

"Thank you so much for the Kroger gift card and basket at Christmas Time. Keep up the Servants heart toward the community. We love you all. Thank you!"

-Near Eastside Residents



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A Stable Influence ...three stories from Christmas

Cycle Broken

Two years ago Shepherd helped two individuals. One female the other male. These two received food, job assistance training, and other services. They meet at Shepherd, received marriage counseling and were married here. Today they both are working and living well. This year they gave back. At Thanksgiving they donated the turkey they received from their employer and their five year old son went shopping for toys to donate to our Christmas Store. Yes, it does work...the cycle of poverty can be broken!



Christmas Hope

A story of a young woman, a teen giving hope to others by giving in the true spirit of Christmas. Instead of purchasing Christmas Gifts for her family and friends, this young girl donated the money to Shepherd. She then wrote her friends and family and said that this year for Christmas she gave a donation in their honor. What a blessing this child is and with her gift and those made by others we are hopeful that our Continuum of Care can be extended to break the cycle of poverty on the near eastside of Indianapolis.



Children Changed

A blessed group shares their blessing. Our Teens each received gift cards this Christmas; the middle schoolers were given \$200 to Dick's Sporting Goods by the Pacer Foundation and our high schoolers \$150 from Meijer both included shopping with players from the Pacer and Colts Teams. Do you know what these kids used their money for? They purchased gifts for their siblings, their parents, grandparents, and friends. Most spent the majority of the money getting gifts for others. Your efforts throughout the year have taught these leaders of tomorrow what it means to give and what it means to bless others with what you have been blessed with. Thank you to all who have helped to change these children. Please continue to work to break the cycle of poverty in their lives. Your efforts are fruitful!



Two Become One...

On January 1, 2008 an exciting chapter of our history began. Shepherd Community Center and Jireh Sports became one.

This marriage of ministry will allow many more children to be touched, loved, and changed! As we renovate the grounds at 23rd and Rolston, we do so with great anticipation of what the future holds.

"The Shepherd-Jireh merger is a win-win. It will expand the reach of the innovative youth programming of Jireh, ensuring that more low-income youth have first-rate opportunities to participate in a sports program that deals not just with their physical strength, but provides emotional and spiritual nurture. Meanwhile, kids formerly served by Jireh alone will enjoy new, enlarged opportunities at Shepherd. Together, these two ministries will do a better job of reaching more kids, more holistically, than they could alone."

—Dr. Amy L. Sherman is a Senior Fellow at the Sagamore Institute for Policy Research, where she directs the Center on Faith in Communities

Jireh Sports was started nine years ago by East 91st Street Christian Church as an alternative sports ministry. The Jireh Staff under the guidance of Tim Street have worked diligently teaching children self-esteem, respect, self-discipline, and Christ's love through non traditional sports like gymnastics, wrestling, martial arts, and rock climbing.

Once renovations are complete the sports ministry will expand to include boxing, baseball, and a skate park. A student run farmer's market is also on the agenda.

Our tutoring programs, after school and summer day camp will be expanded to include not only those children on the near eastside of Indianapolis but also those in the Martindale-Brightwood area. The programs will be hosted at both sites.

This is a blessing in our efforts to break the cycle of poverty in Indianapolis.



In-Kind Needs...

BUILDING/OFFICE

One HP 1022N LaserJet Series
Two HP 12A toners
4x8 or 4x6 "scrapper" doormats
Four "caution wet floor" signs
One portable PA system

KITCHEN/PANTRY

Milk/100% Juice Boxes
American Cheese Slices
Hamburger Meat/Hot Dogs
Fresh Fruits/Vegetables

CHILDREN PROGRAMS

Project Jordan

Wal-mart Gift Cards to buy

Diapers/Baby Wipes
Like New Baby Furniture
(Please no used car seats)
Gas Cards for home visits

Academy

White binders w/clear plastic covering

Mineral oil
Liquid starch/corn starch
Rubbing alcohol
Tissue paper—all colors

REACH

Candy/Small Prizes
Educational games
Stress balls (funky ones)
Gift cards
Small handheld mirrors
Ribbon (misc. sizes)
Large-eye needles
Strong string or twine

Middle/High School

Cooling Bandanas
Sunscreen
Icy Pops
Composition Notebooks
Science Kits

WOMEN'S GROUP

Bible study books
Craft projects
Healthy snacks
Pedometers

ADULT MINISTRY

Bus Passes

HEALTH CLINIC NEEDS

Over the Counter Medicine:
Allergy Medicine
Cold Medicine (child/adult)
Tylenol/ Advil (child /adult)
Band-Aids: all sizes
Rolls of Exam Table Paper



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—Dr. Amy L. Sherman



A thousand words...



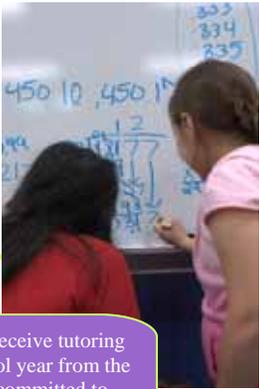
Thanks to the many that helped provide 2700 backpacks for the annual Back to School Blast!



These Colts players are awesome! They help us with homework and getting the stuff we need!



Over 250 children receive tutoring throughout the school year from the many volunteers committed to breaking the cycle of poverty!



120 people a month receive FREE healthcare from our volunteer ran health clinic!



Bob Sanders took 25 of our kids uniform shopping! Shepherd with your help provided 500 children with a weeks worth of uniforms!



1500 Angel Food Baskets assembled by volunteers in 2007

The Colts and Pacers both supported our Teens this past fall and Christmas



Volunteers and Donors served 1200 individuals at our Thanksgiving and Christmas Banquets!

We are and will continue to change lives with the ongoing help of volunteers and donors! Thank You!

Our volunteers and donors made it possible to serve over 15,000 meals in 2007



Over 2400 toys were collected for our Christmas store





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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.

Jay's Journal...

What are your plans for 2008. Are you ready for the presidential campaigns? It will be a year of promises made and lots of commercials ☺

Here at Shepherd we want it to be a year of promises made, promises kept. When we say we want to help families break the cycle of poverty, we mean it.

So, part of what this year will entail is developing a computer program and a metrics system to determine how each one of our neighbors that we touch is moving towards breaking the cycle. Our attitude is that for every gift someone makes to Shepherd Community, they are investing in our neighbors. As

an investor, we believe they should know the return on their investment. We believe they should see how they are helping accomplish that.

Yes, with the mergers of other ministries into the Shepherd family, we are seeing many changes. But one thing will not change. We are helping families break the cycle of poverty. We are addressing their emotional, physical, academic and spiritual needs. So this year.....together, we will define, measure and accomplish that goal.

Hope you can join with us.

Jay Height
 Executive Director

Lasting Testimony...

Leave a Lasting Testimony of Your Faith Journey

Shepherd Community Center continues to be greatly blessed by the generosity of our many supporters. We are grateful for all those who give of their time and resources to help us break the cycle of poverty and plant the seeds of hope on Indianapolis's near eastside. If you place Shepherd near the top of your charitable priorities today, we invite you to consider Shepherd as you prepare for your future, specifically through your will and estate planning. A well-considered and well-crafted plan will serve as a final testimony of your faith journey in life and your commitment to God's work through Shepherd Community Center.

If you would like more information on how you can remember Shepherd Community in your estate planning, please contact our Director of Development, Heidi J. Baniszewski at 317.375.0203 or e-mail at heidib@shepherdcommunity.org