

*...a new
beginning!*

LOWER LIGHTS
MINISTRIES
Annual Report
2005

*Promoting the development
of the Franklinton community
through partnering together
as loving neighbors*



Welcome Friends

This year's Annual Report not only celebrates our accomplishments of 2005, but also details how our numerous participants, supporters, and volunteers are paving the way for Franklinton to become a great place to live, work, play and worship in the years to come. While we thankfully look back at our recent successes, we also seek to ensure future development through sound planning and continued investment.

In response to God's love, Lower Lights Ministries endeavors to promote the development of Franklinton residents through services that do not compromise the dignity and self-worth of our neighbors. Our approach allows us to partner with our neighbors, letting them be a part of this transformational process that is making a lasting impact in this community.

Through the invaluable support of our donors and volunteers, Lower Lights Ministries has effected a positive change in many of the lives in our community. If it were not for the generous giving and hard work of our supporters, we could not continue to function. Moreover, it is through your funding that we have maintained our status as a growing, influential and productive ministry.

We plan to continue this pattern into the future; in fact, this new year already portends greater things. In 2006, we will be initiating *Project AIM*, a holistic family mentoring program that will build the assets of Franklinton families and will fully engage them in the total transformation process.

The results that you find detailed throughout this report serve as a record for your part in this ministry.

Thank you for your generous support.



David Gay
Executive Director



Dr. Larry Pfahler
Chair, Board of Directors

2005 Board of Directors

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Our Mission

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 Franklinton community by partnering together as loving neighbors.

Compassion... Development... Partnership

Lower Lights Ministries partners with the Bellows Avenue Church of the Nazarene and the Lower Lights Christian Health Center to serve the mind, body and spirit of Franklinton residents.

Lower Lights Ministries is a member of the *Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability* and complies with the Standards of Responsible Stewardship.



Lower Lights Ministries

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www.lower-lights.org

Making Everything New

Rachel's House: *The House that Love Built*

I saw a "new beginning" recently. It was a little girl, sitting face-to-face on her mother's lap, patting her mother's cheek and laughing in delight, saying, "I love you, Mommy- -I really love you." The mother smiled warmly, kissed the tiny mouth and said, "I love you, too, my child."

Eighteen months before, the same child, dirty and neglected, was screaming hysterically as police officers kicked down the door of her home. She watched in horror as police dragged her mother, beaten and drugged up, from the bed of her abusive boyfriend and took her to jail.

Only the love of God can transform such darkness into a new beginning. The woman, a resident of Rachel's House this past year, has been changed. She is following after God with all her heart and patiently building a positive home where her daughters can build new memories. We are blessed to see several families enjoy miraculous reconciliations this past year.

We are also blessed with many new volunteers. When each woman comes to Rachel's House, six-to-eight supportive adults provide encouragement in the areas of employment, financial management, life skills, spiritual formation and drug addiction recovery. Additionally, each resident is encouraged to pursue a healthy spiritual life with the Bellows Avenue Church of the Nazarene.

Although we face new challenges every day, and new mountains seem to threaten, at Rachel's House we can testify that God keeps His promise, "I am making everything new!"

Jan Ruark, *Director of Rachel's House*

"I would like to express my strong support of the Rachel's House program in Columbus, Ohio. Because of their highly relational approach, we consider Rachel's House a leader in faith-based re-entry services..."

Krista Sisterhen, Director,
Governor's Office of Faith-Based
and Community Initiatives.

Children's Outreach: *A New Venture*

In order to change a community, we must invest in the lives of future generations as well as serve those currently in crisis. It is this belief that has compelled Lower Lights Ministries to actively engage in the lives of families with children in Franklinton. Throughout 2005, our organization coordinated several outreach events to serve Franklinton children and to introduce them and their families to our family.

During the summer, Lower Lights Ministries hosted three weeks of Vacation Bible School that served over 75 neighboring children. Franklinton kids enjoyed adventures on African safaris and learned many spiritual lessons. In keeping with our holistic approach, children received nutritious meals, necessary material assistance, and crucial emotional support and encouragement.

Feeding the Hungry

Your involvement in our ministry helped to serve nearly 2,500 meals last year through the Saturday Friends Ministry. The Food Pantry provided for 478 individuals, of which 177 were children, for a total of 4,753 meals. We also provided a variety of personal care items to 583 people, which is 427 more than the year before.

In October, over 120 children and their parents participated in our fall outreach – *The Great Pumpkin, Franklinton*. Various ministry partners allowed us to transform Lower Lights Ministries into a pumpkin patch full of games, prizes, and love. In December, another large group of children and parents joined us for an event celebrating God's gift of love to us – Jesus. During *Breakfast with Santa*, families were treated to a pancake breakfast, a special story about God's gift to us and an opportunity to have their picture taken with Santa.

Lower Lights Ministries also partnered with Avondale Elementary School to provide over 300 students with school supplies, and our clothing pantries served an average of 50 children each month, totaling nearly 350 children served for the year. These initial investments have opened the door for Lower Lights Ministries to partner with Franklinton families to extend our support to entire families – the key fabric of our community!

In Our Own Words: *Stories of Lives Changed through the Power of Love and Hope*

The Bailey Family

Our first encounter with the Baileys was at our Summer Vacation Bible School, and they have remained connected with our local church since.

