

LOVE ONE ANOTHER

- JOHN 13:34-35



Serving with Love,
Building a Community
of Hope

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 3

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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 is a very exciting time in our history. We are very, very blessed. Our organization continues to grow and develop more programs. My only hope and prayer is that we are truly making a difference to God's precious people. It saddens my heart when I see the struggles and the barriers that the poor and the homeless deal with everyday. Sometimes while I am driving and I pass the gas pumps and see the exorbitant gas prices, I wonder what it is like to not be able to buy gas to get to a job. I wonder what it would be like to worry if your car is going to make it tomorrow or if your child care provider will still be there tomorrow so that you can go to your job earning \$8.00 per hour. I wonder what it would be like to have to make the decision about whether to buy school clothes and supplies or to pay your light bill. Even though we work with many families who struggle with this everyday it is still hard to imagine what it is really like.

I know what it is like when our funds get extremely low and I think, how will we help these people that need so much. I wonder if it is similar to how moms feel when they look at their children and wonder how they will get what their children need. I think, sometimes, God lets our funds get very, very low so that we will be similar to the people we are serving. He knows that it is imperative that we know how they feel and how they worry. And we do worry about them, but it is during these times that we turn to God in prayer with pleading and desperation in our hearts. He always provides; He always comes through. He is awesome and faithful to us. He lets us know this through the countless miracles we see everyday. I wouldn't trade these miracles for anything in the world. When we get tired; we remember the miracles.

Faith in God is the most beautiful and treasured gift we have. Running out of funds are the most blessed times in this ministry, because it is with awe and prayer that we await what our Father has in store for us. We empty the barn and He fills it up again and again. We thank Him for testing us and helping us to depend on Him. If all we had was abundance, would we trust as much?

God bless you all for your continued support and for being the hands and feet of Jesus.

Pam Leffler, Director

Why I Volunteer With Christian Help, Inc.

By Angie Freeman

I started volunteering 4 years ago with Christian Help after reading their article published in the church bulletin at Our Lady of the Greenwood Catholic Church. At first, I just read the articles, respecting and admiring this small group for what they were doing. Months went by and I felt the Spirit tugging at my heart to go to some of the meetings. I worked full time and had a pretty full schedule, but I had worked with the at-risk population and homeless for over a decade, and thought I might be able to help somehow. I started out helping at the monthly meetings by recording the minutes. I did this for over a year and a half. Later, I felt called to be on the prayer committee, praying each Sunday for the case managers to be successful in working with those in need.

As time passed, I started to do a bit more, volunteering at fundraisers and sometimes donating a little here or there (not much, but something). I felt good doing this because I knew it would go to direct services each time. I would hear where the moneys were going at the monthly meetings in Madonna Hall and was truly impressed with how most of the monetary donations go right to direct services with the poor and homeless. During all of this time, I had not yet worked directly with the poor of Johnson County. I was working, as you could say, behind the scenes.

Now, I still attend the monthly meeting, but have stopped recording the minutes. Someone else has taken on that role. I, once again, felt the Spirit calling me to move on to helping the families in the affordable housing program. I felt I could help in doing one-on-one parenting sessions. This has been the most rewarding

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Who Do You Turn To When You've Hit Rock Bottom?

I lost everything while serving a three year prison sentence. Upon release, I had just over thirty days to get a home. I had no way to come up with the deposit and rent. I had no job. Everywhere I turned seemed to be a dead-end. I filled out at least fifty applications. I encountered negative feedback over having felonies at every job prospect. While applying for apartments I received the same negative feedback. "We don't allow felons to live here." "We can't hire you due to your felony." I had served my time, 1095 days. Yet I felt I was now serving an additional sentence.

I felt abandoned and uncared for. I certainly at this point could have reverted to old practices. Thoughts and feelings of impending doom seemed endless. Where do you turn when society has cast you aside? When you've made the "mistake" that's

haunting you, what do you do? Satan was attacking me from all sides and setting up endless stumbling blocks. So I prayed. I prayed so hard and so specific that when my prayers were answered there was just no way I could refute that God went to work especially for me.

