

## BEACON Finding a Way to Help

In 2009 BEACON served 2354 families in the Metro-East area. This area includes Belleville, Swansea, O'Fallon, Caseyville, Shiloh, and Fairview Heights. The families served included 586 children and were referred to churches 1872 times and to social agencies 561 times. Relational Ministry served 839. Needs were served for furniture, rent and utility assistance, food or baby needs, medical/prescription assistance, home repairs, and transportation to appointments in order to help elderly and handicapped individuals to remain independent.

### HOW BEACON HELPS—

*Step One:* Requests for help are referred to BEACON by churches, agencies, and others. Office volunteers take applications. We pray.

*Step Two:* BEACON verifies the need through phone calls and our files. We make referrals to outside agencies when appropriate.

*Step Three:* If we validate the need and find that our Church Partners can help, the office volunteers try to match a church and/or their volunteers with the need.

*Step Four:* BEACON volunteers try to follow up with the person needing help to make certain the assistance has met the need as best we can.

### Always remember—

**It is God working through you, the volunteers, and your churches that allows us to provide the help needed. Give thanks and praise to God!**

### PARTNER CHURCHES

Abdias Christian Faith Fellowship  
Central Christian Church  
Christian Family Church  
Christ United Church of Christ  
Cornerstone Christian Church  
Crossroads Christian Church  
Faith Family Church  
Faith Lutheran Church  
First Baptist Church of Caseyville  
First United Presbyterian Church  
Grace Church  
Hope Church  
Life Church  
Peace Lutheran Church  
Radiance Center for Spiritual Living  
Signal Hill Lutheran Church  
Signal Hill United Methodist Church  
St. Augustine of Canterbury Catholic Church  
St. Mary Catholic Church  
St. Nicholas Catholic Church  
St. Paul United Church of Christ  
St. Peter Catholic Church  
St. Stephen Catholic Church  
Sterling Baptist Church  
Union United Methodist Church  
Westminster Presbyterian Church  
Wilkerson Chapel AME Church

### PARTICIPATING CHURCHES

Holy Trinity Catholic Church  
Parkview Church of the Nazarene  
Redeemer Community Church (PCA)  
St. Luke Catholic Church  
St. Teresa Catholic Church  
St. Clare Catholic Church

### SUPPORTING CHURCHES

Calvary Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Christ United Methodist Church  
First Baptist Church of Belleville  
First Church of Christ Scientist  
Garden Heights Baptist Church  
O'Fallon Assembly of God  
Our Lady Queen of Peace  
Prospect Park United Methodist Church  
St. John United Church of Christ  
Swansea Church  
Well of Living Water Ministries  
Trinity UCC

**Thanks for your support!**

## BEACON

*Belleville Ecumenical Area—  
Caring for Our Neighbors*

**The Mission of BEACON is to connect people in need to services and resources; to assist in building relationships that will lead people to communities of faith; and to partner with churches in addressing the deeper issues that contribute to poverty and hopelessness.**



*Working to bring the Light of God's love  
through the help of His hands*

**Tel: 618-222-8824**

## The BEACON Story

**BEACON** will transform lives and communities in response to Jesus' call to serve the least among us. In carrying out its mission, BEACON will honor and foster volunteer action, unconditional acceptance of all persons, interdependence, respect for all religious traditions, and a core belief that all individuals have the capacity to change and grow in personal maturity and independence.

In 2009, volunteers donated 4,800 hours to helping those in need. BEACON facilitated \$270,708 worth of goods and services to the persons whose requests/referrals were handled by our staff and volunteers. We have a lot to thank God for. We are grateful to our participating churches and volunteers. Our office space is subsidized by Westminster Presbyterian Church and warehouse space is provided by the City of Belleville.

### RELATIONAL MINISTRY

BEACON also operates a Relational Ministry program, which has dual goals of teaching life skills as they relate to Biblical principles and relationship building between clients and church volunteers. This is one of BEACON's newer ministries, and it continues to grow. We have two groups at this time, in Belleville and in O'Fallon, and a third group is being planned to serve Fairview Heights.



### FURNITURE MINISTRY

Since 2005, the city of Belleville has donated the use of a building for our Furniture Ministry. Our volunteers can pick up donated furniture and household goods, and we can hold them until a client calls with a need. Church volunteers will deliver the items needed. The delight on a child's face upon seeing his first real bed is a sight to be remembered for a long time.



We encourage partner churches to designate one Saturday every 3 months or even once a year to do pick-up and/or delivery. In 2009 we helped 381 families who received \$21,890 worth of furniture and/or household goods. Donations can be made by calling the BEACON office.

### TRANSPORTATION MINISTRY

We have truly dedicated volunteers who are willing to give of their time to take clients to doctor appointments, to the bank, or to the store if there is no other option available to them. There is no cost for this service. In 2009 we provided 129 rides allowing people to remain independent. We do need more transportation volunteers.

### AGENCY COLLABORATION AND COMMUNITY ADVOCACY

BEACON encourages social action by providing a forum for outside social agencies to network, advocate, and share vital information. This helps the agencies in meeting the needs of their consumers and stakeholders.

### BEACON

P O Box 23468

Belleville, IL 62223

### HOW YOU CAN HELP

BEACON has no income other than donations. The financial support of our Partner Churches is paramount to our operation. The MECCA Dinner/Auction provides 7% of our annual budget. The Annual Fund Drive provides another 20%, and individual Board members, volunteers, former clients, and those who cannot physically volunteer provide a steady stream of financial support. You can make a donation through your church or by sending a check to BEACON at the address in this brochure.

### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Phone applications	Clerical/Office
Church Contacts	Home Repair
Pick-up /Deliver Furniture	Drivers
Special Events/Projects	Receptionist
Publicity/Promotion	Auto Repair
Mentoring	Bible Study

If you have a talent or interest that you feel may not be covered above, call our Clearinghouse Director and talk with her. We are open to any assistance that God chooses to place in our path. Thank you for giving this your prayerful thought.

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