



Mission Opportunities

for

Community Groups
@ St. Paul Lutheran

Summer / Fall 2011

Mission Opportunity Preface

Many individuals spent their time and energy to gather this booklet resource for you, our Community Groups, so you can shine like stars in the community as you reach others with Jesus' love. The following reports are from interviews which provided the groundwork for decisions on which agencies might work best with our Community Groups.

Lakeland Mayor's Office

The meeting was held in the mayoral offices. In attendance were: Gow Fields, Pastor Ron Pennekamp, Randy Andersen, Jim Robertson and Lee Neemann.

The purpose of the meeting was to hear Mayor Fields' thoughts on how St. Paul Lutheran Church and School could best connect with the community.

Mayor Fields suggested we visit lakelandvision.org to understand the vision of the City of Lakeland for the growth of the city. He then outlined some ongoing service projects, such as the Lakeland Regional Medical Center Child Mentoring Program, the Volunteers in Medicine and the Keys to Character Project. All are currently being operated by businesses and schools in Lakeland and were established to benefit children.

He also discussed the work of the Neighborhood Associations and suggested they be used in developing contacts that we might be able to serve. He listed After School Programs, Police Athletic League, Boy's and Girl's Club and Parker Street Ministries as examples of successful programs we should interview.

The majority of Mayor Fields concerns in community service deals with the youth of Lakeland. He believes strongly that each child needs to have a positive role model.

He stated we were the first church to approach him with a community service program such as the one we are beginning to implement. Mayor Fields asked us to keep him informed on our progress, and he was very supportive of our efforts at this time.

Report submitted by Lee Neemann

Anchor House

Interviewed Dr. Michael Staples and he was very receptive to our community groups being involved in volunteer work with his young men. Currently they have approximately 20 boys at the home.

- Tutors, mentors, are real needs for these boys who need a lot of help in their Christian walk as well as giving them the best chance to become successful in the future.
- Coming in and cooking a meal or providing dry goods since the boys are required to cook their own meals.
- Sponsoring a trip to a lake or a park would be an excellent means of showing God's love and building a sense of trust and respect that we take for granted, and something they have never had.

I think we pray God leads a group with the right patience and testimony to allow us to show them Christ!

ANCHOR HOUSE IS... *in a nut shell, a home for abandoned, abused and troubled teenage boys. Most have been in and out of the juvenile detention systems their whole lives. Most come from homes where they lived most of their lives on the streets, or in some cases, a shed in the backyard. Their parents are generally incarcerated, or have been frequently throughout their life. Most have been beaten and or sexually abused at some point in their life. Those few who do see their family, it is generally required that it be a supervised visit per the state. Anchor House seeks to show these young men how to take care of themselves. They not only are instructed God's teachings, but how to cook, read, write, balance a checkbook, budget their money, express themselves, resolve conflict, but also learn to trust. They are hard and street-wise. Most are looking at their last shot at rehabilitation. These kids lack the most basic emotional and social skills that we take for granted. They are a handful, but God is doing amazing things there.*



Always
give



yourselves
fully to
the work



of the
Lord ...



1 Corinthians 10:31

Contact

Head volunteer coordinator: Lynne Breidenbach

Phone: 863-430-7013.

Address: 3000 K-Ville Ave Auburndale, FL 33823

Report submitted by Nick Dame

A Woman's Choice

Interviewed Rebecca Klein, Executive Director



The Woman's Choice Center has been in Lakeland for about twenty-five years. It was previously known as the South Side Crisis Pregnancy Center and New Creation Crisis Pregnancy Center. It is a faith-based organization that includes in its mission statement the Sanctity of Life and counseling to empower the women to make an informed decision. It offers medical service for testing for pregnancy, STDs, and an ultrasound of the baby. They provide counseling and information on pregnancy options and partner with Christian adoptions. They also offer ongoing support with material assistance and compassionate, Christ-Centered care until the baby is two years old. It is about truth with information on Abortion Procedures and risks, abstinence education and post abortion counseling.

How can we help?

Pray for them

Tell others about them

Volunteer at the Center: handyman, peer counselor, material supplies coordinator, family coach

Participate in their events

Donate maternity and baby items

Financial Support

Contact:

Executive Director: Rebecca Klein rebecca@supportawc.com

Phone: 863-683-2341 (FAX 683-2694)

Address: 1234 E. Lime St., Lakeland, FL 33801

Report submitted by Joe Glossick

Big Brothers, Big Sisters of Tampa Bay

On June 14, 2011, Paul Sicca and I met with Hope Bogel, Director of Partnership Development and Recruitment for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Tampa Bay. Hope told us that the mission of her organization is to provide children facing adversity with strong and enduring, professionally supported 1-to-1 relationships that change their lives for the better, forever. Big Brothers Big Sisters of Tampa Bay is a private, nonprofit organization and an affiliate of Big Brothers Big Sisters of America and United Way of Tampa Bay. The agency serves Hillsborough, Pasco, and Polk Counties.

Big Brothers Big Sisters matches children (littles) between the ages of 5-17 with volunteer mentors. Both children and parents (guardian) receive training on communication skills and empowerment to ensure the match is most beneficial. Just like volunteers, all kids are interviewed prior to acceptance into the program. Volunteers (bigs) must be at least 15 years old or a sophomore in high school. There is no upper age limit for Big Brother and Big Sister volunteers. Volunteers are assigned a “go to” person within Big Brothers Big Sisters, who is a member of their staff and whose sole goal is to make sure that the match experience between the volunteer and the child is a successful one.

There are two different programs for volunteers for Big Brothers Big Sisters.

1. **The Community-based program** pairs volunteers with kids from the community who simply need a grown up friend to spend nine hours per month during the weekend or evening time riding bikes, playing games, shooting hoops, visiting the library, or just hanging out.
2. **The Site-based program** option allows people who have very busy schedules to volunteer because mentors spend an hour each week at a school or after-school center, always remaining on-site to volunteer. These volunteers might read a book, play horse on the basketball court, eat lunch together, or visit the computer lab. Volunteers for the Site-based program almost always see kids during the day, on school grounds.

Children who are in the program are 46% less likely to begin using illegal drugs. They are also 52% less likely to skip school. These kids are more confident in their performance in schoolwork. They are more likely to get along better with their families. They are 37% less likely to skip a class and 27% less likely to begin using alcohol. 99% of the children in the Big Brothers Big Sisters program are not in the Juvenile Justice System.

Hope described the needs of her organization very clearly. She informed us that Big Brothers Big Sisters of Tampa Bay would love to receive support from St. Paul. The type of support the organization needs is in the form of volunteers. They do not need support in the form of maintenance, cleaning, meal preparation, etc. Hope let us know that there is now a waiting list for children to receive mentors.

Big Brothers Big Sisters would like to have more people who would agree to be mentors. They would be very receptive to St. Paul members becoming mentors. She also told us that there would be no problem with St. Paul Lutheran Church having a relationship with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Tampa Bay. It would be fine for a mentor from St. Paul to bring a child to church or a church function providing that the child's guardian approved of this.

Hope also related some incredible testimonies that illustrate the life changing influence a mentor can have on a child.

1. She described one young boy whose life was changed by his relationship with his mentor. This child had only laid eyes on his father twice in his entire life. He was in a very large family and could easily have fallen into the bad influences that surrounded him. Instead, with the guidance from his mentor, this young man went on to play football for Florida State University. He graduated from Florida State with an Economics degree. He is now teaching English to students in China.
2. Hope described another case where a young girl saved her mother's life by calling the police to end the abuse that her mother was enduring at the hands of her husband. Unfortunately, the young girl became reclusive and passive. She had no interest in school or anything outside her home. Fortunately, she received a mentor, who was a student at Southeastern University, through Big Brothers Big Sisters. As this relationship grew, the young girl began to come out of her shell. She began looking forward to school. Her grades improved. She took interest in extra-curricular activities, and she is doing great! Not only did the relationship with her mentor help this young girl, it changed the entire dynamic of her family. Her brother also received a mentor, and he is doing very well also. Her mother is no longer married to her abusive husband. She is very upbeat about her future as well as the future of her children. They have hope, and they are not looking back.

