

# LOVE ONE ANOTHER

- JOHN 13:34-35



Serving with Love,  
Building a Community  
of Hope

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## Jesus tells us to:

- Feed the hungry,
- Give drink to the thirsty,
- Welcome the stranger,
- Clothe the naked,
- Care for the sick,
- Visit those in prison

Matthew 25: 31-46

Christian Help, Inc.  
follows the teachings  
of Jesus - we meet the  
basic needs of our  
brothers and sisters .

It is our intent to see  
**Jesus** in every  
person we **shelter**,  
in every person we  
**feed**, in every  
person we **clothe**,  
and in every person  
we **visit** in prison.



Christian Help, Inc.  
P.O. Box 7112  
Greenwood, IN 46142  
(317) 767-7658

## Dear CHI Supporters:

This year we have seen a new face to homelessness. On June 7<sup>th</sup> as we watched the flood water cover our land, many people became displaced for the first time in their lives. We were one of those families. The couple who takes care of the homeless became homeless. We, like many others, had two feet of water in our house within twenty minutes. We lost everything and we were unable to live in our home for two months. We were not alone; many families were forced to live somewhere else for a time. This was a devastating day, however, God's hand was in this.

The second day began to be blessed by God. It was amazing to see all of the many churches, agencies, volunteers and organizations who came forward to help their brothers and sisters in need.

We also were very blessed. We did not have flood insurance but did receive FEMA money. To date we still do not have our house completely rebuilt but we have had to pay no money out of pocket for any labor that we have received. We have probably had forty different volunteers at our house helping to put it back together. I would specifically like to thank Our Lady of Greenwood, Mount Pleasant Christian Church and New Hope Christian Church for the phenomenal efforts that they have made.

Several years ago we had given our house and our land to God. When the flood happened it was as if God was, indeed, taking it to rebuild it for something. We felt a peace and a joy about all of this from the beginning. As volunteers arrived it felt as if God was holding us in the palm of His hand, caring for us every step of the way. We began to understand what it was like to be a receiver versus a giver. What we saw was God loving us. I believe that this must be what people see when we help them. Wow! I finally understand evangelization through action and love because we have felt it. It is important to **be the church**. God reveals himself through his word but also through each other – loving one another.

## Statistics for 2008, so far:

40% of those that called for help were homeless	408
40% of those that were homeless were single moms	163
25% of those that were homeless were families	112

## The Difficulties of Poverty — A Plea for Understanding

I am a 46 year old disabled single parent that lives in a apartment with my 17 year old son. I receive Social Security and child support to live on. We receive HUD vouchers that pay a portion of our rent, then we are left with the utility bills, car insurance, medicine bills, supplies for school, gas, food and clothing. We do get a little bit of food stamps but it doesn't last but half a month. To get through the month we depend on the food pantries and our extended family to help us out.

I myself have learned to deal with the fact that I'm poor and go without things that I want, however, its hard for a teenager to deal with and accept the fact that he just can't have everything or go and do what most other teenagers are doing.

When going and asking for help it's embarrassing but I won't stop going because we need what we get. It gets frustrating when the people that you ask for help make you feel like the help is coming right out of their pockets. You have to prove how poor you are then you are asked tons of other questions that are embarrassing such as what year your car is or why do you have nice furniture or maybe a computer. I've been told before that I could sell things to get money for food or pay bills. My son needs the computer for school work, and I need the car to get around.

My son has offered many times to get a job but I can't let him. If he went to work then they would add that to our income and then they would take away food stamps and rent help. In January I will get a raise in social Security, but, they will take away food stamps and in the long run I will end up loosing a few dollars a month. I am grateful for everything I receive because we would not survive without it, but, I want to know how we can ever get ahead.

Please remember, the next time that you see someone asking for help that it is hard for them to ask. You never know when it could be you that needs the help. Try to put yourself in their shoes for just a moment.....smile at them, give them a hug or just listen to them and please don't put them down or embarrass them because they are no different than you.

Did you know that the fastest growing homeless population is children?

### Relief and Gratefulness

What CHI has done for me? One thing for sure is how to build an ARK.

Through an Act of Random Kindness; CHI helped build my inner and spiritual ARK from near sinkage, and gave me the tools to survive in today's society. Without giving up on me and my dreams, they brought my spirituality in the Lord back in my life.

