

# VOICE

## of Compassion

"If one  
falls down,  
his friend  
can help  
him."

Ecc. 4:10



Thank you for  
being that friend.

"...how can one be warm *alone*?"

*Eccl. 4:11*



**Dan Rogers**  
*President and CEO*

Front Cover:

*When Ted, a guest at our  
Madison Food Service  
and Community Center,  
needed a friend,  
you were there.*

## Dear Friend,

Recently, I was invited to speak at a church that has supported the men and women of Cherry Street for many years. The pastor wondered if I could bring along guests from our *Ready for Life* program to share their stories, so I invited Joel and Sondra to join me.

I love this kind of invitation! The church receives the rich reward that comes from hearing firsthand the life transformation made possible through its service to others, while our guests are provided the opportunity to glorify God for His redeeming love.

As Sondra and Joel took turns that Sunday, sharing their stories of lives transformed and glorifying God for a renewed future, a verse from the Book of Ecclesiastes came to mind: . . . *how can one be warm alone?*

The answer, of course, is that *one* can't—we can't, no matter our circumstances. We need each other; it's never more complicated than that. Joel and Sondra needed someone to greet them at the door of Cherry Street Mission Ministries the day they arrived. They needed someone to listen to their stories. They needed people to be patient with them as they discovered new possibilities.

In the same way, Cherry Street needs you. For more than six decades, you have greeted us at your doors. You've taken us in. Encouraged us. And patiently helped us secure—through God's grace—a better tomorrow for tens of thousands of people.

During the upcoming holidays, I know that you'll be here for all those we serve, just as you are every year. I encourage you to volunteer during the holidays. Visit us at [cherrystreetmission.org](http://cherrystreetmission.org) or call 419-242-5141 to let us know how you'd like to be involved.

May God fill your holidays with family and laughter. Thank you for standing with the hundreds seeking refuge and finding it each day—at Cherry Street.

Extending refuge and changing lives,

A handwritten signature in white ink, appearing to read "Dan Rogers", with a horizontal line underneath.

To access Dan's video blog, *Word from the Curb*, visit [www.cherrystreetmission.org](http://www.cherrystreetmission.org).

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

Photo © Jim Rohman



# Giving you thanks for a life restored.

*“Last Thanksgiving,  
I woke up at Cherry  
Street happy!”*

One day, many years ago, Alberto walked past Cherry Street and felt sorry for those who had no choice but to stay with us.

Little did he know that, one day, he'd have no choice, either.

“I came to Cherry Street twice,” said Alberto, 48. “Once for eight days in 2002, and then last November for five months.” Alcohol abuse was at the root of both stays.

Alberto's first stay at Cherry Street was short, the result of his wife's leaving him because of his drinking. They reconciled and he returned home, but soon began drinking again—which eventually led to his second stay.

“I committed a crime against God and society,” stated Alberto, who was raised in church but said he lost his morals as he grew older. Convicted and sentenced to three years in prison and estranged from his wife and children, Alberto recognized God's wake-up call.

“Had I not been drinking that night, it [the crime] would not have happened,” he said. “I got what I deserved. God put me in a place to get my attention and say, ‘There's gonna be one way or the other. You choose today.’”

So Alberto chose God. Halfway through his sentence, Alberto was granted judicial release, sent to Correctional Treatment Facility for four months, and then came to Cherry Street last November.

“I attended Bible studies at Cherry Street,” noted Alberto. “Church services at night; anything centered around the Word. I looked at all the positive things Cherry Street offered: *Ready For Life*, job readiness classes, clothing, meals three times a day, staff that wanted to help, and, of course a place to stay. Without it, I would have been sleeping on the street.”

His “attitude of gratitude” made Thanksgiving 2010 a different holiday for Alberto. “Before, it was just another day to watch football and drink beer,” he admitted. “But last Thanksgiving, I woke up at Cherry Street happy because I felt God's presence, like He was holding me, and everything was going to be okay. Before, I was holding a beer; now, I'm holding a Bible.”

This Spring, Alberto left Cherry Street. Today, he attends church and works at a restaurant while building his business, a Christian dance studio. He's reconciled with his kids, is friends with his wife, and is maintaining his sobriety.

“Cherry Street is more than a place to stay and a meal,” Alberto affirmed. “It's a place of restoration.”

And that *place of restoration* exists because of your prayers and support. Thank you.

