

COMMUNITY.

A publication of Shepherd Community Center



Bridging Hope

In February 2008, Shepherd Community was approached by the Wheeler Mission Center and presented with an opportunity that would immediately bring 550 new participants into Shepherd's programs. Wheeler had chosen to close their near eastside community center and focus on other areas of expertise. Fortunately, many of the Wheeler programs mirrored Shepherd's closely enough that participants could be folded in quickly.

Approximately 80-100 women involved in the Wheeler parenting program became part of Shepherd's program near the beginning of March as did 30-50 children. This track helps women build life skills for themselves and their children. The balance of the 550 new participants are now part of Shepherd's after school programming, which gives students opportunities to work in small groups, build relationships and also helps them develop study skills.

This infusion of participants into Shepherd Community brings the number of those served by us to more than 1,800. An immediate outcome to this growth is that it allows us to saturate the "01" zip code neighborhood with our programming and positions us to move quickly to serve the "03" zip code. Our goal is to take advantage of this growth and unite the neighborhoods through which we serve. ■

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BEYOND WASHINGTON STREET

Shepherd Community, Inc. has a Community Center at 4107 E. Washington Street, but we are located throughout Indianapolis.

Renovations have begun at 2261 Ralston Avenue in the Martindale-Brightwood neighborhood where our Jireh Sports Ministry is operating; we have run an after-school program for 100 elementary school children from IPS School #20 for the past five years; and this past fall began an athletic mentoring program at Howe Academy, a local junior/senior high school.

In addition, we have a commitment from the city of Indianapolis to utilize the Brookside Park Facility for a Summer Day Camp and Fall After-school Program beginning this June, and Englewood Christian Church will entrust us with the opportunity to facilitate after-school programming at their near east side church beginning this fall.

Yes, that is correct, 6 sites by fall 2008! What an opportunity to change a city! What an opportunity to bring Christ to people! Every participant—3500 by 2010—is incorporated into our Continuum of Care so that they may break the cycle of poverty. More than ever we need your help as we spread out, grow, and change the lives of those on the near east side.

Visit www.shepherdcommunity.org to find out ways you can become involved in breaking the cycle of poverty in **Indianapolis!**

Poverty : Hunger as Hope : You

Often when people think of poverty they think of someone who is hungry. And although poverty is much more than food, it is this daily necessity that keeps many from succeeding in life. A child cannot focus in school if they did not receive breakfast; a man cannot wake up in time for the bus if he went to bed hungry; a mother cannot have the energy needed for her little ones if she has not eaten. So it is that Shepherd involves food in everything.

A meal or snack is served to every child who participates in one of our numerous programs; a shuttle is provided to those who cannot walk to the store; a food pantry is available to those facing hard times; an inexpensive grocery program serves hundreds every month; clinic patients receive breakfast; and countless meals and totes are distributed throughout the year. So, how do we provide all this food? YOU!

You are the hope! Thousands of people have provided bags of food, Kroger gift cards, spring break, Thanksgiving, and Christmas totes, food at special events, and more. We thank you for breaking the cycle of poverty in the lives of those that we serve! Thank you for being hope! ■

Easter Eggstravaganza

It is not just a day for hunting eggs. It IS a day of HOPE!

Easter is a day of hope for everyone. It is the day we celebrate our resurrected Lord, and it is a day to give this Hope to others. One hundred families (about 500 individuals) joined us the Saturday before Easter to find Hope. And hopefully they received it! We started out with a church service, worship music and family fun. Then we had lunch, an Easter egg hunt, and family photos. It was an Easter Eggstravaganza!

Thank you to all those who made this a great day for all those who came; American Senior Communities provided lunch, many churches provided the food needed for Easter Dinner Baskets and Spring Break Totes, we received 150 Easter baskets, and lots of candy and toys that were given to the children. ■



A Champion for Christ

Have you ever played or trained for a sport and right before the “big” game, got sick or injured? Imagine if you were the only team member. Erica Smith has been a gymnast at Jireh Gym Stars since she was seven years old. Currently a freshman at Charles Tindley Accelerated Charter School, she is the school’s first and only gymnast!

She represented them this winter in Indiana High School Athletic Association’s gymnastics. She sprained her ankle one week before the season started but through prayer and patience she competed while enduring rehab on her ankle. Her injury will not stop her from competing on the State level with the Jireh Gym Stars. Her coach, Vicki Wright, exclaims, “She has been a wonderful ambassador for Christ with her perseverance and determination while competing with an injury and being a one-person team!” ■

LEAVE A LASTING TESTIMONY

*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’ near east side.

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 Baniszewski** at **317.375.0203** or e-mail **heidib@shepherdcommunity.org**

Summer Camp

Wow!

THIS YEAR WE WILL PROVIDE SUMMER PROGRAMMING FOR OVER 1000 CHILDREN.

Each of the programs will be full of educational activities, physical exercise and games, field-trips and learning opportunities. It will be a busy summer indeed. Every child will receive a meal and snacks each day. The cost to each child is \$1 per week. If the families had to pay more, their children wouldn't be able to attend. That is where our many supporters play a part. We need your help! The cost per child per week to provide summer programming is \$100. Can you give a week of safe, fun, educational programming for a child or two? **It would mean the summer to a child!** Call **317.375.0203** or visit **www.shepherdcommunity.org** to learn how you can sponsor a week or more of summer programming.

IN ADDITION TO SPONSORSHIPS, THERE ARE MANY ITEMS NEEDED TO HELP THE KIDS HAVE A SAFE SUMMER:

ITEMS:

- Sunscreen
- Beach Towels
- Bathing Suits
- Cooling Bandanas
- Bug Spray
- Water Bottles
- Popsicles
- Chap-stick
- Small Photo Albums
- Disposable Cameras
- Indy Parks Swim Passes

GIFT CARDS AND COUPONS TO:

- McDonald's
- Pizza places
- Roller skating
- Bowling
- Developing pictures
- Zoo
- Movies



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. Our primary tools? Education and love.

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