Andrea has become one of our many blessings. She, among many others, is an example of how those that we help are wanting and able to give back. Since this letter was written Andrea has volunteered at our Affordable Housing Program painting a home for another family. She has been out talking to local companies and has gotten gallons of paint and roof sealant donated. Andrea is letting God use her and she has become His hands and feet. She is an inspiration and an example to all of us. We thank God for her.

A few days passed and I received a phone call from the very lady who refused to hire me and was to the point of being rude about it. She hired me! I thanked God and acknowledged His works. I received another call just on time from an apartment community. The office lady had a husband in prison and had empathy for me and allowed me a chance at leasing an apartment and only having my job for one week. Then people from the Christian Help program went to work getting me the things I needed to have for a home. They too were God's servant helping Him in His works.

I cannot even put into words the joy and exuberance I feel knowing that there is something about me in which God sees and loves. I praise Him for all He has done and the help from Christian Help. I know with all certainty that I made the right choice by going to prayer and not backsliding to old ways. One coincidence after another was not coincidence at all. I try to give this testimony to all I encounter, because God needs us as servants. We are His hands. We are His children. We are His every donation. We are His everything. Praise God for all your blessings.

Sincerely,
Andrea Theard

Blessings From God

We have been given a satellite office across the street from Mount Pleasant church at 5687 Bell drive. It is open and running. We are two doors down from In His Name Ministry and will be open the same time that they are so that we can minister to clients we have in common. Our hours will Monday and Tuesday 9:00 to 3:00 and the first and third Saturday from 9:00 to 12:00. Our new number is 881-9530; our help line is the same 767-7658. We thank Mount Pleasant Christian Church for this awesome opportunity to have a place and to be able to more freely minister to others.

We are very blessed to have been given a most beautiful, 100 yr old house to rent for \$1.00 per year by First Baptist Church in Franklin. The house is next door to the church. We thank First Baptist Church for this most wonderful opportunity. Mostly we thank the Lord because it is through Him that all things happen. This home will be a place for "the poor and the needy" to come and feel a warm welcome and receive help.

We ask that you pray for us that our new home will always be a welcoming, warm, loving place that is blessed by our Lord.

Our newest blessing involves collaboration between Franklin College and Christian Help. Through this collaboration, the renovation of the Franklin offices are currently under way with monies provided through a Lilly Grant to Franklin College that can be used to create what is being called an entrepreneurship "incubator". Therefore Christian Help will not have to pay for the renovations that are needed at the Franklin offices. This is truly a gift from God. The collaboration also provides assistance from business students and a coordinator who will be able to help Christian Help clients with work force development including resume building, marketing help, and other business related assistance.

Another collaborator in this process will be the Neighborhood Self Employment Initiative (NSI). They will provide business classes as well as one on one job coaching for people who are interested in starting small, service-related businesses such as child care, lawn service, housecleaning and auto mechanics. Through these entrepreneurships, we hope to help people create additional income and decrease some of the barriers and challenges many face.



**Our New Franklin Home
Thank You
First Baptist Church**

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Volunteer Testimony

volunteer work of all, and I love it! Working with the moms and dads and all of their precious children is an unbelievable honor in serving our neighbors in need. In addition to the information I share with them, they at times just need a hug, a kind word of encouragement, or a listening ear to know someone in this world cares. My soul is so uplifted when one of these individuals smile with hope or share a recent success. Some may say that they have made their own bed and should now lie in it. For me, I instantly remember "Judge not, lest ye yourself be judged" and who am I to cast the first stone? I have sinned in my life, too, and there is no denying it. As a human being, I mess up all of the time! And I must share, that when I see these people in need, when I hear their stories, sometimes I feel God is testing me. Will I deny them guidance and care? Will I turn my back on them? Will I judge?