With all your tools you've given me, I will always be building ARKS; because without the ARKs, God's plan doesn't sail smoothly.

Thank You

Nicki Moody, graduate of the Affordable Housing program



## “Getting Ahead in a Just-Gettin’-By World”

By Angie Freeman

It’s tough times in our economy and many are literally losing their jobs. Many are losing hope as they have no where to turn and feeling like they have no say in their situation. Imagine trying to get help somewhere for your son’s ear infection and pink eye so that he is not only better, but so he can go back to school; so *you* can get back to work and not lose your job (that has no benefits like sick days); for another week’s worth of food for your family until payday when the last paycheck isn’t enough, even though you’ve stretched every dollar. How about when one needs all of these things, and there are services available to help, *after* you go through the red tape to get the services, but your car has a flat tire from a nail in the street and a leaking fuel line, and there are no funds to fix them, much less the gas to put into the car to finally get there? And God? Where is God in all of this? Well, many, many poor people love God and are faith-filled, which actually keeps many of them persevering. However, they may lack a supportive church family because they do not feel they are welcomed at many churches due to their lack of nice clothes or the ability to join groups or volunteer as they would like, but just don’t feel they have the resources to do so. And so they stay away.

How can one even get by, much less ahead, when little fires like these keep popping up too fast to put out and/or the domino effect begins with illness, car trouble, job loss, debt, homelessness, isolation, etc. and there is no place or plan of action to turn to for change? These real examples are just a skimming of the numerous issues that *too many* people in poverty, the homeless, *and* the working poor, experience on a daily basis.

Did you know that the U.S. has the highest percentage of families in poverty than any other industrialized nation?

Working with the director to find a good, empowering, life-changing class for our families to gain some stability, we came across Philip DeVol’s, “*Getting Ahead in a Just-Gettin’-By World*”. This is an awesome, 15-session workshop for realistically building resources for a better life. We decided to give it a try, so I became a certified trainer in *Bridges Out of Poverty* by Ruby Payne and *Getting Ahead in a Just-Gettin’-By World* by Phil himself. I found out that Indianapolis has already started these classes in places like the John H. Bonner Center and are changing lives for the better all over the country. I was psyched and ready to start!

In mid-January, we started our first class, These “kitchen table” discussion style classes begin by the investigators (they are not called students) seeing what life looks like in economic poverty, middle class, and wealth, and they make a *mental model* of what “life is like now”. They figure out their debt-to-income ratio and investigate income and wage information. For many, this is the first time they see their lives in a very concrete way, and many emotions and discussions come about from this exercise.

They learn about change and why it is important, They learn about the causes of poverty in our communities; behaviors of the individual, human and social capital in the community, exploitation, and political/economic structures. They move on to learn the hidden rules of economic class (poverty, middle class, and wealth) and the 11 resources for a stable, thriving life. They also learn the stages of change and how to identify which stage they are in as they progress, and then they self-assess their resources in all 11 areas: Financial, Emotional, Mental, Language, Social Support, Physical, Spiritual, Integrity/Trust, Motivation/Persistence, Relationships/Role Models, and Knowledge of Hidden Rules. They continue even further and do a community assessment, culminating with their own plan for getting from poverty to prosperity and for community prosperity (which will be shared with our county’s Homeless Alliance group).

Christian Help’s tag line is “serving with love, building a community of hope”. Our goal is to help the poor and strengthen our community so that individuals and families have more opportunity. We can do this by everyone coming to the table and together we can make a difference.

## Many Thanks!

I would like to give thanks to a small group of volunteers in Christian Help. They volunteer one day a week answering the calls from people who need our services. These people are our case managers. They are often the first representative of Christian Help clients will hear. They are the voice of Christ to a troubled and lost soul. They guide our clients through the sometimes laborious task of red tape and hoops other human service organizations make them go through. The people who call us are often feeling guilty, insecure and under great stress. Because of this anxiety they are not always able to focus well or think clearly. Our case workers try and talk with them to see if there are other options that they are not thinking about before offering assistance. This is not an easy task or job. It takes a lot of patience, love, kindness, courage (because sometimes they have to hear "we cannot help you"). Our case managers always ask God to help them to give the correct assistance, even if it should be no assistance.

