

# VOICE of Compassion

"When you  
give a  
banquet,  
invite the  
poor."

Luke 14:13



Holiday plans are well  
underway at Cherry Street.

*“Jesus answered, ‘It is written: Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”*

**Matthew 4:4**

## Dear Friend,

As we approach the holidays, many goodhearted individuals and organizations are making plans to ensure that no one goes hungry on Thanksgiving and Christmas.

I applaud their efforts. I am confident that God will bless them for feeding the poor.

But you and I know that, while God designed our bodies to hunger for food, He also designed our souls to hunger for Him.

That’s why, along with the meat and mashed potatoes—or a safe place to sleep, clean clothing, or a food box—Cherry Street offers our guests (such as Heidi and Chris, whom you’ll read about in this issue) the Hope that is Christ Jesus. The Hope that can transform their lives, not just here on Earth, but for all time and eternity. And we do it 365 days a year, not just on holidays.

Clearly, we could not do this work without your help—and right now, we need your help more than ever.

As you’ll read in the enclosed letter, Cherry Street is \$250,000 behind on a budget already cut to the bone. The reason is simple: the economy has increased the number of people who need help and decreased the ability of many of our supporters to give.

I know that \$250,000 is a big sum to raise quickly in an economy that has left few unscathed. But our God is a big God—bigger than any budget shortfall. Since 1947, He has prompted faithful supporters like you to help Cherry Street meet the physical and spiritual needs of tens of thousands of hopeless, hurting people in our community. I am confident that He will do so now.

So please, prayerfully consider how you might help Cherry Street cover this shortfall. Your generosity will enable us to minister to our guests, body and soul, now through the end of the year—at Cherry Street.

Illuminating the darkness,



To learn more about Cherry Street, visit the Voice of Rescue at [www.cherrystreetmission.org](http://www.cherrystreetmission.org), President’s Blog.

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

Photo © Jim Rohman



**Dan Rogers**  
*President and CEO*

Front Cover:  
*Nate, a guest, enjoys a meal at our Madison Food Service and Community Center.*



## A Family Together Once Again, Thanks to You!

Heide belies the stereotype of a homeless woman.

Poised and well-spoken, she once held a job and took care of her mother and grandparents when they were dying. She attended the University of Toledo for two years. And owned a house in West Toledo where she was raising five children who clearly adore her.

But then Heide's world began to fall apart.

"I inherited the house from my grandparents," she explains. "Then I found out that they'd never paid the [property] taxes. They also had planned to fix up the house and sell it, but they never did, and it was falling apart." Heide couldn't afford to pay for repairs, let alone tens of thousands of dollars in back taxes.

"I was overwhelmed," she recalls. "I began to hang out with the wrong friends and started drinking." But alcohol only made her problems worse, because Heide was taking prescription drugs to deal with chronic pain from serious neck injuries and subsequent surgery that resulted from a 2004 car accident.

Facing foreclosure—and with no extended family to help—Heide turned to Calvary Assembly of God. "I didn't have a faith background," she says, "but my 18-year-old son had attended Calvary with a friend for five or six years. Tommy has grown up to be a remarkable young man, very spiritual, a success in all he does. What he had, I wanted." She got it, accepting Christ as her Savior during a Calvary service.

The church began to help Heide by arranging for her children to live with members' families while she resolved her dependency problem at a local treatment program. About the same time, someone reported her to the Children's Services Board.

"Once CSB got involved, I had to go to Family Court, and I was court-ordered to the Sparrow's Nest after I left treatment last November," she recalls. "At first, I didn't like it. There was the stigma of being in a homeless shelter, and I'd never lived in a communal setting like that."

But gradually, life grew better. She adjusted to the shelter's structure and schedule, attending Bible studies and doing personal devotions morning and night. Soon, she'd made enough progress to be moved to The Oaks, a residence for former Nest guests who are in the restoration phase of the *Ready for Life* program. "The ladies were wonderful, especially when my kids visited," she says. "I made lifelong friends there. The staff was wonderful, too."

Late this past summer, Heide left The Oaks and was reunited with her children. They now live in a house provided by FOCUS, but she hopes to finish her bachelor's degree and be self-sufficient again within two years.

"I don't think I would have succeeded without Cherry Street," Heide says. "With God, everything is being restored better than it was before."

*"I don't think I would have succeeded without Cherry Street."*

# Because of You!

• We were deeply touched by the response to our appeal for funds this past Summer. • If you were one of the thousands of individuals who gave so generously, we thank you! • You enabled us to house, feed, and share Christ's Message of Hope with hundreds of homeless, hungry, and hurting people each day. • As we move into the holiday season, many of those folks—along with others yet to arrive on our doorstep—will need your continuing help to supply their basic needs while they rebuild their lives. • Simply put, we're counting on you more than ever to get us through to the end of the year—and we're trusting God that you will.