"We really like going to Bellows Avenue Church. I feel the presence of God when I enter there. The pastors and people who worship there accept me and my family and make us feel welcome. As we worship and sing in the service, we feel the presence of the Spirit working in people's lives. We enjoy fellowshiping with the other people who attend and we feel that we are all one big family in Christ Jesus.

"We have seen and felt the changes they are making in people's lives and the community. We feel that they meet our spiritual as well as our physical needs. That was Christ's commission for His disciples."

Shauna

After a life filled with abuse, crime, drugs, alcohol and pain, I finally turned to God during my most recent prison term. As Pastor Jan came and reached out to us through Rachel's House, I grew in God and I committed to live for Christ.

I grew so much throughout my ten months at Rachel's House, and I started pursuing goals I had never thought possible. I have now moved out into my own apartment, hold a full-time job at a chiropractor's office, received my GED and just finished my first semester of ministerial classes at Mount Vernon Nazarene University. I am also re-establishing healthy relationships with my kids and family.



Investing in Change

Why We Give

Our continued impact in the Franklinton neighborhood relies heavily upon donors and volunteers who assist us in serving and developing the community. Throughout 2005, our organization increased its volunteer and donor base, including some individuals who have accessed our services in past years.

Andrea Hansen, Volunteer

"I came to Lower Lights Ministries because God opened a door for me to bring some of my co-workers to help with the Saturday Friends Ministry. We had a wonderful time and I was very blessed by the whole experience. For the longest time, I thought that I had to have certain things in order to be fulfilled. I was so wrong. God showed me that all I needed was Him and to serve Him in the best way that I could. That way is being involved with Lower Lights Ministries and involving people around me. I have never felt so fulfilled."

Grove City Church of the Nazarene, Church Partner Rev. Mark Fuller, Pastor • Cheryl Ticknor, Missions President

"Our church involvement in Lower Lights has varied through the years, including monthly contributions, church members who serve on the Lower Lights' Board of Directors, and various donated items. The greatest value of our relationship is individuals who are involved in serving the Franklinton area. We value the work of Lower Lights and their outreach for Jesus in the Franklinton community and look forward to serving together in years to come."

Columbus Equipment Company, Corporate Sponsor Tom & Cookie Stivison, Owners

"My father, Bill Early, started this business in 1952, and he always gave a percentage of the company's earnings as donations to many charities. Before he passed away in 1988, he requested that we continue to give a percentage back to the God's work."

"About five years ago, we were introduced to Lower Lights and discovered how many lives they were touching. We also learned that they needed financial help to keep this ministry going. We felt that this would be an opportunity to share God's love.



"Some of the money we invested last year helped buy the Franklinton school children their school supplies, as well as coats, hats, and mittens for winter. Our company also helped with three children's events, including providing pumpkins, caramel apples, and goody bags at the Pumpkin Patch Party.

"Lower Lights has the right idea: when you involve their children in activities, you encourage the parents to come to church. Jesus always said to bring the little children to Him."

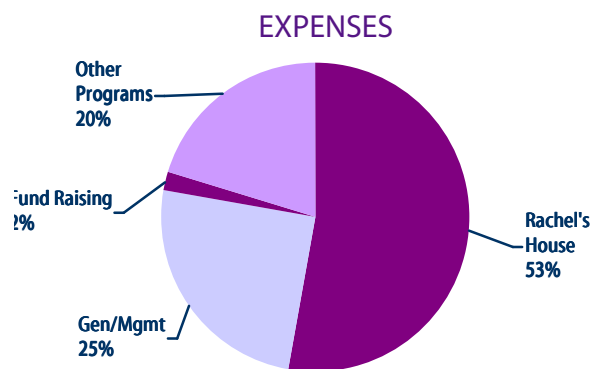
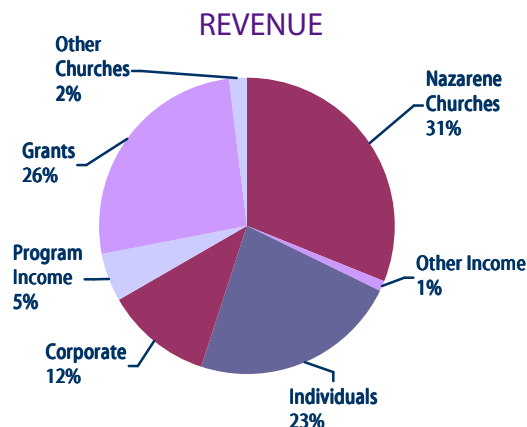
Andy Scott, Volunteer

"When I first came to work and fellowship, I believed it was more or less a one-way street and individuals didn't necessarily have anything which I needed. Now I see that we are all a part of the greater work. Someone who prays at home is as vital as the person building the home and the person in need of the home. At Lower Lights I can be filled, help fill others, and carry this on into my whole life."

An Anonymous Individual Investor

"We are pleased to be able to support the Lower Lights Ministries financially and through our prayers. We believe in the Lower Lights mission, and in those God has called to carry out this mission in a practical way. Through the ministry efforts of God's servants at Lower Lights, people are hearing about Jesus Christ right where they live and lives are being changed."

2005 Financial Statement



2005 Donors

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Brenda Custodio
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Along with many donors who gave unpublished gifts

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