In conclusion, it appears that there is great potential for a relationship between St. Paul and Big Brothers Big Sisters of Tampa Bay.

- They need volunteers to become mentors in their program. They would love to have help from our church in the form of more mentors. There do not appear to be any barriers preventing our church from becoming involved with this organization. They have no policies against relationships with faith based organizations. While members of St. Paul may embrace becoming involved with Big Brothers Big Sisters, it does seem that the best candidates to be mentors are going to be adults who do have some free time. Mentoring does require a minimum of nine hours per month for the Community-based program and one hour per week for the Site-based program. It would seem that a relationship with Big Brothers Big Sisters would be a great fit with our mission of Connecting the Community to Christ.

Contact

Director of Partnership Development & Recruitment is Hope Bogel.

Address: www.bbbsfl.org

Phone: 863-682-5191

Report submitted by David Cheyne

Boy's & Girl's Club

On June 20 2011, Paul Sicca and I met with Kelly Lane, Director of Development for Boys & Girls Club of Lakeland & Mulberry. Kelly informed us that the mission of her organization is to provide a quality developmental program which empowers Lakeland & Mulberry youth, especially those from disadvantaged circumstances, to become productive adults.

Boys & Girls Club of Lakeland & Mulberry provides a variety of services to young people. More than 25 national programs are available in the areas of education, the environment, health, the arts, careers, alcohol/drug and pregnancy prevention, gang prevention, leadership development and athletics.

Each year, Boys & Girls Clubs of Lakeland & Mulberry serve more than 2,000 young people through its Clubs, summer sites, and outreach programs. They operate four full-time clubs in two cities. Clubs are located in communities with the greatest need where similar services are limited or nonexistent. The cost of providing services to one member for a year is \$900, but in order to serve effectively those who need the Boys & Girls Club are asked to pay annual membership dues of only \$24 per child, and no child is turned away due to inability to pay.

There are several challenges that the Boys & Girls Club of Lakeland & Mulberry are facing. Currently, as with many community service providers, the need for the service outweighs the resources. They also need help in determining struggles that our community's youth are facing. There is also a need for space that can be utilized by teens.

The goals of the Boys & Girls Club of Lakeland & Mulberry are to identify partnerships, increase services to teens, increase financial resources, continue to build a strong Board of Directors, and expansion of services in the Polk County area.

Kelly told us that there is a multitude of ways that our church could help her organization.

- Small groups could fill a great need by simply **providing materials** to the Boys & Girls Club. Some of the materials that are needed include napkins, paper plates, paper towels, crayons, markers, glue, construction paper, pencils, scissors, notebook paper, folders, copy paper, and very small prizes for certain programs that they do.
- The Boys & Girls Club also needs assistance in the form of manpower. There is a need for quarterly **cleaning and repair**. Due to budget cuts, the entire janitorial staff has been eliminated. The girls' bathroom at one of their facilities is in need of repair. That building also needs some repair to the gym floor.
- In the Fall of 2011, they are beginning an **evening meal program**. On Tuesday and Thursday evenings they will be providing free dinners. The food is free, but they greatly need help with meal preparation. If they can get enough help with this program, they may be able to offer the meals on other evenings in addition to Tuesdays and Thursdays.
- The Club also needs **tutors** to help the children with their studies. They need reading coaches as well as regular mentors.
- **Mentors** simply may be asked to come and play with the children.

- There is a need for **Event Volunteers** also. These volunteers could help with a golf tournament or an auction.
- Kelly told us that there is a need for help with **projects** also. They need help with monthly birthday parties. They are in need of help with building a playground. The Boys & Girls Club has a Teen Night Program that they need help with. Other projects that require some help from the Lakeland community include various types of concrete work, Awards Banquet, Daddy/Daughter Dance, Shoe Drive, Winter Coat Drive, and Backpack Drive. They also need an emergency bus backup in case their bus breaks down.

The Boys & Girls Club of Lakeland & Mulberry also greatly appreciates financial contributions. There is always a need for additional funds to help facilitate the services that they provide. The Club provides scholarships to members. The cost to a family for a child to go the Boys & Girls Club is \$15 per week. Families are not charged more than \$30 per week regardless of how many members of the family attend, so financial contributions are very helpful. There is also a program provided by the Boys & Girls Club called Smart Moves. This program teaches and encourages teens in regard to drug and alcohol prevention. It also promotes an early abstinence program for teens. This is a sixteen week program. It occurs three times a year. Financial contributions are also needed for facility costs including utilities, maintenance, and insurance.

The Boys & Girls Club of Lakeland & Mulberry is clearly making a difference in many young people's lives in our community. There is a multitude of ways that this is happening. Through these varied programs, it is serving more than 2,000 children and teenagers. These young people are being empowered through the Boys & Girls Club. They are learning that they, rather than their circumstances, will determine their future. Through learning and self discipline, they can and will have a better life. It is also clear that our church can help the Boys & Girls Club of Lakeland & Mulberry achieve its mission. There are many ways, both big and small, that St. Paul can provide assistance to this organization. Whether in the form of materials donations, manpower, or project assistance, we can help change lives through a relationship with the Boys & Girls Club of Lakeland & Mulberry.

Contact

Director of Development is Kelly Lane.

Address: www.bgclakeland.com

Phone: 863-686-1719

4 area clubs:

Badcock Club: 305 First Ave NE Mulberry 425-0130

Musso Club: 950 Pinewood Ave LkInd 683-3371

Sanders Club: 1525 MKL Ave LkInd 686-0721

Schowe Club: 920 Lowry Ave LkInd 665-3864

Report submitted by David Cheyne



CancerCare

A Mission Agency founded @ St Paul Lutheran Church of Lakeland, Florida

Mission Statement

The CancerCare team is a Christ-centered, caring and trusting group for those who have had cancer, or are going through it now, and the caregivers, who are needing prayer, support, and love. As Christ so loved us, we will love one another.



Purpose

The primary focus of the CancerCare members is the well-being of others, as most have dealt directly with cancer. Their experience allows them to offer guidance as to care, life style changes, and the power of positive thinking and the love of Christ as the process of getting well progresses. There is power in knowledge, as well as in love, comfort, and support.

There are many difficult decisions to be faced as one goes through cancer treatment. The support of someone who has been there and done that can be a great help. Belief in getting well is critically important. Survivors provide the power for that belief.

What do you eat? How do you rest when in pain? How do you overcome what at first seems overwhelming? Survivors help with these questions. They have credibility.

Study Subjects

Where is God when it Hurts by Philip Yancey
Bible in 90 Days, a Church-wide study
The Life you've Always Wanted by Jon Ortberg
FEARLESS by Max Lucado
Fighting Cancer with Faith by Scott Schmiebing
Cancer Support Group Program

Support Projects & Agencies

Relay for Life

Contact

Leader: Sharon Penglase / Sandra Walker

Phone: 647-1929 / 682-6390

Address: 1723 David Crum Ct., 33813 / 1205 Hunt Ave. 33801



Elder Point

Elder Point - Currently serving 585 seniors in the Lakeland area.

- Food and produce pantry for the elderly is done on the last Saturday of the month and is always in need of volunteers.
- House keeping volunteers are always needed to assist the elderly maintaining their apartment to the standards of the complex owners, or risk eviction.
- Things we take for granted, such as changing a light bulb, washing the owner's small pet, or simple conversation. God commands we care for our elderly, and that includes emotionally as well as physically.
- Transportation is always a need. Transportation to medical appointments being the greatest need.
- Hand made holiday cards are a huge hit with this group and are easily made by the little one's at our church.
- Light yard work is always a need.

