

# VOICE

## of compassion

"Consider

[the ant's] ways  
and be wise!...

It stores its  
provisions in summer  
and gathers its  
food at harvest."

Proverbs 6:8



Preparations for Winter  
are already underway  
at Cherry Street.

“Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock; and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock.”

*Matthew 7:24-25*

## Dear Friend,

I like these verses from Matthew because Jesus is saying something along these lines: “Oh, you can build a house if you want to ... but make sure of the foundation.”

Taken literally, that’s good advice for hammer-and-nail building—but taken spiritually, it’s even better: *All that we build in our heart, in our family, and in our community must be built on the Rock that is Christ, if it is to withstand life’s storms.*

Recently, we’ve been “building an addition” to Cherry Street’s services called *supportive transitional housing*. It will help guests who are ready to leave our men’s and women’s programs, but who either can’t find permanent housing or who require a bit more support before they can live independently.

Transitional housing represents a bold new dimension for Cherry Street, one I’m happy to report we’re building on the firm foundation that is Jesus Christ. And, because you are His hand extended when you support Cherry Street, that foundation includes you.

In the last *Voice of Compassion*, we told you about our rehab efforts on Abigail’s House, which will provide supportive transitional housing for women. In this *VOC*, you’ll learn about Caleb House for men. You’ll also meet Joel, whose life is being transformed in our *Ready For Life* program. And you’ll read about a new class series designed to help our ladies at the Nest navigate through the new lives they are building.

We are so very grateful to you for making stories like these possible. Your continued prayerful support helps hundreds of men, women, and families who arrive at our ministry sites each day. It also reminds us of the radiant joy of following Christ that inspires our work—at Cherry Street.

Restoring Hope,



To learn more about Cherry Street, visit *The Voice of Rescue* at [www.cherrystreetmission.org](http://www.cherrystreetmission.org), *President’s Blog* or visit us on Facebook.

Email: [danrogers@cherrystreetmission.org](mailto:danrogers@cherrystreetmission.org) | Phone: 419-242-5141 ext. 231

Photo © Jim Rohman



**Dan Rogers**  
*President and CEO*

Front Cover:  
*Dolly, a volunteer,*  
*stocks the pantry*  
*at our Madison*  
*Food Service and*  
*Community Center.*



## You gave Joel refuge to grow closer to God

Cherry Street is the last place Joel ever expected to find himself.

“Before I came to Cherry Street, I thought that only crazy people went there,” says the soft-spoken 49-year-old. “I used to tell people I’d rather be dead than come to Cherry Street. Now I believe that if I hadn’t come here and really gotten into the Word of the Lord, I’d *be* dead.”

Raised as a Christian by parents he describes as “wonderful,” Joel had a good home life. He was a devoted son, too. From 1994 to 2007, Joel lived with and cared for his mother, fulfilling a promise he’d made his dying father.

“Dad was in the hospital and knew he wouldn’t get out,” Joel remembers. “He asked me to take care of Mom. She didn’t have me till she was 40, so she was in her 70s then. I quit my job and stayed home to help her, because I didn’t feel comfortable leaving her alone during the day in the neighborhood where we lived. I also cared for my uncle, who moved in after Dad died.”

Missing his father terribly, Joel began to drink too much, a problem that escalated after his mother died in 2007. He didn’t have a job, so he couldn’t pay the rent. “I was so devastated by my mother’s death that even if I’d found a job, I probably couldn’t have kept it,” he claims.

“I had my last drink on October 15, 2008, and began *Ready For Life* on October 22,” he says. “I knew I had to get serious and stay sober this time. In 2007, I’d gone to another alcohol treatment program, and it didn’t work out. I just wasn’t ready to accept the idea that I had to stop drinking. When I got into *Ready For Life*, I realized it was the time and place to give it up. At Cherry Street, I felt I wasn’t fighting the fight alone.

“I got into Bible study, Christian living class, and morning devotions. I have read the Bible and prayed more at Cherry Street than I have in years. I feel closer to the Lord than I have in a long, long time.

“Coming to Cherry Street was the best decision I’ve made,” stresses Joel, who with the help of Matthew, his case manager, is looking into attending Bible college to become a minister. “I’m glad the Lord brought me here.”

