

MISSION Update



Washington Street
MISSION

408 N. FOURTH STREET • SPRINGFIELD, IL 62702 • (217) 544-9011

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NEW OPPORTUNITIES OPEN UP FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH MINISTRIES AT THE MISSION

We are excited to welcome a new staff member at Washington Street Mission. Just finishing her college work at the University of Illinois in Springfield, Shana Stine began her employment with us this summer as our Children and Youth Ministries Coordinator. Adding Shana to the Mission staff is opening up a number of new opportunities to minister to children and youth more intensively and more effectively.

Shana brings a big heart for children and for people in need to her position here. She also brings impressive leadership skills and an outstanding ability to organize volunteers for significant tasks. She will be able to spend the time and energy necessary to support the children and youth we serve at the Mission whose lives are often chaotic and headed in unhealthy directions.



Shana Stine, the Mission's new coordinator of children and youth ministries, works on a floor puzzle with one of the children during the afterschool tutoring program.

field trips and to a number of special events. She has quickly established significant relationships with them.

For about six weeks this summer Shana worked with an orphanage in Kenya in the Jump for Joel ministry that she initiated about two years ago while in college. In addition to raising funds to support the orphanage, the ministry organizes teams of volunteer college students who help at the orphanage with education and feeding programs as well as construction projects.

During the rest of the summer Shana began to work with the children and youth at the Mission, taking them on

This fall with the beginning of the school year Shana jumped into the leadership of the youth support group that meets at the Mission on Monday evenings and the afterschool tutoring program on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings. Supporting and encouraging the volunteer tutors who work individually with the children has been a major part of her efforts.

During her years at Saint Elmo High School in southern

Illinois, Shana was very involved in FFA programs. She spent the year after her graduation as class valedictorian representing the Illinois FFA association as state secretary across the United States and in Europe. Last year she received the Springfield Mayor's Recognition Award for her outstanding volunteer work with the Springfield Overflow Shelter. She has also volunteered at Camp Kearney, a summer camp operated by the South Side Mission in Peoria, and with Springfield's Big Brothers Big Sisters organization.

As God continues to open up opportunities for us to be involved in the lives of children and youth in need and as you partner with us, we will be prepared for the challenges we will face.

Visit us online at
www.wsmission.org

INSIDE OUR MONDAY NIGHT YOUTH GROUP

After picking up the students from their houses, we bring them to the Mission for youth night. We start with some free time, which gives the students a chance to interact with one another and the staff. Next, we play the old-school camp-game Bible Drill, where a verse is shouted out (like Ephesians 5:1, Go!) and the first student to find it, wins. Interestingly, our quietest student is the current points leader.

After a few rounds of Bible Drill, we switch to the lesson. Currently we are going through the book of Matthew. We ask the students to read a story about Jesus and then repeat it in their own words. Other students are then asked to repeat the paraphrased story. We want to get Jesus "off the page" for these students, to help them learn his life not just from a written text, but also through the spoken word.

After the lesson, one of the students prays, and we eat snacks. Free time wraps up the evening, and usually a round of H-O-R-S-E is played. Though it's nice to let the students win, Shana just can't let that happen. Then everyone loads up in the Mission van, and we're on our way home.

NEW SHOWER AND LAUNDRY FACILITIES EXTEND OUR IMPACT

The new shower and laundry facilities at the Mission that were completed last October have seen a lot of use.

During the first eight months of the year, 786 showers were taken by guests at the Mission, an average of about 6 or 7 every day during the morning coffee hours. During that same period guests were able to do 500 loads of laundry at the Mission.

These new facilities have made it possible for people to present themselves more appropriately and to feel better about themselves. We believe that they are one more step toward helping people find a new sense of hope in their lives.



Associate Director Mary Lynn Mitchell supervises use of the shower and laundry facilities at the Mission during the morning coffee hours. Here she helps one of the Mission's guests who is in need of a shower.

COFFEE HOUR NUMBERS CONTINUE TO GROW

This month we reached a new milestone in our coffee hour ministry at Washington Street Mission. For the first time our daily count of the number of guests during our morning coffee hours topped 200. We utilize the number of coffee mugs we need to wash each day as a rough measure of the number of people we served that day.

