

SOUP *for your* **SOUL**

JULY 2008

TRUE LIFE STORIES OF GOD'S PROVISION THROUGH YOU!



**When We Serve
Is When We Love**

*Helping hands—including yours—
change the lives of Milwaukee's
neediest people!*

Milwaukee Rescue Mission

Reach Out with the Hands of Christ



Patrick H. Vanderburgh
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friend,

Most of us wish we had a little more to spare for the poor. Especially in the current economy, when it costs an arm and a leg just to fill the gas tank, people often tell me they aren't able to give as much as they want to.

The great news is, even if we can't contribute as much as we want to financially, we can all give a few hours of our time!

Days of Hope (our theme song for the year) says, "When we serve is when we love." On pp. 4-5 of this newsletter we celebrate some of the people who have donated their time and talents to make life better for our guests. These photos represent just a few of the ways you can reach out with the hands of Christ to hurting men, women, and children. Whatever your gifts are, call our volunteer coordinator at (414) 935-0241 today and find out how you can use them to serve the poor!

With July 4 just past, we're pleased to feature a very special member of the MRM staff in this issue. Cleveland is a counselor in Safe Harbor. He's also a Vietnam vet, and as you'll see, 25 years ago he came to a place in his life where he urgently needed a helping hand. And God brought him to the Milwaukee Rescue Mission.

And when a truly nightmare situation seemed to trap Casielene's family, your generosity and the service of our staff in Joy House offered them a way out. Today, she's living her own dream of serving others!

Thank you for living out the words of *Days of Hope*, and helping others live them too: "When we serve is when we love, and when we reach out with the hands of Christ, these are the Days of Hope."

Thanking God for you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "P. Vanderburgh".

A Lifetime OF SERVICE

No one who lived through the Vietnam War will ever forget that turbulent, horrifying, and nationally-divisive time—least of all Cleveland. When Cleveland came home from the war, thankful just to be alive and trying to forget the terrible things he'd seen and done, he found himself rejected by society. “They called us baby killers,” he remembers sadly, “and they treated us like second-class citizens. That was a real blow.”

Because of this hostility, Cleveland suffered from recurring depression. “It caused me to completely withdraw. I wouldn't let people get close to me. I became a loner. If I began to let my guard down, I'd suddenly get nervous and shut down.”

A Fresh Start

Hoping a new place would give him a fresh start, Cleveland came to Milwaukee, but without a job he was soon homeless. He looks back on his first chapel service at the Milwaukee Rescue Mission as the turning

point of his life. “It was like the minister was speaking directly to me! I accepted Christ that day. I tried life His way, and He began to work in me.”

One way God began to work in Cleveland's life was to give him a desire to serve others. After graduating from our 6-month discipleship program in 1984, he joined our staff and did absolutely anything anyone asked him to—truck driver, youth worker, desk counselor, and more. “We were busy praying for people and ministering to people around the clock.”

As he served, Cleveland began to heal and was able to get close to other people again. In fact, he met his wife Sadie while they were working together, picking up children for Sunday School. They were married right here at MRM!

25 Years Down the Road

Cleveland's desire to serve hasn't changed in the last 25 years. He's now a counselor at Safe Harbor, and because of his Vietnam experience he has a special ministry to the many veterans who seek our help. “Many of them are suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder,”

Cleveland explains, “and they're afraid of being labeled as crazy. I'm there for them, and they trust me. I help them receive their benefits. They'll say to me, ‘If it wasn't for you, man, I'd still be running around, lost.’”

If it weren't for compassionate people like you who supported MRM 25 years ago, Cleveland might still be lost. For 115 years, this community has lifted up the poor and given them new hope. Cleveland, who is grateful you've chosen to be part of the tradition, says, “The program helped me and it's helping others. The full picture of what's happening is amazing. You'd be astonished.”



Hearts That Serve

Every year, hundreds of volunteers donate thousands of hours of service to improve the lives of homeless people here in Milwaukee. On these pages, we celebrate their caring hearts and willing hands!



◀ We couldn't serve more than 750 meals every day without volunteers willing to prepare the food, dish it up, and clean up afterwards!



◀ Families, church groups, co-workers, and more draw closer together while serving the poor at MRM. There's plenty to do for people of all ages!



▶ Even something as simple as keeping the toys in our Joy House nursery clean makes a big difference. Who knew housecleaning could be a service opportunity!



▶ Volunteers also make sure MRM looks welcoming inside and out by caring for our grounds, cleaning and painting rooms, and other essential maintenance tasks.



If you'd like to learn more about volunteering at MRM, please call our volunteer coordinator at (414) 935-0241. We have a place for you!

▶ Tutoring volunteers guide our youngest guests through the tricky world of math and reading, helping them catch up to their grade level and build a foundation for success.