In closing, I find that Elder Point truly is being led by our Lord. I think a motivated small group could change the lives of those who are most of lonely and feeling forgotten.

(Faith In Action - This ministries' name was changed. They are now called "Elder Point". See above.)



Contact

Jane Hammond 863-682-7249
Address: 1111 S. Florida Ave.
Lakeland, FL 33801

Any questions or for additional info
please call me:

Report submitted by Nick Dame

Fellowship of Christian Athletes

Since 1954, the Fellowship of Christian Athletes has challenged athletes and coaches to impact the world for Jesus Christ. The Mission Statement of Fellowship of Christian Athletes is, "To present to athletes and coaches and all whom they influence the challenge and adventure of receiving Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, serving Him in their relationships and in the fellowship of the church." Their Core Values are Integrity, Serving, Teamwork, and Excellence. Their Vision Statement is, "To see the world impacted for Jesus Christ through the influence of athletes and coaches."

Carol told us that the Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) is centered around the Four C's. These are Coaches Ministry, Campus Ministry, Camp Ministry, and Community Ministry. FCA encourages and equips coaches to be role models in knowing and serving Christ. FCA ministers to coaches at every level through its Heart of a Coach program, outreach events, training and resources. The FCA's outreach events include programs at national and local coaches' conventions.

Resources include coach-specific Bibles and devotionals. In addition to FCA staff discipling and mentoring coaches, FCA provides marriage weekends and retreats.

The FCA Campus Ministry is initiated and led by student-athletes and coaches on junior high (middle school), high school, and college campuses. FCA's goal is to enable student-athletes to know and grow in their faith in Christ and to encourage their peers to do the same. The FCA's programs include Huddles (school clubs), team Bible studies, assembly programs, prayer groups, chapel programs, TeamFCA Membership, FCA One Way 2 Play – Drug Free program and Fields of Faith. The interesting and unique thing about the FCA Campus Ministry is that students can have a Huddle (FCA Group) on the campus of a public school even though the FCA is a Christian organization. The meetings of these groups of students can take place before or after school as well as during school hours. A coach or teacher must serve as the Huddle Leader.

The FCA Camp Ministry provides for a time of "inspiration and perspiration" for athletes and coaches to reach their potential by offering comprehensive athletic, spiritual and leadership training. FCA offers over 260 camps including Sports Camps, Leadership Camps, Coaches Camps, Youth Sports Camps called Power Camps, Team Camps, and Partnership Camps.

The FCA Community Ministry is not school-based. The programs which are part of the Community Ministry are made possible through partnerships with parents, volunteers, local churches, and businesses. The dramatic growth of club, league, and church sports presents a significant opportunity for FCA. FCA has established many sport-specific ministries including Golf, Lacrosse, Baseball, Health and Fitness, Motocross, Endurance, Skateboarding, Hockey, Cheerleading, and Surfing as part of its Community Ministry.

Carol let us know that there are a number of ways that St. Paul could provide assistance to the FCA locally. One of the key things that would help establish a relationship between St. Paul Lutheran Church and School and Fellowship of Christian Athletes would be to establish a Huddle on our campus. There are also a number of local camps that FCA sponsors through its FCA Camp Ministry. These camps are always in need of volunteers to help. Sports are a great way to build and maintain relationships. It is providing a great doorway for Christians to minister to young people as well as adults on public school campuses in Central Florida and all over the United States. The FCA is achieving its Vision of seeing the world impacted for Jesus Christ through the influence of athletes and coaches alike. Our church can play a significant part in growing the Kingdom of God by offering our help to the Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

Contact

Carol Prevatt, Administrative Assistant for FCA of West Central Florida & Tampa Bay

Report submitted by David Cheyne

Florida Baptist Children's Homes

The Florida Baptist Children's Homes is a faith-based 501(c)3 nonprofit organization dedicated to providing Christ-centered services to children and families in need. The Children's Homes has been serving abused, neglected, and orphaned children since 1904. We have four major service areas: campus ministries, community ministries, adult developmental ministries, and Orphan's heart.

Adoption It is a joyous occasion when we are able to help a child in need of a family find a permanent Christian family of their own. The Children's Homes work closely with prospective adoptive parents and orphaned children to help facilitate a smooth transition to the new family arrangement. Our social workers provide counseling, supervise legal matters, and work with biological parents and others involved.

Foster Care Foster parents play a critical role in the care and development of abused, neglected and orphaned children. Being a foster parent is a vital ministry to precious children who often come from tragic circumstances. Foster care placements can either be short-term or long-term depending on the unique circumstances of the child. While a child is in foster care we work with the child's family to remediate the problems that caused the child to be removed, and if possible, reunite the child with their parents. In many cases, foster children go on to be placed in permanent adoptive homes.

Emergency Shelter Florida Baptist Children's Homes provides Emergency Shelter for school-age children at the Lakeland campus. The shelter is a 24-hour intake facility that's designed for short-term care of boys and girls who are in a crisis and need immediate placement. These children may be homeless, abused, abandoned, neglected, or caught up in an insurmountable family conflict. Because of the emergency nature of the situations, admission procedures are streamlined so these children can be accepted almost immediately.

The shelter is a group-living, family-style cottage similar to the ones in our Residential Care, except it can accommodate up to 12 children at a time. It is staffed with child care workers who work in shifts but don't live there; these staff meet the same requirements as our Residential child care workers. Emergency Shelter Care provides for the children's food, clothing, shelter, transportation, education, spiritual needs, etc.

When a child is living in our shelter, one of our social workers/case workers develops a Service Plan and meets with all of the interested parties — the child, his or her family, other social service agencies, court personnel, etc. — to arrange for counseling if warranted, to advocate on the child's behalf, and to decide what long-term living arrangements would be in the child's best interest. Regarding the latter, sometimes the decision is to transfer him or her to Residential Care, Foster Care or another Florida Baptist Children's Homes program, if and when space becomes available.

Adult Developmental Services The Florida Baptist Children's Homes provides loving care for adults that are developmentally delayed. God watches over these special people and uses our ministry to provide for their unique needs. Our caregivers are highly skilled and have a passion and calling for this ministry. The adults we care for struggle in many areas of life, but they light up with joy whenever they see someone they know. They consider everyone they meet a new friend.

Orphan's Heart Orphan's Heart is an international childcare program that was established by the Florida Baptist Children's Homes in 2008. Our work focuses on providing for the physical and spiritual needs of orphaned and disadvantaged children in the developing world.

Our core strategy focuses on sending short-term mission teams to our priority locations. In the few short years since we started, hundreds of volunteers have traveled with us on one or more of our many weeklong mission trips.

We primarily work alongside locals and help them improve the level of care for the children they serve. We work to improve the safety and security of the children and help improve conditions to foster better health and sanitation.

We need people who can help with light construction work, painting, and other similar tasks. We also need people who simply delight in feeding and holding babies and interacting with children of all ages. We encourage you to prayerfully consider joining one of our many mission trips this year. It's an amazing opportunity where you can truly make a difference in the lives of precious children who are desperate for sweet loving care from God's people!

Maternity Foster Care In some situations, it may be determined that an unwed pregnant girl would be best served by living in one of the Christian, private Maternity Foster Care homes we license and maintain throughout the state. Maternity foster parents serve as substitute parents, offering a supportive family lifestyle through the pregnancy and, in some cases, the postpartum period.

Residential Care Our campuses serve school-age boys and girls in group-living, family-style residences, which we sometimes refer to as "cottages." Typically, there are bedrooms for one, two, or three children each, a family room, living room, kitchen and laundry room. Each residence accommodates up to eight children at a time, and each is staffed with live-in Christian child care workers.

Safe Families The Safe Families program is different from foster care in that it does not require involvement with the Florida Department of Children and Families, the state child welfare department. The parents suffering from a crisis situation voluntarily place their children with a Safe Families home and continue to maintain custody of their child.

