



OUTREACH NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2016

DALE'S STORY

An Employment Opportunity Center student grabs hold of a new beginning

When Dale was 19 years old, he moved out of his house with the goal of gaining life skills and independence. He had a steady job for a while but ended up quitting. "As they say, I was young and foolish," says Dale. "Suddenly I was unemployed and struggling to find work."

Dale not only lacked a job; he lacked direction. But thanks to a church connection, Dale was invited to the Employment Opportunity Center (EOC) where he gained all that and more.

"A job is one of the most basic things that a person needs," he says. "EOC provided me with a job and income—something I desperately needed—but it also gave me encouragement, guidance and experience that allowed me to move on to meaningful full-time employment."

Dale started working in the warehouse at Jubilee Furniture, where he would unload furniture donations from the truck and distribute and rearrange them on the store's floor. When the store was open, he would also help customers.

In his second phase of the program, he would ride in the truck with Cameron

Foster, Jubilee Furniture's lead driver/transportation coordinator, to pick up and load furniture donations from around the community.

It was in this truck that Dale says he learned a lot about life and work. "I got a lot of encouragement from Cameron," says Dale. "In a world that's increasingly non-Christian, it's rare that you can work in an environment where you can talk about everything under the sun. Driving for hours in the summer was the perfect opportunity to take advantage of that. The experience was priceless."

Dale credits the Jubilee Furniture and EOC staff, volunteers and program participants with creating a wonderful work environment and a safe place to talk about important things. "Bruce Kessler [then-operations manager] had a way of looking into your heart and blessing you with really sincere words of encouragement that I never experienced before," he says. "And I really appreciated John Wasp [warehouse manager] and Cameron Foster [transportation coordinator] for their affirmation of my job performance, which is something that many managers simply don't express. I give God all the glory

for where he's brought me, but I'm also very thankful for the Outreach staff who supported me along the way!"

Dale's time in the program was such a positive experience for him, he encouraged his brother to also join EOC.

After completing the first two phases of the program, Dale was ready to move on. He started work at FedEx, one of the Center's corporate partners, on September 15, 2015. Today, he's employed there as a full-time package handler. All his time spent loading and unloading trucks at Jubilee Furniture prepared him for this new role.

He says he loves his job and, with opportunities to move up at the company, would consider working at FedEx the rest of his life. But he currently has other dreams in mind as he plans for his future. "Right now I'm seriously considering the military," he says. "That's probably where I'm headed within the next year or two. I'm praying about it."

Know someone who would benefit from EOC? Call 630-682-1910 or email Ruben at rmunoz@outreachcommmin.org.

MENTORING: MAKING THE DIFFERENCE

It might be summer, but that's not stopping our volunteer mentors from keeping up with their kids.

Outreach offers mentoring programs at two sites: Warrenville Youth & Family Services (WYFS) and Outreach Community Center in Carol Stream. These programs pair youth with caring adult mentors in the community. Pairs meet regularly and through shared activities form strong and supportive friendships.

Daniel Crespo, pictured right, has been a mentor for the past two years at WYFS. He gets together with his mentee to do archery or play video games, all while offering guidance and building a relationship.

"I dropped out of high school, and so I encourage the students to do well in school. If they want to go to college, I tell them to go for it, don't back off, don't make the same mistake I did," Crespo said. Crespo added that mentors meet with the youth about once a week, and that "meeting with us keeps them off the streets."

While youth in mentoring gain invaluable guidance through this program, they also gain friendship and self-esteem.



Crespo's mentee, 15-year-old Jason Gray, expressed his love for this program and his mentor. "I get to have an older friend, and I can see that his life is happier having me in it," Gray said.

Terri Nystrom, in her second month of mentoring, explained how this caring community has impacted her. "I worked in a corporate setting for a long time, and this is so much more fulfilling," Nystrom said. "I love that I get to form a relationship with the kids and their family."



THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

Outreach's 750+ volunteers find unique ways to help Outreach fulfill its mission

2016 CareFest

Thank you to the 90+ CareFest volunteers from Wheaton Bible Church and Iglesia del Pueblo who served Outreach Saturday, May 7, 2016. Volunteers worked on landscaping, cleaning and painting projects at Wheaton Youth Outreach, Outreach Community Center in Carol Stream, Puente del Pueblo, Jubilee Village and our Transitions Program.

The annual CareFest service day is made possible by more than 1,000 volunteers from multiple churches, working at schools, local ministry partners, local not-for-profits, and the homes of individuals with needs.

Liberty Mutual Insurance Gives Back

Thank you to Serve with Liberty, Liberty Mutual Insurance's employee community service program, for volunteering at Warrenville Youth & Family Services (WYFS)! Nine volunteers from Liberty Mutual in Warrenville and Hoffman Estates deep cleaned the offices at WYFS in May. "The Liberty Mutual employees were so excited to work at Warrenville Youth & Family Services," says Serve with Liberty representative Kristine Rey. "What a

wonderful organization with such kind, caring staff members! The team felt very welcomed and truly enjoyed tackling the projects to help staff and clients."

Angela Mains, WYFS director, says they did a fantastic job. "We're so grateful to Serve with Liberty for getting their hands dirty and doing some much-needed cleaning for us!" she says. "They have served with us for many years and always do their work with excellence."

Volunteer Recognition

To kick off National Volunteer Week, WYFS held its first Volunteer Appreciation Event on April 11 at Sweet Potato Cafe. The evening included dessert and coffee, a "human scavenger hunt" icebreaker and a volunteer awards presentation by WYFS Board President Beth Fairbanks. More than 60 volunteers attended (pictured above).

The group had a lot to celebrate! WYFS has a growing list of faithful, committed volunteers. For Fiscal Year 2015, a total of 44 people volunteered across WYFS programs providing 4,690 hours of service: Discoveries Resale Shop had

27 volunteers, providing 3,541 hours of service, with the average retention of four or more years; and WYFS Youth programs had 17 volunteers, providing 1,149 hours of service, with the average retention time of two or more years. "Both of these statistics are very impressive!" said Beth Fairbanks. Currently, WYFS boasts more than 100 active volunteers.

But in addition to volunteer commitment, their investment has paid off. "86 percent of youth in mentoring and academic coaching programs working one-on-one with a volunteer have a C average or better," said Beth. "91 percent of mentee/mentor matches meet 80 percent of their scheduled meeting times, if not 100 percent. Better yet, both students and parents report being highly satisfied with their child's experience. And it's clear we are making a difference in their lives."

At Outreach's other ministry sites, volunteers were honored during National Volunteer Week with special treats and hand-written notes of thanks.

Want to join a volunteer team? Learn more at outreachcommmin.org/volunteer.

OVERHEARD: INSIGHTS FROM THE CEO

"Most of our kids that we work with—90 percent—are without church or community connection. Many are without hope for their future, the very thing that we're talking about today. ... My job at Outreach is to move us as a faith community from inspiration, when we discover truth in Scripture, toward commitment, toward becoming the blessing that God calls us to be for the children among us who are without hope. That's our assignment at Outreach. This we can only do with your help. You're on the team. This is a Kingdom endeavor, a body of Christ endeavor."

- Shared by Chris Ellerman, CEO, at Golf, Food & Wine Experience on June 20, 2016



Chris Ellerman
CEO



SUMMER FUN

Summer programming is underway across Outreach's ministry sites, providing students in 1st-12th grades the opportunity to build on their academic achievements, grow in their faith and have some fun!

Outreach Community Center

At Outreach Community Center in Carol Stream (OCC), the theme is "Ignite: Carry the Torch," playing off the summer Olympics and inspiring "God Time" lessons. Elementary students focus their time on math and reading in the morning and summer fun in the afternoon, including swimming, special interest classes, group projects and "Fun Mondays."

