

VOICE of Compassion

"Still other
seed fell on
good soil."

Matthew 13:8



You're planting the seeds of
new life at Cherry Street.

“Whatever I tell you in the dark, speak in the light; and what you hear in the ear, preach on the housetops.”

Matthew 10:27

Dear Friend,

Earlier this year, in my annual State of the Mission speech at our Spring Banquet, I said:

Dark places are scary places. If you have the burning embers of God’s heart formed by His Spirit, while you may not literally walk down a dark street, you may be inclined to enter into the dark places of a life. In following the illumination of God’s direction, you will find the courage to venture into the dark places of humanity where hope is diminished and anguish is the norm. With the help of God, and the support of our community, Cherry Street fears not these dark places because illumination has been passed to us by previous generations.

In giving to Cherry Street, you have stood with your community in need and demonstrated your fidelity toward Godly transformation of the lives of those who have fallen into those dark places.

In this edition of the *Voice of Compassion*, you will read about the fruit of our combined labor, including one of my favorite stories of life transformation: it ends with a mother named Elyse reuniting with her children after years of drug abuse. *Thank God!* You’ll also read how Doug Schmucker of Schmucker’s Restaurant took a large donation of blueberries made to Cherry Street and transformed them into 37 pies for our guests. *Thank God!* And then there’s Elden, who became homeless as a result of downsizing in the trucking industry. However, because of financial support from folks like you, Elden was able to renew his commercial driver’s license and is now work-ready. Again, *thank God!*

The reality of the mission of Cherry Street remains rooted in working, serving, hoping, and believing in the lives of people who are struggling in dark places.

I want to thank you for helping us stand firm in those dark places where the need is most urgent and the work most difficult—but the reward of seeing lives transformed is the greatest. Together, we are building a better, brighter community—at Cherry Street.

Illuminating the darkness,



To learn more about Cherry Street, visit the *Voice of Rescue* at www.cherrystreetmission.org, *President’s Blog*.

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Photo © Jim Rohman



Dan Rogers
President and CEO

Front Cover:
Alvin, a Cherry Street guest, is proud of the vegetables he’s tended in our Madison Street garden. Alvin also feeds our chickens each evening.



Faith and a Family Restored, Thanks to You!

Court-ordered to Cherry Street by Lucas County Family Drug Court to help her maintain her newfound sobriety—and with her three children in foster care—Elyse arrived at our Sparrow's Nest in early 2009 kicking and screaming.

“I was a brat when I came,” admits Elyse, who began drinking at age 15 and quickly moved on to abusing drugs. “I felt my problems were everyone else’s fault. I didn’t talk to anyone at the Nest for weeks. I broke curfew. I just assumed that nobody cared.”

But then Cherry Street case manager Molly Klima learned more about Elyse after attending a meeting of her Drug Court treatment team. About the abuse she and her children had suffered at the hands of the children’s father. About Elyse’s older son, who has bipolar disorder, ADHD, and post-traumatic-stress disorder. About her younger son, who also has PTSD, as well as autism. About the misery and guilt Elyse felt, knowing what her substance abuse had done to all three of her kids.

“Afterward Molly said, ‘I’m so sorry; I didn’t know about all that. I’ll be praying for you and your family, and if you want to talk to somebody, you know where I’m at.’ I kind of stepped back and thought, maybe she *does* care,” Elyse recalls. Slowly, she began opening up, and, for the first time in her life, learned how to trust people. She also renewed her faith in God.

“When Molly put *Bible Study* on my itinerary, I said, ‘I’m not doing this,’” she says, smiling at the memory. So Molly put meetings with Cherry Street chaplain Tracy Brown on Elyse’s itinerary instead. That led to a renewal of her faith last December.

“I think God knew that I needed it to happen the way it did: like, *Whoosh*, everything’s serene and peaceful; God’s got my back.”