When CHI.'s funds are running low, the work of our case managers becomes that much harder. Although they could just say we cannot help you now, they instead will try to help the client to find other options or agencies who might be able to assist them. This can sometimes take hours on the phone coordinating this assistance. They do not have to take this other time consuming step, they choose to do this out of love for the person calling for help.

On behalf of Christian Help, Inc., I would like to thank all our past and present case managers for being the voice of Christ to those who needed him.

Jacqueline Jones  
Volunteer Chair

## Volunteer Opportunities!

To learn more about volunteer opportunities call our office at 317-346-9957 and they will help direct you to one of the following volunteer chairs.

Jacqueline Jones	Volunteer Chair
Pam Leffler	Case Manager
Angie Freeman	Life Skills Coordinator
Ron Leffler	Furniture donations
Margaret Norkus	Prayer Committee
John Dickey	Mobile Home Project

Love and kindness are never wasted. They always make a difference. They bless the one who receives them, and they bless you, the giver.  
- Barbara De Angelis



**Thank you God for all the wonderful volunteers  
and the special unique gifts you give  
to each of them to use for your glory. Amen.**

## Letter from Another Family in the Affordable Housing Program

I guess my story starts when I married my husband. I knew that when I married him my family would be much bigger. He has three kids that are wonderful and I just adore all of them. I never knew that I would be part of a much bigger family, Christian Help.

He had been a single father raising his two oldest by himself for two years before we started dating. He needed a home for him and his kids. CHI gave him just that and much more.

Since I have become part of the "family" I have met wonderful people and became friends with them that will last a lifetime.

Growing up, I guess you could say that I was a little sheltered. I didn't grow up wealthy, my parents lived paycheck to paycheck at times and it was rough, but I never had to experience half of what some of the families in CHI have. As I got to know the different families and listen to their stories I realized how blessed I really was and how lucky I was to grow up the way I did. As I listened to the stories of how the family's lives were before they found CHI, my heart filled with tears, especially for the families with kids. My heart goes out to each and every one of them. CHI has given these families a home, everyday needs, education, a new start and most importantly, hope. All of the families look out for each other whether it is a ride to the store, a meal, cutting grass, babysitting, a knock on the door to say "Hello" or a shoulder to cry on. CHI is more than just a group of people meeting twice a month, it's a "family". CHI is such a wonderful organization and they have helped and made a difference in so many lives.

I count my blessing every day because of Christian Help. Something that I looked over and took for granted. I am so lucky and blessed to have married my husband last July and to have become part of his "big family".

Where your donations go:

- 6.5% administrative costs
- 3% fundraising
- 60% shelter and rent assistance to prevent eviction
- 27% to refurbish homes and support the affordable housing program
- 3.5% for programming

# Merry Christmas

**Christian Help, Inc would like to wish all of our donors and everyone who has contributed to us in some way a very Merry and Blessed Christmas. We would also like to pray that everyone that we have served this year will have seen the face of the Lord in us because we certainly saw the face of the Lord in them.**

**We pray that all of you have a very blessed Christmas too. We wish to give Jesus on His birthday the gift of loving and serving those in poverty and we thank Him for them because they are precious in His sight.**

## Christian Help, Inc. Donation Form

I want to help make a difference.

Please use my gift to support the work of Christian Help, Inc.

\$500 Pays for one month's rent for a family.

\$150-\$200 Pays for one week's motel room for a family.

\$50 Helps to buy food for a family.

\$25 Buys gas to get to work.

\$10 Buys bus tokens.

\$5 Will be put to good use.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

- My cash gift is enclosed.  
 My check, payable to Christian Help, Inc. is enclosed.  
 Please contact me about volunteer opportunities.

Please return this form in the enclosed envelope or mail to:  
Christian Help, Inc., P.O. Box 7112, Greenwood, IN 46142

## Blessings

We are very happy to announce the addition of Angie Freeman, the new outreach school coordinator for Franklin schools, to our office. She has been a blessing to homeless families. During the first two months of her position, she identified thirteen homeless families with children. She is a great addition to Franklin and these families. Children can now stay in their school no matter where they are, and begin to work with us towards stability.

In 2008, the average age of individuals at the Holy Family Shelter in Indianapolis was nine.

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