▲ **Hoe, hoe, hoe.** As part of Youth Mission Week at Cass Road Baptist Church, members of the senior high youth group waged war against weeds in our garden at The Oaks, where they also helped Nazhia, a guest, plant flowers. The next day, these ambitious young people headed to Sparrow's Nest, where they blessed our guests by serving lunch and cleaning the clothing room. What great kids!

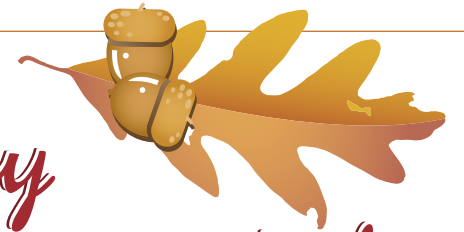


◀ **Hands-on help.** On July 8, staff from local Aaron's rental stores took time from their busy schedules to prepare a delicious picnic dinner for our guests. Although local Aaron's stores have made monetary donations to charities before, their foray to Cherry Street was the first time store staff interacted with the people they were helping—and they discovered that they enjoyed it as much as our guests did! Thank you, Aaron's.

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

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

## Holiday help wanted: Sign up now!



Would you like to bless our guests during the holidays? Because we expect more people than ever before to turn to Cherry Street for assistance this holiday season, we're asking that you let us know ASAP! Here are opportunities to get involved:

### Holiday-in-a-Box

Could you donate, prepare, and/or deliver "Thanksgiving-in-a-Box" to families or individuals who want to celebrate the holiday at home but can't afford to purchase their holiday meal? Last year, volunteers were overwhelmed by the gratitude expressed by those on the receiving end of this community outreach. In 2009, Mary (pictured, right) was one of the many volunteers who mapped out their routes to make sure every Thanksgiving-in-a-Box made its way to the correct address.



### Thanksgiving: Double Portion, Double Blessing

Thanks to a generous local restaurant, our guests will be blessed with a special dining experience on Thanksgiving Day. With your help, the blessing will continue for the next two days, when we plan to give guests at all our facilities the opportunity to experience the same warmth and fun most of us enjoy when we gather with family and friends. If interacting with people, playing games, and having fun are right up your alley, this is the opportunity for you.

We also need people to help prepare and serve a traditional turkey dinner with all the trimming we'll be serving for lunch on Saturday, November 26.

### Christmas Corps

Throughout the Christmas season, we need volunteers to help prepare and serve meals and assist with a variety of other activities designed to make the holidays special for our guests.

### Adopt-A-Guest

Why not mark Jesus' birth by providing current or former Cherry Street guests with gifts for themselves and/or their families? Our guests are especially grateful when they are given the opportunity to select gifts for their children.

To participate in any of these opportunities, please contact Brenda Torres at 419-242-5141, ext. 100 or [btorres@cherrystreetmission.org](mailto:btorres@cherrystreetmission.org). Visit our website, [cherrystreetmission.org](http://cherrystreetmission.org) for additional information.



▲ Because of your faithful support, Dion, is able to have wholesome meals at our Madison Food Service and Community Center.

# 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 July 1 – Aug. 16, 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.*

**Mrs. Anna Aeschilman**  
Archbold Chiropractic Center

**Mr. Art Albright**  
Mrs. Patricia Opperman

**All My Loved Ones and Friends**  
Ms. Laura Nagel

**Mr. Joe Ashton**  
Mrs. Paula Ashton

**Mr. Charles P. Baither**  
Mr. Robert Elrod, Jr.

**Ms. Rita Baur**  
Ms. Jane Hoeffel

**Mr. Edison Blackford**  
Mrs. Lynn Ritter

**Ms. Mildred (Millie) Blatter**  
Ms. Gloria King

**Ms. Mable Blevins**  
Mr. and Mrs. Harry Tinney

**Mr. Ray Burzynski**  
Mrs. Beverly Burzynski

**Ms. Lordonia P. Coleman**  
Hadley Homes, LLC  
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Lee  
Title 1 Education Center  
East Toledo Annex

