lives.

“To the feeble, I was as one who is feeble, so that they might have salvation: I have been all things to all men, so that some at least might have salvation. And I do all things for the cause of the good news, so that I may have a part in it.”

1 Corinthians 9:22-23

Dear Friend,

Once a week, I have the honor—and fun—of conducting street training with staff assigned to serve others person-to-person. These staffers aren't assigned to a building, but to a community, bringing service and support to people where they're at.

The training is fun because it's the one outlet a week where I am most connected to Cherry Street's "DNA." It reminds me of—and refreshes within me—the real reasons we do what we do the way we do it.

Although it's well known that Jesse and Bertha Fleck founded Cherry Street Mission in 1947, it's less known that, just seven years later, the Flecks sold what possessions they had left and moved into the Mission to better serve the ministry. In effect, they followed the example of the Apostle Paul, paraphrased here: "I didn't mind adjusting my life so I could help others."

Clearly, that willingness to adjust one's life to help others was incorporated in Cherry Street's DNA at its beginning by the Flecks. And, when I witness your generosity, it's equally clear that it's part of our DNA today.

It demonstrates itself each time you support the hundreds of men, women, and families being served every day by Cherry Street Mission Ministries. You're adjusting *your* life to make life better for others, like Kenyana, whose story you'll read in this edition of the *Voice of Compassion*. Your continued generosity is also allowing us to make the rapid-fire adjustments required to meet the skyrocketing needs in our community.

For adjusting your life to help others, you have my deepest thanks and the gratitude of those you bless—at Cherry Street.

Restoring Hope,



To learn more about Cherry Street, visit *The Voice of Rescue* at www.cherrystreetmission.org, *President's Blog* or visit us on Facebook.

Email: danrogers@cherrystreetmission.org | Phone: 419-242-5141 ext. 231

Photo © Jim Rohman



Dan Rogers
President and CEO

Front Cover:
*Ernie, a Cherry Street
guest, helps rehab
Abigail's House.
(See page 8 for details.)*



From “attitude” to gratitude

Today, Kenya Brown is one grateful young lady.

But that wasn't the Kenya who arrived at the Sparrow's Nest in April 2008. “I was real negative,” states the 22-year-old. “I was sarcastic. I was rude. I didn't care about the other ladies here.” Nor did she have a good relationship with her mother, who'd adopted her when she was 2.

*“Without the Nest,
I'd be lost.”*

“Mom always provided,” Kenya recalls, “but we never had a good connection like a parent and child should. I couldn't tell her things because she'd respond with cussing, fighting, and verbal abuse.”

In fact, that's why Kenya came to the Nest: her mom kicked her out and she had nowhere else to go. That was April 2008, but Kenya left the Nest a few weeks later to work at Cedar Point. When she returned to Toledo months later, she tried living with her mom again. But by February 2009, tensions between them flared and her mother asked her to leave after Kenya drank a can of soda without asking her permission. Her mom asked her back the next day, but Kenya realized the arrangement wouldn't work. She also knew it wasn't all her mother's fault.

“I didn't want to follow her rules,” she explains. “I knew I had to change. I wasn't in school. I was unemployed. I really wasn't trying to do anything with my life. So I decided to leave on my own and come back to the Nest for a change.”

And change she did.

“In *Ready For Life*, I learned about dealing with anger, and not letting what you've been through keep you from accomplishing other goals,”

the now-cheerful young woman comments. “I learned not to be afraid to ask for help.” She especially needed help overcoming depression and loneliness.

She credits God with taking her depression away. “I asked God for forgiveness, and I have a real good relationship with Him now,” observes Kenya, who goes to a Bible study most days and attends Grace Temple.

During her stay at the Nest, Kenya obtained her driver's license, and took the State Tested Nurses Aide exam so she could earn money while attending Owens Community College. She's majoring in social work, but thinks she might switch to become a CPA.

