



The Shining Light

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BEACON

beacon@beaconministry1.org

Website: www.beaconministry.org

Volunteers Shine at BEACON

BEACON was started by a dedicated and compassionate group of volunteers. They had a desire to put ordinary folks like you and me to work helping those in need. For about fifteen years that has been the purpose and the core of what BEACON does. This issue is dedicated to BEACON's volunteers!

The need is great and we are all very busy with our jobs, our churches, our families, and our activities. How can we reconcile the need with the availability of volunteers? This is a constant balancing act for all of us at BEACON. If you have a desire to help, we can find a volunteer opportunity for you. Many of BEACON's original volunteers are still on the job, while others have moved on, passed away, or have deemed themselves too old. In reality, there is no age limit at BEACON. We need you,, regardless of

your age or availability. We need you because you want to do the right thing!

While most of our work is done in the mornings here, we do have fundraisers that happen in the evenings and on weekends. Our furniture ministry does pickups,



Volunteers loading up at warehouse deliveries, and warehouse cleanups on Saturdays.

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Board Members

John Laker, President, Holy Trinity Catholic Church
Diane Runyan, Vice-President, Faith Lutheran Church
Mickie Moore, Secretary, Westminster Presbyterian Church
Gwen Borsch, Treasurer, St Paul United Church of Christ/Blessed Savior Lutheran

Rev. Dr. John Dawson, Sterling Baptist Church
Rev. Rick Hodshire, Cornerstone Christian Church
Larry Reid, St Augustine of Canterbury Catholic Church
June Wolz, Signal Hill Lutheran Church
Pearl Washington, Radiance Center for Spirituai Living

Rev. Dorothy Berry, Wilkerson Chapel AME Church
Jim Eckert, Union United Methodist Church
Yvonne Hayes, St Augustine of Canterbury Catholic Church
John Prather, First Church of Christ Scientist, Fairview Heights



Metro East Community Charity Auction

The 18th Annual MECCA Auction was held Saturday, October 8th at Belleville West High School. BEACON participated along with 4 other organizations: Seeds of Hope, Holy Angels Shelter, Marian Chapter Victorious Missionaries, and Mother of God Ministries.

The dinner was catered by Roy-El Catering and Norm Geolat was the auctioneer.

BEACON would like to thank all those who volunteered their

time, especially Wanda Knepper, Yvonne, Cathy and Janet Hayes, Maggie Daugherty, Linda Baer, Mickie Moore, Chuck Moore, June Wolz, Arthur Francis, John Laker, Laurie Brown, Jade Sodam, and Gwen Borsch.

We would also like to thank the many, many people who donated items to be auctioned (listed under recent contributors), those who bought ads, and those who attended and bought items.

BEACON's profit from the MECCA auction was \$5982. This event is our biggest fundraiser. Since donations have been lagging, our fundraisers are what help us keep the doors open.



Just In from Jade

"If we are not faithful, he will still be faithful, because he cannot be false to himself." 2 Timothy 2:13

God's blessings are dispensed according to the riches of his grace, not according to the depth of our faith. Anyone who is involved in the inter workings of BEACON is fully aware of God's riches and blessings that have been showered upon our organization. Why is this important to know? Look all

around—there are more mouths to feed than what is readily available, more utility & rental assistance requests than funds allotted, and more furniture and bedding requests than donations. However, we don't give up. We pray, believe, and trust that our Lord never fails. We see slivers of light breaking through heaven's window knowing our God is there for us. *"No one has ever imagined what God has prepared for*

those who love him." 1 Corinthians 2:9 What a breathtaking verse knowing God is there for our clients, volunteers, boards and staff. God is good all the time; all the time God is good!



Save the Date! Friday, February 17th is the Annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner at Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Fairview Heights



Volunteers Shine at BEACON

Intake volunteers take applications from nine to noon. They are not expected to make referrals or solve problems, just listen and take information. Many of our intake volunteers have been here for six or more years. They enjoy the fellowship and knowing that they are helping make a difference.

Transport volunteers work according to their own schedule. The average volunteer provides one ride per month, although some do more and most do less. There is never any pressure to accept a transport.

Whether you work in the office, give rides to the elderly, cook for Relational Ministry, help at



Volunteers at Bowling Fundraiser

fundraisers, or work with the Furniture Ministry, you are doing God's work. You are following Jesus's mandate to care for the poor and to love your neighbor. Please consider volunteering at BEACON in the New Year!

(more pictures on page 4)



Players from Crossroads Christian Church at dinner theater.



Volunteers at dinner theater.