*Joel’s inspiring story is the result of your prayers and gifts to Cherry Street Mission Ministries. Every day, we see people who, like Joel, never thought they’d need our help. God bless you for making certain it’s there when they need it.*

*“I felt I wasn’t fighting  
the fight alone.”*

# Because of You!

- We can't thank you enough for your generous response to our most recent "Summer Ask."
- As you may know, Summer is a time when donations to most charities, including Cherry Street, tend to drop.
- In fact, Summer is often our leanest season.
- However, hunger and homelessness don't take a Summer vacation.
- But thanks to caring donors like you, Cherry Street has continued to meet the basic and spiritual needs of hundreds of hurting people throughout the past few months.
- In July and August alone, your gifts provided 41,560 meals for the hungry, 13,154 overnight stays for the homeless, and God's transforming message of salvation through Jesus Christ for the hopeless.
- May God richly bless you for your faithfulness!

CHERRY ST  
MISSION MINISTRIES

WHO WILL STEP UP  
to help our neighbors through this crisis?



▲ **Good medicine.** In August, 12 employees of GlaxoSmith Kline blessed our guests with 10 large boxes of socks, shaving cream, razors, soap, shampoo, and other toiletries. After organizing everything they brought for distribution to the Sparrow's Nest and our men's facility, these generous folks made their way to our Madison Food Service and Community Center, where they served lunch. Kudos, GlaxoSmith Kline!



▶ **Grateful for a cool place to sit and a nutritious meal.** Toby, a guest at the Madison Food Service and Community Center, was one of over 400 men, women, and children who received a nutritious meal during the Summer—thanks to you.



▲ **Evidence of Generosity.** After a local TV station aired a story about the skyrocketing number of women seeking shelter at Sparrow's Nest, Mark Mercer, an attorney at Shumaker, Loop & Kendrick, LLP, made the case that the firm's *Leadership Shumaker* program conduct a workplace drive to collect items urgently needed by Nest guests. *Leadership Shumaker*, which involves the firm's attorneys and staff in efforts that benefit local charities, ruled in favor of a week-long drive. Associates donated enough items to fill 50 large boxes, leading us to find the firm guilty—of first-degree generosity.

*If you're interested in donating supplies, please contact Ashley Shaffer at 419-242-5141 or at [ashaffer@cherrystreetmission.org](mailto:ashaffer@cherrystreetmission.org).*

*If you're interested in volunteering, please contact Brenda Torres at 419-242-5141 ext. 228 or at [btorres@cherrystreetmission.org](mailto:btorres@cherrystreetmission.org).*



▲ **Here, There, and Everywhere.** This Summer, Cherry Street Mission Ministries was blessed to serve as a worksite in a program for 23 16- to 21-year-olds selected by Big Brothers/Big Sisters and paid by Job1 USA, using federal stimulus funds. The program was developed to give participants work experience, as well as keep them off the streets. Young workers prepped meals, organized food and gift-in-kind donations, greeted people at the Sparrow’s Nest door, and, like Santoria, answered phones. Some even tackled the daunting task of organizing the clothes closet. What a great group of young people!



▲ **Remembering Adam.** As they’ve done each year since his death in March 2004, the late Adam Heebsh’s family and friends held a golf tournament in his memory this summer to benefit an area organization—and for the second year, they chose Cherry Street. Over 100 golfers took part in the June 27 event, which raised \$2,300 to benefit our guests. A big Cherry Street “thanks” to Adam’s family and friends, as well as to sponsors who made the tournament possible: Wixey Bakery, Trotter’s Tavern, Mulvaney’s Bunker, and El Camino. What an excellent way to pay tribute to Adam’s legacy of helping others!

Pictured above: Surrounding special guest Mayor Finkbeiner are (left) Adam’s mother, Pam Imbery; (right) his sister Wendy; stepfather Tom (behind right); and friends.



## Youth on a Mission



▲ “Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith, and in purity.” —1 Timothy 4:12

Beginning July 30, more than 30 young people on the Westgate Chapel Student Mission Team spent four days at Cherry Street on a church-sponsored service trip designed to teach them that not all mission work is located halfway ‘round the world. Anyone fortunate enough to watch these energetic young folks in action saw that it was a lesson they embraced with gusto!