When Elyse was finally ready to leave Cherry Street in February 2010, she was offered two apartments. She got down on her knees and told the Lord she’d take the one He wanted her to, reflecting a change in attitude that would have been impossible for her to imagine when she entered the Nest kicking and screaming a year earlier. Today, she’s been alcohol- and drug-free for 18 months, and living independently for six. This summer, she and her children were reunited.

“When I think about the stuff that I’ve done and the things I was using, I should be dead,” Elyse stresses. “Instead, life is good.”

“God's got my back.”

Because of You!

- Your response to two recent appeals have us rummaging through our collective vocabulary to find words adequate to express our thanks.
- When we told you that generous donors were willing to match your contributions up to \$30,000, your gifts not only met their matching gift; they exceeded it, resulting in a total of \$83,000 in contributions.
- Later, when we sent you a Needs Gram about the continuing increase in demand for emergency housing for women—up 15% from January through May 2009 to 2010 on top of 2008's 39% increase—you gave unselfishly to help us meet our guests' needs.
- We are grateful—deeply grateful—for your extraordinary generosity.



▲ **A berry good gift.** After we received a donation of nearly 50 pounds of blueberries, we put out a plea on Facebook for help in utilizing or preserving them—and Doug Schmucker of Toledo's iconic Schmucker's Restaurant came to our rescue. Doug and his crew put their culinary skills to work to produce 37 mouthwatering pies for our guests. From left: Michael, a guest at Cherry Street; Renee Monday, director of food services; and Doug Schmucker, pie philanthropist extraordinaire.

◀ **On the road again.** Your overwhelming response to our Matching Gift appeal is helping guests like Elden, a truck driver who was laid off from his job when his employer made cutbacks. Unable to find work, he ended up at Cherry Street in May 2009. When the time came to renew his commercial driver's license (CDL), Elden didn't have the \$251.42 he needed for fees and insurance—and without a license, he could not earn it. But gifts like yours, along with those of the Rock Church and our men's ministry staff, enabled Elden to renew his CDL and purchase insurance. He's now in full "job-search mode," eager to hit the road and rebuild his life.

Update: As we went to press, Elden had a lead for a position with a national firm that offers fleet trucking and logistics management services. Please keep this opportunity for Elden in your prayers.



If you're interested in donating supplies, please contact our office at 419-242-5141 or csmm@cherrystreetmission.org.

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



▲ **Playing "fore" Cherry Street.** Our guests benefitted from different golf outings sponsored by community-minded groups this summer. We were one of two charities to receive \$1,500 from the proceeds of the Facility and Healthcare Engineers Association's annual outing. (Above) Angie Lashley, director of women's ministry, accepts a check for \$1,500 from Pat McVicker, executive director of FHEA.

We also received \$4,000 from SMB Construction's Third Annual Golf Outing at Tamaron Country Club. (From left) SMB's Larry Heilman, Jaime Alvarez, and owner Jim Mossing present Cherry Street President and CEO Dan Rogers their check. Our thanks go out to FHEA and SMB!

◀ **Grounds for celebration.** When Joyce Law and Jan Siotkowski of Huntington Bank attended volunteer orientation at Cherry Street early this summer, they discovered that Cherry Street had been out of coffee for 30 days because we don't purchase items unless they're absolute necessities. So they mustered their coworkers in a drive to provide our guests with java. For a donation of two or more pounds of coffee, Huntington Bank employees earned the right to wear jeans one Friday. In just three weeks, they'd collected enough coffee to make 9,000 cups! Our caffeinated kudos go to Joyce, Jan, and everyone at Huntington for their thoughtfulness.

