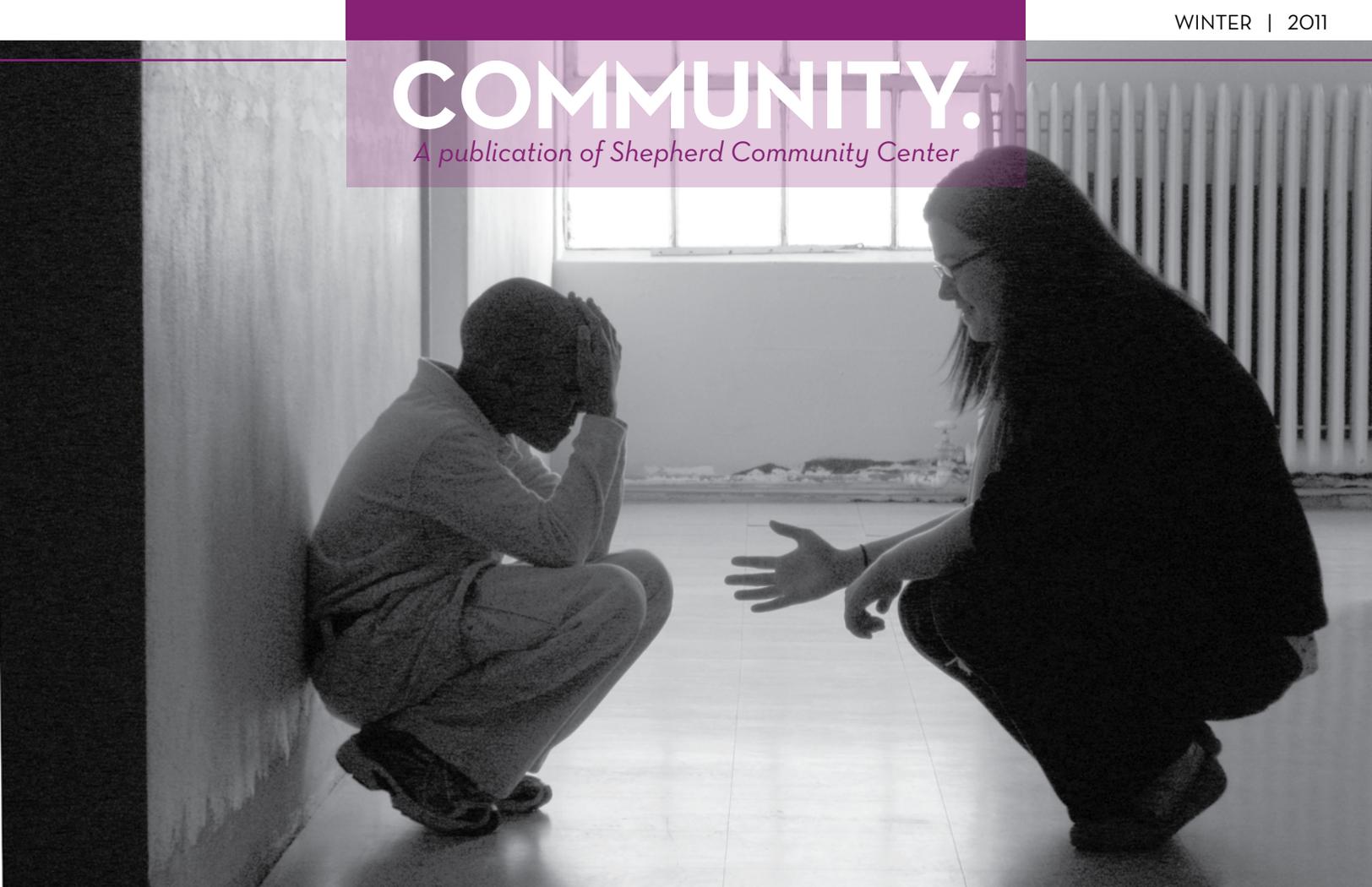


# COMMUNITY.

A publication of Shepherd Community Center



## Changing Lives – His and Mine

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He sat hitting his head, and slamming his sneakers on the ground. “You have to talk to me, buddy. I don’t know what’s going on—how am I going to help you?” I asked, trying to get him to open up—to reason with him.