Guided by Andrea Kimura and Abby Wozniak, the Mission Team helped renovate Abigail’s House and organize the clothing closet. They also ate their evening meals with our guests, led evening ministry times, and conducted the Sunday morning service at our Madison Food Service and Community Center.

But that’s not all.

Under the expert eye of Elizabeth Sorge, a caterer who attends Westgate Chapel, the kids on the Mission Team helped prepare and serve a staggering 2,426 meals to the hungry at our Madison facility during their four-day mission trip. They also invited select guests to attend a Mud Hens’ home game with them on Saturday, arranging for Ernie, one of our guests, to throw out the first pitch—and what a pitch—he threw a strike!

Rather than head to the comfort of their homes each evening, the team “camped” on cots at Collingwood Presbyterian Church, a central Toledo church that offered its facility to Westgate Chapel free of charge.

The youth’s actions attracted the attention of the *Toledo Blade*, which featured their story in an August 1 article. In it, a guest summed up the way everyone at Cherry Street felt about these special young people: “The kids are all great. I wish they could come back more often.”

Amen to that—and many thanks to everyone on the Westgate Chapel Student Mission Team.

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 July 6 – Aug. 26, 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. Louann M. Andrews

Ms. Mary Greisiger

#### Ms. Dottie Balko

Mr. and Mrs. Michael Shippen

#### Ms. Kathleen Ball

Mr. Thomas Gunn

#### Mr. James W. Barton

Ms. Donna Barton

#### Ms. Joyce Bigney

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Parlette  
Mr. and Mrs. Newton Rochte

#### Mr. Lonnie Bingham

Mr. and Mrs. Gary Akenberger  
Ms. K. Sue Bartley  
Mr. Ricky Berkey  
Mr. and Mrs. Bennie Bingham  
Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Darling  
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Hanley  
ProMedica Health System  
Legal Department  
Mr. and Mrs. Clinton Rowe

#### Mr. George J. Bires

Mr. Joseph Bires

#### Mr. Carl Bockelman

Mr. and Mrs. Jim Waltimore

#### C. & T. Bodner

Ms. Mary Suszka

#### Ms. Jo Cleavenger-Elwart

Ms. Laura Nagel

#### Mr. James Coehrs

Ms. Kathleen Ricker

#### Mr. Malcolm Coffman

Mr. and Mrs. Danny Pool

#### Mr. Charles Collins

Ms. Vivian Reardon

#### Mr. Jim Collins

Ms. Vivian Reardon

#### Ms. Marilyn Calogar

Ms. Sally Anne Royston

#### Mr. Dan Deatrick

Mr. and Mrs. William Winterhalter

#### Mr. Jim Detzer

Mr. and Mrs. Michael Schmuhl

#### Mr. Jim Didham

Calvary United Methodist Church

#### First Lt. John Dunholter

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Dunholter

#### Mr. James Durfee

Ms. Marilyn Durfee &  
the Peterman Children

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Ms. Joanne Belair  
Ms. Lynn Buchele  
Ms. Thelma Fuller  
Mr. and Mrs. Eric Heffelfinger  
Ms. LaQuitta Heffelfinger  
Mr. and Mrs. David Leitner  
Mr. and Mrs. William Thompson  
Ms. Nancy Wilkerson  
Mr. and Mrs. Tom Willhardt

#### Mr. David Goulart

Mrs. Janet Goulart

#### Ms. Tammy Guerrero

Mr. and Mrs. Mark Becker

#### Ms. Ruth Gulas

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Snyder

#### Mr. John A. Hage

Mr. and Mrs. William Schaffer  
and Sharon

#### Mr. Daniel J. Haley

Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Haley

#### Dr. William Hann

Ms. Sue Bernardo

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Mr. and Mrs. Robert Brady  
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Mr. and Mrs. Todd Roth  
Ms. Elsen Slowinski  
Ms. Stacy Sprung  
Sun Federal Credit Union  
Trotters Tavern  
Dr. and Mrs. Derik Utz  
Ms. Wendi Weber