Unloading furniture for client

BEACON Statistics

| | | | |
|-------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|
| July | 204 requests completed | 21 furniture | 4 transportation |
| Aug | 237 requests completed | 26 furniture | 5 transportation |
| Sept | 193 requests completed | 13 furniture | 1 transportation |



Volunteers Shine at BEACON



Volunteers at Christmas Open House



Volunteers at Annual Appreciation Dinner



Volunteers at Turkey Hill Grange Craft Fair

BEACON IS a volunteer organization. We do what we do because of our generous and compassionate volunteers. Mau you have peace and joy this holiday season!

Lines from Laurie

When I counted my blessings this Thanksgiving, the list was long. There are so many ways that God his blessed our nation, my family, and BEACON.

We have a great staff at BEACON and we have the greatest volunteers anywhere. Among this group of great volunteers, the BEACON Board stands out. This group of folks give unceasingly of their time, gifts and resources to make BEACON work. We are so grateful for these unsung heroes. I work closely with them and, believe me, they do their share and much more.

I am eternally grateful for our intake volunteers who show up every week to listen to tales of hardship and misfortune with little relief in sight. This group is the backbone of BEACON. I am likewise in awe of our transport volunteers, our furniture volunteers, and the ladies who help get this newsletter out. Time is a precious resource and their willingness to share it is always appreciated.

I am grateful to Pastors, Church Secretaries, Social Workers, Donors , and all those who have made God's work their mission. Where would any of us be without them? It is so

refreshing to sit where I do and know that in an often selfish and cynical world, so many people still care and still want to reach deep into their hearts and give back. God is truly good!





What BEACON Does

For some of us, it may be hard to imagine doing without. For others, we need only reach back to another time when jobs were scarce, food and resources were precious and many had little to live on. For many people in our area, this is the reality today.

A gentleman called several months ago to say that his power would be turned off if he didn't come up with a few hundred dollars. At 74, he had Social Security to live on, but it was less than most bring home in a week. He had been working part time to supplement, but was injured and lost his job during recovery. "Try looking for a job when you are my

age!" he told the Clearinghouse Director. BEACON helped find funds to keep his power on.

A young couple came to Relational Ministry with their son. They all ate a hearty meal, listened intently to the Bible Study, happily accepted their incentives and told the Clearinghouse Director they hadn't eaten in two days and they were truly grateful!

A woman who had multiple health problems ended up spending most of this past summer in the hospital. Though she kept her thermostat set high to avoid big bills, the intense heat and inability to monitor the

situation made her bill so high she could not pay. Two of BEACON's churches stepped up to help.

A woman's son was killed and the cost of his funeral left her without rent money. A grandmother took her grandson in to care for when his mother entered drug treatment. A woman with a gravely ill teenager lost her job because she missed work to care for the daughter. These are the people who have been helped by BEACON's volunteers, donors and churches this past year. Your generosity makes a difference in their lives.

Financial Matters

| | Budgeted | Received | Budgeted | Rcvd |
|---------------|-----------|-----------|----------|----------|
| | July-Sept | July-Sept | YTD | YTD |
| Individuals | \$5,840 | \$4,787 | \$17,520 | \$14,352 |
| Churches | \$7,750 | \$,7244 | \$23,250 | \$22,233 |
| Businesses | \$1,210 | \$0 | \$3,630 | \$1,550 |
| Organizations | \$1,250 | \$750 | \$3,750 | \$2,991 |
| Fundraising | \$3,750 | \$4,703 | \$11250 | \$10,205 |
| Grants | \$2,250 | \$500 | \$6,750 | \$5,700 |
| Totals | \$22,050 | \$17,984 | \$66,150 | \$57,232 |



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Recent Supporters

(Aug 15-Nov 15)

