



EMPOWERING PEOPLE FROM "GET" TO "GIVE"

Lower Lights Link

Fall 2007

Our Volunteers....Doing True Holistic Ministry

Lower Lights Ministries is more than just a compassionate ministries center. We are a place that focuses on holistic community development. I have had the blessing and pleasure to see volunteers come from all over to serve each other and this neighborhood. Our volunteers have been the true representation of the love of Christ. Our mission, to promote the development and well-being of individuals, families, and the community of Franklinton by partnering together as loving neighbors, not only reaches Franklinton but all of us serving

together in the body of Christ. It is through the loving hearts and helping hands of our volunteers that we accomplish our goals. By us working together with a holistic vision, we are seeing lives changed throughout the community of Franklinton and within the community of believers.



Youth Volunteers

Last year over 400 committed and dedicated people volunteered with Lower Lights Ministries. There was close to 25,000 hours of volunteer time donated to the well-being of families and friends in our neighborhood this

past year. To try and put a monetary amount on the time dedicated this past year would work out approximately to a quarter of a million dollars! The over all impact and participation from our volunteers is outstanding. One can truly say that the community is certainly blessed by the volunteers and the volunteers are blessed by the community. We are thrilled and excited to see how God plans to continue to do a great work in and through all of us. For every volunteer that has partnered with us, we want you to know how much we appreciate your service! --Rachel Swartz, Director of Volunteer Services

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COMING EVENTS

November 21:

Thanksgiving Basket Event

December 1:

Rachel's House

Volunteer Appreciation

December 15:

Breakfast with Santa

December 23:

Christmas Basket Event

For more information on these events and more, visit our web-site and click on "Current News"

www.lowerlights.org

Some Franklinton Statistics-Close to Home

With a low vacancy rate of 1.9% compared with Columbus's 8%, 68.9% of Franklinton residents are renters, while Columbus has a rental population of 47%. With a high rental rate and low vacancy, many families are very transient within the Franklinton community. Some landlords in Franklinton neglect their property and continue to allow families to move in and out of deplorable housing conditions while still charging market rents.

24.5% of Franklinton residents work in a production, transportation or material moving occupation, compared with just 12.7% of Columbus.

At 45.2%, high school drop out rates are well beyond a crisis level in Franklinton. Columbus fares much better at 16.3%.

*All statistical data taken from the 2000 Federal Census.



Will you be a Beacon of Hope?

When you make a financial or volunteer pledge to Lower Lights Ministries, we are able to leverage that for improved neighborhood programs when applying for grant assistance.

Our *Beacon of Hope* society consists of donors who pledge \$1,000 or more yearly.

Please prayerfully consider your pledge for 2008! If you have not completed your 2007 pledge, please consider doing so today!





Project AIM began the financial literacy initiative with our six families. This will increase their skills and knowledge of budgeting, banking, and credit. Beginning in November, Mary Johnston from the Lower Lights Christian Health Center, will be teaching classes on nutrition and budgeting for the grocery store.

Kyle Meyers, Director, is also putting together an advisory team. Project AIM is a family mentoring program that works to help families utilize resources and break the cycle of poverty. If you are interested in participating, please contact him at KMeyers@lowerlights.org.



In October, Home Depot employees volunteered to help us renovate 1057 Bellows Avenue. They replaced both the front and back doors to the house, replaced three windows, and rebuilt the back porch of the house. In addition, they supplied all the necessary materials to complete these critical improvements..



**Fun at the
3rd Annual
Pumpkin Patch!**

It was an unusually warm day in October for our Pumpkin Patch, children's outreach.

Thanks to Cookie and Tom Stivison of Columbus Equipment Company, 50 children enjoyed face painting, coloring pumpkins, and games and prizes. The most anticipated event was the drawing for a brand new bikes and a \$60 gift certificate to Toys 'R Us.

All who participated enjoyed a courtesy lunch from Chick-Fil-A of Grove City and cookies and punch from the Eakin Road Kroger's.



Thank you Northwest Church of the Nazarene Youth for all of your help with this event!

Holiday Meals

Our outreach to the community for this holiday will revolve around providing as many families as possible with a traditional family meal.

Partnering with local grocery stores, Mid-Ohio Food Bank, and other volunteers, Lower Lights will provide delicious turkey dinners for Franklinton families. This is truly a community collaboration as we cooperate with a local food pantry, churches and the business community.

A Holiday Box feeds four members of a family, which you can provide by donating \$25. In addition, volunteers are needed for grocery item pick up and box assembly.



If you would like to be part of this effective outreach campaign and impact a family's holiday, please contact Jennifer, our office manager. You can call the office or email directly at JAYERS@LowerLights.org.