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*My name is Brittany Campbell, I’m a year-long intern/fellow at Shepherd. I have worked in the summer programs for two years; I currently teach middle-school English at Shepherd Academy, and I work in Shepherd’s after-school program. This kid has had my heart from day one.*

He sat, yet again, angry at somebody for not letting him play, or maybe he was mad at his brother for correcting him in front of everyone. For the fifth time this week, I had to coax him out of this “shut-down” phase. I’d come to learn about his home life—how his birth mom was verbally and physically abusive, always taking her anger out on him, as if he were responsible for their lack of money or food; how he was then adopted, and how he cares about his adopted mother and brother, even to the point of fist fights—fist fights that have led to suspension from school.

I used to pull him out of activities and have one-on-one chats with him every day. We would talk about anger, fairness, about having confidence in

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# Jireh Has Stars of its Own

On January 21, 2011, Shepherd's Jireh Sports entered its girls' gymnastic team in the Circle of Stars Gymnastics Invitational. The annual event is among the top two largest gymnastics competitions in the U.S.A. with more than three thousand competing.

All seven girls on Jireh's team did well, and Jael Robinson (pictured center) placed first in her age category in Floor Exercises with a score of 9.35. The result speaks very well not only of Jael, but of the caliber of the Jireh gymnastics program.

Everything Shepherd does, our Jireh Sports program included, is purposeful: The fact that more than ninety collegiate



left to right, Jamila Nobles, Jael Robinson, and Nadyah Baker

coaches recruit at this event isn't lost on us, and underscores that gymnastics here is much more than just a pastime to keep kids out of trouble.

A big *thank-you* goes out to DeVeau's Gymnastics Company, whose generosity funded Jireh's participation this year. ■

## IN MEMORIAM

Longtime friend and board member Steve Cooper passed away on February 9, 2011.

Steve was involved at Shepherd for much of our history, serving two terms on the board early. He served as chairman following the departure of founding director Dean Cowles, and provided steady leadership during an uncertain period. After a short break, Steve returned to the board and served until his death.

Current Board President Dan Benson said, "Steve had a deep passion for this ministry... I met with him over breakfast just a few days before his passing and he was actively planning what he could do next to help get the message out. He was an excellent board member, great critical thinker, and enthusiastic supporter of Shepherd. His absence will be truly missed."

Steve was born on April 26, 1953, and is survived by his wife, Jenny, and children Julie, Ben, Adam, and Erin.



# A Brighter Future

new bulbs make a difference

*Thanks* to Cummins Incorporated of Indianapolis and several of their employees who came to Shepherd in January to replace all 675 of our 48" fluorescent tubes. The new tubes are thinner, more energy efficient, brighter, and will trim Shepherd's electric bill by about 25%—an estimated \$15–\$20,000 per year.

The bulbs are valued at \$4–6 each, which has been paid for from a community-service grant that Cummins received. Shepherd hopes to apply the same bulb-replacing idea for the parking lot lights. It's all part of Shepherd's effort to be better stewards, and to be more efficient with all resources. ■



# Curious?

come and see the story

What all can Shepherd Community Center do? Who are the staff? What does it mean to break the cycle of poverty?

Some of our donors have supported us for years without seeing Shepherd for themselves. You're invited to attend one of the monthly breakfasts or lunches at Shepherd Community. Come and see what we're doing to break the cycle of poverty. See how your investment is making a difference in the families we serve. Please join us and see for yourself what is happening at Shepherd.

**The next breakfast is:**

**February 24, 6:45 – 7:45 A.M.**

at Shepherd Community Center

Future meetings: March 17 (lunch)

and April 21 (breakfast).

RSVP to Jeff Boxell, phone: 375-0203, or e-mail: [jeffb@shepherdcommunity.org](mailto:jeffb@shepherdcommunity.org) by the Monday before the breakfast or lunch.

NEW FOR 2011:

## Three-Pronged Attack on Poverty

*Shepherd is always* innovating, and seeking new and better ways to help the neediest in our neighborhoods. For 2011, Shepherd will be using a three-pronged thrust to break the cycle of poverty in our neighborhood. Simply, the three elements are Education, Jobs, and Health.

**Education:** We will focus on the young people currently in Shepherd programs with a Reading Initiative and a Math and Science Initiative, for which we hope to feature a book mobile and a mobile science lab. We are also partnering with local churches and schools to add more dimensions to the program.

**Jobs:** Shepherd has offered jobs and a job training program in the summer for teens over the past few years. Now Shepherd is working with two local companies to provide more traditional jobs, and we don't intend to stop there.

