

**LOVE
ONE
ANOTHER**

—JOHN 15:34-35

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

—Matt 26:31-46

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**



**Serving with Love,
Building a Community
of Hope**

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 2

SPRING 2006

A Face of the Homeless in Johnson County



Tommy drilling a CHI Volunteer

We temporarily put him in a motel. He rode his bicycle to A.A. meetings, mental health appointments, and meetings with his probation officer. He also looked for a job. He encountered great difficulty finding a job or convincing someone to hire him. The cash he earned doing side jobs was not enough to qualify him for an apartment. However, he went to make application for an apartment anyway. The apartment manager was so touched by his gentle spirit that she thought about him for many days after meeting him. She called us, in tears, and agreed to give him an apartment if he would work for her painting apartments.

Tommy still rides his bicycle. He works hard and he is a sweetheart. Now we call Tommy to help CHI! He assists CHI volunteers refurbish mobile homes in our Affordable Housing Project. He is frequently available and is always cheerful.

We pray for Tommy always. It is amazing to witness how someone with such a hard life could still be so cheerful and grateful. We have known him for about eight months now and our time with him has been a joy and a blessing. I believe he will make it. It just took God's grace and someone to believe in him.

CHI's Affordable Housing Project

Our Affordable Housing Project continues to grow. CHI has a total of nine mobile homes in Friendly Village and two mobile homes in Country View Estates. Three different churches "adopted" a mobile home and are fixing them up. It has been a delightful experience to watch people from churches, people we have helped, and people needing community service come together and work and pray together.

In this program families have an opportunity to own their own home at reduced lot rent, for a while, to help them get back on their feet. CHI continues to provide case management for a year. The families are relieved from the stress of high rent while they are learning better life skills or job retraining.

We are always in need of volunteers, other churches, and service groups to jump in and give us a hand. It is a blessing and an awesome experience. God has been so good to us because most of the cost of the rehab has been donated. This is what Christianity is all about; Christians coming together to help those in need. When we do this we are "blessing the poor" and then God always blesses us with what we need and much grace.

Poverty in Johnson County

2004 Housing Needs Assessment conducted a random sample of 484 people; 44 (9%) answered YES to being homeless in the past 5 years.

U.S. Census Bureau demographic data indicates 15% of Johnson County family households are headed by single parent females. This same demographic makes up 30%-40% of the clients CHI serves. There are 8,716 people living in poverty in Johnson County—7% of our population—33% of these individuals are children under 18 years old.

The Self Sufficiency Standard measures how much income is needed for a family of a certain composition in a given place to adequately meet their basic needs - without public or private assistance. In Johnson County, a single adult with two children needs to earn over \$15.00 per hour. Minimum wage is \$5.15. According to the Johnson County Self Sufficiency Standard, a single adult needs to earn \$8.28 per hour.

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Working with the poor has been a blessing and an awakening in our lives. It is also the hardest work we have ever done. Jesus tells us to feed the hungry, shelter the homeless, and clothe the naked. (Matt. 25:31-46) Did you ever wonder why He tells us this? I know I have wondered this often. I think it is more than Him asking us to be a good person.

It has been our experience that there is much prejudice against the poor. People often say things like “get a job” or “why don’t they ever learn” or “they are just taking advantage of the system”. We are often criticized for helping those that may be undeserving. Yet the Word tells us to bless the poor and we will be blessed. Jesus tells us to take care of the poor and He tells us not to be judgmental. How does this make sense?

The poor are God’s children and He gives us the poor as a blessing. When we help the poor we are helping ourselves more than we are helping them. (Deut. 15:10) We begin to move ourselves out of spiritual poverty. We become more and more detached from those things that interfere with God’s relationship to us. Helping the poor brings us closer and closer to God. It increases our faith and trust in God. It forces us to look through spiritual eyes and love them as God loves them. When we make the decision to love Jesus in them, they become easier and easier to serve.

The poor are our neighbors and they are a part of the body of Christ. When one part of the body suffers the whole body suffers. When we neglect them we neglect the whole body of Christ. (1 Cor. 12:12-26)

Today in our culture we have a crisis. We are seeing the results of the breakdown of the family. Because of higher divorce rates and changed attitudes regarding the sanctity of marriage and the sacredness of the family we are seeing an increase in homelessness. Approximately 40% of our calls and the families we help are single parent families, 98% of which are female. These are the widows and the orphans of today through neglect and irresponsibility. The Bible is clear about this; it is our duty to care for them. (James 1:27)

This will be beautiful, because God, in all His wisdom, takes what is meant for evil to bring about good. (Rom. 8:28) Most would agree that the breakdown of the family is evil. If we let God work in our lives this situation will become a blessing and bring Christian love back to our communities and “together we will do something beautiful for God”. (Mother Teresa)

Thank you for your support &
God Bless you all

Pam Leffler, Executive Director

2005-2006 DONATION FORM

I want to help make a difference.

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

\$500

\$25

\$250

\$10

\$100

\$5

\$50

Other (\$ _____)

My cash gift is enclosed

My check, payable to Christian Help, Inc. is enclosed

Please bill me: (Choose one)

Semi-Annually (Jan/July)

Quarterly (Jan/Apr/July/Oct)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

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

CHI’s mission is to assist persons and families in financial crises; to provide the appropriate support necessary to help these individuals and families to become self supporting and productive members of our community; and to respond to the situations of emergency and need with immediacy and simplicity and need with the dignity of all persons in the spirit of Jesus Christ.