In addition, Sandburg and Washington Elementary Schools are running a reading program on Wednesdays at OCC. "Currently almost 60 percent of our 1st through 3rd graders are either English language learners or have an IEP for reading support," says Mary Lundeen, elementary program coordinator. "Having a reading teacher this summer will reach the students who need to continue using the skills they have learned this school year."

In OCC's junior high program, the primary focus is celebrating diversity. "In our cooking class, also known as world cuisine, students are introduced to various ethnic recipes," says Chantel Gamboa, junior high program coordinator. During language arts, students are reading "Outcasts United: The Story of a Refugee Soccer Team" by Warren St. John, which tells the story of a soccer team made up of refugees from around the world. Students are also learning to play games from around the world. In addition to academic courses, junior high students take part in life skills training, community service work and recreational activities. Students are given an opportunity to earn a weekly stipend based on performance.

Senior high students are taking part in the Summer Youth Employment program, which provides classroom training in employment soft skills, academic support and summer work experiences, either at Outreach or in a private sector business, civic or non-profit organization.

Warrenville Youth & Family Services

At Warrenville Youth & Family Services, the Quest program summer theme is "Q vs. Z" (Z for zombies). "We picked this theme for a couple reasons," explains Angela Mains, WYFS director. "First, a guest speaker for our life skills component will discuss 'the zombie generation.' The second reason is based on John 10:10: 'But I have come to give you life and life in abundance.' We will contrast the abundant life that God gives with an empty 'zombie' life without him."

Summer Quest is focused on service learning by volunteering at Northern Illinois Food Bank, Feed My Starving Children, Fermilab and a Warrenville elementary school. Other highlights include U of I Cooperative Extension cooking and science lessons and taking a field trip to the Money Museum in downtown Chicago.

Puente del Pueblo

At Puente del Pueblo, the theme is "True Story." The summer program meets at Wheaton Bible Church and McCaslin Park, and bus service is provided to students living in Timberlake and Main Park apartments in West Chicago.

Activities include academic review, fun extracurricular activities and life skills.

Matthew McNiel, director of Punte del Pueblo, hopes to build relationships and unify students from Puente's two different sites through the summer program.

York Community Resource Center

At York Community Resource Center in Lombard, 26 elementary students are receiving educational support during the summer months, as well as social activities. Students also take part in special field trips and camps.

Lake Geneva Youth Camp

Each summer, 40 OCC and WYFS students attend Lake Geneva Youth Camp for one week, thanks to a generous donor. The Wisconsin camp provides fun, exploring and learning about God, who loves them unconditionally. Campers share stories about their experiences for years to come.

OCC Welcomes New Director



Outreach is pleased to announce the hire of Dina Hilliard as the new executive director at Outreach Community Center in Carol Stream (OCC).

Dina comes to OCC with years of experience in the field of community organizing, education and non-profit management. Most recently, Dina served in San Francisco as executive di-

rector at the Tenderloin Community Benefit Corporation for seven years and executive director at Tenderloin Safe Passage for a year.

In these roles Dina managed the administrative, financial and day-to-day operations of a property assessment district with an annual budget of \$1.5 million. Dina secured public and private grants, established and supported a board of directors (Safe Passage), developed strategic plans, launched new programs, developed tools for program evaluation and assessment and

invested in a wide range of community relationships focused on neighborhood safety and cleanliness, community development and economic development.

Much of Dina's work involved recruiting, equipping and managing volunteers from within the community and, near the end of her work in the Tenderloin service site, she worked with 90 volunteers each day. Prior to her leadership roles in the Tenderloin, Dina worked as a teacher and assistant principal at a private Christian school.

Dina grew up in the Wheaton area after her family immigrated from Romania and attended Wheaton North High School. She holds a bachelor's degree in theology from Central Bible College and completed an executive management certificate with Rutgers' University.

