

# VOICE of Compassion

"The Lord  
also will be  
a refuge  
for the  
oppressed.  
A refuge  
in times of  
trouble."

Psalm 9:9



Your faithfulness lights  
even Winter's darkest days.

"The Lord also will be a refuge for the oppressed.  
A refuge in times of trouble."

*Psalm 9:9*

## Dear Friend,

During my nearly ten years at Cherry Street, countless guests have told me the story of how they came to arrive at our doors. One man told me, "I was walking down the street with no particular destination in mind, saw the Mission, and knocked on the door."

His story—in fact, every guest's story—is a result of your faithfulness. Like a beacon, your faithfulness shines outward, into the darkness, drawing people to a place of refuge and life transformation called Cherry Street Mission Ministries.

As we embark on a new year and new decade of service, we thank you for your faithfulness. Together, we can continue to extend refuge to those desperate for hope, and share with them the Good News that alone can change their lives.

In this issue of *Voice of Compassion*, you'll read about Chris, a Cherry Street guest who once walked in darkness but, thanks to your faithfulness, is now walking in a brighter future. On page 4, you'll learn how your prayerful support provided record numbers of meals and nights of rest at Cherry Street in 2010. And on the back cover, you'll discover how your love warmed hearts at Thanksgiving and Christmas; because of you, hundreds of people who entered the holiday season hungry, destitute, and without a place to go are no longer hungry, destitute, or lonely.

For all this, I thank you. Your gracious, generous, faithful support inspires our continuing efforts to provide street-level service to all who come to us in need—at Cherry Street.

Extending refuge and changing lives,



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:  
*Sr. Elizabeth, a member  
of St. Pius, serves James,  
a thankful guest at  
Cherry Street, a delicious  
Thanksgiving meal.*



## Guest thanks God for your support

*“All of us at Cherry Street need God, the Bible... but without donors' assistance, we would have nothing.”*

Chris, a resident of The Oaks, is outspoken in her praise of Cherry Street donors.

“Donors are angels from God,” stresses the 61-year-old, who arrived at Cherry Street in July 2007 with nothing but the clothes on her back.

“My physician had urged me twice before to seek help and protection at the Nest. I was living with a man in my own house, enduring emotional abuse, but he wouldn’t leave. I had credit card debt and was going from one emotional devastation to another. I started drinking to numb myself.”

On July 13, she spoke with her physician once again. “‘You’ll go to the Sparrow’s Nest or you’ll end up in a mental institution,’ he told me,” says Chris. “I gave him rebuttals, saying I needed to go home to get all my things, but he replied that the Sparrow’s Nest had the things I needed.

“I was a wreck when I arrived at the Nest, because I never thought I would become a homeless woman; I worked my whole life. But I slept so well that night.”

Chris soon discovered that the Nest did indeed have what she needed. At first, she noticed physical things, like food, toiletries, and a bed. But she soon realized that the Nest had spiritual things to offer. Within six weeks of her arrival, she had accepted Christ as Savior.

“I was introduced to the Bible,” Chris recounts. “Before, I knew there *was* a Bible, but I didn’t *know* it, so that took a lot of my time. You grow from that. The more you learn, the more you want to learn, and the more you want to help others.”

As she grew spiritually, Chris began resolving practical problems. With the help of the sheriff, she evicted her former boyfriend, then sold her house. She stopped drinking, filed for bankruptcy, and began paying her debts. Nine months after arriving at the Nest, she found a job at a local Cracker Barrel, where she continues to work today. In 2009, she was invited to move from the Nest to The Oaks, where she continues to find strength as she takes gradual steps toward living independently.

“I still panic easily, but when I walk into [The Oaks’] door at nighttime, everything is in its place,” says Chris. “The staff never, ever, doesn’t have time for you. I can talk to any one of the other guests; they’re my best friends. And there are Scriptures I can go to.”

For all this, Chris is grateful to generous people like you.

“All of us at Cherry Street need God, the Bible, the staff, and our peers to help us, but without donors’ assistance, we would have nothing,” she stresses. “It’s a ‘chain effect’ of donors working through staff to provide another way of life, another foundation, where everything blossoms.”

# Because of You!

- In 2010, your support of Cherry Street was a literal lifeline for thousands of homeless and desperately poor people in our community.
- Last year, you helped us serve 244,581 meals to hungry men, women, and children at our facilities.
- You made it possible for us to provide 53,850 nights of shelter to 1,139 men and 480 women.
- You enabled us to give 1,895 food boxes to poor families struggling to make ends meet.
- And you allowed our Education Center to assist 637 individuals, including 97 folks working hard to obtain their GED.
- Above all, you made it possible for hundreds of people to hear the life-changing Gospel of Jesus Christ in 2010.
- For all this, we are deeply grateful to you!