Top 10 Items Needed at Cherry Street

1. Toilet paper
2. Paper towels
3. Garbage bags (50 gallon or more)
4. Powdered laundry detergent
5. Bleach
6. Cheddar or brick cheese
7. Hamburger (or any type of beef)
8. Sausage & bacon
9. Men & women's underwear (all sizes)
10. Computers for our intake areas



To Memorialize and Honor

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 March 13 – June 30, 2010) *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. Vince Abbatiello
Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Ferguson

Mr. Thomas Ainsworth
Ms. Priscilla Lewis

All My Family and Friends
Ms. Norma Wojciechowski

All Veterans Who Gave Their All
Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Fall

Ms. Lenora C. Amidon
Ms. Kathleen Miller

Mr. Ronald L. Antoszewski
Mrs. Joanne Antoszewski

Mr. Norman Avers
Mrs. Doris Avers

Mr. Warren Baightel
Mrs. Ila Bisher

Mr. Ralph Bailey
Mrs. Rita Bailey

Mr. Tracy Beck
Ms. Kathleen Fic

Ms. Eleanor Best
Mrs. Dorothy Czaja

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Mrs. Ila Bisher

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Ms. Karen Walsh

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Mrs. Lois Bonitati

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph and Ida Bonitati and Family
Mrs. Lois Bonitati

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Ms. Marguerite Braun

Mr. Danny Braun
Ms. Marguerite Braun

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Ms. Deborah Buck

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Ms. Lynn Burns

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Ms. Bonnie Carte

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Mr. and Mrs. James Carteski

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Mrs. Elizabeth Champine

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Mrs. Florence Clark

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Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Smart

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Mr. and Mrs. Raleigh Taylor

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Mr. and Mrs. Harry Tinney

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Mr. Donald Crabtree

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Mr. and Mrs. Carl Brandt

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Ms. Dorothy Oberle

Captain Michael Elson
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Ms. Linda Everts

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Mr. Eugene Eversole

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Mr. and Mrs. Howard Schultz
Mr. and Mrs. David Shearer
Mr. and Mrs. Duane Snodgrass
Ms. Kathleen Strong
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Walton and Family

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Mr. and Mrs. Chad Walton

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Mr. and Mrs. John Kromenacker

Mr. and Mrs. Ray and Martha Wasserman
Mr. and Mrs. Donald Buckenmeyer

Mr. Butch Weaner
Mrs. Melanie Jockett

Mr. Lowell Weaner
Mrs. Melanie Jockett

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Mr. Jeffrey Whicker

Mr. Charles C. White
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Ms. Margaret Wilczynski
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Mr. Jack C. Williams
Ms. Wanda Williams

Mr. Seth Wineinger
Mr. Kevin Begin
Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Ferguson

Mr. Greg Wolczak
Mr. Drew Hanna

Ms. Georgia Zaczewski
Mr. John Lesniewicz

In Honor of:

(gifts received from March 13 – June 30, 2010) *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!*

Jesus
Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Davies

Prayers Answered
Saints Joseph, Jude and Michael
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Hornyak

50th Anniversary
Mr. and Mrs. Cloyd Bair
Mr. and Mrs. Phillip Crary

Birthday
Mrs. Ann Belden
Ms. Linda Snyder

Mrs. Virginia Binkley
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Binkley, Jr.

89th Birthday
Mr. Fred Bostleman
Ms. Konni Bostleman

Mr. Ronnie Braziel
Ms. Mary Braziel

Ms. Phyllis Brewer
Mr. Darrell Alt

Mr. Kenneth Cappelletty
Mr. and Mrs. David Bottles

Cherry St. Mission
Mr. Ray Patrick

Mr. Timothy S. Davis
Ms. Alberta Gilliam

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Mr. Thomas Didion

Mr. John Michael Dore
Mr. and Mrs. Lee Buhrow

Mrs. Marge Droulard
Mr. Thomas Didion

Mr. Dale Edgar
Ms. Helen Boyers

Family Members
Dr. and Mrs. George Bates

Mr. Nicholas Gagnet
Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Gagnet

Birthday
Ms. Shirley Gerdenich
Ms. Laura Gerdenich

Ms. Patsy Glass
Mr. and Mrs. Randy Bruce

Retirement from the Metroparks
Mr. Gary Grime
Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Siefert

