

COMMUNITY.

A publication of Shepherd Community Center



The Economic Nightmare

A woman who we have been working with left her husband recently. He was abusive and she feared for her life and the lives of her children. She moved back in with her mother, and things started to look up for them. But then her mother lost her job, and in short order, lost her home as well. Now all of them are coming to Shepherd for help.

If something doesn't change, our part of the city may never be the same.

We don't need to remind you that this is the worst financial crisis since the Great Depression; distressing financial news seems to lead every newscast these days. But Shepherd works with those at the bottom end of the economy—the ones who cannot absorb or pass along higher costs. In some cases, the only thing standing between them and utter ruin is Shepherd Community Center. Here is a brief snapshot of the situation:

- Things looked bad before all of this happened:
 - 80% of the children in our neighborhood have two meals a day only when they are in school
 - 30% of students graduate from high school
 - 50% of adults are illiterate
 - One of the neighborhoods we work in, ZIP Code 46201, leads the state in foreclosures

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Annual Report

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Needs List



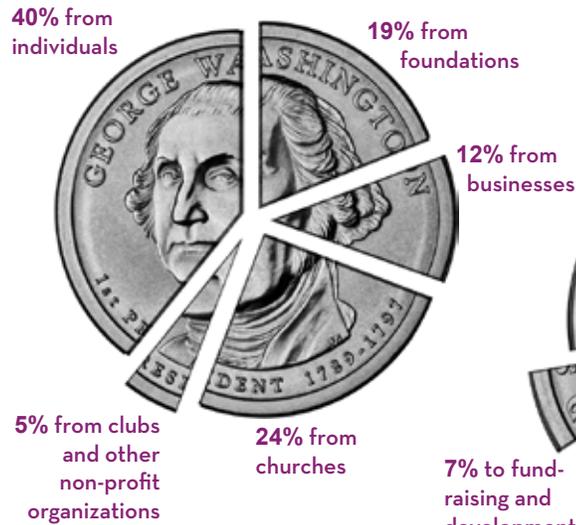
Annual Report, 2007-2008

An organization you can trust

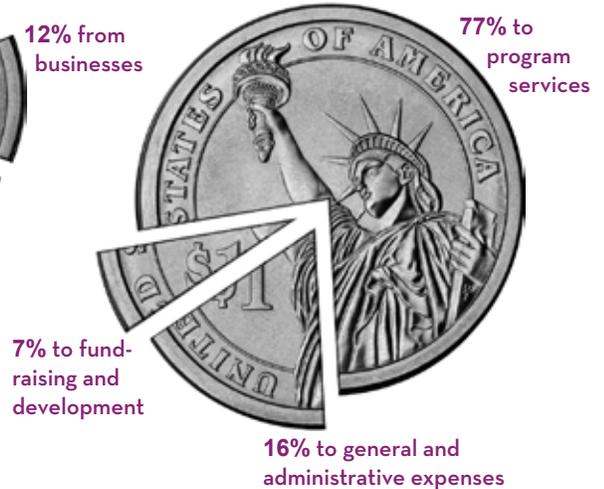
As members of the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability, Shepherd's finances are audited annually by the firm of Capin Crouse, LLP, Certified Public Accountants. It's just one of the safeguards in place so that you can know that your donations are being used as you intended. To see the complete audit, please visit our web site, www.shepherdcommunity.org; click on *About Us*, and then on *Financial Information*.

Shepherd is also a Better Business Bureau Accredited Charity, meeting all twenty BBB standards for charity accountability. One of those standards is that a charity should spend no more than 35% of related contributions on fund-raising. Shepherd's fund-raising costs are a fraction of that figure. Another important standard is that a charity should spend at least 65% of its total expenses on program activities. Shepherd spends 77% on program services.

where our contributions come from:



where our money goes:



Highlights

This was a year of growth: Shepherd merged with two ministries, Jireh Sports and Area Youth Ministry, and absorbed the participants of a third local ministry when it suspended its programs for women and children. Suddenly, Shepherd was ministering to more than twice as many women, children, and families as in the year before. Some other highlights include:

- A new garden program involving 52 kids, each of whom took home produce for ten weeks.
- Shepherd Academy added a first-grade class in 2007, and a second-grade class in 2008. Total Academy enrollment is now eighty-eight.
- We started a "home school coop" for middle- and high-school students. It involved six kids last school year, and fifteen this school year.
- Our Back to School Blast at Jireh distributed more than 3,200 school backpacks.
- In programs and special events, Shepherd served 98,110 meals to kids and families.
- Fifty families a week, on average, were helped at the Food Pantry.
- The Health Clinic saw 550 patients over the course of the year.