Dina, her husband and daughter currently live in Winfield and attend Harvest Bible Church in Naperville.

"I am excited to welcome Dina as the new executive director of OCC," says Vanessa Roth, chief operating officer. "Her passion for the community and leadership experience will guide the Center for years to come."

SUMMER PROGRAM: BY THE NUMBERS

Hours of learning and hours of fun—all summer long, students in Outreach's summer youth programs engage in academic enrichment, job readiness and recreation across the sites. Check out how many kids are enrolled and how they're spending their time!

Outreach Community Center in Carol Stream

Jubilee Neighborhood School (elementary)

- **Number enrolled:** 89
- **Hours in academic enrichment:** 15 per week
- **Hours having fun:** Endless! Includes swimming, God Time, "Fun Mondays," special groups (cooking, scrapbooking, glee club, sports, music, art, multicultural club) and junior achievement class.

Learn 2 Earn (junior high)

- **Number enrolled:** 47
- **Hours in academic enrichment:** 6 per week
- **Hours having fun:** 10 per week
- **Hours of service learning/community service:** 6 per week
- **Hours of social emotional learning:** 6 per week

SALT (high school)

- **Number enrolled:** 29
- **Classroom hours:** 2 hours per week for ages 14-15, 4 hours for ages 16-18. Includes academics and job readiness classes.
- **Hours on the job:** 10 hours per week for 14-15-year-olds, up to 25 hours per week for 16-18-year-olds.

York Community Resource Center (Lombard)

Elementary

- **Number enrolled:** 26 (who speak five different languages!)
- **Hours in academic enrichment:** 10 per week
- **Hours having fun:** 15 per week

Warrenville Youth & Family Services

Summer Quest (junior high and high school)

- **Number enrolled:** 41
- **Hours in academic enrichment:** 8 per week. Includes classes on nutrition, entrepreneurship, Common Core reading and math, and service learning.
- **Hours having fun:** Nonstop! Includes 18 hours per week of team building; electives (baking, exercise, rugby, volleyball, music, crafts and basketball); Christian education; and Friday Fun Days, which include trips to the pool, movies, sports competitions, Brookfield Zoo and Blackwell Forest Preserve.
- **Student leadership program:** 9 returning high school students lead teams of younger students in different areas of programs. They meet weekly as a team to train in goal setting, problem solving and leadership.

Puente del Pueblo (West Chicago)

Elementary, junior high and high school

- **Number enrolled:** 65 elementary, 37 jr. high, 22 sr. high
- **Hours in academic enrichment:** 15 per week
- **Hours having fun:** 15 per week



SAMANTHA'S STORY

Samantha moved into Jubilee Village at age 19 with her six-month-old son, Anthony. At the time, Samantha had been living back and forth between her dad's house and Anthony's father's house. However, Anthony's father's house could be violent and when Samantha's dad was evicted, she knew she needed another option. For Anthony's sake and her own, she had to get out.

After a chain of referrals, Samantha called Jubilee Village and within two weeks she and Anthony were all moved in. "I was really nervous at first to move in here, because I was so used to being where I was. But I had Anthony, and I just thought of him first," she said.

Everything was new, and Samantha was unsure. But after one of her biggest fears—living with a roommate—resulted in a strong friendship for her and a new playmate for Anthony, Samantha started to feel more comfortable. Community meals with her house parents added to Samantha's positive experience. Once a week, the girls on each floor gather in their house parents' apartment at the end of the hall for a home-cooked meal. While volunteer babysitters watch the kids, the girls have a chance to relax, talk and bond. "I think the

community meals really help build a community in the building. We learn a lot about the other girls. We're all here in different situations and we all have different stories, but we all want to be successful and do well for our kids," Samantha said.

This community bonding wasn't the only thing Samantha gained from community meals. In addition, she gained an example. "[The house parents] showed me what a real relationship should be like, rather than what I've been in. I think that's helped a lot," Samantha said.