**Mr. Richard J. Cooper**  
Ms. Leona Cooper

**Ms. Julie Cox**  
Ms. Carolyn Metzler

**Mr. Patrick Daunhauer**  
Mr. and Mrs. John Hatfield

**Ms. Amber Davis**  
Mrs. Joan Davis-Horner

**Departed Family Members**  
Ms. Lois Horner

**Ms. Dawn Drahem**  
Mrs. Krista Downey

**Ms. Mae Engler**  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Berry

**Mr. Daniel Wayne Everhart**  
Mr. Kerry Nietz

**Ms. Ruth Feedback**  
Mr. and Mrs. Rickie Feedback

**Mr. Heowic Filipiak**  
Mrs. Dorothy Pozniak

**Mr. Martin Filipiak**  
Mrs. Dorothy Pozniak

**Ms. Nancy C. Fisher**  
Ms. Dawn Kluck

**Ms. Marilyn Flessner**  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Scarbrough

**Ms. Virginia Gerrard**  
Ms. Jill Alesi-Hamilton

**Ms. Clair Gill**  
Ms. Mary Schoen

**Mr. Larry Gilsdorf**  
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Schmuht

**Ms. Patsy S. Glass**  
Mr. and Mrs. Randy Bruce

**Mrs. Suzanne Haase**  
Mr. and Mrs. William Branks  
Mr. and Mrs. Trent Buehrer  
Mr. and Mrs. Donald Mack

**Ms. Herma Halverson**  
Mrs. Marilyn Metti

**Mr. Gary L. Hartman**  
Nancy, Jon and Nicholas  
Hartman  
Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Lee  
Dr. and Mrs. James Sander  
Mr. and Mrs. Ken Sander

**Mr. David W. Haupricht**  
Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Schad

**Ms. Pearl Heintschel**  
Mr. Kevin Heintschel

**Mr. Rusty Heymann**  
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Heymann

**Mr. D. Howard Holtz**  
American Legion Adams  
Township Post No. 553  
Ms. Eileen Brubaker  
Mr. and Mrs. Douglas  
Cunningham

**Mr. Richard Huffman**  
Mr. Eleanor Sonntag  
**Ms. Kim Kincade**  
Mrs. Antoinette Kincade  
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Ms. Helen Patrisso

**Mr. Harry Pozniak**  
Mrs. Dorothy Pozniak

**Mr. Walter Przysiedzi**  
Mr. and Mrs. Gary Daniels

**Mr. Jim Ritter**  
Mrs. Lynn Ritter

**Mr. Danny Rodriguez and his grandson Xavier**  
Ms. Barbara Rodriguez

**Mr. Dennie Rush**  
Mr. and Mrs. Clark Corey

**Mr. Suresh Shah**  
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Anderson

**Mr. Ray Sotkiewicz**  
Mrs. Carol Sotkiewicz

**Ms. Paulene Spence**  
Ms. Debra Lorenzen

**Mr. Charles Supinski**  
Ms. Irene Supinski

**Mr. Robert Thompson**  
Ms. Margaret Spino

**Ms. Lois Tonoff**  
Mr. Warren Tonoff

**Ms. Grace Westfall**  
Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Schneider

**Ms. Ann Windom**  
Mr. Mark Windom

**Mr. Greg Wulczak**  
Mr. Drew Hanna

**Mr. Fred Young**  
Mr. and Mrs. Lee Buhrow

**Mr. Paul Yutzy**  
Mrs. Nancy Mancuso

**Mr. Frank Zatzko Family**  
Mr. Francis Zatzko

**Mom**  
Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Hess

## In Honor of:

(gifts received from July 1 – Aug. 16, 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!*

**50th Wedding Anniversary**  
**Mr. and Mrs. Cloyd Bair**  
Mr. and Mrs. Philip Davis

**Ms. Sheila Brown**  
Ms. Debra Lorenzen

**My Lord and Savior**  
**Jesus Christ**  
Ms. Cruz Champagne

**Ms. Cheryl Goodnough**  
Mr. and Mrs. Roy Heinz

**70th Birthday**  
**Mr. Ronald Greavu**  
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Gralak

**55th Wedding Anniversary**  
**Rev. and Mrs. Gene Hegemier**  
Mr. and Mrs. John Deitzel  
Mr. and Mrs. David Waterhouse

**Prayers Granted**  
**Saints Jude, Joseph and Michael**  
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Hornyak

**2010 Graduates of St. Michael**  
**Ridge Youth Group**  
Mr. and Mrs. Timothy Rettig



◀ **Back to school, looking cool.** The Gift-in-Kind Department at LifeBridge was a drop-off location—and the only distribution site—for Clothing Your Community: Back2School, this summer's drive to collect new and gently used clothing for kids headed back to the classroom. Back2School donors stocked our free clothing bank with uniform-style outfits and regular children's clothes for those who needed a little extra help to get ready for school. Volunteers like Kate (wearing badge) helped parents like Maria shop for their children.