Contact

Leader: Eron Green,
Central Florida Administrator
Phone: 863-687-8811
Address: www.FBCHomes.org

(To help in offices, cottages, grounds keeping and maintenance, call 863-688-4981)

Report submitted by Jim Robertson



Kobe Ellis, a former St. Paul student, (center top) was recently adopted by the Ellis family through FBCH.

Girls Inc.

Girls Incorporated is a nonprofit organization that inspires all girls to be strong, smart, and bold through a network of local organizations in the United States and Canada. With local roots dating to 1864 and national status in the U.S. since 1945, Girls Inc. responds to the changing needs of girls and their communities through research-based programs and advocacy that empower girls to reach their full potential and to understand, value, and assert their rights. In 2009, Girls Inc. reached over 900,000 girls through Girls Inc. affiliates, our website, and educational publications.

Girls Inc of Lakeland was founded 40 Years ago. Their current facility was built in 1988. It is located next door to the Boys & Girls Club, although there is no affiliation.

The mission is to inspire girls to be smart, bold, and strong. The primary programs are “After-school” and “Summer Camp”. The mechanisms of inspiration are education, training, support, caring, and recreation. The girls are supervised during afternoons and evening during the school year; and all day in the summer. There are outreach programs also, such as Pregnancy Prevention and “Stepping Stones” which is a physical fitness program.

Volunteers Needed

A great opportunity to serve is the Board of Directors. Currently there are six positions open. Board members, believing in the mission, guide and direct the program, budget, and funding in addition to active participation. There is a selection / election process. The membership is diverse in age and background. Many are or have been teachers or business leaders. Some are retired but in need of fulfilling work. Others have a passion for helping or fund raising.

There is a need for teachers and volunteers to supervise the girls in various activities. Tutors in reading and math are needed for every student. There is particular focus on those who are weak in these areas. As a United Way Agency there is performance measurement. The girls must pass FCAT.

Mentors provide leadership, counseling, and support through both work and play, building a bond with individual girls. Role models are critical to helping a child grow and develop into a responsible adult.

Presenters are needed for seminars, Bible Study, and demonstrations in science, as well as cooking and sewing. Professional women in the science, medical, and engineering fields can motivate young girls to spread their wings. An Astronomy buff could lead them to the stars. A computer programmer could teach classes on computer usage.

Cooks are also needed for meal events. Girls Inc receives some supplies from Agape Food Bank to feed the 35 to 40 girls who stay past 6 PM during the school year.

For those who can offer financial support, there is always the wish list (currently being updated) and the need for supplies. Netbook computers are needed as well as ongoing website maintenance. Best of all is the “Power of Nine” program. A girl can attend summer camp for a day for \$9. Each additional \$9 is another day. There is always someone in need of a little help.

Want to “adopt” a family? Some Mother’s (or a grandmother) may be in need of a support family; a couple who can provide friendship, counsel, and moral support as needed for someone who is struggling financially or otherwise in raising a young girl alone.

Courtesy is a strong focus of the program. Girls and parents are expected to offer warm greetings upon arrival and leaving. Proper addressing of adults is expected. A courteous atmosphere is immediately noticeable upon entering the building.

Are you a coach? Many are needed – basketball, volleyball, softball, etc. Even the men can qualify for this area of volunteer support.

The Vision for Tomorrow

The wish list includes new lockers and computers and, most importantly, new buses. Hopefully the future will include the ability to maintain our buses.

Organize and catalogue the library! Any librarians out there?

Expand Girls Inc’s presence in South Lakeland (Edgewood to 540A) .

Expand Girls Inc to a new facility in Bartow.

Build an outside pavilion and basketball court.

Contact

Kay Fields, President/CEO

Address: 1220 West Highlands St., Lakeland, 33802

Mailing: P. O. Box 1975

Phone: 863-682-3002, ext. 222

Report submitted by Jim & Carla Robertson



The Homeless Coalition of Polk County

Report on this agency for the Community Insight program

(The following information was excerpted from the HCOPC website. At this time we must assume that this agency is permanently de-funded.)

Governor Scott's Proposed Budget for HCOPC

- 1) Eliminates all Challenge Grant funding which supports local homeless and prevention services. This year 28 continuums received a total of \$2,031,354 to provide these desperately needed services.
- 2) Eliminates all staffing grants for local homeless coalitions. This year homeless coalitions each received \$12,600 each to support office operations with a total of \$345,729 provided state-wide.
- 3) Eliminates the Office on Homelessness along with two (2) staff positions and funding for the Governor's Council on Homelessness. This year the funding level is \$436,353 to provide the state support necessary to make local CoCs and coalitions successful.
- 4) Eliminates the Homeless Housing Assistance Grant program. This year \$3 million was granted to 6 local communities to create 348 units of housing for homeless individuals and families.
- 5) Does not restore the Homeless Grant-in-Aid program which had provided 80% of all state funding to local coalitions until de-funded 2 years ago.
- 6) Prohibits state funding from being used to support Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Programs throughout the state.
- 7) Raids and eliminates the state's (Sadowski) affordable housing trust fund; instead an estimated \$37.5 million in documentary stamp revenue in the trust fund for 2011-2012 would be swept into the General Revenue.
- 8) And in the final blow, the Governor's proposal repeals the authorizing legislation for the State Office of Homelessness, the Council on Homelessness, Challenge Grant program and Homeless Housing Assistance Grant program. If adopted, these innovative, progressive Florida homeless initiatives--10 years in the making--would come to an end on July 1, 2011.

Thank you for your dedication to continuing to serve those most in need in our community.

Phone: 863-687-8386

International Students

International Students, Inc. (ISI) is a Christian ministry reaching out in friendship to international university students here in the USA. There are more than three-quarters of a million such students here from almost every country in the world! They are the “best and the brightest” from their countries and will probably be future leaders and influencers there. When they come here, they are often homesick, unfamiliar with our culture and very eager to make American friends and practice their English. It is a “divine opportunity” to impact their lives in the name of Jesus and it is as simple as welcoming them into our lives! These students do NOT live with families, but individuals and families commit to being a “Friendship Partner” which means being a special friend to them – inviting them into our homes for dinner, helping them navigate our culture and as they show interest, sharing our own experiences of our faith with them. We work with Florida Southern College and the USF Polytechnic here in Lakeland and are always looking for new Friendship Partners, as new students come every semester.

(Introduction to idea only. No contact information/person yet.)

Lakeland Police Department

The meeting was held in the police offices. In attendance were: Bill Lepere, Jim Robertson and Lee Neemann.

The purpose of the meeting was to hear Chief Leperes' thoughts on how St. Paul Lutheran Church and School could best connect with the community.

Chief Lepere stressed the need for community partnerships and community participation within the social fabric of Lakeland. As far as areas for our group's participation, he listed several services, most of which we already have on our list, such as: Police Athletic League, Freedom Center, AMI Kids. He also expressed concern for other areas such as: gang intervention, victim's aid and the homeless population. He spoke of the need for social environmental changes and cited four needs to effect social change: functional family environment, education, employment and an effective justice system. He also mentioned the Chaplain Corps, which currently has 8 or 9 local pastors participating.

Chief Lepere encouraged participation in the citizen's academy which is a mini-police training effort for any citizen of Lakeland. The next class will begin in August, 2011, and will meet one night a week with graduation in November. He will mail us additional information and applications.

Chief Lepere expressed gratitude for our efforts in community outreach, and thanked us for meeting with him today.

Report submitted by Lee Neemann

Light House Ministries

Lighthouse Ministries, Inc. was started in 1977 to serve the last, the least, and the lost. Our biggest desire is to see those individuals we serve to reach an overall outcome of God's peace, life purpose, and fulfillment of potential. We go to where the need is, whether it's on the streets, in our stores, or in the community.