If one of your kinsmen in any community is in need in the land which the LORD, your God, is giving you, you shall not harden your heart nor close your hand to him in his need. Instead, you shall open your hand to him and freely lend him enough to meet his need. ... When you give to him, give freely and not with ill will; for the LORD, your God, will bless you for this in all your works and undertakings. (Deut 15:7-8, 10)

Christian Help, Inc. Day of Fun and Sharing

This year we are very blessed to have the golf pro at Smock Golf course chairing our Day of Fun and Sharing—a gala event and golf tournament. He was so touched by the work we did with one family that he felt called by God to help CHI in this way. Thank you, Jan Telstrom, for listening to God. Save the Date—Saturday, July 29, 2006 for an all day affair with events for the whole family! With over 100 churches in Johnson County, the whole community will come together for food, fellowship, and FUN! You will find information about CHI's Day of Fun and Sharing in your own church. Please come, participate, and help us help families in Johnson County. Your involvement will shower blessings on you and on the poor. We look forward to seeing you there!

CHI's Day of Fun and Sharing—Saturday, July 29, 2006

Schedule of Events:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Morning <li style="padding-left: 20px;">First Golf Shot Gun Start • Afternoon <li style="padding-left: 20px;">Lunch and Family & Children Activities <li style="padding-left: 20px;">Second Golf Shot Gun Start | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evening <li style="padding-left: 20px;">Refreshments and Awards <li style="padding-left: 20px;">Dinner / Auction / Entertainment |
|---|--|

**Golf activities are for both Men & Women
Many other activities are for the WHOLE FAMILY !!**

For more information please call Jan Telstrom, Smock Golf Course (xxx-xxxx)

Her Beautiful Smile...

CHI received this poem from a Johnson County homeless woman who was living in her car and out of her storage unit...

*God pointed the way for you to find me that day.
Alone and afraid, I had no where to stay.
You came with prayer, love and hope for me to find
a way.
Through time and trail I've found my way and
I'm able to stay and live my life day to day.
What I have may not seem like a lot to some, but for
me -
I see the miracle that God has done.*

*Thank you God
Thank you Christian Help*

This is her story...
One afternoon CHI received a call from a woman from Grace Assembly of God church who had a yard sale. A lady visited her sale and confided in her that

she was homeless. That evening a CHI volunteer and I went looking for the lady and found her parked next to her storage unit. There she was busying herself rearranging her things in her unit. Her back was to us, so she did not see us. I called out her name; she turned around and came over to the fence. **She had a beautiful smile** and we liked her immediately. **It was not hard to see Jesus in this lady.**

I suppose there were many reasons as to why she had become homeless but the important thing at that moment was she **had no shelter**. We found her shelter and worked with her for about three months. She went from a motel to supportive housing to finding a job to independent living. It took love, prayer, financial help and case management to make this happen.

This beautiful lady has a ways to go but she has come a long way already. The difference is **she now has hope and confidence!** We love her very much.
—Written by a CHI Volunteer

Franklin College Students giving back to their community

- A number of Franklin College Students
- serve their neighbors in need by giving
- their time to CHI. Over ten students
- assisted in getting out our last
- newsletter. Three students created a
- power point presentation we use often
- when introducing CHI to community
- members. We are looking forward to
- having an Americorps student working
- with us during the summer months.

Consider this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each must do as already determined, without sadness or compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. Moreover, God is able to make every grace abundant for you, so that in all things, always having all you need, you may have an abundance for every good work. (2 Cor. 9:6-8)

Opportunities for Involvement

Our Brothers and Sisters Need:

- Prayers
- Donations – furniture, household items, bedding, towels etc.
- Financial Assistance – to shelter the homeless and feed the hungry; to give a hand up versus a hand out
- Ongoing Mission Assistance – to provide for our neighbors less fortunate and to make our community a safer and healthier place to live for all

CHI Needs:

- Prayers and Partnerships
 - Financial—Ongoing consistent donations and one-time support
 - Volunteer
- Case Managers
- Client Aids—transportation, emergency housing
- Staff Aids—donation pick-up and storage, delivery
- Fund Development Assistants
- Prayer Champions and Partners
- Public Relations Assistants—speakers, drama teams, publications/visual design, writer, photographer, publication assembly and delivery,
- Research and Clerical Support—data entry and technical support

If your heart's been touched by the Lord's command to love others, when you answer the call, we can be reached at : 317-767-7658

Please send all donations to:
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P.O. Box 7112
Greenwood, IN 46142

CHI HELP LINE STATISTICS

- CHI receives an average of 55-60 calls per month for assistance
- CHI spends \$3,000-\$4,000 each month on emergency outreach - hotel/motel and rent assistance

Occurance of Single Moms Encountering Homelessness

| Category | Percentage |
|--------------------------------------|------------|
| Other CHI Families | 60% |
| Single Parent Female Headed Families | 40% |

Percent of CHI Callers who were Homeless or Near Homeless

| Quarter | Percent |
|-------------|---------|
| Summer 2005 | 75% |
| Fall 2005 | 86% |
| Winter 2005 | 90% |

He who gives to the poor will lack nothing... (Prov. 28:27)