Board of Directors

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- R.J. McConnell, Vice President**
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- Stan Crosley, Secretary**
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Combined Statements of Activities:

operating activities:

contributions:	\$2,753,260
in-kind donations:	670,266
grants:	432,249
other revenue:	425,881
total:	\$4,281,656

operating expenses:

program services:	\$2,677,880
general and administrative:	573,650
fund-raising and development:	234,326
total:	\$3,485,856

net assets, as of Aug. 31, 2008: **\$2,827,225**

Please note: Shepherd's fiscal year runs from September 1 to August 31. These financial statements reflect that time frame.



- Like other corporate entities, the foundations that fund charities have also been affected. The average foundation has lost about a third of its value—some more than half. Most foundations say that they will donate less in 2009.
- A nearby ministry, also working with neighborhood kids, has just folded. Two other area ministries will close before summer. An expert in the field of

philanthropy expects that more than one hundred thousand U.S. non-profits will fail within the next twenty months.

- While there may quickly be a shortage of charitable organizations, there is no shortage of those needing charity. As other ministries fail, more and more neighbors are coming to Shepherd with stories that are more and more desperate.

What Shepherd is doing about it:

- Shepherd has developed a six-fold plan to not only survive, but thrive in these challenging times. We intend to:
 - Lead with passion
 - Execute programs with excellence
 - Deepen relationships with investors
 - Be a model of stewardship
 - Invest in our own
 - Empower volunteers to lead
- Everyone at Shepherd has been cutting costs so that more of your donations go to those we serve. In addition, Shepherd Executive Director Jay Height has chosen to go off the company payroll and raise his own salary for 2009. Assistant Executive Director Tim Streett and Chief Operating Officer Brian Fike have followed suit.

Even with all of that, Shepherd needs your help. We are still dedicated to the goal of breaking the cycle of poverty. As you can see from the annual report data in this newsletter, most of our contributions come from individuals. There may never be a more pivotal moment for you to give. ■



A big part of Shepherd's ministry is making sure people have enough to eat: In the last fiscal year, more than ninety-eight thousand meals were served, and so far this year, demand has increased by 40%. This photo, taken just before Thanksgiving, 2008, shows more than 1,200 holiday food baskets being distributed.

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

From our Director

Reading the cover article in this newsletter could lead to frustration, yet, amidst an overwhelming flood of need, we see the rays of hope. So many of you are giving sacrificially to help us help those we serve. One of those was a woman I spoke to recently, one of our mothers, who asked how she could help; she is so thankful for all we are doing for her children that she wants to help others.

No doubt, these days are challenging beyond anything we have ever experienced. We are seeing a 40% increase in demand for services, and we are keenly aware that each percent represents a name and a face, a family that is hurting. Recognizing that we can't help them all, we are working hard and working creatively to help as many as possible.

We are not giving up, not giving in, and not in despair. We will keep working a little harder, a little longer, to do all we can. Your help does make a difference. ■

Thanks,

Jay Height



SPRING NEEDS LIST

Food for Summer Day Camp:

100%-juice juiceboxes
Lunchables
Individual fruit cups or applesauce
Peanut butter crackers
Dried fruit
Nuts
\$10 gift cards for milk
Vegetable snack packs
Ground beef and bulk meat

Craft Supplies:

Beads, E-beads/glass beads, clasps, headpins, jumprings, and crimp beads, beading wire, and memory wire for jewelry making
Latch hook canvases and pre-cut yarn (various colors)
Klutz brand Bead Loom Bracelet kit
Rolls of batting
Scrapbooking supplies
Disposable cameras
Construction paper

Tempera paint
Paint brushes
Adhesive for scrapbooking
Index cards

Sports Equipment:

Gator-skin dodgeballs
Softball/baseball gloves

For the Clinic:

Medical-grade latex gloves
Thermometers
An appointment book
Appointment slips
Colored file folders w/top tab
Two laptop computers.

Special Needs:

Small point-and-shoot digital cameras
SD memory cards
Two *Smithsonian* brand Motor Works Model Engines



Shepherd's Mission Statement:

Shepherd Community Center cultivates healthier children, stronger families, and a safer neighborhood through supportive relationships that meet the physical, emotional, academic, and spiritual needs of area residents.

4107 East Washington Street Indianapolis, IN 46201 p. 317.375.0203 www.shepherdcommunity.org

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