Samantha has also benefited greatly from weekly meetings with her case manager, a program requirement. Through case management, Samantha has learned everything from how to manage her money, to how to cook, to how to grow in her faith. Prior to Jubilee Village, faith was not a part of her life. However, during case management she has learned that "no matter what, God has a plan for you."

Since first coming to Jubilee Village, Samantha has also worked to develop herself both educationally and professionally. Upon first arriving, Samantha attended school while working full time. Now, at age 21, she is a Certified Nursing Assistant

(CNA) and is certified in Phlebotomy and EKG. She currently works as a medical assistant in a doctor's office and is considering going back to school to be a nurse case manager.

Samantha is incredibly grateful to Jubilee Village for everything they've done. "Anthony has grown up here. He's learned to walk and talk and eat here. This has been his home," Samantha said. "I've definitely matured a lot more and become independent since I've been here. I guess I've learned that you can't rely on others...you have to do what's best for you."

Samantha has recently graduated from Jubilee Village's two-year program and is now living in graduate housing on the building's third floor. She is thankful for the stability she has been provided, and the opportunities to grow and develop in a safe environment.

"Before I lived here, I had nothing. They've taught me to be stronger and to be independent; that I have to work for what I want, because it's not just going to be handed to me," Samantha said. "If it wasn't for Jubilee Village, I wouldn't have any of that."

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS

COO Vanessa Roth Honored for 25 Years at Outreach

Congratulations to Vanessa Roth, chief operating officer, on 25 years of service at Outreach Community Ministries!

"Vanessa is a strategic and valued member of our senior management team," says CEO Chris Ellerman. "She oversees all of our mission work, sets a strong example for her team and is the architect behind our successful outcomes. We are honored to have her serving with us for 25 years and look forward to many more."

Vanessa has held various roles at Outreach since March 1991, when she started as community development coordinator at Outreach Community Center in Carol Stream (OCC). In June 1994, she was promoted to director at Wheaton Youth Outreach (WYO), where she managed Outreach's transitional housing program, WYO counseling services and the 24-hour crisis response system for runaways.

In June 1997, she returned to OCC as executive director of the site. There, she developed and led 15 separate programs, including youth development for first grade through college, case management services, the older adults program and community development. She also super-

vised more than 20 full- and part-time staff and more than 200 volunteers.

In 2010, Vanessa took the reins as Outreach's first chief operating officer, in which she oversees all of Outreach's sites and programs, managing day-to-day operations at 10+ locations and 20+ programs. In addition, Vanessa supervises the human resources, volunteer services and grant management departments.

During her tenure at Outreach, she has helped launch two new services sites and several new programs. She has also been the team lead and community coordinator around two major crises in which children and families were stabilized and re-housed after being displaced from their homes.

Colleagues and friends sing her accolades. Mark Taylor, secretary of the Outreach Board of Trustees, says, "Vanessa has invested directly and indirectly in the lives of thousands of students, parents, clients, partners and staff. She understands the nuances of social work to a degree far beyond most of the rest of us."

Sarah Bradley, OCC board member, agrees. "Vanessa always has time for people. Even



when work demands are heavy, she always asks how your family is doing or what is going on in your life. She is a treasured friend and I am a better person to have been mentored by Vanessa."

"Vanessa is hard working and committed to Outreach's mission," adds Matthew McNiel, director of Puente del Pueblo. "She is always calling the team to a high standard of excellence, and she's been the glue that has held Outreach's operations together for many years. Her leadership has been the most significant professional training force in my life."

COMMUNITY COMMITMENTS

DuPage Foundation
DuPage Foundation awarded Outreach a \$20,000 grant for its work with local, at-risk youth and their families.