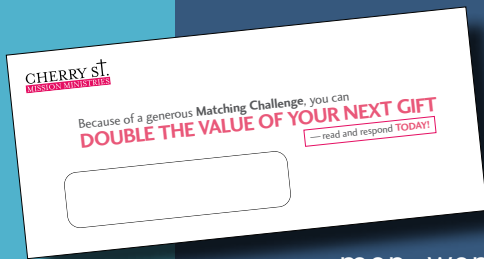
In early July, Kenya took the next step in her new life when she left the Sparrow's Nest and moved into an apartment found with the help of FOCUS. She's also taking steps to repair her relationship with her mother. Above all, she's grateful.

“I want to thank Cherry Street donors for all the things they have done for us at the Sparrow's Nest,” she says with a smile. “I encourage them to keep on helping people like me. Without the Nest, I'd be lost. I'm a better person because of this place.”

Like so many of our guests, Kenya sought safe shelter and care at the Sparrow's Nest, not because of addiction or debilitating mental illness, but as a result of devastating life circumstances. Although more and more women in our community are finding themselves homeless and without hope, you—our faithful donors—make it possible for them to build a new life at the Sparrow's Nest.

Because of You!

• Once again, you've knocked our socks off with your selfless generosity! • Your response to May's Matching Gift Challenge meant that the \$75,523 raised as a Challenge Fund by some of our most dedicated friends was doubled to become \$151,046—plus an additional \$5,045! • The resulting \$156,091 could not have arrived at a better time. • Each day, it seems, the multitude that seeks our help swells, often with men, women, and families who've never needed assistance before. • Your willingness to share your resources not only provides for their physical needs, but also offers them the real and sustaining hope to be found only in Christ Jesus. • God bless you for rising to the challenge!



► **Garden of Eatin'.** Chris and Rasean of Toledo Grows survey their "wares" before they plant them in Cherry Street's very own vegetable garden. Baby Doll Treasures II Learning Center provided the land. Toledo Grows, an initiative of Toledo Botanical Gardens, supplied the plants, seeds, and know-how. And several church youth groups, local youth programs, and Cherry Street guests provided the manpower. The result has been a wonderful source of fresh vegetables and herbs for meals at our Madison Street Food Service and Community Center. Thanks to all who have made our garden grow! PS. If your own garden "runneth over," and you'd like to share your abundance with our guests, you can donate produce any day from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. at our Madison Street facility. (Yes, we'll even take zucchini!)



◀ **Going the extra mile^S.** Dennis Newsom, owner of The Pharmacy Counter and Cherry Street supporter, recently discovered that Greenline Foods in Bowling Green—a company run by friend and CEO Steve Kliff—often has excess produce. When Dennis asked Steve if he'd be willing to donate it to Cherry Street, he said he'd do it gladly, but had no trucks free to deliver it. So each week, Dennis sends a truck from The Pharmacy Counter in Toledo to Bowling Green to pick up Greenline produce and deliver it to our Madison Street facility. We are truly blessed to have supporters like Steve and Greenline, as well as Dennis, who's willing to go the extra mile—or more like 60 to Bowling Green and back—to make certain our guests have food to eat.

Bernard (*left*) a guest at Cherry Street, displays some of the fresh produce provided by Greenline. Bernard frequently helps us out in the kitchen and plans to take culinary classes at Owens Community College.



▲ **Faith, Food, and Fellowship.** During the Ohio Baptist General Convention held in Toledo in July, Mrs. Betty Sullivan (*second from left*), wife of Convention President Rev. Stephen D. Sullivan, Sr., selected the Sparrow's Nest to be the recipient of money and a variety of donated items raised by her tenth annual drive to collect items for a women's shelter in the Convention's host city.

