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Jesus...still 'feeding the thousands'

By Melissa Burkhart
Food Programs Coordinator

The first time I saw the Lord's provision for the food programs, I was a new Hope employee and was not yet aware that what some call "miraculous" is actually the Hope norm.

In this particular instance, distribution of food to those in need was already scheduled, but food donations were low and there was no money in the budget to buy the food we had promised to distribute. I discussed the options with Cathy Robinson, Hope's executive director, and her solution was a simple statement of faith. "The Lord is just going to have to provide the food," she said.

I stood there more than a little shocked, thinking, "That's it?" I must have had some sense of how the disciples felt as they stood looking at five

loaves of bread, two fish, and thousands of hungry people.

And, of course, the Lord did provide. Thirty boxes of donated canned goods arrived at the food bank that afternoon. In the two years since then, I have come to expect these encounters with Christ. I laughed out loud the first time I heard the words, "Well, the Lord is just going to have to provide!" come from *my* mouth. Without fail, He does.



Top: Melissa Burkhart, food programs coordinator. Above: The Ypsilanti Public School District delivered more than 110 boxes of food, cleaning supplies, and personal hygiene items on a "Bus Load of Hope" in November. Left: Volunteers and staff with food donations. Right: Ed and Sharon Wright, food bank volunteers.



Food bank expands to meet growing needs

For many years Hope has regularly given out food on Wednesday and Friday afternoons. Due to the growing number of families in need of food assistance, Hope has added Saturday morning to the distribution schedule. We kicked off the new day on January 12, 2008.

Adding a day to the distribution schedule will allow Hope to provide groceries to an additional 15-20 households per week. Most households will be given produce, bread, meat, and at least three bags of non-perishable goods. People will be offered the opportunity to receive prayer in addition to food.

The new food distribution will run in conjunction with the Saturday morning Medical Clinic walk-in session. The Medical Clinic typically receives two to four requests for food on Saturdays, and this will enable patients to have both needs met on the same day.

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to all the volunteers who sort and stock food, pack orders, separate produce, distribute food, and provide prayer to clients. We are truly blessed to have such wonderful people giving of themselves and their time in support of the food programs.

Hope would also like to thank the churches, schools, businesses, organizations, and countless individuals who collect and donate food for Hope's food bank. We were able to expand our food distribution because of the overwhelmingly generous dona-

tions received during the Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons. In order to maintain the Saturday distribution, we estimate we will need an extra 2,500 bags of donated canned goods in 2008 on top of what we already receive.

Hope's ability to expand services during such difficult economic times is a testament to the generosity of Hope's supporters and to God's faithfulness to Hope and to those we serve. Thank you!



Volunteers for our first Saturday morning food distribution session, including the Burkhart and Buck families and friends.

Thank you to the following organizations and individuals who donated food to Hope during 2007:

AAA of Michigan	GM Service Parts	Alice Slate
Sophia Adams	Graceway Baptist Church	Spiritus Sanctus Academy
Angel Food Café	Lara Hastings	St. Andrew Catholic Church
Ann Arbor Assembly of God	Tamara Henolson	Stepping Stones Home School
Ann Arbor Christian School	Sandi Hlavacek	Co-op
Ann Arbor Oncology RN Society	Huron Hills Baptist Church	St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church
Bible Church	Huron Valley Catholic School	St. Joseph Church, Whitaker
Alice Brennen-Key	Immanuel Baptist Church	St. Joseph Mercy Hospital
Deborah Burgens	Impact	St. Luke Lutheran Church
Sharon Butler	In Good Company Books	St. Thomas School Cub Scout Pack #8
Kristen Calloway	Bill Johnson	St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Shop
Calvary Presbyterian Church	Rebecca Johnson	Mira Sussman
Cynthia Carnevale	Mehreen Kakwan	Sara Talpos
Chi Omega (Sue Volz)	Patty Kelley	Judy Tatum
Christ the King	Knox Presbyterian Church	Jo Ann Thiefels
Christ the King Girl Scout Troop 656	Trudy Lay	UAW Local 735
Christian Women Family Reunion Ministry	Lisa Lewis	June Valentine
Community Partners	Lincoln Community Methodist Church	Sherry Van Belle
Covenant Presbyterian Church	Living Water Youth Group	Marge Van Meter
Cub Scout Pack #419	Beverly Marr	Fred Voss
Crossroads Community Baptist Church	Maryann McDougal	Simoloy Wainaina
Curves: Stone School/Washtenaw	Peter McGarty	Washtenaw County Community Health
Chris D'Alecy	Maureen McGimley	Washtenaw County GMWA
Danboise Mechanical	Mike Melnick	WCC African American Student Association
Ruth Dwyer	Pat Michael	Shannon Weir
Emmanuel Lutheran Church	Marina Mims	Westminster Presbyterian Church
Mildred Evens	Minute Maid/Coca Cola	Hillary Whiteside
Faith Assembly Church of Ypsilanti	Nicole Mitchell	Naomi Williams
Joan Finn	Mt. Olive Baptist Church	Word of God
First Baptist Church of Ypsilanti	Carolyn Mulkiten	Elizabeth Young
First Presbyterian Church of Ann Arbor	New Progressive Church	Ypsilanti Free Methodist Church
First United Methodist Church, Saline	Northridge Church	Ypsilanti Thrift Shop
Food Gatherers	Panera Bread	Zion Lutheran Church
November Freeze	Payless Shoes	
GM Powertrain	Susan Perriar	
	Roger Reik	
	Marge Roop	
	Aidan Ross	
	Robbie Ruland	
	Saline High School	
	Ken Sands	
	Second Baptist Church of Ypsilanti	

