

VOLUNTEERS: THE HEART AND SOUL OF MINISTRY

At "The Other Way" Ministries we desire to boldly proclaim the word of God and to continue the transformational work of Jesus in Westtown. We know this is only possible when utilizing the many gifts of the church and through the power of the Holy Spirit. Therefore, we celebrate these accomplishments together with dozens of volunteers who give their time each week to be physically present in our neighborhood.



- 31 volunteers read books to kids this summer donating 189 hours of their time
- Each month roughly 30 volunteers serve in work groups to help maintain our properties
- Throughout the school year 22 volunteers mentor children in our D-Group program
- This year 3 volunteers gave over 300 hours at our front desk welcoming neighbors
- 10 volunteers faithfully work in our food pantry giving over 400 hours this year
- 10 individuals assist weekly in teen ministry providing valuable mentors to the youth we serve
- This year 3 IT volunteers (tech guys with hearts for service) have saved us over \$30,000

We express our gratitude to all of our volunteers and devoted prayer partners for their commitment to our staff and to our Westtown neighbors. THANK YOU!!!

Do you have a half day each week to volunteer to help our part-time facility manager do light maintenance on our property? Contact Jeff to fill this need 616-454-4011 x 5226.

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THE HOPE OF THE CITY



710 West Fulton, Grand Rapids, MI 49504-6382

WEST SIDE STORY
We are a Christian ministry that walks alongside Westtown urban families as they strive to grow spiritually, relationally and economically.

THE WEST SIDE STORY

"The Other Way" Ministries

WINTER 2009

A SANKOFA RE-VIEW



When I was fifteen, my driving instructor covered the rear view mirror and asked, 'What color is the car behind us?' I quickly learned to look backward while driving forward.

This issue is a re-view of 2009 to celebrate what God is doing all around us. No doubt we will learn from the past even as we plan for the future.

The 'Sankofa' symbol is based on a mythical bird that flies forward with its head turned backward while holding an egg (symbolizing the future) in its mouth. It reflects the belief of the Akan people of West Africa that the past serves as a guide for planning the future, and that we should reach back and gather the best of what our past has to teach us so we can achieve our full potential as we move forward.

The stats on the following pages scarcely begin to show the depth of our ministry impact. Even convincing statistics sometimes leave us wondering about the depth of our impact in the lives of neighbors. We don't always hear "the rest of the story" when people move

on to new chapters of life. But throughout our 42 year history, God reminds us of His faithfulness through people like Jim (not his real name), who walk through our doors years later and want to give back.

Jim grew up in our neighborhood, attended Boys Club in the early days and became a mentor to his peers. Randy VanderWeit mentored him further, and Jim's first job was at a local business. Ten years passed, and this fall he attended our annual fundraising event, expressing a desire to give back personally and through his company. Now we can join hands and work together toward greater impact with families.

I'm praying the snapshots inside will provide a bird's eye view of 2009. We hope to give you a glimpse of the handiwork of God re-creating many lives of children and families in Westtown, even as we pray and plan our way into the coming year.

Please keep checking our website for news and updates.

Lou Roossien, Executive Director



YEAR END WISH LIST

Can you help with one of our needs? Email us, mail@theotherway.org for information.

- Providers for holiday food baskets for our neighbors
 - An ongoing facility volunteer (4 hrs / week) to help with routine maintenance
 - Gifts (new items) for our annual Christmas Store: The Gift With Dignity - deliver to us on Dec. 7
- Last year 150 families earned 2,376 hours of credit to buy gifts at our Christmas Store

2009 FAITH FOCUS VERSE EPHESIANS 3:20-21

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.



FROM ENCOUNTERS TO COACHING...

ENCOUNTERS - Each month about 800 people come through our doors or call requesting information. Over the past 42 years we have gotten to know many of these people, but we are surprised each month that nearly 100 new people stop in or call for the very first time. As the economy affects our community our doors remain open and we do our best to treat each person with respect and assist them the best we can.



FOOD PANTRY - In the first ten months of 2009 we have served 2,720 adults and 1,974 children through our food pantry. Each month an average of 146 families are welcomed for emergency food assistance.

GVSU KIRKHOFF COLLEGE OF NURSING - This year 48 GVSU nursing students completed their community health rotation at "The Other Way". These students devoted over 4,000 hours of class and personal time to work individually with neighbors, conduct health screenings and provide health education. We continue to celebrate this great partnership.



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY - During the school year 51 children participated in D-Group programs meeting in small groups with 22 committed volunteer Christian men and women. In the summer 55 kids joined our TEAM program to learn how to be a hero in Christ. At the end of the summer, we were encouraged that 90% of the kids said they wanted to follow Jesus. Praise God.

TEEN MINISTRY - The summer Youth Employment Service (YES) hired 12 teens to mow over 70 lawns weekly in the community offering first-time job experience, training in money management, character development and job readiness.

Over the school year and summer eight teens were selected to participate in Leaders In Training (LIT). Three graduated from the Grand Rapids Initiative for Leaders and all of them have taken new steps toward becoming the next leaders of our community.



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Please tell us if you wish to be removed from our mailing list.

WESTSIDE STORY
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KOINONIA WOMEN - This faithful group of women meet each week for encouragement, activities and Bible Study. Twenty women completed a study of the book of Acts through Community Bible Study and 23 are currently studying the book of Genesis.

FAMILY ACTIVITIES - Eight families took a road trip to watch the Tigers win in Detroit. A July cookout found 34 families enjoying a meal, sharing their life stories and dancing. Two Family Camp sessions provided time to get to know seven families on a deeper level. We celebrate that these families are actively involved in programs at "The Other Way" and two have become involved in the life of Servant's Church in our neighborhood.

FAMILY RESOURCE CO-OP - At least 60 families have earned a total of 1,500 credit hours for use in our family resource co-op. This fall they are beginning to redeem their credit for items for their homes.



FAMILY WELLNESS - Over 110 adult neighbors have graduated from one of the relational family programs we offer. These interactive classes offer curriculum for healthy family relationships including couples.

FAMILY COACHING - Ten families are part of the family coaching program. The participants meet twice each month with their coach. Together they identify their gifts, set tangible goals and think about what God has in store for their future.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT - Eight of our staff were blessed to attend the annual Christian Community Development Association conference in Cincinnati. We heard from many inspiring and encouraging speakers and have renewed energy and ideas for ministry.

E-NEWS

Keep updated monthly about the exciting things happening at "The Other Way". Sign up for our monthly E-news. Contact Kyle to sign up at kvanstrien@theotherway.org

GET CONNECTED

Show your support and get regular updates on what's happening at "The Other Way" by joining our Facebook Cause. See the website for more information (www.theotherway.org). You can see our newsletter online, too.

SPECIAL YEAR-END GIVING OPTION FOR SENIORS

Thanks to the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008, you can take advantage of a special tax-saving opportunity to make gifts directly from your IRA to causes such as "The Other Way" - now through December 31, 2009. If you are at least 70 1/2 years old when the gift is transferred, you can make a distribution directly to "The Other Way" without increasing your taxable income or withholding. For an illustration or more information contact Kyle at (616) 454-4011 x5114 or kvanstrien@theotherway.org.