Mrs. Sullivan, shown here with (*left*) Pastor Fayne Wise, Director General of OBGC and (*right*) Rev. Matthew Allen, Jr., Associate Minister, Southern Missionary Baptist Church, presented 250 pounds of canned goods, paper products, hygiene items, and \$125 in cash to the Nest during a July 23 ceremony attended by local dignitaries and our very grateful guests. On July 22, Angela Lashley, (*second from right*), director of Cherry Street's Women's Ministry and select Nest guests were special guests of Mrs. Sullivan at a breakfast for the wives of ministers attending the Convention.

Following the presentation, Nest guests enjoyed a picnic—with all food and supplies provided UAW Locals 12 and 14.

We're honored that Mrs. Sullivan chose to bless the Nest, and grateful to both UAW locals for giving our guests the chance to break bread with representatives from the Convention and Mrs. Sullivan after the gift presentation.



▲ **Touch of Glass.** Sheltering over 200 people each night and serving 700 meals a day means Cherry Street goes through supplies with lightning speed. So we were excited—and grateful—when the good folks at Glass City Food Service recently blessed us with a supply of toilet paper and chili so enormous that it required pallets and a forklift to handle it all. Thanks a million, Glass City!

If you're interested in donating supplies, please contact Ashley Shaffer at 419-242-5141 or at ashaffer@cherrystreetmission.org.

If you're interested in volunteering, please contact Brenda Torres at 419-242-5141 ext. 228 or at btorres@cherrystreetmission.org.

To give a gift in memory of a loved one who has passed away or to honor a special occasion, please use the enclosed envelope to list the name of the person(s) being remembered or honored, and mail it with your gift. We will send a special card to the honoree or the family of the deceased to let them know about your gift.

In Memory of:

(gifts received from May 11 – July 3, 2009) *A memorial gift to Cherry Street Mission Ministries offers hope to the needy in the name of a dear friend or member of your family. Our deepest sympathies are with those who have lost their loved ones listed here.*

Mr. Mark Allison

Mr. and Mrs. Steve Kime

Ms. Barbara Ann Arnold

Mr. and Mrs. John Wolf
Mr. Steven Wonderly

Mrs. Marianne Belleville-Haddara

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Bernardo

Mr. Fred Bieszk

Ms. Linda Bieszk

Ms. Joyce Bigney

Mr. and Mrs. Newton Rochte

Mr. and Mrs. Mel Block

Ms. Patricia Hayden

Mr. Ray Burzynski

Ms. Beverly Burzynski

Mrs. Patricia Butler

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Schaffer

Mrs. Ardath Chesko

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Chesko

Mr. Jimmy Cook

Mrs. Joyce Smart

Mr. Rick Crouch

Mrs. Joan Davis-Horner

Mr. James Curtin

Mrs. June Curtin

Mrs. Carol Daschner

Mr. and Mrs. Alonzo Poll

Ms. Noreen Dennis

Ms. Joyce Rydzik

Mr. and Mrs. Bill DeWitt

Mr. and Mrs. William DeWitt

Mr. Lowell Flory

Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Flory

Mr. and Mrs. Ron Gerwin

Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Flory

Mr. Claxton Foy "Jack" Giddens

Christian Fellowship of Toledo

Ms. Patsy Glass

Ms. Melanie Bruce

Ms. Hilda Grim

Mr. and Mrs. Gary Kuns, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Gary Kuns, Sr.

Ms. Dawn Hackenburg

Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Koehler

Mr. Fred Hamilton

Mrs. Diane Terry

Mr. Justin (Jubby) Johnson

Mr. and Mrs. Gary Gilkerson

Mr. Floyd B. Kinsman

Mr. and Mrs. Dean Kinsman

Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Koehler

Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Koehler

Mr. and Mrs. Cashner Lenga

Ms. Patricia Hippel

Mr. Duane Leonard

Ms. Judith Young

Mr. Jack Lester

Ms. Susanne Lester

Ms. Wanda Lewondoroski

Ms. Patricia Hayden

Ms. Eleanor Martens

Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Martens

Ms. Annie Mata

Mr. and Mrs. Lee Buhrow

My Loved Ones

Ms. Laura Nagel

Mr. Oscar Necteruts

Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Hinko

Mr. Melvin Olmstead

Ms. Andrea Ramon
Mr. and Mrs. Randal Van Dyke
Mr. and Mrs. Don Van Dyke
Mr. and Mrs. Steven Wonderly