The answer is "no". The answer is no simply because when I look at them, I see Jesus in them. Jesus is there, teaching me not to judge. Jesus is there, showing me how to truly love. Jesus is there, showing me how I can be like the good Samaritan. Jesus is there, showing me how to practice a virtuous life. Working with the poor *strengthens* my soul. It builds my character. They may be benefiting from my help, but I truly feel I am the one benefiting the most from this service. One of the greatest rewards I experienced from doing the parenting classes was to hear a mom comment that after I first visited with her, she stopped throwing things at her daughter when she became angry with her. I know that sounds horrible, a mother

throwing things at her child, but some of our families are in dire need of basic parenting information such alternatives to lashing out at your children. Most are under high stress, and some can fall back on unhealthy ways in dealing with stress and anger, particularly if they have experienced it themselves. That was half a year ago, and that mom is now doing great with her daughter. They are both a joy to visit and spend time with, and I thank God that He used me to help that child.

Working with the poor has also helped me realize just how *much* I have. Material wise, I realized I had excess, and I was able to learn to live more simply, getting rid of the clutter, and in return, helping those who have not one piece of "clutter". My home is now peaceful, clean and serene (and I can find everything!) Isn't it amazing how God gives back to us when we serve Him in the poor?! We think we are giving, but we are really receiving.

I share all of my history in the roles I have played in Christian Help and my love in serving the poor because I want everyone to know that if they have a desire to help, but they are just not sure what it is they could *do* to help, I am a perfect example of how you can feel around the organization to see what it is you enjoy doing most. I was able to try certain roles and move onto other ones. We welcome anyone who is willing and available to help! You will benefit in body, mind and soul in doing so. I can truly say each year gets better and more rewarding. This is an organization that is run by the Spirit, and *I love that*. This ministry is a true blessing to the community, and it is *very* inspiring to hear what they (we) are doing. If you want to practice loving your neighbor as you wish to be loved, this is the place and this is the time. It is an exciting time of growth in Christian Help, Inc., and I am thrilled to be a part of such an organization.

2007 Christian Help, Inc. 4th Annual Golf Tournament a Success!

A more beautiful day could not have been given by our Lord for our 4th annual Golf tournament held at Smock Golf Course on Friday, July 20th of this year. It was a sunny, blue-skied day full of smiles, laughter, and fellowship. All of those with a love for golfing and/or called to help those in need in Johnson County came out and either played in the tournament, volunteered, or donated their time, products and services. We thank God for each and every one of them. And let's not forget all of those generous and talented individuals in the background who gave of their time, talent and treasure in making this the most successful tournament yet!

A special thanks goes out to Jan Telstrom of Smock Golf Course, who allowed us private use of the golf course at absolutely no cost, also donating much of his time in the planning and preparation of the big day. Jan gave even more than this in countless donations to make the day enjoyable and successful. You can read more about Jan and his own awesome testimonial on our website (see below). Some in our community also stepped up and became sponsors or donors, including Malone Catering, who donated the meal, Pulse Creative Partners,

Charles McCormick III Indiana Eye Clinic, Endress & Hauser, Thermo King of Indiana, Inc. and countless others. Our full list of sponsors can be seen on our website. Everyone's cooperation in working together made it what it was meant to be: an inspirational day of fellowship and community coming together to help our neighbors in need. In the process, an amount of \$21,859.11 was raised for Christian Help. Wow! Thank you Lord, Jesus for this day, for the people who volunteered and sponsored and for the players. Thank you for touching their hearts.

If anyone has a heart for fundraising or planning an event such as our golf tournament, please feel free to call us at 317-767-7658 or email us at christianhelpinc@att.net. You can also visit our website at www.christianhelpinc.org to view more information on the event results.

\$21,859.11 was raised for Christian Help!



Our young ones enjoying the golf tournament

2006—2007 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 all really excited about the opportunities that can come from the collaborations detailed inside this newsletter and also look forward to the opening of the **Christian Help Franklin** office. We will be having an open house at the Franklin Office when renovations are complete and look forward to everyone seeing the good work that is being done. As all these collaborations take form, we hope to see a great deal of help and assistance available for those in need.

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