The average number of people in the coffee hall has increased dramatically over the past several years. Through the first eight months of 2009, we have averaged over 140 guests each day. The daily average for 2008 was just under 125 and the daily averages for the three previous years were about 90 (in 2007), 75 (in 2006) and 65 (in 2005). The need for a safe, quiet place where people can gather in the mornings off the streets has clearly been growing.

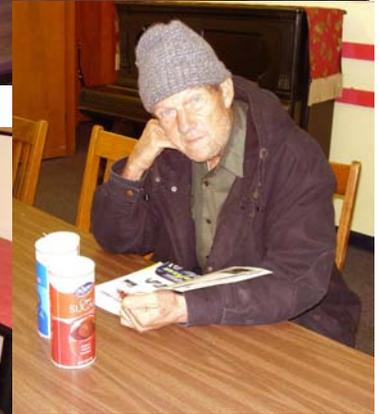
The increase in numbers has been particularly dramatic since the fall of 2007 when the Mission began to open at 7:00 AM rather than 9:00 AM. The construction of new shower and laundry facilities has also been a factor in the increased numbers.

As the weather turns colder we expect to continue to see the number of people we serve in the mornings continue to rise. We need your support to continue to handle this growing number of people in need each day.

Your financial donations are essential to support this ministry. You can also help by donating coffee, sugar, creamer, napkins and other supplies. You may also come volunteer and personally serve some coffee and doughnuts. By partnering with us in this ministry you can touch the lives of people in need with the love of Jesus in a very tangible way.

OUR MISSION

To share the love of Jesus Christ with the people of Springfield by providing opportunities that meet their spiritual and physical needs.



A few faces
of the many people we serve
during our neighborhood coffee
hours



100TH ANNIVERSARY EVENTS SCHEDULED FOR NEXT JANUARY

As the 100th anniversary of the founding of Washington Street Mission approaches, we are planning a number of special events to celebrate this special occasion.

First, we will hold an open house at the Mission on the actual 100th anniversary of the first worship service held at the Mission. The date will be Sunday, January 10, 2010. Everyone is invited to visit the Mission that day from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM.

You will be able to see our facilities, enjoy some light refreshments, hear about our ministries, look at some old photos, watch a video presentation or two, talk to the leaders and staff of the Mission, and just celebrate with us. The Mission's Christmas decorations will still be up to enjoy as well.

We will also be holding a celebration banquet at Northfield Inn on Saturday, January 30, 2010. Reservations for this special banquet will be \$25 per person to cover the cost of the buffet dinner. You will be blessed to hear of the ways the Mission has touched the lives of people in need in Springfield year after year in a wide variety of ways since opening its doors in 1910. We'll also be presenting some plans for the future that you will not want to miss. Mark your calendar today to save this date and plan to join us in this special celebration.

"If we take the risk of personally touching and being touched by a suffering person, the miracle of sight can break into our own darkness. When the clarity of compassion illuminates our vision, we can visualize healing that goes far deeper than physical cure."

Robert D. Lupton, *Compassion, Justice and the Christian Life: Rethinking Ministry to the Poor*
(Regal Books, 2007), page 20.

Celebrating 100 years

of sharing the love of Jesus with people in need in Springfield.

Facing the future

with hope and bold anticipation for all God will do through our ministry in the next 100 years.

Relying on God

to continue to bless us as he moves his people to lift us up in prayer and support this ministry.

THANKSGIVING BRINGS SPECIAL OPPORTUNITIES

The Thanksgiving season is special at Washington Street Mission for many reasons. We are able to extend our outreach to people in need in unique ways at this time of the year.

At our men's transition house a special Thanksgiving dinner will be prepared. The current residents of the house will be joined by former residents who are invited to share in this family experience. Many of these men look forward to being part of this dinner every year. Volunteers who have worked with the men at the house will also join them for the dinner.

The children who participate in the Mission's afterschool tutoring program will also enjoy a Thanksgiving dinner. The meal will be served in the parlor at the Mission, a very special location for the children. They look forward to the fancier meal and special time. They will go around the table saying what they are thankful for, in the same way many families do.

The Mission will also deliver Thanksgiving food baskets to a number of the families of the children and youth who participate in Mission programs. The baskets are provided during the week before Thanksgiving as part of a community-wide program.