  
**Clothing Your Community**  
**Back 2 School**  
When you no longer wear it, *share it.*

### Event Sponsors:

**LASALLE**  
Cleaners, Inc.

**YMCA JCC**  
YMCA & JCC of Greater Toledo

**WTOL 11**  
Toledo's News Leader

**FIFTH THIRD BANK**

**TOLEDO FREE PRESS**

**The Andersons**

**United Way**

**94.3**  
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**star 105.5**

**Pro-Pak Industries**

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# Blessing

OTHERS  
ABUNDANTLY

From the outside, the building at 3342 Monroe Street may look as if it's seen better days. But inside it's evident that its best days are now! For this is Cherry Street's LifeBridge Center, a place of blessing for the those who rely on it for basic necessities, for the donors who provide them, and the volunteers and staff who collect and distribute them.

LifeBridge is the home of Cherry Street's Gift-in-Kind Department and the Banner Furniture Bank. Gift-in-Kind accepts and distributes donations to our free clothing bank, along with toiletries, household goods, and small appliances, and then distributes them to people in need free of charge. The Banner Furniture Bank, a community outreach partnership of Cherry Street and Banner Mattress, accepts donations of furniture and large appliances, which are then given to qualified people who would otherwise do without.



◀ **Responding to urgent needs.** When Sara Graff (far right) surfed to [cherrystreetmission.org](http://cherrystreetmission.org) and learned that our guests needed underwear, she was overcome by emotion. "Imagine not having underwear," she says, tears flowing. Since then, she and her children, Jordan and David, have made two trips to LifeBridge, each time bringing sacks full to the brim with full-size hygiene items and cleaning supplies to be distributed to Cherry Street guests. Sara has also posted a link to our website on her own site, [savingwithsara.com](http://savingwithsara.com), hoping others will give.



▲ **Blessing—and blessed.** The dozens of dedicated volunteers and staff who make it possible for LifeBridge Center to bless others insist that they're the ones who are truly blessed. "The people we help aren't poor people; they're customers," stresses Janet, who once served in the Peace Corps in Liberia. "I love helping them find the clothing they want, but didn't think they'd find." Betty, a retiree, began volunteering seven hours a day, six days a week, to avoid "going stir crazy." Unable to stand anything that's not organized, Betty was instrumental in sorting the more than 85 tons of clothing donated during the first Clothing Your Community Drive held in early 2010. (Left to right) Volunteers Betty, Regina, Rick, and Janice; Cherry Street guest David; Ready For Life grad James; Caleb House resident/driver Chris; volunteer Mark.



# Blessing

OTHERS

ABUNDANTLY (CONTINUED)



## To Donate

**Clothing, Household Goods, Hygiene Items, Etc.**

**Drop off at LifeBridge Center**

**10 a.m.–5 p.m.; Mon.–Fri.**

**Furniture, Large Appliances**

**Call 419-246-9552 to arrange for pickup**

- ◀ **By request.** When Lia Sharlow, pictured left with Liz Simon, at Cherry Street, donated her late husband Fred's clothes to LifeBridge, her gift had special meaning. Fred was a former Cherry Street guest who got to know Lia when she worked as a cook at Cherry Street and he volunteered as her prep cook. "Fred came to Cherry Street in 1994 because of his daughter, who was murdered," Lia explains. After he graduated from Cherry Street's *Ready For Life* program in May 1995, Fred and Lia became a couple, eventually marrying. "It was his dying wish that his clothes be donated to Cherry Street. I'm honoring his request."



## Driven to Help

Chris came to Cherry Street last Fall because he'd lost his job and had no money. He'd stayed with us on previous occasions years ago when he was addicted to drugs and alcohol, but when he arrived at our door this time, he'd been sober for nearly four years.

"I lost the job I had through a temporary service because my past caught up with me," states Chris regretfully. "I did a lot of bad things when I used drugs." When the temp service found out, he was out of a job—particularly tough for someone who clearly enjoys being useful.

Not long after arriving at Cherry Street, Chris began volunteering to drive the truck that picks up and delivers donations of large appliances and furniture for the LifeBridge Center. He found the job rewarding: "One time I brought furniture to a lady who had no furniture, and she started crying, 'Oh, Lord, thank You.' It choked me up to see how happy she was."

In July, Chris began the transition from our shelter to independent living by moving into Caleb House.

He attends church at Cedar Creek and credits his progress to the Lord. "I gave up trying to control things," he notes. "Now I leave them in His hands."

*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.



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