Lighthouse Ministries is a Life & Learning Campus For Men, Women, and Children who need a place of refuge to begin a new life. We serve Central Florida with the hope of impacting lives for Jesus by giving food, clothing, shelter, childcare, education and job placement.

The Men's Gospel Rescue Mission

The Lighthouse Ministries Men's Rescue Mission is equipped to serve the homeless and at-risk in Lakeland. Doors open at 3:30 p.m. daily to serve those who need a meal, a hot shower, and a warm bed. During their stay, there is an afternoon chapel service where local pastors share the gospel message. All are served a hearty snack, a hot dinner and breakfast, and a new change of clothes during their stay.

There is no charge for the first three visits at our Rescue Mission monthly. The fee is \$10/nightly after that, however dinner and chapel services are served at no charge. Women and children are welcome to attend our chapel service and dinner, but only men may stay overnight. Counseling and discipleship is available.

Photo identification is required to check in. There is no drinking, drug use, or cursing allowed on campus. Each guest is allowed to store two bags in the baggage room for the evening, but they must be taken with them upon leaving. The mission is open 365 days a year. For additional information, contact us at (863)687-4076 x252. Our **One Stop Care for Men Program** is also housed in the Rescue Mission at 117 E. Magnolia St.

Serving is a Ministry

Whether it involves working in the kitchen, at the front desk, sorting clothes at the Thrift Shoppe, giving someone a haircut, or preparing and handing out food boxes, volunteering provides many opportunities to share the love of Christ and help those in need. All volunteers must fill out an application and pass a simple background check. You can fill out the form online, download the application, or call 863-687-4076 to learn more! Once completed, printed applications can be mailed to P.O. Box 3112, Lakeland, FL. 33802. Minors under 18 years of age must send in the Parental Consent Form with their application. Parental permission is required to be considered. Minors 16 years of age and under must be accompanied by a parent or guardian when volunteering.

Contact

Phone: (863)687-4076 (813)377-3977

Mailing address: PO Box 3112, Lakeland, FL 33802

Physical address: 215 E. Magnolia St. Lakeland, FL 33801

Noah's Ark

At 11:45 on Thursday June 22nd an interview was performed with representatives of "Noah's Ark," an organization of parents of moderately mentally and functionally disabled persons who are admitted to the organization between age 18 and 35 years.

Present at the meeting in representation of the organization were the Director: Mr. Jack Kosik and Board Member: Ms. Margaret McNutt.

Representing St. Paul Lutheran were Mr. Jeff Brekke, Dr. Lawrence Cook, and Pastor Ron Pennekamp.

The guests were greeted by Pastor Ron and Mr. Brekke, and the reason for the interview was explained by Larry Cook.

Mr. Kosik proceeded to explain the genesis of their relatively young organization which has few similar organizations nationally - that is, ones that provide a "holistic" approach to the care and raising of disabled children in contrast to warehousing them. Mr. Kosik caught our attention with the statement that: "Most parents of mentally disabled children would hope that their children would pass away before they as parents do!" The reason for this is the relative paucity of caring individuals into whose hands that their children's care would fall, upon parental demise. It should be noted that both Mr. Kosik and Ms. McNutt have such children and the passion both of them have for the Noah's Ark organization and its mission was immediately palpable. Dr. Cook mentioned the fact that he has been to the high school graduation party of Ms. McNutt's son at which time he met many of the children of this organization. He mentioned how stunned he was when one lovely young disabled daughters of the organization stood up at the party and sang "Somewhere Over the Rainbow" with enormous confidence and poise. Tears immediately came to Jack Kosik's eyes, as that young lady happened to be his daughter. Jack's pride in his daughter was palpable!

The Noah's Ark organization has a series of group homes in the area located behind First Methodist Church, near Lake Morton. Here, with supervision, the young people live, some having jobs in the community. This is the first housing project of Noah's Ark, but through significant effort, the organization has obtained 56 acres of land on the north end of Lakeland Hills Blvd., on Hwy 33, near I-4. The plan for this land is to construct group homes for mentally disabled children in a square configuration with front porches facing away from the street (inward) to encourage interpersonal socialization of the residents. In the center of this large block of homes would be an activity center for the use of the residents. There would be multiple "house mothers and/or fathers" who would keep watch over the children, supervise food preparation, school attendance, jobs, social and physical activities, etc. There are very few of these "holistic" care organizations nationally, but there is one north of Chicago, IL, that has served as a model for Noah's Ark. That organization has existed since 1961, so some of their residents are actually becoming old enough that they are anticipating the need for a nursing home facility for the residents in the near future. This organization has been very helpful to Noah's Ark; helping them to envision the future of their organization.

When asked what a small group from St. Paul Lutheran could do for their organization, several thoughts came to their mind:

1. If possible, a dedicated small group could be educated in the care and needs of these children and could spend some time supervising one of the group

homes to give parents and administrators some time to themselves to achieve personal tasks. Mr. Kosik related the fact that one family had not had a vacation from the constant care of their child in 18 years.

2. The organization is thinking of planting a large garden on part of their 56 acres and they were wondering if some help could be obtained in setting up that program. We informed Jack of the fact that Pastor Yang is a master of this, and that perhaps he could help them to understand how to set up such a garden - which they see as helping to feed both their own, but also as a potential source of fresh foods for hungry families of Lakeland.
3. Jack also told us that the mere inclusion of Noah's Ark and its mission in the conversations of the members of St. Paul Lutheran would be helpful to help people to know of their existence and mission, and thereby help with charitable fund raising as well as making other families who were in need of these services aware that there was an organization to provide such an opportunity. All parents of disabled children who become part of the organization are expected to put their shoulder to the wheels that make it work.
4. Mentoring of the children by reading to and with them and helping with school work and participation in their various social events, would also be helpful. There are actually many ways that a dedicated small group could help with the work of this fine organization.

We made it known to both Mr. Kosik and Ms. McNutt that these interviews were exploratory in nature and that the leadership of St. Paul Lutheran had no intention of dictating HOW or WHETHER any small group would participate with any of the some 30 organizations that are being interviewed. We thank the representatives of Noah's Ark for their passionate and dedicated work and their fine presentation of the organization. Pastor led a final prayer of thanks for the organization and the possibility for us to consider them for small group intervention. The meeting was completed at 1 P.M.

Contact

Director: Mr. Jack Kosik
Board Member: Ms. Margaret McNutt
Address: www.noahsarkflorida.com
Phone: 863-687-0804

Report submitted by Dr. Larry Cook



Parker Street Ministries

This report is on one of my favorite Ministries here in Lakeland. It is unique, energetic, and over-flowing with love and caring. Being involved in any way is a heart-warming, life-changing experience that you will never forget.

Describing the demographics is difficult. What you see the most of is children, and, perhaps, they are the ones who will benefit the most in the long run. But the beneficiaries are every home, every property, every citizen, and even some who are addicted. Every soul touched by this ministry is lifted up.

What would a Community Group do in mission here? Well, certainly the three basics of Outreach Ministry; willing hands, strong backs, and loving arms are in high demand.

- We could hammer and nail, clean & paint, rake and mow & weed to our heart's content and our body's limits.
- Teaching and coaching, and supervising playtime are all needed.
- Do you have a craft or service idea? Parker Street Ministries would like the neighborhood children to learn to give to and serve others and not always be on the receiving end. Could your group design and supervise an activity that would help them give to others?
- Groups could plan and host a family night with games, movies and popcorn. Adult men will be needed for basketball nights in the fall.
- If you like to cook and bake, meals and cookies are still the best way to anyone's heart.

Review the list of ministries, needs and wishes on the pages following from Parker Street. Consider the many volunteer opportunities. Does something fit your group?