# Because of You!

- You are enabling Cherry Street to meet a level of need that continues to grow at a staggering rate, particularly among women.
- In September 2010, Cherry Street housed an average of 73 women each night; in September 2011, that number rose to 90, an increase of 23 percent.
- At the same time, we saw the number of men we house nightly increase 17 percent, from 142 to 166.
- We're providing 25 percent more meals each day, too, up from 652 in September 2010 to 816 in September 2011.
- Sadly, we see no end in sight to increases like these.
- But we are confident that God will continue to work through good folks like you to care for all those He brings to our door each day.



▲ **Sierra's soap.** Sierra (left), a former guest (shown here with Cherry Street's Director of Women's Ministries Angie Lashley), recently dropped by the Sparrow's Nest to donate a sack full of bar soap. "I know this soap isn't much," Sierra said, "but I just wanted to say 'thank you' for the help I received at a terrible time in my life." Thank *you*, Sierra, for your thoughtfulness.



◀ Thanks to you, women like Hannah (left), a guest at the Sparrow's Nest have a safe place to stay the night. When Hannah discovered that members of Free 2 Be Me were redecorating the Nest's Sober Living Unit, she volunteered her time to help.

Sharon McQueery (right) founded Free 2 Be Me to bring restoration to women who've experienced the captivity of sex trafficking and prostitution. Sharon said that the group chose to work with the Nest to open a door to build relationships with these victims "at street level." We applaud Free 2 Be Me's mission and thank them for sprucing up our Sober Living Unit. Thanks to Hannah and the other guests that pitched in too!



▲ **Towers of towels.** When the management team of the Alexis Road Meijer's called Cherry Street about donating overstocked blankets, they discovered we had a great need for towels. So they contacted their district manager to see how they could help. The result? In addition to the blankets, Meijer's gave us 242 towels. Thank you, Meijer's! *From right: Store manager Tom with members of the Alexis Road management team, including Patty, Michelle, Julie, Cindy, Chris, Cheryl, and Deb.*



▲ **Team effort.** This Summer, members of the Huntington (Indiana) College track and field team took time from their week-long training camp at Maumee Bay State Park to volunteer at our Madison Food Service and Community Center. No matter how they do on the field, in our book, they're winners!

*With winter weather on the way, we send our "warmest" thanks to everyone who responded to our urgent need for boiler repairs earlier this year, among them Diemech Plumbing.*



## TOP 10 Urgent Needs!

### TOP 10 MOST NEEDED ITEMS:

1. Toilet paper
2. Feminine hygiene products
3. Beef of any kind
4. Eggs
5. Lunch meat
6. Men & women's underwear (all sizes)
7. Toothbrushes/Toothpaste
8. Bath towels & washcloths
9. Powdered laundry detergent
10. Men's & women's deodorant

*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).*

# 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 Aug. 20 – Oct. 7, 2011) *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.*

**Loved Ones**  
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Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Zogaib

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## In Honor of:

(Gifts received from Aug. 20 – Oct. 7, 2011) *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!*

**All of the Volunteers who give of themselves to help others in need.**

Ms. Carlene DeFalco  
Mr. and Mrs. James Whitehead

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Mr. and Mrs. Carl Fox

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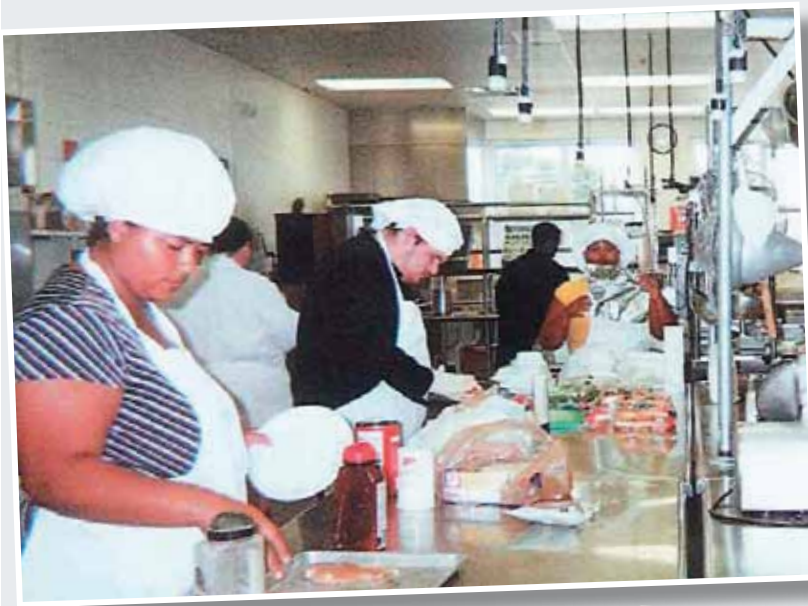
**Happy Birthday to both Charles & Dane; This gift is to honor my dad, Charlie Leininger, and his grandson, my nephew, Dane Rank. They share a birthday on September 14th. Happy birthday to both of them!**