## Coats

◀ **Loaves and fishes.** On December 7, members of the Toledo Walleye Hockey Club delivered nearly 100 men's, women's, and kids' coats to Cherry Street for distribution to our guests. As part of the Walleye/Huntington Bank Coat Drive, the garments were donated by fans during Walleye home games the first weekend in December. Thanks, Walleye fans and players!

(From left) Cheri Pastula, manager, Community Relations, Toledo Walleye; Kyle Rogers and Joe Palmer, Walleye players; Shannon Loar-Tenney, Regional Marketing and Communications, Huntington Bank; Randy Rowe, Walleye player; Dan Rogers, president and CEO of Cherry Street. *Photo credit: Emily Croll/Toledo Walleye*

**Multiple blessings.** Once again, the good folks at The Andersons have demonstrated why their organization is regarded as one of our region's top corporate citizens! In addition to providing Cherry Street with sturdy, reusable shopping bags we used to deliver Thanksgiving food boxes (and bags) to families, a number of different departments at The Andersons donated much-needed serving and kitchen supplies to the Sparrow's Nest and blessed Nest guests with their own towels, socks, shower shoes, and hygiene items—plus a great lunch. Many thanks!

◀ Malynda (right), a guest at the Nest, shares her appreciation for new shower shoes and hygiene items with Julie from The Andersons.



Tatia (left) received her Thanksgiving food box/bag from Gloria, one of 85 volunteers who assembled and delivered boxes/bags to 423 grateful recipients this year. ▶

*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).*



◀ **Two thumbs up!** The Plot: The Family Video Store on Brint Road organized a drive for Cherry Street, and their customers gave it rave reviews. The Happy Ending: Family Video and its customers donated more than 200 items for our guests. The Applause: Goes to Family Video staff; Nic, store manager (left); and their generous customers. The Sequel: As this VOC went to press, Family Video was just ending another drive. Bravo!



## You're invited to our Annual Spring Fundraising Banquet!

**EXTENDING REFUGE.  
CHANGING LIVES.**

Thursday, April 14 • 6:30–8:30 pm

Gladieux Meadows  
4480 Heatherdowns, Toledo  
Tickets: \$15

Spring is just around the corner—and so is Cherry Street's Annual Spring Fundraising Banquet!

If you've attended past banquets, you know how incredibly uplifting they are. If you haven't attended in the past, don't miss this chance to be inspired by the stories of people whose lives have been transformed at Cherry Street as a result of your prayerful support.

To attend, please register by filling out the enclosed invitation and return it in the envelope provided by Friday, April 1.

**HOPE TO SEE YOU APRIL 14!**

# 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 Sept. 27 – Nov. 17, 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.*

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Mr. and Mrs. Richard Wilson

### Mr. Fadlallah Al Boutros

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### Mr. Dudley Allison

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Mr. Dave Zimmerman

**In Honor of:**  
[gifts received from Sept. 27 - Nov. 17, 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!*

**Our Daughter Becky**  
Mr. and Mrs. David Baertschi

**My Three Daughters Cheri, Cathy and Chris**  
Ms. Darla Culbersson

**Jesus Christ**  
Mr. Ronald Auxier  
Mr. and Mrs. David Baertschi  
Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Davies  
Mr. and Mrs. Fredrick Furl  
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**Saints Joseph, Jude and Michael**  
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Hornyak

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Mr. and Mrs. Danny Pool

**Happy Birthday**  
**Ms. Joan Barrett**  
Ms. Cecilia Dionisio

**Birthday**  
**Mrs. Dorothy Bassett**  
Mrs. Elizabeth Milbrodt

**50th Wedding Anniversary**  
**Mr. and Mrs. Dan and Ruth Carr**  
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**Mrs. Ardys Dellinger**  
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**9 Children, 19 Grandchildren, 9 Great Grandchildren**  
Ms. Patricia Selmek

**My New Granddaughter**  
**Miss Charlie Flack**  
Ms. Gail Flack

**Jesse Fleck**  
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**Special Birthday**  
**Ms. H. Joyce Goodyear**  
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Ms. Myra Murphy

**16th Birthday**  
**Miss Samantha Gremler**  
Mr. and Mrs. Matthew Horvat

Mr. and Mrs. William Suarez  
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**Birthday**  
**Mr. Jim Hammer**  
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Mr. and Mrs. Charles Helmick

