

Ahhhh, the Holidays!

Thankful

THIS TIME OF YEAR WILL PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOU TO HELP THOSE WE SERVE.

The holidays are quickly approaching and Shepherd has many opportunities for you and your family to get involved during the holiday season. For full details, visit us at www.shepherdcommunity.org. Here's a snapshot of what's coming up:

October 31st from 6:30 - 8:00 Fall Festival

November 22nd – Mozell Sanders Thanksgiving Day Dinner

December 3rd - 6th – Kids Shop

December 15th – Christmas Festival

December 19th & 20th – Christmas Store set-up

December 21st & 22nd – Christmas Store

IN ADDITION TO VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES, THERE ARE MANY ITEMS NEEDED TO HELP OUR FAMILIES:

FIRST AID SUPPLIES:

- Instant cold packs
- Tums
- Tylenol (adult and children)
- Ibuprofen (adult and children)
- Thermometers

OFFICE SUPPLIES:

- 8 1/2" x 11" white copy paper
- Colored copy paper
- Sticky tack
- Staples
- Tape

COOKING SUPPLIES:

- Oil
- Flour
- Spices
- Sugar

CLEANING SUPPLIES:

- Toilet bowl cleaner
- Trash can liners (40 gal.)
- Mop heads (24 oz.)
- Bottled bleach

COMMUNITY.

A publication of Shepherd Community Center



Shepherd is a faith-based, non-profit organization established in 1985 with a simple but staggering goal: to break the cycle of poverty on the near Eastside of Indianapolis. Located centrally within the community it serves, Shepherd offers programs for children, teens, adults, and families. Our primary tools? Education and love.

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



Mentoring Matters



Meet Christina. She grew up in St. Louis, Missouri with two younger sisters and a father who was in and out of her life. For her mom, being a single parent wasn't easy. However, she was determined to raise her children in a Christian home and provide them with the best care possible. "Had a program like Shepherd been available in my community," said Christina, "I know I would have benefitted."

With close to 7,000 single-parent households on the near Eastside alone, Christina's story sounds all too familiar for many of our students. When Christina heard about Shepherd through her church, The Creek, she began her journey of mentoring as a way to honor the memory of her grandmother and give back to the community.

(continued next page)

p2
On the Board

p3
Expanding Horizons

p4
Holiday Needs





Mentoring Matters *(continued)*

“Mentoring Amy has been a joy. She is smart, inquisitive and always eager to learn. As the mother of 2 teenage boys, it’s been fun to spend ‘girl time’ with Amy. In the process, I’ve been able to meet Amy’s brother and her mother and I was even invited to Amy’s school choir performance. It feels like a second family.”

- Christina

Amy echoes Christina’s sentiments about their mentoring relationship, “It’s fun because we get to just hang out together...what I really like is when we can talk about life.” By being a mentor, Christina has not only helped Amy feel special, but Christina admits that she’s “had the opportunity to see the world through young eyes...she’s making as big of an impact on my life as I’m hopefully making on hers.”

Shepherd currently has 44 youth matched with a one-to-one mentoring relationship, yet there are more waiting for mentors. If you’re considering mentoring, Amy would like you to know that “you should do it because everyone needs someone in their lives who makes them feel wanted and special.” **To learn more about making a positive impact on a youth, please contact Dan Fuller at danf@shepherdcommunity.org.** ■

*Child’s name changed to protect identity

ON THE BOARD



“Shepherd is a place where ‘we’ve always done it this way’ is replaced by ‘how could we do this better?’”

- Mary Jo

Mary Jo Hein is a former employee of Shepherd who now serves on our Board of Directors. She is married to Jay Hein, president of the Sagamore Institute. They are members of Grace Community Church, and have two sons and a daughter.

We recently asked Mary Jo why serving on the board is important to her, and this is what she had to say:

“In Genesis we learn that God designed us for relationship and for work. Ministry at Shepherd is about both of those things. Many families who are served by the ministry also volunteer to serve others. Students in the program are mentoring younger students, and some program graduates have returned as interns or staff. By giving of ourselves and our resources, cycles are broken and relationships are restored. Being on the board at Shepherd allows me to be a part of the work God is doing in this city and in my own heart.”

Shepherd is thankful for Mary Jo’s dedication to serving our families. If you have considered getting involved at Shepherd but aren’t sure where to start, Mary Jo’s advice is to “just START and let God reveal the rest to you. Take a tour, talk to a staff or board member, help with an event, drive around the neighborhood and pray about how you could get involved.” ■

Expanding Our Horizons

The Academy was one of Shepherd’s first programs to the neighborhood as we excitedly opened our doors to 12 preschoolers in 2000. Over the past 12 years, our reach has continually grown and we now serve 159 children from preschool through fourth grade with a goal of adding 5th grade for the 2013-2014 school year.

In the spring of this year, Shepherd began a meaningful and important partnership with Horizon Christian School in order to obtain accreditation. We now serve as a satellite location for Horizon - known as Horizon Christian School at Shepherd Community Center.

Debbie Meid, the Academic Ministries Team Leader for Shepherd, shares her enthusiasm:

“I am excited about the new partnership and feel honored to be a part of this new endeavor. I look forward to helping our families gain access to quality, Christian education opportunities for their children.”

In addition, our school is now eligible to receive SGO scholarships from the state and our families are eligible to receive Choice Scholarship vouchers, enabling them to have a proactive choice in their child’s education. Furthermore, Horizon goes through 12th grade so when a child leaves Shepherd after 5th grade, they will be able to continue their Christian education at Horizon’s main campus.

We are grateful for this partnership which has allowed us to expand our school and provide more opportunity for our families. ■



Empowering Those We Serve



This year we have seen an exciting development at Shepherd Community Center. After years of implementing an intentional plan to serve our neighbors in a holistic way, we have seen our Continuum of Care come to fruition.

Through the help of so many friends like you, we offer programs that begin as soon as a child is born, continue through college, and help our students as they transition into their career. This is a unique, empowering approach here in Indianapolis - providing those we serve with a strong opportunity to break the cycle of poverty.

With your dedication and support, we have built a strong foundation in our Continuum of Care. So, what is next? Go deeper into the lives of those we serve...more work to do!

We celebrate the return on your investment...***lives breaking out of poverty.***