Mr. Kellie Patton

**Mr. Marvin Leppala**

Ms. Sharon Leppala

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 Ms. Sharon Leppala  
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**Mrs. Jan Zeman - Happy Birthday!**  
 Mr. and Mrs. James Bahnsen



◀ **What's cooking?** In August, thanks to a generous donor, several Cherry Street guests took a course in short-order cooking offered at the Oregon Career & Technology Center. Students also had the opportunity to be certified in Serv-Saf. Now that's a recipe for generosity!

▶ **Repeat winners.** For the second year in a row, Faurecia in Northwood beat out more than three dozen other Faurecia sites in North America by collecting 10,337 pounds of food to feed the hungry. Once again, Faurecia Northwood donated that food to Cherry Street—along with a \$5,000 check from Faurecia corporate for out-collecting their colleagues. If that weren't enough, 43 Faurecia employees also volunteered at Cherry Street during the food drive. Clearly, Faurecia isn't just a leading automotive supplier; it's a leading corporate citizen!



◀ **T-time.** Employees of the Huntington Bank NW Ohio-Eastern Michigan Regional Headquarters and branch, which is located at the corner of Huron and Madison, held a drive for our guests that focused on the Three Big T's here at Cherry Street: *Toothpaste, Toiletries, and Toilet paper.*



# God knows we need chaplains!

At the core of Cherry Street Mission Ministries lies a fervent mandate to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

We know that providing guests food, clothing, and refuge—as important as that is—meets only temporal physical needs. The Gospel is the only certainty that can make a lasting difference in the lives of the downtrodden who seek our help each day.

But we need help—consistent help—to share the Good News with our guests. That’s why we’re asking you to consider becoming a Cherry Street Chaplain.

Ken Oehlers, (pictured) became a Cherry Street Chaplain in 2007, not long after his church started serving meals to our guests on Fridays.

“The Holy Spirit prompted me to do more than serve meals,” Ken recalled. “I realized that I have to share ‘me,’ but God gets all the glory.” Ken now spends approximately five hours a week in ministry, including time at our Madison Food Service and Community Center each Tuesday before lunch. He spends 10 to 15 minutes sharing the Word of God with people gathering to eat, and normally stays to eat and visit with our guests.

“I keep it simple,” he said. “Just one redeemed sinner talking to another redeemed sinner. But because I’m consistent, because I get to know the guests—and *vice versa*—I think it makes the Gospel believable to them.”

Being a Cherry Street Chaplain is not without its challenges, Ken said, noting that not everyone in the crowd sits in rapt attention. “When Jesus gave the *Sermon on the Mount*, I doubt that all the people there were sitting listening quietly,” he smiled, quickly adding that he doesn’t put what he shares on a par with Christ’s great teaching. “God has called some to plant; some, to water; and ultimately, God has to *save*. I’m just glad to be a participant in it.”

Among the guests listening to Ken on a recent Tuesday were Duane and Rob. Duane, a new guest, said he appreciated what Ken shared, because he hadn’t heard it in awhile. “It makes me happy,” Duane explained. “It eases the pressure and stress I’m experiencing right now.” Rob, who comes from a Christian background, was equally grateful for Ken: “What he says gives me structure and helps me stay strong.”

*If you would like to learn more about becoming a Cherry Street Chaplain, please contact Charles Allen, Director of Spiritual Emphasis: [callen@cherrystreetmission.org](mailto:callen@cherrystreetmission.org); 419-242-5141; or 419-490-8869.*

To sign up for our e-updates, go to [www.cherrystreetmission.org/news](http://www.cherrystreetmission.org/news), scan the QR code, or text **CHERRYSTREET** to 22828. E-updates keep you informed of the exciting things happening at Cherry Street Mission Ministries and alert you of the latest *Word from the Curb* video blog by Dan Rogers, Cherry Street’s President and CEO.