**Mrs. Lori Holland**  
Mr. Marc Holland

**Islamic Center of Greater Toledo**  
Mr. and Mrs. Bahu Shaikh

**Mr. Richard Jones**  
Bethel Assembly of God

**C. George Jorrey**  
**Mr. C. George Jorrey**  
Mrs. Loral Jorrey

**Devin, Bryce and Lia Junkins**  
Mr. and Mrs. Karl Junkins

**Rev. Fred Kalaj**  
Ms. Venetia Scott

**Ms. Kay Knepper**  
Mr. David Overmyer

**Birthday**  
**Mrs. Rachael Koehler**  
Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Koehler

**90th Birthday**  
**Mr. Herb Kratzer**  
Mr. and Mrs. Gary Kuns, Sr.

**Casmir and Rose Lenga**  
Ms. Patricia Hippel

**Ms. Carolyn Lipstraw**  
Mr. David Overmyer

**The McNichol Family**  
Mr. and Mrs. Paul McNichol

**The Mutgi Family**  
Mr. and Mrs. A. Mutgi

**My Entire Family**  
Ms. Victoria Kidd

**The Myers Family**  
Mr. and Mrs. Jim Myers

**Mr. Bert Patrick**  
Mr. and Mrs. Lowell Kern

**The Perse Families**  
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Helmick

**Ms. Lee Ann Picciuto**  
Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Picciuto

**Mr. Ron Sattler**  
Mr. and Mrs. Roland Terry

**Birthday**  
**Mrs. Liz Simon**  
Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Koehler

**Ms. Ruth Stahl**  
Mrs. Nancy Chambers

**Ms. Gwen Stark**  
Mrs. Dorothy Kimpel

**Mrs. Anne Thomas**  
Mr. and Mrs. Terry Frederick

**Mr. and Mrs. Larry and Rosie Truckor**  
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Mika

**Anniversary**  
**Mr. and Mrs. Gregg and Jeanne Weaner**  
Ms. Sandra Michelsen

**Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth and Nikita Wilber**  
Ms. Barbara Wilber



## Making Spirits Bright

Hundreds of individuals and organizations throughout our region went above and beyond to make the holidays special for Cherry Street guests. If you number among those generous folks, we thank you.

**Thanksgiving-in-a-Box.** Two days before Thanksgiving, 51 Cherry Street volunteers and staff assembled 510 food boxes and bags in the record time of just over an hour. Once assembled, the boxes—each containing the ingredients for a holiday meal for four—were delivered by 34 volunteers. That’s a total of 2040 meals!

## The Day of MUCH Thanks

At 3 am on Thanksgiving, 94 staff and friends of Mainstreet Ventures began preparing 1,000 traditional turkey dinners for Cherry Street at the firm’s Real Seafood Company in Toledo. Mainstreet volunteers came from as far away as Ann Arbor to take part in the massive effort.

At 9 am, Mainstreet and Cherry Street volunteers began delivering 504 of the piping hot meals to 154 families so they could celebrate Thanksgiving at home. Then volunteers turned their attention to serving Cherry Street guests and their families at the Real Seafood Company, where they were served a delicious turkey dinner with all the trimmings. It was a Thanksgiving that no one at Cherry Street will soon forget.



▲ Staff from Kingston Care, including (from left) Cathleen, Rita, Jennifer, and Angie, helped deliver Thanksgiving food boxes and also supplied some of the turkeys. Thank you, Kingston!



▲ **True meaning.** At Christmas, generous people from throughout our region adopted Cherry Street guests, their families, and other poor families we serve, providing them with food and gifts they would otherwise have gone without. Among those generous “adopters” were employees of the Reynolds Road Olive Garden, including (from left) Tanya, manager; Kelly; and Josh; shown here with Angie Lashley, director of our Women’s Ministry.



▲ **Saint’s day.** On Saturday, November 27, St. Pius Church “adopted” Cherry Street’s afternoon meal. St. Pius volunteers—including planning team members (from left) John, Karl, Chris, and Curt—purchased all the ingredients, cooked up a great holiday feast, and then served it to grateful guests at our Madison Street Food Service and Community Center and the Sparrow’s Nest.



▲ Going over final details of this massive effort (from left): Mike Gibbons, president and partner, Mainstreet Ventures; Kevin Bowers, head chef, Toledo’s Real Seafood Company; and Simon Pesusich, Mainstreet’s executive chef.

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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