**Health:** Shepherd is working on ways to create better access to healthy food, and to expand health-care options for our neighbors. This includes a new initiative we're working on with Wishard Hospital to provide pre-paid medical care.

These are not the only things Shepherd is doing, but these are the three areas that seem to represent the greatest needs in our area. Addressing the biggest concerns first is how Shepherd continues to bring stability to a troubled neighborhood. ■

## Changing Lives – His and Mine

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*Brittany Campbell is one of Shepherd's four fellows for the 2010-'11 school year.*

ourselves, about God caring for him. We've talked through millions of scenarios. And each and every one ended in a hug and a reaffirming that there

are two, at least, who love him—me and God.

I've worked with this boy since the summer of 2009, and I've seen him grow to have more confidence and more comfort in being himself. I've seen his passion for art grow too. And he knows Bible stories better than I do now; he absorbs every detail and exclaims, "I know my Bible." He still shuts down every now and again, but it's easier for us to come up with some solution. I've seen God work in amazing ways in this boy's life.

God has developed me too. I came into my first internship thinking I'd help some underprivileged kids, and maybe get a few good stories to take back, but after one week, my little friends were helping me. They opened my eyes to the hurt and pain in this world, to its unfairness to a nine-year-old boy who never did anything but love the people around him. In return, he was treated like a burden, and now he shudders when an adult raises his or her voice. I saw a definition of what true love looks like and more importantly, what love does not look like. Within three months, I could put faces to all the hurt in the world, and all those faces

broke my heart. It changed the way I think about life, about God, and what God means when He calls us to serve others and to love regardless.

This is just one of many stories I've found at Shepherd, and none of these would be possible without the intern/fellowship program. The summer internship allows college students and recent grads the opportunity to work with kids like this every day for three months within the Summer EXCEL program. The program works to help break the cycle of poverty through educational, spiritual, physical, and emotional curriculum. We plan lessons and activities, and most importantly, we build relationships with these kids in order to instill God's love in them.

Similarly, the year-long fellowship program furthers these ideas and allows interns to be immersed within Shepherd. We work within Shepherd Academy, after-school programs, and other projects, continuing to build relationships and learning what it means to be "in ministry."

I would recommend this program to anyone. If you know of anyone who might be interested, please have them contact John Smith at [johns@shepherdcommunity.org](mailto:johns@shepherdcommunity.org), or 317.375.0203. ■

*by Brittany Campbell*



*volunteers helping kids with homework in Shepherd's after-school program*

## From our Director

Hunger continues to be a challenge for those we serve at Shepherd. As inflation attacks, we see food prices increasing; access to food is getting harder for our neighbors.

In an attempt to help our families get more and healthier food, we continue to look for creative solutions. Simple things first: we are expanding our own gardens to provide more and healthier food to our own kitchen, and we are also increasing the amount we provide for our families. But the problem is so desperate, that we will look at any idea that might help—we are even considering raising our own tilapia fish for our neighbors.

Creating access to healthy food is a major focus for Shepherd in 2011. And you can help ... be a part of the solution.

*Jay Height*



## Two New Board Members

### Matt Carter



Matt Carter is the Chief Strategy Officer with the Indianapolis Convention and Visitors Association,

where he has also served as C.F.O. and C.O.O. during his tenure of more than twenty-five years. Matt is a 1982 graduate of Ball State University, and he states, "I am impressed with the Shepherd continuum of care, how the organization has built trust and rapport with the community it serves while maintaining an equal trust from those outside the neighborhood ... It will be a humbling honor to serve." Matt and his wife, Leslie attend College Park Church, and they are the parents of quadruplets.

### Mary Jo Hein

Mary Jo Hein worked at Shepherd for two years directing events and volunteers. Previously, she spent more than a decade in Illinois state government working on economic development and policy issues for governors and secretaries of state. Mary Jo says, "Serving ... would provide an opportunity to use the organizational understanding I gained in the past two years and continue to contribute at Shepherd." She is married to Jay Hein, president of the Sagamore Institute, they attend Grace Community Church, and they have two boys and a daughter. Mary Jo holds a bachelor's degree from Eastern Illinois University and did her grad work at the University of Illinois.



### It is the mission of Shepherd Community Center

to break the cycle of poverty on the Near Eastside of Indianapolis by engaging and empowering the community to cultivate healthy children, strong families, and vibrant neighborhoods through a Christ-centered approach that meets the spiritual, physical, emotional, and academic needs of our neighbors.

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