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Debra Ames | Crossroads Christian Church | Dennis & Kim Hubbard | Linda Nekola |
| David Anderson | Ruth Dahm | Virginia Johnasen | Oanh Ngo |
| Joseph A Bank Clothiers | Kevin & Maggie Daugherty | Rosemary Johnson | Michelle Parsons |
| Dorothy Berry | Don Deitz | John & Robin Jurich | Peace Lutheran Church |
| Shirley Bevirt | Mike Dickey | Doris Kempfer | Beth Phillips |
| Bob & Betty Blanchard | Barbie Duncan | Pat Killian | Louise Phillips |
| Katherine Bonifield | Annette Eckert | Gail King | Radiance Center for Spiritual Living |
| Gwen Borsch | Jim & Carol Eckert | Jan Klinger | Richard & Carolyn Rawlings |
| Shirley Bostick | Wade Evans | Art & Jen Knepper | Larry Reid |
| Charles & Susan Botula | Faith Family Church | Wanda Knepper | Helen Richter |
| Sharon Boyers | Faith Lutheran Church | Jan Kniesly | Kathy Roemmel |
| Laurie & John Brown | Mike & Sherry Foppe | Ed & Peggy Knowles | Judy Ross |
| Mary Ellen Brown | Nancy Franke | Judy Koch | Diane Runyan |
| Jim & Patty Buckhannon | Bob & Sharon Gage | Ken Kozeluh | St Augustine of Canterbury |
| Megan Castenadi | Garden Heights Baptist Church | John & Bobbie Laker | Jill Schmidt |
| Church Women United of Belleville | Grace Church | Connie Lopinot | Mary Lou Siebert |
| Christian Family Church | Fran Hager | Robert Lowry | Sherry Simpson |
| Eleanor Clark | Diane Hancock | Kris Mack | Bettie Sisson |
| Sue Clarkson | Diane Hancock | Ruth Mader | Tina Smith |
| Kathy & Frank Coe | Norman & Carol Hake | Maxwell's Restaurant | Mike & Jade Sodam |
| Community Kindness | Joyce Hawkins | Tom McCall | Desiree St Clair |
| William Conrad | Amy Hayes | Tara McDonough | Gayle & Travis Taylor |
| Cornerstone Christian Church | Pat Hayes | Jerry Messick | Geraldine Thomas |
| Doug & Staci Cripe | Yvonne Hayes | Patricia Meyer | Thelma Thurnau |
| | Rich & Kathy Heil | Gloria Miller | Richard & Phyllis Timko |
| | Tony & Vera Held | Joan Miller | Susan Triesan |
| | Rosann Hinshaw | Chuck & Mickie Moore | Union United Methodist Church |
| | Bud & Janet Hollinberger | Kathy Morgan | |
| | Hope Church | Earl & Virginia Morris | |
| | | Margaret Neff | |



Recent Supporters Continued

Joe & Onnie Wargo

Pearl Washington

Scott & Patty Weaver

Well of Living Water

Brandi Werner

Carol Werner

Leonard Wojtyiak

June Wolz

Donations in Memory of

Dr. Phil Auner by Jan P. Klinger

Bill Whetstone by Sue Whetstone

Marie Brown by Mary Ellen Brown

Andy Timko by Richard Timko

Edwin McLean by Jan P. Klinger

Isaac & Rosemary Johnsen by Virginia Johnsen

Donations in Honor of

Betty Brown by Allan Miller

BEACON is Looking for Board Members

As BEACON Board members retire and move on, they need to be replaced with individuals who are able and willing to carry on our work. **A board member must be able to identify with the mission of BEACON:** Churches working together to serve the least among us.

We are looking for **leaders** who can take responsibility for **setting policy, overseeing the**



management of the organization, and contributing time, expertise and resources to further our mission. Previous experience as a board member of a not-for-profit organization would also be a plus.

Are you the one? If you are interested, call **John Laker at 233-4958 or the BEACON office at 222-8942.**

Thanks for All Your Help!

BEACON would like to express our gratitude to Applebee's Restaurant in Swansea, Maxwell's Restaurant in Belleville, Turkey Hill Grange in Belleville and the Fairview

Heights Kiwanis Club in conjunction with McAllister's Deli in Fairview Heights. These businesses and organizations either put on fundraisers for BEACON or hosted events which

led to them making a donation to BEACON. Their members and our volunteers helped make this generous support for BEACON possible. We are so grateful!

BEACON
P.O. BOX 23468
Belleville, IL 62223
Business Line 618 222-8942
Client Line 618 222-8842

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Dated Material
Please Do Not Hold

BEACON's Churches

Partner Churches

Central Christian Church
Christian Family Church
Christ United Church of Christ
Cornerstone Christian Church
Crossroads Christian Church
Faith Family Church
Faith Lutheran Church
First United Presbyterian Church
Grace Church
Hope Church
Peace Lutheran Church
Radiance Center for Spiritual Living
St Augustine of Canterbury Catholic
St Mary Catholic Church
St Nicholas Catholic Church
St Paul United Church of Christ

St Stephen Catholic Church
Signal Hill Lutheran Church
Signal Hill United Methodist Church
Sterling Baptist Church
Union United Methodist Church
Westminster Presbyterian Church
Wilkerson Chapel AME Church

Participating Churches

Abdias Christian Faith Fellowship
Faith Baptist
First Church of Christ Scientist
Holy Trinity Catholic Church
Life Church
Parkview Church of the Nazarene
St Clare Catholic Church
St Luke Catholic Church
St Peter Cathedral Catholic Church

St Teresa Catholic Church
Zion Lutheran Church

Supporting Churches

Calvary Evangelical Lutheran Church
Christ United Methodist Church
First Baptist Church of Belleville
Garden Heights Baptist Church
O'Fallon Assembly of God
Our Lady Queen of Peace Church
Prospect Park United Methodist Church
St John United Church of Christ
Swansea Church
Trinity United Church of Christ
Well of Living Water Ministries
(Your Church's Name Could Appear Here!)