Remember M.O.R.E. --- **M**any **O**pportunities **R**emain **E**verywhere

Report submitted by Jim Robertson

What Parker Street Ministries does:

Parker Street Ministries, Inc. (PSM) is a Christ-centered, nonprofit [501(c)(3)] organization committed to individual, family, and community restoration, reconciliation, and revitalization in Lakeland's Parker Street community. The Parker Street neighborhood is defined by Memorial Boulevard to the north and the in-town bypass to the south. It extends east from Massachusetts Avenue to roughly the Lake Parker Avenue area.

Academic Enrichment Program

The Academic Enrichment Program (AEP) is a volunteer-supported program and consists of homework help, small group learning activities, one-on-one mentoring, supplemental and basic skills education, and Bible study. The students in the program have the opportunity to participate in outdoor activities and club time with fun activities on Friday afternoons. This program operates Monday-Friday afternoons during the school year. In 2010, for the third consecutive school year, all children enrolled in the program passed to the next grade level at the end of the school year.

Summer Camp

The Summer Camp provides experiences in extracurricular activities, i.e. art, cooking, sewing, sports, and wood working; daily Bible lessons; one-on-one reading help; and academic skill-building activities for elementary and middle school students. Summer camp operates for eight weeks June through August, Monday-Friday 9am – 3pm.

Adult Bible Study

Currently going through the relatable Person of Jesus study by Paul Miller, PSM offers a time of fellowship and study on Wednesday nights to the residents. Everyone eats dinner together, and then adults are able to focus on learning as childcare is provided. Discussion and prayer requests are a large part of the Bible Study.

Neighborhood Parties

Three times a year we gather as a community and have food, games, and a great time together! Typically these parties are themes Easter Egg Hunt, Summer Splash, and Fall Festival.

Neighborhood Mercy

PSM provides financial and physical support for neighborhood residents with whom the ministry has established relationships. The support includes a range of services from assistance with utility payments to home repair.

Housing Initiative

In its infancy, the endeavor to revitalize the Parker Street neighborhood through home renovation and construction has resulted in PSM's ownership of two homes. It is PSM's intention to assist residents to qualify for home ownership and sell these rehabilitated homes to neighborhood families which in turn will give the families a sense of pride and community ownership. The ultimate goal of the housing initiative is to reduce turnover and student/family relocation rates often caused by the continual escalation of rent and poor housing conditions.

Christmas Store

The Christmas Store operates two weekends in December and allows parents in the neighborhood the opportunity to purchase new toys for a fraction of the retail cost. At the 2010 Christmas Store 1,562 gifts were sold, 204+ children received gifts, 80+ kids shopped for their parents, 84+ neighborhood families participated, and 210 volunteers made it happen.

Academic Enrichment Program – Once a week tutoring • Aug – May

- We ask for a commitment per semester for a reoccurring schedule, preferably once a week.
- Tutors should be high school and up.
- Background check and one-time training are required. Trainings are held once a month.
- The available times to volunteer are Monday through Thursday 4:15-6:15pm.
- Responsibilities include: tutoring, homework help, and setting a godly example for the kids.

Summer Camp Program – Once a week tutoring • June – Aug

- We ask for a commitment for a reoccurring schedule of tutoring, preferably once a week.
- Tutors should be high school and up.
- Background check and one-time training are required. Trainings are held once a month.
- The available times to volunteer are Mon-Fri 9am-12pm or 1-3pm for eight weeks.
- We also need volunteers to lead extracurricular classes from 1-3pm the last four weeks (Ex: cooking, music, sports, etc).
- Responsibilities include: tutoring, academic help, and setting a godly example for the kids.

Bible Study Meals – Wednesdays • Include your kids

- Provide a simple dinner for 60+ people (30 adults/30 kids). Preparation and delivery of food only. Drop off at 6:15pm. There is currently no kitchen at the facility.

Neighborhood Mercy – Improvement Projects • 1x Project • Include your kids

- Clean up (i.e. trash pickup, lawn care, etc).
- Responding to homes with Code Violations (i.e. paint, replace windows/doors, re-roof homes, install lattice, etc).

Events – Various • 1x Project • Include your kids

- Neighborhood Parties (i.e. Easter Egg Hunt, Summer Splash, Fall Festival, etc).
- Gathering toys for the Christmas Store or spearheading a toy drive with your organization.

Christmas Store – 2nd & 3rd Weekends in December • Include your kids

- Donate toys (new, in original packaging, unwrapped) or money for toys.
- Volunteer at the store. Ages 17 and under must be accompanied by an adult.

If you would like to help financially, please make checks payable to Parker Street Ministries. Please always remember us in your prayers!

Contact

Volunteer opportunities: contact Hannah

Address: P.O. Box 433

Lakeland, FL 33802

admin@parkerstreetministries.org / www.parkerstreetministries.org

Phone: 863.682.4544 · Fax: 863.603.7779

Peace River Center

After introducing our concept, Bennie Allred explained the care that must be exercised by a Public Agency in managing direct volunteers. PRC cannot initiate or give clients direction that would imply choosing one religion or faith over another. The discussion emphasized the importance of those issues raised in our early planning meetings. We must be sure that we do careful training in the issues of confidentiality and proselytizing.

Direct volunteers are the responsibility of PRC when acting on their behalf. There is specific protocol requiring training. There are clear limits on what is said and done. This would be a difficult interface for a Community Group. However there are many direct volunteers and this is certainly a wonderful opportunity for an individual person or couple as a personal (as opposed to a group) mission.

There is a role for an independent group. It would be supportive to the activities of PCR but not directed by PCR personnel. A support role would be a decision made by a client or their family, not a recommendation or decision by PCR. However support and follow-up activities could be very helpful to the client and their family, and PCR could provide information to a client for their consideration. . If contact between the ministry group and the client is made, the client would need to initiate it.

A Community Group could define their own support activities as their mission. This might include meals, transportation, baby-sitting, cleaning, maintenance, tutoring, etc. If the SPLC Group provided a flyer with contact information, then PRC could give out the flyer to clients who might want or who have asked for help.

PRC has a huge mission in Polk County serving many varied needs. There is always more to be done, more needs to be met, room for improvement. Polk County should be in the 80th percentile nationwide, not 45th. The pathway to improvement without more funding is difficult to define. How volunteer groups could serve in that improvement is not defined at this point in time. However PRC is willing to take those first steps with us. Together we can find a pathway to improvement. The opportunities are endless. The benefits to our community could be endless also.

A PRC Annual Report and program brochures were provided in a packet during the meeting. This report contains a lot of information on the various PRC activities. The report will be available for your review in the Church office.

Contact

Volunteer opportunities: Bennie Allred, Cathy Hatch of PRC

Administrative Offices: 1239 East Main Street – Bartow

Phone: 863-647-4224

(Volunteers at PRC are needed to assist customers, create displays and sort donations @ the Thrift Shoppe that benefits domestic violence victims and mental health consumers at Peace River Center).

Report submitted by Jim Robertson

Polk County Sheriff's Dept.

The meeting was held in the main offices of the Polk County Sheriff's Department. In attendance were Deborah A. Moore, Crime Prevention Administrator, Office of Communications, Scott H. Wilder, Director, Office of Communications, Robert J. Groover, Volunteer Services Coordinator, Crime Prevention Unit, Tina Potts, Volunteer Services Specialist, Crime Prevention Unit, Pastor Ron Pennekamp and Lee Neemann.

The purpose of the meeting was to hear their thoughts on how the members of St. Paul Lutheran Church and School could best connect with our community.

Scott opened the meeting by stating the PCSD, as a law enforcement group, is primarily responsible for crime prevention and law enforcement. As far as volunteer areas, he mentioned the jail system needs people to minister to the inmates – not just for religious ministry, but also teaching and mentoring them for life skills. In that same vein, he stated they will soon be given responsibility for the juvenile detention center, which will probably be located in Bartow. The young people housed there will also need the same type of ministry services. Involvement in these programs would require the department do a criminal background check.