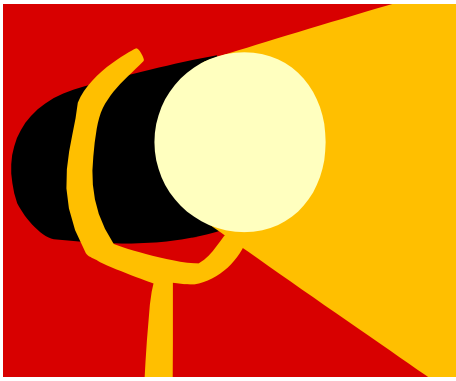
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... and to anyone else we inadvertently failed to recognize in this list.



Volunteer SPOTLIGHT

At Hope we are grateful for each one of our outstanding volunteers. The myriad of special gifts and talents that each person brings to the Hope family is truly remarkable. Our volunteers keep us going with the warmth of their generosity and dedication. In this new regular feature, "Volunteer Spotlight," we will be recognizing some individual volunteers for their special contributions.

Sue Stout is one volunteer who has been remarkably generous with her time and energy. She has been volunteering with Hope Medical Clinic for the past six years, eagerly helping out wherever she is needed. Drawing on her kind heart, reliability, and detail-oriented nature, Sue has proved to be a vital thread in the fabric of the medical clinic's operations. Her list of current responsibilities includes maintaining records of volunteers, maintaining the list of drug representatives, contact-



Sue Stout, Medical Clinic volunteer

ing drug reprs with special medication needs, and pricing donated medicine and samples. Sue has whole-heartedly taken on these responsibilities, managing them independently and working many additional hours each week from her home.

"Hope is such an encouraging environment," Sue said. "The people always make me feel good. I walk out of there feeling like a million bucks." Sue's passion and motivation for volunteer service is drawn from her relationship with the Lord and her servant heart. She feels it is a delight and privilege to volunteer with people who share God's heart for the poor. She appreciates their exceptional gratitude and genuineness and feels valued working alongside of them.

"You go because you want to help," she said, "but find you get so much

more in return."

In addition to the hours that Sue volunteers every week at Hope, she maintains a part-time job managing a small home business and helps out at Emmanuel House in Ypsilanti, a home for the elderly poor. Sue and her husband, Greg, have been involved with their church, Christ the King Catholic Church, for the past 25 years. They have two children, Michael, a graduate of Loyola University currently living in Chicago, and Emily, a freshman at Indiana University. The fifth member of the family is Nickel, a 13-year-old Sheltie.

We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Sue Stout for her years of service with the Hope family. Her dedication is a blessing to Hope and is making a difference in the lives of those we serve.

Volunteer Opportunities

Hope depends on the assistance of many volunteers in every program area. Some of our current specific volunteer needs are:

Food Packer: Biweekly volunteer to help prepare groceries for food bank distribution. Availability Tuesday afternoon or Wednesday morning preferred.

OSHA Nurse: A nurse with knowledge of OSHA requirements for medical offices to help ensure clinic is compliant with all OSHA regulations.

Pharmacist: Pharmacists for our medication refill clinics and during regular clinic hours to dispense medication and consult with physicians and nurses.

Wash with Care Supervisor: Supervise the free laundry program at Hope Center on Saturday mornings.

Office Assistant: Morning office help for filing, organizing, data entry, and other office duties. Accounting knowledge or willingness to learn desired.

On-Call Weekend Meal Supervisor: People interested in being trained as supervisors for the weekend meals at the Ypsilanti Salvation Army. Flexibility and willingness to fill in for absences desired.

If you are interested in joining our dedicated group of volunteers in one of these capacities or would like to know about other volunteer opportunities at Hope, contact Connie Hallom at 734-961-0548 or challom@thehopeclinic.org.

Thank You

Hundreds of families had brighter Christmases because of the holiday meals, food, gifts, winter clothing, and personal care items that were donated by local churches, businesses, and schools. For this outpouring of generosity, we thank:

- AAA of Michigan
- St. Francis Catholic Church, Ypsilanti
- St. Francis Catholic School 7th and 8th graders
- Transfiguration Catholic Church
- Repairclinic.com
- Ypsilanti Free Methodist Church
- Rhinehart Realty
- Way of Life Community Church
- Ann Arbor Church of Christ
- University of Michigan (special thanks to Denise Magoon)
- All churches, businesses, groups, and individuals who adopted families for Christmas



Employees of RepairClinic.com, headed up by Wilma Metcalf and Sheilda Burga, raised more than \$2,000 for Hope through bake sales, lunches, and other activities. The amount was then matched by the company. This picture shows Wilma and Sheilda presenting a check to Hope, along with food and personal care items they collected.

We also extend special thanks to the following organizations that generously supported Hope with grants during the past several months:

- **The Ypsilanti Area Community Foundation**, a division of the Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation, for a grant to support the Dental Clinic Expansion Project.
- **The Ervin Foundation**, for general support to the Medical Clinic.
- **The Aprill Foundation**, for a grant to fund supplies and equipment for the Medical and Dental Clinics.
- **Toyota Motor Engineering & Manufacturing, N.A.** for a grant to support the Medical Clinic's Medicine Access Program.

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