Mrs. Martha Hight
Mr. Roger Hight
Islamic Center of Greater Toledo
Mr. and Mrs. Bahu Shaikh
Father's Day
Mr. Dan Jerome
Mrs. Melissa Clay
Devin, Bryce and Lia Junkins
Mr. and Mrs. Karl Junkins
A WWII Veteran
Mr. Daniel Laweck
Mr. and Mrs. Donald Knaggs
Birthday
Mrs. Joanne Lipski
Mr. and Mrs. Ed Andra
Mr. and Mrs. Matthew Lipski
Sister Marianne Longo
Mr. and Mrs. Frank Longo
Mr. Raleigh Lowry
Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Plath
Ms. Anita Mauch (Pippins)
Mr. and Mrs. Lee Buhrow
My Grandchildren - Tyler, Kayleigh, Steven and Brendon
Mrs. Carol Miller
Mr. Norbert (Pete) Napierala
Ms. Bettyann Napierala
Ms. Emily Plath
Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Plath
Mr. Harry Plath
Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Plath
May the Lord keep them safe
Nicklos and Joe Poul
Ms. Kazimierz Sadowy
Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Purinton, II
Promedica Health System
Mrs. Carol Riley
Mr. and Mrs. Steven Mickus
Mrs. Flora Riley
Mr. and Mrs. Steven Mickus
Mr. Wayne Rosebrock
Mr. Marc Holland
World War II Veteran
Mr. Bill Schaffer
Mrs. Helen Schaffer
Mr. Wayne Thomas
Mrs. Susan Thomas
21st Birthday
Ms. Sheila Verno
Ms. Jill Eberle
All Veterans
Ms. Irene Fahsholtz
Ms. Freda Jackson
Mrs. Helen Schaffer
Mr. and Mrs. Elden Zimmerman
Homeless Veterans
Ms. Susan DeWalt
Our Veterans - Living and Deceased
Mr. Joseph Minck
Vietnam Veterans
Mr. Kenneth Gahler
Mrs. Kristin Kahl
Father's Day
Mr. Greg Weaner
Ms. Sandra Michelsen
56 Years in Ministry
Rev. Thomas Wilson
Mrs. Frances Wilson

Bye-Bye, Burgers. Hello, Success.

At 18, Hannah flips burgers for a living—and is absolutely determined not to do it for the rest of her life. Thanks to the kindness and support of people like you—and shipping giant UPS—she won't have to.

Last December, Hannah began attending GED classes at Cherry Street's Education Center. A former student at Waite High School, she had quit school after being expelled during her freshman year and breaking her leg as a sophomore.

"I got behind, got lazy, and didn't go," Hannah explained. "[Now] I want to make something of myself, [especially since] everyone said I wouldn't make it out of school, and I didn't."

Eyes alight as she spoke of her future; Hannah said she's thinking of studying culinary arts and massage therapy. She's applied to Owens Community College, but first needs a passing grade on the GED exam she took recently. However, because she aced an earlier GED pretest, the odds of her entering college this fall are looking good.

Passing the pretest also meant that the cost of Hannah's GED exam was covered by a generous grant from UPS.

As a result of the financial support of businesses, organizations, and individuals throughout our community, Cherry Street's Education Center can offer GED preparation, basic computer instruction, and other career/education services, not only to the guests we house, but also to people with low incomes—like Hannah—who live independently but need some help to access training and education that leads to better-paying jobs. To all those who make this possible, we—and Hannah—say *Thanks!*

Update: As we went to press, Hannah informed us that she has passed her GED exam. Way to go Hannah!



How does our garden grow? With lots of help!

If you're a regular reader of *Voice of Compassion*, you know that Cherry Street Mission Ministries has embraced urban gardening in a big way. And just as big is the outpouring of help from scores of people who just can't seem to get enough of weeding, hoeing, and watering. They're even traveling from other states to work in our gardens!

To follow the progress of our gardens from now through our final harvest this fall, visit us on Facebook. You can also get a peek at the chickens that "bunk" behind Caleb House.