The volunteers they now supervise are almost entirely all involved in the Citizen's Assisted Patrol Program, which is a "super-charged" Neighborhood Watch. They are semi-motorized units and they cover a large territory. They currently have approximately 3000 of those volunteers in Polk County.

Scott stressed the need for more summer programs for youth, as well as after school programs. In the summer, the crime rate increases for those youth in their teens.

As far as other areas of volunteerism, Scott suggested we visit Peace River Project, which is already on our schedule. They have volunteers who knit "Boo Boo Blankets" to be carried in all deputies' cars to be used as comfort in tragic situations involving children. They also carry Teddy Bears.

Occasionally, they need volunteers for electronic information gathering, which generally involves listening to tapes of prison inmate telephone conversations. The purpose is to gather information on criminal activities.

Scott discussed the PCSD Chaplain Program. Chaplains go with police to comfort families when they are being notified of a family tragedy.

Both groups present felt the meeting was beneficial. Pastor Pennekamp closed with prayer.

Report submitted by Lee Neemann

Police Athletic League

The purpose of the Lakeland Police Athletic League is to foster and encourage in the youth of the community a spirit of loyalty and faith in American traditions and institutions. It is open to boys and girls, ages 4 through 17.

Among other goals, PAL seeks to promote and safeguard the interests and general welfare of the youth of the community; to instill good health habits, good sportsmanship, and high morals and civic standards in the youth of the community, to help fulfill the need for recreational, educational and social activities that are designed to rehabilitate youthful first-time offenders and prevent their return into the criminal justice system. (Be sure to view the website video.)

Fees are charged per activity. The PAL offers a Golden Eagles baseball program, track and field program and a tackle football program.

The club also has a Youth Directors' Program for 11-17 year olds. The club offers community service and field trips.

Activities that volunteers from SPLC could support are assisting with homework, coaching athletics, teaching independence and responsibility, and leadership. PAL has a leadership program for kids 11 to 17. PAL kids are involved in feeding the Homeless, painting and maintenance for those in need. The program emphasis is working and playing together and exposure to new and different experiences beyond their current limits.



The club is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Monday to Friday all year long, except holidays.

The "PAL Volunteer Application Form" is available on the St. Paul website @ MemberConnect, click on "documents."

Contact

For more information, contact Tim Abram, or Officer Greg Hardee
Phone: 863-834-2556
Address: 1725 Martin Luther King Jr. Ave., Lakeland, FL

Polk County Schools

Areas of concern for Polk County Schools superintendent:

- Improve graduation rate of male students, primarily of ethnic background to have the support they need to be successful after graduation in the community. 60% of single parent homes there is no adult male support or involvement.

Current projects underway to address this issue

- Tim Williams from Christ Community Church in Winter Haven, offers, Polk under prayer, praying for correcting issues and agency support to stop things that are hurting students.
- Sheldon Katsoff is mentoring nine male minority students at Mulberry Middle School and has trained other men at the school to have a total of 27 students being mentored. Through this they have a mentoring program for male students. Mentoring in the school system is primarily K-8th grade. Commitment is for one year. Once a week at the school for one hour mentoring individually or with a small group of three boys. Mentor training is 2 hrs.
- Another part of his program is a reading program "Real Men Read", for grades four through eight that Sheldon has been doing for the last three years. Mentors read stories of good moral judgment and situations then share as a group. As the older students (8th graders) take to the program they in turn work with the younger students as student mentors/leaders.
- They work closely with "Big Brothers/ Big Sisters, Boy's and Girl's Club by providing training for elementary ages after school care that continues the school day learning time with a different approach of mixing activities with continued education.
- School funding reduction will eliminate the two trainers at 20hrs/week for the mentoring program. They trained and managed the contacts of the mentors with students, matched mentors with students as well as scheduled meeting times and places at the schools.

Other student needs

- 2011-2012 school year 9th graders will have to have one online virtual class to graduate. 40% of students don't have a computer in the home. Opportunity for organizations to provide computer training and online time will increase. School district currently gives old replaced computers to 22 organizations that set up computer labs to offer the families without computers or internet access the use of the equipment. Medulla school might be a good school to work with for St. Paul's computer lab because of the close proximity and the fact it has a very high percentage of low income students that don't have the computer resources.
- Tutors for parents with little or no education so they can help their own students.
- Parentless high school students, currently five, with no parents or family. Three living by themselves and two living with other siblings.
- Homeless program, Dede Wright coordinator for the homeless students. Currently 1900 homeless students being served, they are living in cars, hotels. Program feeds them at school and sends them home on weekends with a back pack filled with food. Program in 20 schools.

All volunteers must adhere to the volunteer hand book of behavior.

Contact

Superintendent: Margaret Ann Wheeler
Bartow

Report submitted by Jeff Brekke

Salvation Army

Women's Ministries

The ideal basic unit of society is the home and family, where women play a vital and definitive role. Furthermore, as natural providers of hope, women play an important part in shaping society. Therefore any fellowship of women in which Christian influence is exerted and practical help given benefits not only the individual and the family, but also the nation. Women's Ministries provide a program of meetings and other activities based on the fourfold aim of the Army's international women's organization, the Home League, which was inaugurated in 1907. The aims are worship, education, fellowship and service.

The mission of Women's Ministries is to:

- bring women into a knowledge of Jesus Christ
- encourage their full potential in influencing family, friends and community
- equip them for growth in personal understanding and life skills
- address issues which affect women and their families in the world.

The League of Mercy / Community Care Ministries

The League of Mercy began in 1892 in Canada, and is made up of people of all ages whose mission is to engage in a caring ministry. The main objective of the League of Mercy is to respond to the spiritual and social needs of the community. The ministry is adapted according to the local situation, the size of its membership and the skill of its members, and endeavors to follow Christ's injunction, 'Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.' (Matthew 25:40, AV)

The Fellowship of the Silver Star

The Fellowship, inaugurated in the USA in 1930 and extended worldwide in 1936, expresses gratitude to parents or other significant life mentors of Salvation Army officers.

The Salvation Army Medical Fellowship

The Salvation Army Medical Fellowship, instituted in 1943 by Mrs. General Evalina Carpenter, is an international fellowship of dedicated medical personnel. Physical suffering in our world today challenges both the medical as well as the physical and emotional resources of medical personnel. The Fellowship today, with a worldwide membership of 8,257, encourages a Christian witness and application of Christian principles in professional life while at the same time being involved with practical application in hospitals, clinics and various other places of medical care. The motto of the Fellowship is: 'If we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another.' (1 John 1:7, AV).

The Salvation Army Students' Fellowship

The aim of this fellowship is to unite Salvationist students and graduates of universities, colleges and other centers of higher education, in Christian fellowship and such Salvation Army service as may be appropriate.

The Salvation Army Blue Shield Fellowship

In 1974, this fellowship was formed by two British Salvationist policemen to provide friendship and support Christian policemen need as they face the challenges of today. Membership is open to both active and retired police officers and there are members in many different countries.

Contact

Address: 2620 Kathleen Rd. (North) Lakeland

Web: www.salvationarmylakeland.org

Phone: 863-853-2214

Report submitted by Jim Robertson

Talbot House Ministries

Mission

To provide each person who comes to our door with the immediate needs of food, shelter, and clothing. Through an array of services and with the love of God, each person is encouraged to find fulfilment and life anew.



Talbot House Ministries is one of the oldest and most comprehensive homeless care centers in Polk County. We are committed to provide *SHELTER*, *HEALTHCARE*, and *RENEWAL* to the homeless in our community.



History

Talbot House Ministries is named after Matt Talbot, who lived in Dublin, Ireland, from 1856 to 1925. After overcoming a 16 year struggle with alcoholism, Matt became a devout servant of God to the poor and homeless in his community. The story of his life and renewal have become an inspiration to many people around the world.



