

Our Goals

- 1000 Thanksgiving Baskets
- 500 children will receive Christmas gifts
- 225 Christmas Break Totes
- 1000 Holiday Meals

We Need Your Help!

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A Prayer and A Call...

"I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me..."

Matthew 25:35

A child prays that there is food at home, a mother prays that they have a bit more money to get something special, a big brother prays that their small sibling no longer has to fear being alone.

Many wonder, "How can I help?"

The Lord Calls...

The Lord through Shepherd Community and with your help, will be able to answer many prayers this coming season. This newsletter is an insight to the



many things Shepherd Community will do this Thanksgiving and Christmas Season, but we cannot reach our goal without your help. Please read-on and may the Lord call you to help in this time of need.

Last Year...

- 700 Thanksgiving Baskets were delivered to area residents
- 400 children received Christmas gifts
- 150 Christmas Break Totes were distributed
- 800 Holiday Meals were served

This Year...

We are currently serving more children and families than in the past. Our numbers continue to increase daily.

Growth Among Us...

By now many of you have visited us in our beautiful new building. It is wonderful to have so much more room!

You know, how when you add space like move to a bigger house, add on to your home, or even just empty a closet it just ends up full

again?! This is our hope for Shepherd.

We serve more families now than we ever have. The move did not mean that we lost friends and families in our "old" neighborhood, but that we added new members to the Shepherd family in our new

neighborhood!

Shepherd Community Center is now a bright, warm, welcoming place where needs will be met physically, emotionally, academically, and spiritually.

Giving Thanks...



Thanksgiving is a time to gather family around the table and offer thanks to the Lord for our many blessings.

Help us provide the food to needy families downtown so they can truly be blessed with the bounty of the harvest and enjoy a Thanksgiving celebration with good food and fellowship.

On Sunday, November 19th, a Shepherd tradition contin-

ues. An incredible, 1000 Thanksgiving Baskets overflowing with delicious meats, side dishes, fruits, vegetables and desserts will be given to those families who attend the Thanksgiving Outreach Dinner at Shepherd the previous night and to all families that are involved in Shepherd Programs.

A Thanksgiving table should be filled with food. Our goal will be to make

sure each one in this community is. And with your help, that goal will be accomplished.

“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat. I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.”

(Matthew 25:35, 40)

“8 out of 10 children receive one meal a day.” We at Shepherd, with your help, are trying to change that!

Empty Christmas Trees...

What if your Christmas consisted of a tiny tree, if any at all, with nothing underneath?

Can you imagine having to tell your children that they won't be getting any presents for Christmas?

No one should have to spend Christmas like that.

Shepherd's Christmas Store is piled high with items for our families to come and select as gifts. We have new socks and underwear, and toys for children from infancy to age 12. All of these gifts are made possible by donations from you. You might want to give a crib mobile for a baby, some stuffed animals, a new Barbie Doll, a ball or a col-

lection of Hot Wheels Cars. All kids love games, puzzles, Legos, and coloring books. Items for pre-teens could include purses, watches, small CD Players, hand-held games, art supplies, or books.

Just have your new, \$10 - \$15, unwrapped gifts to us by December 19th.

Hungry Children...

School is out for Christmas Break! Kids are so excited; time to rest and no homework. It's a chance to play in the snow, eat gingerbread cookies, and drink hot chocolate.

But many of the children we serve here at Shepherd

won't be guaranteed a meal when they are not at school. That makes their holiday break long and bleak.

We guarantee hot meals and healthy snacks by sending home our Christmas Break Totes. This year we are packing **225 totes** for Shep-

herd kids pre-k through High School.

Please bring in your contribution of can foods and pantry items or monetary donations by December 18th.



Sponsoring Hope...



We all know Christmas isn't about the presents ... it's about His Presence. Gifts are a way to remember the gift of our Savior and to share the joy of giving to others.

You, your family, your church group, or any other group you are involved in can bring that joy to a needy family this year through the Shepherd Family Sponsorship Program. We will find a family that's a perfect fit for you and your group whether you want to shop for a family of 2 or 20!

