

THE CEO REPORT



Ministry Update

Jennie's Story

At eight months pregnant, Jennie had nowhere to go. After she and her boyfriend ended their relationship, she tried moving in with her ailing grandmother, but the situation couldn't work long-term. Fortunately for Jennie and her baby, she found Jubilee Village. "I'm so grateful I was able to move into the transitional housing program. Everyone has been so loving and encouraging, and it truly has been like a family."

Three weeks after moving in, Jennie gave birth to her son. House parents and counselors surrounded Jennie with support, teaching her to parent a newborn, in addition to case management, counseling and life skills classes.

The community at Jubilee Village helped Jennie feel loved and supported. "It was important to me to know that, even though my son and I live in our own apartment at Jubilee Village, when I struggle—whether it be financially, emotionally or with parenting—there is always a loving house parent who is happily available just down the hall."

At Jubilee Village, case management includes financial literacy lessons, with sessions on budgeting with the goal to live independently. Throughout her two years at Jubilee Village, Jennie managed to pay off most of her debt, build a savings account and find a full-time office job. When Jennie's time at Jubilee Village ended, she was accepted into the Graduate Living program, which helps transition successful graduates of Jubilee's two-year program. Graduate Living participants move to an upper floor at Jubilee Village and are required to pay increased rent while still receiving case management and the benefits of living in community. The program currently serves two girls, with hopes of three in 2015.



A Devotional Word

"I see very clearly that in every nation God accepts those who fear Him and do what is right. This is the message of Good News – that there is peace with God through Jesus Christ who is Lord of all. You know that God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. Then Jesus went around doing good and healing all who were oppressed, for God was with Him." – Acts 10:34-38

It's Friday morning, 10 a.m. at Starbucks on North Avenue. I run into the senior pastor from a partner church, who just referred a 19-year-old to our new employment training program. Neither of us is confident that this youth is ready to make the significant life changes he so desperately needs. Sometimes the heart is so hard and the wounds so deep that the Good News just bounces off the first time around.

The Good News for us—especially for those of us who carry the world on our shoulders—is that we are not alone! God is with us, and if we wrap our hearts around the grace he extends to us, then, like Jesus, God anoints us with the Holy Spirit and with power. On hard days, like this one, we can rest in this message and find peace.



Older Adults Christmas Lunch

Outreach Community Center in Carol Stream's annual Older Adults Christmas Luncheon was held at First Presbyterian Church of Wheaton on Friday, Dec. 19.

This is the premiere holiday event of the year for our seniors and for many, it's their only holiday celebration. This year, 44 volunteers, representing five area churches, volunteered their service, food and finances to make the luncheon possible. 146 older adults enjoyed the traditional holiday meal, plus raffles and games.

"This Christmas luncheon has become a holiday tradition for us—very much so," said Marie. "My ankle's real bad and I'm getting a little behind in everything, so I almost thought I shouldn't come—but then I decided, no, I'm going because I love it."

Rosalie shared how much the program means to her: "I've been coming for twelve years. And they do help you out with a lot of things you'd like to know that you don't know. I still use all the gifts I've received over the years—the pillow and blanket from past years keep me warm."

The Franklin Middle School Chamber Orchestra provided entertainment. Each senior received a Jewel gift certificate and personal gift of a tea pot, packages of tea and coffee, plus dish clothes hand knitted by a team of volunteers.



Christmas Stores serve 1,481 children in Carol Stream and West Chicago

Outreach Community Center in Carol Stream

The 20th annual Christmas Store at Outreach Community Center in Carol Stream took place on Saturday, December 13. The event serves underresourced families from the community by allowing parents to shop for gifts for their children and grandchildren at deeply discounted prices.

OCC Director Donald Robinson calls this year's event a huge success. "I believe many experienced Jesus's gift of love through service and kindness of volunteers and the compassion and care of our partners," he says.

"Our 20th anniversary was a great success," added LaTanya Gatewood, Outreach's Director of Volunteer Services. "I continually heard comments such as, 'I am so happy to be here' and 'Thank you for the work you all do.'"

The store served 388 families, including 1,001 children! It was made possible by 363 volunteers who together contributed 1,452 hours. Store sales were \$12,136, more than \$2,100 greater than last year! All proceeds go to OCC's Emergency Assistance Fund, serving local families in crisis throughout the year.

Puente del Pueblo

Puente del Pueblo held its fifth annual Christmas Store on Saturday, December 13. Modeled after the Christmas Store at OCC, The store makes a difference in the lives of shoppers and volunteers alike.

Director of Puente del Pueblo Matthew McNiel shares Gabi's story. "Gabi arrived at her appointment with five children to shop for and only \$30," he says. "She was anxious and worried that her money could not possibly stretch enough." As she shopped, she carefully calculated each price in her head. When she had chosen something for everyone, she was amazed that her total was \$27.50—just what she had with a little change left over. "She teared up and expressed how shocked and relieved she was to be able to buy gifts for all five of her kids."

Alejandro, Gabi's shopper's helper, volunteered with his family for the second year in a row. His experience with Gabi moved him. "It changed my perspective on the Christmas Store," he says. "I see how much value it provides for the community. And to serve alongside my teenage daughter—this is the best value I can give to her." Alejandro is encouraging church members to save money year-round so quality gifts can be purchased and donated to the store.