Talbot House Ministries was founded in 1979 by the Pastors and parishioners of St. Joseph's Church in Lakeland, Florida. After operating as a meal service for the homeless for two years, the organization moved into a building on Massachusetts Ave, and expanded its reach to become a multi-denominationally supported ministry.

Over the next ten years, Talbot House Ministries expanded its programs and services to include a night shelter, a long-term live-in recovery program, and a free medical clinic. In the late 1990's, Talbot House was informed that its building would have to be demolished to make way for the extension of Bartow Highway. After a capital campaign, a new facility was built at our current location in June 2001. Our new facility enabled us to expand the programs and services we offer to the homeless, a growth that continues to this day.

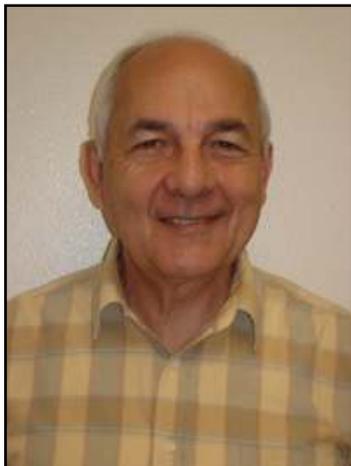


The soup kitchen of early years has now become a multi-service support agency for the poor and homeless. Our legacy and breadth of services make Talbot House Ministries one of the oldest and most comprehensive homeless care centers in Polk County. Our passion is to continue providing SHELTER, HEALTHCARE, and RENEWAL to the Homeless in our community as we have for over 32 years

From the Director's desk

We are excited about the future of Talbot House Ministries, its value to the community, and the services and programs it provides for our neediest citizens. Our passion is to provide Shelter, Healthcare and Renewal to the homeless in our community.

Because of your support we are increasing our ability to provide the homeless with opportunities to improve and renew their lives. Thank you!



Contact

Executive Director: Dr. Tony Fusaro

Phone: 863-687-8475

Address: 814 N. Kentucky Ave., Lakeland, FL 33801

www.talbothouse.org

VISTE - Volunteers In Service To The Elderly

The goal of VISTE is to help the elderly remain safely and independently in their own home.

They serve over 3000 clients, most of who live alone and are at least 70 years old. They are a United Way Sponsored Agency. Most of their clients are gained through referrals. All clients get home visits before they become served. Clients reside in Lakeland, Bartow, Ft. Meade and Mulberry.

The need for services to the elderly is great. Most of us don't realize how much we have and take for granted. For these elderly who are being served, even the simplest of things like going to the doctor is impossible without assistance.

Some of the main areas of service are:

Transportation:

They help clients with transportation to doctor appointments, shopping, hairdresser, barbers. etc. Over 900 trips are made each month. Eleven drivers are paid as they focus on transportation to doctor's appointments. Volunteer drivers are paid for mileage.

Food:

Hot Meals delivered: 200 people receive free hot meals on Tuesdays and Thursdays every week. Commodities are delivered once a month to 1500 clients during the 3rd full week of the month. VISTE operates their own large food bank to supply these foods. Donations are always appreciated.

Home maintenance and repairs:

Minor home repairs to plumbing, septic systems, and the building of wheelchair ramps is coordinated with volunteers. Yard and home cleaning opportunities are coordinated with volunteers.

Seasonal Projects:

400 Personal care boxes are prepared and delivered in June and December
1200 Thanksgiving meals are prepared and delivered the day before Thanksgiving.
On the second Tuesday in December clients are taken to Florida Southern University for a meal and a concert at the Lakeland Center.

Volunteers:

VISTE relies heavily on volunteers to supply transportation, make deliveries, work in the food bank and do work projects on the homes of the clients. They are also used greatly for the seasonal projects. Volunteers are treated with great respect and care. They respect people's time as would occur in a well-run business. Middle School, High School and grade school students also help with projects. Projects are tailored to be age appropriate.

Future goals:

VISTE would like to be able to offer fresh produce to their clients.

Contact

Executive Director: Alice O'Reilly

Volunteer Coordinator: Ashley Miller- viste.org 863-284-0828

Report submitted by Pastor Ron Pennekamp



Do not neglect
to **do good** and to
share what you have,
for such **sacrifices**
are **pleasing** to God.

HEBREWS 13:16, NRSV



YMCA

On June 28 2011, Paul Sicca and I met with Alice Collins, President and Chief Executive Officer of the YMCA of Central Florida. Alice told us that the Mission Statement of the YMCA is to put Christian principles into practice through programs that build healthy spirit, mind, and body for all. The YMCA was founded in 1844. It is a nonprofit 501 C3 organization listed under Charities. It is an open organization. While the YMCA does offer memberships, those memberships are open to all.

There is a relationship between the YMCA and the United Way. In 1996, the United Way began to provide funding for the YMCA for Camps and After School Programs. This includes Summer Day Camps and Holiday Camps. The YMCA also offers the use of its facilities for various functions to members as well as non-members. For example, the YMCA has, in the past, provided Physical Education as well as the use of exercise equipment for St. Paul Lutheran School students.

Alice described several ways that volunteers from St. Paul could provide great help to her organization. Some of these opportunities are in the area of education. They are in need of volunteers to provide help for a program called, Y-Read. This program is provided for students at Winston Elementary School. One staff person from the YMCA oversees many volunteers to this program. This is an intensive program to reach children who have been identified as falling behind in reading. 45 to 50 children are in this program. Volunteers are asked to spend one hour per week assisting these children who are in need of help with reading. Alice informed us that they need at least 6 additional volunteers for the Y-Read program. The program has been extremely successful in bringing children, who had been behind, up to their grade level.

The YMCA also has the Youth in Government program. This program is offered to middle school as well as high school students. The high school students meet at their individual schools while the middle school students meet at the YMCA. The YMCA coordinates this program. The objective is for children to learn about their state government through activity rather than simply by reading about government. The youth meet weekly. There are approximately 60 children involved in this program. It is open to all schools. St. Paul Middle School is not currently involved in this program.

It does appear that there are definitely some opportunities for our church to work with the YMCA. The Y-Read program would provide a great volunteer opportunity for members of St. Paul who want to volunteer and have one hour per week that they could spend helping children who are falling behind in reading. The assistance that we can give would very likely make a huge difference in the life of the child that is being helped. This help may be the determining factor in making sure that a child is not left behind.

The YMCA Youth in Government program is another opportunity for St. Paul to become involved with the Y. Alice suggested that our school may want to start a club for our middle school students. She also suggested that we could start a program for our church youth who do not attend our school. This program provides a number of benefits for young people. The children get the opportunity to learn about their state government in a number of different ways. They are also learning what leadership is and what it takes to be a great leader. This is knowledge that will become more valuable to them every day. St. Paul Lutheran Church and School could play a vital role in making sure our youth receive this knowledge.

Phone: Call 863-644-3528 ext. 225

Report submitted by David Cheyne

More Opportunities Remain Everyday

Opportunity

Community Group

- Anchor HouseKoinonia**
- A Woman's Choice.....**
- Big Brothers, Big Sisters of Tampa Bay.....**
- Boy's & Girl's ClubLadies Share @ Noon**
- CancerCare**
- Elder Point.....Koinonia**
- Fellowship of Christian Athletes**
- Florida Baptist Children's Homes**
- Girls Inc.....**
- The Homeless Coalition of Polk County**
- International Students.....Burkey's Night**
- Lakeland Police Department**
- Lighthouse Ministries.....Step in Faith**
- Noah's Ark.....**
- Parker Street Ministries.....**
- Peace River Center.....**
- Polk County Sheriff's Department**
- Police Athletic League**
- Polk County Schools.....**
- Salvation ArmyFamilies in Faith**
- Talbot House MinistriesSisters in Study**
- Winter VisitorsHeritage**
- Volunteers in Service to the Elderly VISTE**

YMCA