Mr. Richard J. Plumb, II

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Plumb

Mr. Ralph Proctor

Mr. Kurt Proctor

Ms. Faith Rieman

Mr. Michael Rieman

Sister M. Roberta, SND

Ms. Patricia Hippel

Mr. Mike Rupp

Mr. Jeff Bankey

Mr. Tony Sadowy

Ms. Kazimierz Sadowy

Mr. Reynold Schlievert

Ms. Corinne Anderson and Family
Mr. and Mrs. Scott Gentry
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Harmeyer
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Iffland
Mr. and Mrs. Garry Knipp
Mr. and Mrs. John Kruse
Ms. Beatrice Mohrman
Mr. and Mrs. Howard Sanders
Ms. Linda Schlievert
Ms. Marcella Schlievert

Ms. Mary Simmons

Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Hinko

Mr. Ray Sotkiewicz

Mrs. Carol Sotkiewicz

Mr. John Stout

Ms. Gretchen Schiller

Mr. Michael Subleski

Ms. Mary Kate Savage

Mr. Charles Supinski

Mrs. Irene Supinski

Mr. and Mrs. Guenten Tracy

Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Koehler

Ms. Berneita Wilhelm

Ms. Rosaline Johnson

Ms. Helen Williams

Mr. Dean Barnhisel

Mr. Greg Wulczak

Mr. Drew Hanna

Mr. Daniel Yaklin

Ms. Sara Yaklin

Ms. Helen Youssef

Mr. and Mrs. Philip Atlas
Mr. and Mrs. Allen Bailey
Mr. and Mrs. George Bell
Mr. Philip Cargino
Mr. and Mrs. Tony Casertano
Mr. and Mrs. John Chilcote
Dr. and Mrs. Milo Danzein
Mr. George Darah
Mr. and Mrs. Kim Davis
Mr. and Mrs. James Desmond
Mr. and Mrs. John Efroymsen
Financial Planning Services
Mr. and Mrs. Chris Goldammer
Granite Capital, LLC
Ms. Sharon Gummow
Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Hartnett
Mr. and Mrs. Earl Heath
Mrs. Margaret Hilfinger
Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Hinds
The Northwest Ohio Bridge
Association, Unit 105
Dr. Saleh Jabarin
Ms. Michelle Jacob
Mr. and Mrs. Warren Jorgensen
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Kaintz
Dr. and Mrs. Philip Kallile
Ms. Annette Mazziotti
Mr. Kenneth Mickel
Ms. Lori Nistel
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Scott
Ms. Dee Smith
Mr. Jack Smith
Mr. Eric Stallkamp
Mr. and Mrs. Alex Tokles
Dr. and Mrs. David Tullis
Mr. and Mrs. Scott Tuttle
Ms. Karleen Vrzal
Ms. Nancy Winsor
Ms. Georgia Zaciewski
and Family
4.0 Ladies Tennis Team

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Zilch

Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Koehler

Mr. Melvin Zurek

Ms. Darla Koepke

In Honor of:

(gifts received from May 11 – July 3, 2009) *A gift to Cherry Street Mission Ministries is a great way both to say "I Care" and to remember a birthday, anniversary, or other special occasion!*