SUMMER Wish List

Some of our most urgent needs are listed below. If you can help, please drop off your donation Monday-Saturday, 8 a.m.-8 p.m., at our Kilbourn Ave. entrance. Thank you!

- Socks (men, women, & children)
- Underwear (all sizes, but especially children's sizes 2-6, men's and women's large sizes)
- Deodorant
- Cold & flu medicines (non-alcoholic)
- Pain relievers
- Laundry and dish detergent
- Fabric softener
- Lunch bags and sandwich bags

Urgent Need FOR SCHOOL SUPPLIES!

NEW SCHOOL SUPPLIES (backpacks, scissors, glue sticks, rulers, compasses, protractors, colored pencils, plastic pencil boxes, and 3-prong pocket folders) are needed for dozens of homeless grade school children going back to school. Please deliver to the Milwaukee Rescue Mission (8AM-8PM, Monday to Saturday). With your help, no child here will go without! Thank you!



18 Holes for the Homeless

Golf Tournament, September 15

Mark your calendar now for the September 15 Milwaukee Rescue Mission Golf Tournament! Spend a day out in the fresh air on a beautiful golf course, and give someone at MRM the care they need to start a brand-new life.

Registration is at 10:00 a.m., lunch is served at 11:00 a.m. and tee time is 12:30.

Individual golfers pay \$125 to participate — or sign up your four-person team for \$460! The registration fee includes green fees and golf cart, lunch, on-course beverages, and a light reception following the game. The Highland Course at Grand Geneva Resort will challenge everyone from experts to beginners, and there are also plenty of contests and prizes! **Best of all, the proceeds will help hurting men, women, and children find new hope.**



For more information, or to pre-register, call Kim at (414) 935-0236. Or check out our events page at www.milmission.org! Sponsorship opportunities are available. For information on becoming a sponsor, please call Tom Griffey at (414) 935-0219.

Our **STANDING** Ovation!



Longtime friend and volunteer John Haydon was the honored recipient of the 2008 *CG Schmidt* Ovation Award for Volunteerism. The award was presented at the 26th Annual Volunteer Celebration Luncheon on April 30. The luncheon

celebrated community volunteers serving hundreds of organizations, and a few notable volunteers were honored with special awards. The program began with the presentation of this prestigious award that recognized outstanding service by a special volunteer. *CG Schmidt, Inc.* sponsored the award and presented a \$5,000 grant to Milwaukee Rescue Mission in John's name.

Several years ago as John began his retirement process at his firm, *Whyte Hirschboeck Dudek*, he began volunteering at Milwaukee Rescue Mission. John invests

an enormous amount of time and all of his heart helping men on the Mission's LifeSkills program. He provides help and counsel to men with various legal issues as well as other life issues. Over the years, John has been a mentor and friend to dozens of men.

In his acceptance speech, John told the crowd how much he received back from his work at the Mission. He told of one instance when he was sitting with a member of the LifeSkills program. They were reviewing the man's debt along with some other dilemmas. John mentioned that he was beginning to feel more and more hopeless about the man's situation. Then the man put his arm around John and said, "Don't worry John, we'll get through this."

We give our *standing* Ovation to our friend John! Thank you for your friendship and service and for helping us all get through!

memorial & in honor of gifts

In memory of:

(gifts received from February 1 to March 28, 2008)

Our deepest sympathies are with those who have lost loved ones. A memorial gift to the Milwaukee Rescue Mission is a special way to offer hope to the needy in the name of a friend or family member.

Shirley Anderson

Char Bernhardt & Mary Anderson

Carlos Barber

Lori Nashban Family
Rodney Ugent Family

Jeannie Braam

Mr. & Mrs. Leonard Spahiu

Mike Bruno

Catherine & Terry Andrus

Lillian E. Crowell

Brenda Desrosiers
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Schneider

James Feely

Marvel Feely

Virginia Flynn

Nellie Kwas & Kwas Families

Jesse R. Gamache

Yvonne Fujimoto &
David Shurberg
Karen L. Johnson Harlan
Peter Schiltz & Family

Howard Gnewikow

Sharon Dehli
Patricia Sell
Janice Wessel

Erin Elizabeth Gutknecht

Leon & Ellen Grimm

Kyle J. Helsinger

P & H Mining Equipment Inc.