Alejandro was one of 156 individuals who volunteered for the event, and the store served 182 families and 480 children. All proceeds will underwrite the Adult Literacy programming at Puente del Pueblo.

Business Updates

Employment Opportunity Center

The first cohort of students in the new Employment Opportunity Center have successfully completed their first stage of training. Mike, Gary, Nicki, Shannon, Haley and Felecia are now being placed in private sector internships. Please pray for their success as they transfer newly-acquired skills to the marketplace and for the incoming cohort of students.

Jubilee Furniture

Sales continue to remain strong at Jubilee Furniture and interior improvements to the existing store are almost complete. 4,000 square feet has been added to the store and warehouse by enclosing an open air space under the existing roof. The block walls are up, windows and doors are installed, HVAC is up and running, and electrical is underway. The Men's Group from First Presbyterian Glen Ellyn generously donated the interior finish work, including insulation, drywall, trim, paint and labor, which equates to a gift of \$20,000 in labor and \$5,000 for materials. We are so grateful to this faithful team of men.

Beth Howley, store interior designer and display consultant, is also a member at First Presbyterian in Glen Ellyn and is donating the interior design plan.



Leadership

After many years of faithful service to Outreach, Bob and Mary Carlisle are stepping away from their leadership roles as they relocate to Wisconsin. Bob has served on the Board of Trustees for six years and is a founding member of the Jubilee Foundation. Mary is a founding member of the Hearts of Grace Action Board. We are so grateful to the Carlises for their faithful service; they will be missed!

We are pleased to announce Bill Giffin was elected to the Board of Trustees. Bill is CEO of the Trust Company of Illinois and resides in Glen Ellyn with his wife and three children.

Staff

Joe Ancell is joining the Outreach Community Ministries staff as the new Major Gifts Officer, part of the Resource Development team. Joe served University of Oregon as the Athletic Department's Associate Director of Development where he successfully broadened and deepened relationships with university supporters while engaging a cadre of volunteers. Joe moved to Chicago in 2013 when he was invited to manage a startup company in Elk Grove Village. Joe served on the CASA Board in California and Oregon, continues to mentor young people in need of role models, and attends Willow Creek Community Church. He has a Masters of Science in Sports Management from Drexel University and a Bachelors in Business Administration from the University of Oregon.



Outreach Community Center Spring Dinner

Plan to join us and bring a friend for the Outreach Community Center in Carol Stream Spring Dinner, Thursday, April 23, 2015. **Partners are invited to a private pre-event reception with Dr. Wayne Gordon at 6:15 p.m.** Dinner begins at 7 p.m. Keynote speaker Rev. Dr. Wayne "Coach" Gordon has ministered in Chicago's Lawndale neighborhoods for 40 years. A Wheaton College and Northern Baptist Theological Seminary alum, he is the founding pastor of Lawndale Community Church, chairman of the Christian Community Development Association, author of "Real Hope in Chicago" and "Who is My Neighbor?" and co-author of "Leadership Revolution" with John Perkins. Contact Lisa Terrazas at 630.315.5929 or lterrazas@outreachcommin.org for more information.

Golf, Food & Wine Experience

Save the date for June 11, 2015 at Cantigny Golf & Park. Don't miss this exciting event including a golf tournament, a gourmet meal and a live auction. All proceeds raise support for college, career and transitional housing scholarships. More details to come.

Interested in hosting a foursome or a table? Contact Lisa Terrazas at 630.315.5929 or lterrazas@outreachcommin.org.





Students in the Warrenville Youth & Family Services Quest and mentoring programs were given a Christmas to remember this year, thanks to NorthStar Credit Union. On December 23, 2014, a team of NorthStar employees threw a pizza party for the youth, plus their mentors, academic coaches and families. Following the meal, NorthStar distributed 45 individualized gift bags to each of the students.

We Invite You to **Renew**

Renew your commitment as a Partner via our secure website at outreachcommunityministries.org/give or return this form to 122 West Liberty Drive, Wheaton IL 60187.

As the Lord directs, I will commit the following during the coming year:

☐ \$1,000 ☐ \$1,500 ☐ \$2,500 ☐ \$5,000 ☐ Other: _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Please use this gift:

- ☐ To fulfill my Partner level commitment to (circle one): OCM / OCC / WYFS / Hearts of Grace
☐ Toward my yearly Partner commitment ☐ As a gift in addition to my annual commitment

I am giving by:

- ☐ Enclosing a check made payable to Outreach Community Ministries
☐ Please charge my gift to my (circle one): Visa / MasterCard / Discover / American Express

Credit card number _____ Expiration Date _____

Name on card _____ Signature _____

Outreach Community Ministries Partners

· OCC · WYFS · WYO · Hearts of Grace · OCM ·

OUTREACH PARTNERS...

- Give \$1,000 or more annually
- Pray for Outreach
- Encourage others to participate as Family Sponsors or Partners
- Receive CEO updates and invitations to events

OUTREACH LEADERSHIP PARTNERS...

- Give \$5,000 or more annually
- Pray for the Outreach mission
- Encourage others to participate as Partners or Leadership Partners
- Receive CEO updates and invitations to events

Outreach
Community Ministries

To restore hope and provide opportunities for people to become all that God intends them to be; partner with the local church to put Christian faith into action through service to the community.

Visit our private webpage for Partners at outreachcommmin.org/partnerlibrary