#### Mr. Raymond Hill

Mr. and Mrs. Al Janowiecki

#### Mr. Bob Holding

Ms. Joan Davis-Horner

#### Mr. Cal Holding

Ms. Joan Davis-Horner

#### Mr. Jim Holding

Ms. Joan Davis-Horner

#### Mr. Bryce Holloway

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#### Mrs. Gloria Johnston

Ms. Jean Gregory

#### Mr. Ed Kachmarik

Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Baumgartner

#### Ms. Lynn Kurfess

Mr. Alfred Zobler

#### Ms. Levon Mack

Ladies Auxilliary Of 06-99 VFW  
Post 587

#### Mr. and Mrs. Sal Marchitelli

Mr. and Mrs. Mark Martin

#### Mr. and Mrs. Robert Martin

Mr. and Mrs. Mark Martin

#### Mr. Earl McBride

Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Elliott

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#### Mr. Dale Oden

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#### Mr. Jim Shepard

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& Sharon

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Mr. Francis Zatko

### In Honor of:

(gifts received from July 6 – Aug. 26, 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!*

#### 60th Wedding Anniversary

#### Mr. and Mrs. P. Callahan

Ms. Mary Ann Maerlender

#### Mr. Jim Findlay

Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey Culler

#### Mr. Terry Hager

Ms. Dorothy Oberle

#### Ms. Sally Heidet

Mr. and Mrs. Brandon Bates

#### Saints Jude and Joseph

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Hornyak

#### Devin Junkins' Birthday

Mrs. Joanne Junkins

#### Bryce Junkins' Birthday

Mrs. Joanne Junkins

#### Lia Junkins' Birthday

Mrs. Joanne Junkins

#### All Local Pharmacy Technicians

American Association of  
Pharmacy Technicians

#### 50th Wedding Anniversary

#### Mr. and Mrs. Lud Sebring

Mr. and Mrs. Keith McCall

#### William's 61st Birthday

Ms. Mary McCall

#### Jesus, God, The Holy Spirit, Mary and All Children

Mr. and Mrs. Dan Terrebonne, Sr.

TO MEMORIALIZE AND HONOR

**FREE TICKETS AVAILABLE OCTOBER 15.** It's an event you won't want to miss: our Second Annual Christmas Concert.

Last year's musical guests, the Toledo Interfaith Mass Choir and the Christian Festival Choir and Orchestra, will once again perform, filling the elegant Peristyle at the Toledo Museum of Art with powerful songs celebrating the birth of our Savior.

The free concert is Cherry Street's way to thank you for your support. It's made possible by the generosity of the performers and sponsors who share our desire to recognize your vital role in our ministry. (For sponsorship information, call Amy Ambrose at 419-242-5141, ext. 220.)

Although the concert is free, seating at the Peristyle is limited, so you must have a ticket to attend. October 15 is the first day free tickets will be available by contacting us at 419-242-5141, ext. 100 or [csmm@cherrystreetmission.org](mailto:csmm@cherrystreetmission.org). Tickets will be distributed on a first-come-first-served basis.

We hope you'll join us at what promises to be a memorable evening of heavenly music.

# 2009 Christmas Concert: Our Gift to You

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10

7:00 - 9:00 P.M.

TOLEDO MUSEUM OF ART PERISTYLE

6 VOICE of compassion

## Developing a Class Act



▲ (Above) James Bailey, manager of our Madison Food Service and Community Center, goes over qualifications and qualities that employers look for when hiring employees.

Everyone's heard the phrases, "Mind your manners," and "Dress for success."

But what if you'd never been taught manners? Or you'd never learned how to dress to make a positive impression on a job interview?

The newest course offering at the Sparrow's Nest—*Personal Management*—is designed to help our guests learn behaviors, manners, and hygiene practices that will help them better navigate their way through the new lives they're building for themselves.

"We saw a need for a course that would provide our guests with personal management skills," said Jenny Milczewski, aftercare specialist at the Nest. "Many of our ladies have never been taught basic life skills, such as manners, which most of us take for granted. That puts them at a disadvantage we hope this course eliminates."

The 5-week curriculum focuses on self-motivation, gaining and maintaining employment, dressing appropriately, polite behavior, and healthy living, and is made possible through your support. Thank you very much!

## Open House

*Come see the fruit of your support!*

**Thursday, October 15**

3:00 - 6:30 p.m.

**ABIGAIL'S HOUSE**

434 W. Bancroft Street, near Collingwood

**CALEB HOUSE**

126 18<sup>th</sup> Street, between Monroe and Jefferson

**EDUCATION AND CAREER CENTER**

107 17<sup>th</sup> Street, next to men's facility

Please join us as we celebrate the opening of our new supportive transitional homes and recent updates to our Education and Career Center. Ongoing tours available.