Plant to Plate. The Ohio State University Extension Service came to Cherry Street in June to present a garden produce food-safety seminar called Plant to Plate. In addition to Cherry Street guests, staff, and volunteers, representatives from Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur's office and United Way attended.



Putting their HEART into it. In June, 13 youngsters from across the country and their adult mentors came to Toledo to take part in Catholic HEART Workcamp. Along with our friends from Toledo GROWS and four AmeriCorps volunteers, they spent part of their week at Cherry Street in our Madison Street garden. They tilled, weeded, fertilized, made new friends, and had the opportunity to chat with a few of our guests as they worked the soil. Many thanks to these hardworking young people!



Internet match. Volunteers from Trinity Lutheran Church of Monroeville, Ohio were looking for a place to do mission work this summer when they found Cherry Street on the Internet—and are we glad they did! In addition to working in our garden, they helped with meals at our Madison Food Service and Community Center. Bless you, Trinity, for giving of yourselves to help our guests.

 Find us on Facebook



The Value of Pizza on Paper Plates

Earlier this year, Springfield High School student Brittany Teall won her school's Laws of Life Essay Contest with her essay about the life-changing lesson she learned by volunteering at the Sparrow's Nest. When you read these excerpts from her entry, you'll see why she won.

"Look, I'm sorry. We just don't have the money for a new laptop right now" said my mother. "Whatever, Mom. I'll just suffer on our mediocre Internet connection. Bye."

And with that, I slammed the car door furiously and stalked through the church doors... I was livid. Plus, now I had to go to the Sparrow's Nest and serve pizza to all the women who are only there because of their laziness or drug habits...

Upon arrival at the shelter... I decided to put on a happy face, brave the destitute, indolent, and impoverished, and then go home and forget the whole excursion... "Let the Poor Parade begin," I thought, and began slinging pieces of pizza onto cheap paper plates...

As wrapped up in my state of self-pity as I was, at first I didn't notice the immense joy filling the miniscule kitchen to bursting... These women were so incredibly grateful to us for bringing them pizza. Pizza on paper plates... The women's enthusiasm overcame me. I found myself laughing along with them...

Not wanting to leave, I jumped at the chance to be taken on a tour of the facility... A tour guide explained that many of the women there had simply fallen on hard times with the struggling economy, or gotten in over their heads in their

bad habits. Each of the ladies who came from drug or alcohol abusive backgrounds had experienced... something downright awful... that made them turn to substances to numb the pain...

The tour guide then quoted an ancient Persian proverb: *I complained that I had no shoes until I met someone who had no feet.* Then it hit me. While I was complaining about my lack of high-speed, portable Internet, these women were here... and being indescribably thankful for every second of it. While they were grateful for pizza, I was grateful for nothing.

My trip to the Sparrow's Nest... taught me to truly value every second of my life... not only to value the material possessions I am lucky enough to own, but the people and experiences I am privileged enough to enjoy.

It also drastically changed my perception on "poor people." They are not lazy, not druggies, not worthless... In fact, I see them as "richer" than most of the people I know. They know the value of life... of friendships... of a helping hand... of gratitude...

I will never forget my initial trip to the Sparrow's Nest. And, I will always count my lucky stars when I get the chance to eat a piece of pizza on a paper plate.

laws of life
ESSAY CONTEST



Up 77%—with no end in sight. From January through May 2010, you made it possible for Cherry Street to provide 302 food boxes to people so desperately poor that they might otherwise have to choose between paying rent and eating. That's up dramatically from the 171 boxes we gave away during the same time period in 2009. Unfortunately, with a very tough job market, we anticipate that even more folks will need our help in the months to come. We are counting on good-hearted folks like you to help us in our efforts to prevent them from becoming homeless. Left: Michael, a guest who volunteers, helps Mischelle with her food box. Mischelle is currently unemployed, but is keeping herself busy by volunteering at area agencies. Regarding you, our donors, she comments, "God bless them, because it is appreciated."

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