The grant comes after the State of Illinois and two regional funding groups significantly reduced financial support for youth-at-risk and mental health services at nonprofit organizations in DuPage County, including Outreach. This generous award helps fill that gap within the Youth and Families in Crisis program at Outreach's Community Counseling Centers, a division of Outreach Community Ministries. Thanks to DuPage Foundation, the program will continue providing at-risk youth with counseling and maintain its more than 90 percent success rate of stabilizing families.

"Since 1973, Outreach has served at-risk youth in DuPage County and this grant ensures we can continue this vital work in the future," says Chris Ellerman, CEO of Outreach Community Ministries. "Coming from DuPage Foundation—a pillar in our community—this investment in our work is so meaningful and timely."

Junior League of Kane & DuPage Counties
Junior League of Kane and DuPage Counties, Inc. (JLKD) awarded its \$25,000 Community Grant to Jubilee Village, Outreach's transitional housing program for homeless young, single mothers and their children! The award was presented at the League's annual Spring Fling event.

JLKD has worked with Outreach in the past two years, specifically at the Outreach Community Center's annual Christmas Store. Plans are currently underway to provide much-needed curtains for the Jubilee Village apartments and educational programs for the moms and children.

"We are excited about the new opportunity to partner with Jubilee Village," says Jessica Jecmen Brummel, JLKD president. "Jubilee Village is a perfect match for our new community focus, to serve women and children ages 0-5 who are vulnerable. They are already doing wonderful work, and we hope to develop an ongoing relationship through our community programs."

Outreach

Community Ministries

Restoring Hope, Providing Opportunities

Outreach Community Center in Carol Stream • Warrenville Youth & Family Services • Wheaton Youth Outreach • Outreach Community Counseling Centers
Serving at Puente del Pueblo in West Chicago and York Community Resource Center • Resale Centers: Jubilee Cars, Jubilee Furniture & Discoveries Resale

Event Recap

Outreach's spring events surpass goals, raising vital funds



OCC Spring Dinner

This year's Spring Dinner raised \$177,936 (net) in support of Outreach Community Center in Carol Stream (OCC), surpassing our goal of \$145,000! 124 individuals were inspired to give for the first time or increase their giving.

Guests were moved by the stories of transformation shared, including a video featuring older adults, an interview with college program participants and a conversation with a mentor and a mom.

Funds raised support OCC's youth programs as well as older adult, case management and counseling services. We are grateful to all our guests and sponsors!



Golf, Food & Wine Experience

We are pleased to report that the 2016 Golf, Food & Wine Experience raised an unprecedented \$370,265 (net) in scholarships for young adults served by Outreach! That surpasses our goal (and last year's total) by \$90,000! We welcomed 137 golfers (25 more than in 2015) and 346 reception and dinner guests (up by 102). 68 individuals were inspired to give for the first time or increase their giving.

We are grateful for all who raised scholarship funds through our silent auction, live auction, contests and sponsorships. Plans are already underway on how we can expand our transitional housing, college and career programs to reach more young adults.

SUPPORT OUTREACH

Through your giving to Outreach, you demonstrate the importance of investing in Christ-centered programs that bring about Kingdom changes in the lives of those we serve and the communities where we serve.

Your gift today will...

- Infuse needed funds in our sites' youth development programs.
- Help stabilize families through case management and counseling services.
- Provide support for older adults who are vulnerable.
- Give young women who are homeless a place to call home.

Outreach Community Ministries is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Gifts are tax deductible as a charitable contribution to the extent provided by law.

Donate today using the enclosed envelope or visit our secure website at outreachcommin.org/give. Thank you for your support!

SERVE + IMPACT

As we prepare for fall, we hope you're considering a volunteer team this school year! Serve your community and make a lasting impact by volunteering at one of Outreach Community Ministries' sites. Current opportunities include one-on-one tutors, classroom assistants, mentors and front desk receptionists. Or, volunteer at our resale centers as a store clerk or warehouse assistant. To get started, visit outreachcommin.org/volunteer.