Volunteer Spotlight (continued from page 1)

Volunteer Story

I had the privilege to volunteer at the Lower Lights Ministries month long day camp this summer. It was a great experience for me and all that were involved. It was a chance to reach out to the children in the community; providing bible lessons, meals, field trips, and other fun activities that focused on living a godly life. During my time at Lower Lights I was surrounded by people who are passionate about serving the God they love, no matter what that service may look like. The work they are doing in Franklinton is simply amazing; they are reaching people of all ages and at all stages in life. I know that God is using this ministry and those involved in it to make a difference for His kingdom through their service here in Franklinton.

--Kristie Mansell

It has been a blessing to serve God at some of the Lower Lights Children's events for the past few years. The Lower Lights staff have been informative and very responsive when I have organized groups from, Upper Valley Community Church, to serve at Lower Lights. It is so amazing that when I plan a trip, God always provides and sends the right people to go and serve.



God's love is shown through the Lower Lights staff in several ways. It is exciting to see the children come into a place where they can fulfill themselves not only spiritually, but physically too. The children are fed nutritious meals, play games, create crafts and told that Jesus loves them. It is a place where they can feel loved and are safe from the tough lives they endure everyday.

Serving at Lower Lights has touched me personally, growing up in an inner city I know what these children face day to day. It thrills my heart to be a part of, and know that God is using me, to help Lower Lights Ministry make a difference, one child at a time. --*Barb Schwarz, Volunteer*

I began volunteering with Lower Lights Ministries in June 2006. Pastor Jan Ruark introduced me to Rachel's House ministry during a presentation at my church. Agreeing to volunteer has been the best thing I've ever done for myself. It opened a wonderful opportunity for me. I've always wanted to work in a mission field, but until Pastor Jan spoke at our church, I didn't realize that a mission field was practically in my back yard. Since I began volunteering at LLM, I have had the privilege of seeing the ministry grow tremendously. The people associated with LLM have given me the opportunity to see first hand what God is doing in a community that really needs Him. No matter how tired I am after a full day's work, once I walk through the doors to LLM, God gives me the extra energy to do what I need to do. My only regret about volunteering at LLM is that I didn't get started sooner. It has been an awesome and uplifting experience and I hope to continue volunteering at LLM for a long, long time. --*Sue Leonard*



A youth team ready to help with gutting and property repairs.

The opportunity for me to be a part of the Lower Lights Ministry is – simply put – a gift from God.

Wherever and however I am used within this ministry, I am continually reminded of the compassion of the living Christ. Through the hands and feet of the many servants within this organization, the love of God shines brightly and touches those who need it most.

I watch in awe as the staff and volunteers give of themselves each and every day. Setting aside their own rights and freedoms to be a light to the community. Serving when it is convenient to others, but perhaps not to themselves. Loving people no matter the cost!

God has provided me – as well as members of my local church – with multiple opportunities for service within LLM. From helping with summer Day Camp to participating on a Community Support Team at Rachel's House, we feel blessed to serve the Lord while serving others.

For me, the Friends Meals highlight the true spirit of Christ. Jerry and many others love and care for the people who come in for a meal. Yes, these servants provide a warm meal that feeds an immediate need. But they also provide the living water of Christ that feeds an eternal need. As a result, lives are being changed.

The passion to share the hope of Christ is evident at Lower Lights Ministries. God is using this ministry to transform lives ... not just in the Franklinton area of Columbus ...but in my own life as well. —*Debi Renner, Volunteer*

My Pledge: Investing to Impact Lives

For those of you who made a recent 2008 pledge at the annual Celebration of Hope, thank you for supporting us through another year!! We are able to take these pledges and leverage them to achieve more funding for neighborhood programs. If you have not yet made your pledge, please prayerfully consider financially giving or volunteering for this upcoming year and **return this section to us as soon as possible** at 1066 Bellows Avenue, Columbus, Ohio 43223.



Light the Way

I would like to volunteer with Lower Lights Ministries

I would like to support Lower Lights Ministries in 2008 financially with a yearly gift:

circle one

\$5,000 \$1,000 \$750 \$500 \$250 \$100 Other \$ _____

Name

Phone

Street Address

City

State

Zip

Email Address

Business/Church Name (if applicable)



Motivated by the love of God, the mission of Lower Lights Ministries is to promote the development and well-being of individuals, families, and the community of Franklinton by partnering together as loving neighbors.

Our vision is the Franklinton community holistically restored into a thriving neighborhood with Christians fully engaged in the process of that transformation.

Lower Lights Ministries partners with the Lower Lights Community Church of the Nazarene and the Lower Lights Christian Health Center, as well as other faith and secular partners in the Franklinton neighborhood, to promote holistic care for the families in Franklinton. By working together, we believe that community development is possible.

Our current initiatives include Saturday Friends Meal to homeless individuals, recovery programs, emergency material and food assistance, the Rachel's House prison reentry program, Project AIM Family Mentoring, Light the Way Home Supportive Housing and other ministries to strengthen Franklinton families.

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www.lowerlights.org