• **WARNING:**  
"Holidaze"  
Ahead!



Sign up now to include **Cherry Street** in your holiday plans! •

Before the hustle and bustle of Thanksgiving and Christmas are upon us, we want to remind you that now's the time to sign up to help out at Cherry Street during the holidays.

Given the economy, we expect more of our neighbors than ever before to come to Cherry Street for their holiday meals, so we're looking into serving Thanksgiving dinner at a larger downtown facility. We need volunteers to help us prepare and serve that meal. We also need people willing to donate and/or deliver prepared meals or "Thanksgiving in a box" to families who want to celebrate the holiday at home.



We also need volunteers to adopt and/or serve meals for our *Twelve Days of Christmas* activities, and provide food and gifts to the poor through our Adopt-A-Family initiative.

Why are we asking you to sign up so early?

First, we expect more people to turn to Cherry Street for help this holiday season. Second, we're certain that—being the generous folks you are—more of you will want to make the holidays brighter for your less fortunate neighbors.

We must begin mobilizing now to ensure that we have the right number of volunteers at the right time and the right place during the holiday season.

Please, contact us ASAP. You'll bless our guests—and make your holidays especially meaningful. We guarantee it!

➤ The first step to volunteering for Thanksgiving activities is to attend a one-hour orientation class, which we are offering on the following Saturdays: November 7, 14, and 21. Orientations will be held at the LifeBridge Center, 3342 Monroe—formerly Banner Mattress Furniture Showroom, from 1-2 p.m.



➤ For more information on Christmas activities and other volunteer opportunities or if you have questions, please contact Brenda Torres at 419-242-5141, ext. 228 or [btorres@cherrystreetmission.org](mailto:btorres@cherrystreetmission.org).



**Standing ready to make history.** Those participating in our groundbreaking ceremony included Mark Murray, Miller Brothers; Jim Moline, Moline Builders - volunteer general contractor; Paul DeWitt, Eaton Corporation; Mayor Finkbeiner; Dan Rogers, President & CEO; Christine B. Dziad, the Anderson Fund; Councilmember Michael Ashford; Bob McCann, current guest at Cherry Street; and Jamey Schmitz, Board Chairman. (Not able to attend: Stranahan Foundation)

# Breaking Ground For Transitional Housing

On August 10, Cherry Street Mission Ministries broke ground for Caleb House, the first of three transitional housing units for men that will be built on our Monroe Street campus. When it's completed, Caleb House will accommodate four men who are ready to leave our shelter. Like the female residents of Abigail's House, those living at Caleb House will either be unable to find permanent housing, or will require supportive housing before they can move out on their own.

The unit for which we broke ground will replace an older building—also known as Caleb House—which we had once hoped to use for transitional housing. However, after discovering it would take more money to renovate it than to build a brand new house, we razed it.

### Enter a dedicated builder

After we discovered we had to build Caleb House from the ground up, Jim Moline, a local home builder, volunteered to serve as general contractor.

Jim, who has built several homes with Maumee Valley Habitat for Humanity, is using Habitat's simple-house concept to build Caleb House. Chuck and Terry Glaser, donors who own and manage properties, lent their expertise by adapting the Habitat house plans to best suit our guests. Resources to build Caleb House have been supplied through grants from the Anderson Fund, the Eaton Corporation, and the Stranahan Foundation, and donations from a slew of other vendors, including Home Depot and The Andersons.

When construction is completed, the home will have a small living room, kitchen, bathroom, and four small bedrooms. Residents will pay rent, based on a sliding scale, purchase food, and share household chores. Cherry Street will provide supportive services, including individual case management.

### Watch our progress

Within two short weeks, the foundation was dug, footers poured, walls up, windows in and the roof laid—all thanks to amazing individuals and companies who came forward with their talent and materials.

Keep up with our Caleb House build and Abigail House rehab by checking out our Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/cherrystreetmission](http://www.facebook.com/cherrystreetmission)). We'll also keep you updated in future VOCs.



**Please join us at our Open House!**  
See page 7 for more details.

*Voice of Compassion is a publication of:*

**CHERRY ST.**  
**MISSION MINISTRIES**

105 17th Street • Toledo, OH 43604-6710



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