Mr. Fred W. Bostleman's 88th Birthday

Ms. Konni Bostleman
Mr. William Bostleman

Father's Day

Mr. Leslie Cisneros

Mrs. Samantha Cisneros

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Edinger

50th Wedding Anniversary
Ms. Kendra Edinger

Thanksgiving for Generous God

Mr. Charles McColl

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Huth

Anonymous Donor

Thanksgiving

Saints Jude and Joseph

and Answered Prayers
Mrs. Carol Hornyak

Mr. Ryan Mack

Mrs. Barbara Hahn

Ms. Sarah Nichols

Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Brickner

Memorial Day

Our Veterans

Mr. Scott Hoffman

Father's Day

Mr. Conrad Pritscher

Mr. Dennis Pritscher

Mr. Layton Riedel and Family

Ms. Karis Schroeder

Mr. Frank Schroeder and Family

Ms. Karis Schroeder

Mr. Guy Schroeder and Family

Ms. Karis Schroeder

U.S. Veterans

Mr. Robert Precht, II

Ms. Sheila Verno

Ms. Jill Eberte

Mother's Day

Mothers Everywhere

Mr. Jason Lewis

SAVE THE DATE!

*Christmas
Concert*

Slated for December 10

Last year, two local choirs, the Christian Festival Choir and Orchestra and the Interfaith Mass Choir, held a concert for Cherry Street Mission Ministries. These two groups have graciously offered to perform for free again in 2009.

The 2009 Concert will take place on Thursday, December 10 in the Peristyle at the Toledo Museum of Art. Each of these groups can fill an auditorium with fans, so having them together at one event is a real treat! Check the next issue of the *Voice of Compassion* for information on tickets: they're free, but required to attend because seating is limited. In the meantime, mark your calendar for a joyous evening of music and song to thank you for all you do for our guests!

Taking nothing for “grant”-ed

At Cherry Street, we know that you work hard for the money you so generously donate to help our guests. We think we should work just as hard, doing our part to raise money from other sources. That's why we do the painstaking paperwork it often takes to apply for grants from foundations, organizations, and businesses—and rejoice whenever that hard work pays off! We invite you to rejoice with us over these most recent gifts from generous funders:

Anderson Foundation
\$1,000 operating grant

Anderson Fund
\$25,000 for Caleb House (see page 8)

Dana Corporation Foundation
\$1,000 operating grant

Dollar General Literacy Grants
\$20,000 grant for our Education Center

Eaton Corporation
\$20,000 for Caleb House

Key Foundation
\$1,000 Support Leadership Challenge Grant

Mead Foundation
\$2,000 operating grant

Robert A. Stranahan, Jr., Charitable Trust
Two \$5,000 grants, one each for our
Women's and Men's Ministries

Stranahan Foundation
\$25,000 for Caleb House

Toledo Community Foundation and Stranahan Foundation
\$25,000 Safety Net Fund grant

Rotary Club of Toledo
\$9,023.58 for mattresses

We thank God for their generosity, just as we always thank Him for yours!

~~

If your organization or business offers grants or makes donations to charitable organizations, we'd appreciate your letting us know. Contact Amy Ambrose at 419-242-5141, ext. 220, or aambrose@cherrystreetmission.org.

Follow Cherry Street Mission Ministries on Facebook and Twitter!

Become a fan at www.facebook.com/cherrystreetmission.

CHERRY ST.
MISSION MINISTRIES



▲ **Furniture galore.** Banner Mattress & Furniture made a hefty donation of furniture to help us kick off the opening of the new furniture bank at our LifeBridge Center.

Furniture Bank Up and Running

The Banner Furniture Bank has opened at our LifeBridge Center, 3342 Monroe Street. A community outreach partnership of Banner Mattress & Furniture Co. and Cherry Street Mission Ministries, the Bank distributes good-condition furniture and appliances to people who need those items, but simply can't afford them.

If you want to donate furniture or large appliances to help others, call Gift-in-Kind (419-246-9552) to arrange for us to pick up your items. You may bring other nonfood household items and supplies to the Gift-in-Kind Department at the LifeBridge Center. Our Gift-in-Kind Department is open from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.



If you or someone you know needs furniture or other household items, a referral form needs to be obtained either through Cherry Street's Gift-in-Kind Department or United Way 211.