## "GIFTS AND GIVING" IN PERRYSBURG TO BENEFIT CHERRY STREET MISSION MINISTRIES

Now in its third year, “Gifts and Giving,” a trunk show of local vendors slated for Sunday, November 20, from 11 am–4 pm at the Carranor Hunt and Polo Club, will donate all admission fees (\$5/person) to help Cherry Street provide guests with holiday meals. Some of the participating vendors include Meig, Scoots, Sophie’s Sister, Paula Brown Shop, and Sheffield Road.



*Voice of Compassion is a publication of:*

**CHERRY ST.  
MISSION MINISTRIES**

105 17th Street • Toledo, OH 43604-6710



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President & CEO

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.

# 2012 Sponsorship Opportunities

Looking for ways to partner with Cherry Street Mission Ministries and the work of life transformation? Consider sponsoring one or more of the following upcoming events. In addition to a financial sponsorship, there are many ways your organization, church, or business can be represented and take part in these events.

## Winter's Paradise: A Chocolate Experience

**January 19, 2012**

This first-ever "dessert-and-chocolate-tasting" event for donors at the Genesis Village Ballroom is being coordinated by Munn Wealth Management, with the assistance of Springfield High School's National Honor Society.

**Sponsorships are \$200 each.**

**We are also seeking dessert/chocolate donations from restaurants and vendors.**

## Friends of Cherry Street Florida Gatherings

**February 2012**

At the invitation of a few loyal supporters and Board Members, Cherry Street President and CEO Dan Rogers will travel to Sarasota and Naples, Florida to meet with "snowbirds" from our region at informal-but-informative gatherings.

**Sponsorships range from \$200 to \$500.**

**We are also looking for people willing to host these gatherings for new and seasoned donors.**

## Annual Spring Fundraising Banquet

**April 2012**

Our annual fundraising banquet allows our supporters, volunteers, and guests the opportunity to come together and see the great things God is doing at Cherry Street.

**Sponsorships range from \$500 to \$5,000.**

## Celebrating Fashion through the Years

**Spring 2012**

Initiated by local entrepreneurs, including a clothing designer, Mary Kay consultant, and spa owner, this fashion show will feature clothing from the designer, as well as heritage clothing, modeled by our guests.

**Sponsorships range from \$500 to \$2,000.**

## 65th Anniversary Family and Arts Festival

**June 29–July 1, 2012**

We've planned three big days of family-friendly events to celebrate our community's support and partnership with Cherry Street for the last 65 years.

**Sponsorships range from \$500 to \$5,000.**

## Pastors' Masters Golf Outing

**September 2012**

Pastors, lay leaders, and community leaders from throughout our region head to StoneRidge Golf Course in Bowling Green to spend a day playing golf and learning about Cherry Street.

**Sponsorships range from \$100 to \$2,500.**

## Fall Banquet

**October 2012**

Suggested by a supporter from Archbold, this fundraising banquet is targeted to supporters who live in the Fulton and Defiance Counties area and/or who cannot attend our Spring Banquet.

**Sponsorships range from \$500 to \$5,000.**

## Christmas Gift Celebration Concert

**December 2012**

It is through the gifts of our generous community that our guests have the opportunity to receive the free gift of salvation through Christ. This Christmas concert is a gift back to our community to say "thank-you" and an opportunity to pause and celebrate Christmas, the ultimate Gift to us all.

**Sponsorships range from \$500 to \$2,500.**



*The Christian Festival Choir and Orchestra  
cordially invites you to...*

# *A Christmas Gift Celebration Concert*

*"An Evening in December"*

*Benefitting* **CHERRY STREET MISSION MINISTRIES**

**Thursday, December 8 • 7 pm**  
**Calvary Assembly of God • 5025 Glendale Ave.**  
*Free will offering*

Once again, the Christian Festival Choir and Orchestra is providing a free gift to our community and blessing Cherry Street by organizing a concert. This year's cantata, *An Evening in December*, tells the story of our transcendent God becoming a human being—the poorest of the poor and weakest of the weak—to give us His boundless, everlasting life. Don't miss this opportunity to catch a new glimpse of Emmanuel, God with Us, and fill your heart with a new song of thankfulness and praise!