When you **volunteer to sponsor a family**, you will receive their names and ages and a few gift suggestions or necessities. Then, shop at your favorite store

to find the perfect sweater set, the most adorable Teddy Bear, the hottest new CD, the warmest slippers; whatever you would love to give to make Christmas morning merry!

Along with the joy of opening gifts, the family will also have a wonderful Christmas dinner! We ask that the sponsors purchase Angel Food Boxes for \$25.

Share some presents and share His Presence.

“Dear Children let us not with words or tongue, but with action and in truth”

1 John 3:18

Dinner Service...

“Everybody knows a turkey and some mistletoe help to make the season bright...” We sing songs like this every holiday season, and enjoy the feasts of which we sing!

Much of the warmth of the holidays is shared around the dinner table. We fill up on Grandma's sweet potatoes, Aunt Charlotte's awesome pumpkin pie, not to mention the main course cooked

to perfection and served with love.

Memories are made around the table. Every bite is savored and our hearts get lighter as our tummies get fuller.

At Shepherd Community Center, our table is expanding. As each place at the table is lovingly set, we come together after our Thanksgiving and Christmas Pro-

grams to share the holiday meal. It's tradition. It's caring. It's family.

Thanks to your generous donations, we can set a beautiful holiday spread complete with all of the fixings, right down to that melt-in-your-mouth piece of pie. And who knows...we might just finish up with some “chestnuts roasting on an open fire.....”

Warming Hands & Hearts...

“It stings the toes and bites the nose as over the fields we go...”

Crisp, cold air sounds festive and fun in this familiar winter song. But cold toes and noses are not fun.

We need your help to provide warm coats, hats, and gloves to the families in our community.

We feel that parents shouldn't have to battle the elements when having to head outside. And no kid wants to miss a chance to play in the snow because they aren't protected from the cold.

Let's take the “sting” out of the cold weather and warm some hands and hearts this winter.

Contact Sharon at 375-0203 for more information about how you can donate these much needed items.





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www.shepherdcommunity.org
Our website has been updated!

This newsletter is sponsored by:



Shepherd is a faith-based, non-profit organization established in 1984 with a simple but staggering goal: to break the cycle of poverty on the near east side of Indianapolis. Located centrally within the community it serves, Shepherd offers programs for children, teens, adults, and families, helping to meet their physical, emotional, academic, and spiritual needs.

IMMEDIATE NEEDS...

A large part of our ministry here at Shepherd involves meeting the immediate needs of those in our community as well as ministering to their spirit. One of the major ways we help people begin rebuilding their lives is by keeping them fed, warm, and assisting them in their efforts to break the cycle of poverty.

Thanksgiving baskets and Christmas dinners are just a part of a much bigger picture. We feed 40 children every day in our preschool, and still 175 more kids in our after school programs. We send snacks home with school kids. We open our pantry doors and let the families involved in our programs come to our center once a week and take home a week's worth of groceries.

Being able to provide this much-needed help is possible only through the generous contributions of our friends and supporters.

Many of us have been blessed abundantly. When we have more than we need, we have been given the opportunity to share with others less fortunate, and in so doing, show them the face of God.

Please help us fill our empty pantry. As long as our shelves stay full, we can set tables for many, fill numerous baskets of food, send home healthy snacks with kids and nourish families in more ways than you can even imagine.

Thank you and God bless you this Holiday Season.

Jay Height, Director

We need...

- Canned Fruit
- Canned Vegetables
- Canned Meat (tuna, spam)
- Soup
- Peanut Butter
- Boxed Pasta
- Canned Pasta
- Pasta Sauce
- Mac n' Cheese
- Snack Items
- Ready-to-Eat Meals
- Cereal
- Juice
- Diapers
- Razors
- Toilet-paper
- Deodorant
- Shampoo
- Toothpaste/toothbrushes
- Feminine Pads (please no tampons)