Eunice Klumb

Donald Klumb

Allan G. Krause

Paul & Paula Gohde
Eliana Krause

Viola Lahti

David & Cheryl Terzis

Henry J. Larke

Phillip & Jean Weigand

Charles Mathison

Susan Bendickson

John Moses

Gordon & Beverly Gill

Charles Nemitz

Donna Dale

Gregory Pluta

Barry & Shawna Young

Donnie Sametz

Mrs. Judith Walsh

Carmen Sawyer

Kieran Sawyer

Mary Schmitt

James & Charlotte Miller
Tom Welch

Christian Skoglund

Louise Schiefelbein

Michael Steil

Rodney, Dee Dee, Andrea
& Justin Ugent

Richard Streeter

Philip & Jane Allen
Julie Brzezinski
Elizabeth Ann Her
Ralph & Kim Lechner
Janet Rost
Matthew & Lori Salfer
Sandra Senn
Susan Swing

My Sister, Marjorie

Joyce Johnstone

Cathleen B. Walsh

Otto & Joan Wendler

Margaret Weiss

Patricia Giese
David & Kim Kasinskas
Randy & Sally Pfeifer

Emily Young

Robert & Sandra Wobick

Vera Zielinski

Daniel & Joyce Bulinski
Frank & Sandra Ludwig
Jud & Judy Stollberg

In honor of:

(gifts received from February 1 to March 28, 2008)

A gift to the Milwaukee Rescue Mission is a great way both to provide hope and to remember a birthday, anniversary, or other special occasion!

Rick Britton

Racine Christian Reformed Church

Ryan Hegna's 11th Birthday

Andrew & Kathryn Avgoulas
Kirk & Barbara Hegna
Brian & Kathryn Jakel
Mark & Stacey Lupo
John & Melissa Murray

Jerry McFarlane's 80th Birthday

John & Jean O'Brien

Nicholas Monroe

Mary Baer & John Kramp

James Neubauer's 75th Birthday

Don & Barb Neubauer

Orville & Helen Olsen

Joe & Lorrie Rodwell

Jeff Suppan from the Brewers

Allison Lillich

Dr. Timothy Ward's Birthday

Michael & Susan Monroe
Dr. & Mrs. George Rooney

Sue Weigand's Birthday

Phillip & Jean Weigand

Patricia Westphal's Retirement

Friends & Colleagues at
Northwestern Mutual

Tom & Pam Wieland's Wedding

Keith & Terese Baisden
Steven Barney
Tessa Christel
Thomas & Judy Fritsch
Thomas & Caroline Sue Gerger
George & Jodie Hunt
Dr. & Mrs. Charles Lenarduzzi
Brian Mechenich
Chad Osmanski
Richard & Carolyn Raymaker
Dean & Diane Schmelzer
George Staleos
James Swiderski
Joan Taylor
Diane & John Waldschmidt
K. J. Waldschmidt
Jason & Jacquelyn Wrasse

If you would like to give a gift in memory of a loved one who has passed away, or in honor of a special occasion, please mail your gift and the name of the person(s) being remembered or honored to:

**Milwaukee Rescue Mission • 830 N. 19th St.
Milwaukee, WI 53233**

We will let your honoree or the family of the deceased know of your gift with a special card.

Please be sure to include their address.

Our Board of Directors

Warren D. Pierson
President

John S. Cain
Vice President

Robert W. Jensen
Treasurer

James Oatman
Assistant Treasurer

Eric J. Van Vugt
Secretary

Robert W. Courtney, Sr.

Philip A. Hardacre
Sherri Kasdorf

Carol Kuyers

Ervin W. Martens

Robert K. Mitchell

Karl F. Gengler,
Member Emeritus



**Milwaukee Rescue
Mission**

830 N. 19th St.
Milwaukee, WI 53233

(414) 344-2211

www.milmission.org



*Have you remembered
the Mission in your will?*

A Mother's Nightmare Turns to Hope!

If you became too sick to hold down a job, what would happen to your family? Casielene had to answer that question—and fast.

Divorced and the sole breadwinner for her two children, she was diagnosed with fibroid tumors. Completely debilitated by her illness, Casielene had to quit her job...which meant her family soon lost their home.

Where Could They Go?

Casielene's family might have ended up on the streets, but fortunately, someone told her about Joy House. When families are blindsided by a crisis, your stable support for MRM becomes the greatest blessing they could ever imagine. You can see Casielene reliving that amazing moment when she says, "I was overwhelmed when I arrived. People were nice to us, they were helpful, and they cared for my fears."

Staff and volunteers at Joy House found many ways to serve Casielene's family. "It was wonderful to have people to pray with," she says. And when it came to her children, "My kids had people to cling to. It was an adventure for them."

We were able to support Casielene through her fibroid surgery and the healing that followed. She also deepened her faith through the Fresh Start program, and by the time she graduated, she was healthy enough to find a new home for her family!

A Heart for Service

Casielene's time at Joy House was truly a turning point, because it encouraged her to go back to school for her bachelor's degree in Healthcare Management (She's only two classes away from graduation!). While in Fresh Start, she secured a job as an aide to people with disabilities, and now with her new degree, she can continue caring for other people in need.

"It was truly the support of the Joy House staff that got me where I am," Casielene says. And to friends like you who kept her family off the streets and allowed her time to heal, she says, "Wow! You have no idea how far your donations go! If you could see how your gift helps, you'd be amazed. You never know how the seeds you plant will grow."

Thank you for making MRM a safe refuge for families in tough times!