Supportive transitional housing in the works

Thanks to you, men and women who've made changes in their lives at Cherry Street want to go back into the community and build their future. Some have no difficulty. But others cannot find permanent housing or they need the supportive environment of transitional housing to help them rebuild their resources and learn life skills essential to being accepted back into the community.

The problem, however, is that supportive transitional housing is in short supply in our region. So Cherry Street has undertaken two transitional housing projects this year: Abigail's House for women and Caleb House for men. (More about Caleb House in September's *Voice of Compassion*.)

Stretched at the Nest

In the past year, the number of women seeking shelter at the Sparrow's Nest has increased by 79%. Since October 2008, all of our 51 beds have been full, which means that, on average, 12 ladies each night are sleeping on emergency cots or mats on the floor.

God's provision

Our amazing Father made it possible for us to purchase a 4,000-square-foot house on Bancroft, conveniently located between our Monroe Street campus and the Sparrow's Nest. After it's rehabbed, this facility—named *Abigail's House*—will provide supportive transitional housing for up to 17 women, freeing up beds at the Nest for women who need emergency shelter.

Volunteers

As you can see, no matter your talents, there's a place for you on this project!

SAMPLE:

- Licensed plumbers
- Licensed electricians
- People who can hammer a nail
- Painters (pros or amateurs)
- People to clean up
- Drywall finishers
- Professional Tree Trimmer

To volunteer, contact Brenda Torres at 419-242-5141 or btorres@cherrystreetmission.org.

At Abigail's house, residents will live communally, sharing chores and learning about the responsibilities of living on their own. They'll buy food and pay rent, based on their ability to pay, and continue to receive supportive services to help them make the transition from dependence to independence.

Before the snow flies

As we look forward, we know that it's essential that rehab of Abigail's House be completed *before* this winter. Cold weather and ongoing economic hardship will drive even more women to the Nest. Many of whom are victims of domestic violence, which increases when times are tough.

Providentially, a woman gave us \$8,000 to help rehab the house in honor of her late friend, who died as a result of domestic violence. The donor also encouraged other friends to give to this cause. Using their gifts as seed money, we began rehab in July.

However, we need your help to have the house ready by the time temperatures turn frigid. (See sidebar for ways you can help.)

Stay tuned

Watch for news about Abigail's House and Caleb House in future editions of *Voice of Compassion*. You can also follow the progress on Facebook (www.facebook.com/cherrystreetmission).

After it's rehabbed, Abigail's House will house up to 17 women who are ready to leave the Sparrow's Nest, but who either can't find permanent housing or aren't quite prepared to live independently.

God knows we need help!

If you'd like to help rehab Abigail's House by donating items on our wish list or by volunteering your time, we'd be deeply grateful!

Wish List

- Kitchen cabinets
- 2 washers and 2 dryers
- 1 electric range/oven
- Tree trimming; cut branch off hanging over house
- Concrete driveway repaired
- Entry doors for porch and foyer
- Carpenter to repair soffit and replace rotten wood on outside of house
- Professional painters and paint for outside of house

To donate, contact Robert Schabel, Maintenance Manager, at 419-242-5141, ext. 226 or rschabel@cherrystreetmission.org.

Voice of Compassion is a publication of:

CHERRY ST.
MISSION MINISTRIES

105 17th Street • Toledo, OH 43604-6710



Board of Directors

Mr. Mike Bonnough
Mr. Jim Irmen
Ms. Jonette Patterson
Mr. Greg Shapiro
Mr. Donald Smucker
Mr. Joseph Sober
Pastor Shirley Sparks

Pastor Don Weiss
Mr. Don Weaver
Mr. Jamey Schmitz,
Chairman of the Board
Reverend Dan Rogers,
President & CEO

For more information about Cherry Street or the *Voice of Compassion*, contact Amy Ambrose at aambrose@cherrystreetmission.org or 419-242-5141 ext. 220.