



Washington Street
MISSION

MISSION Update

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Tom Ryder
President

Laura Catherwood
Vice-President

Raven A. Pulliam
Secretary

Robert John Kane
Treasurer

Jim Fay

June Harmon

Berta Kay

Thomas O. Kay

Larry Matejka

Paul Paoni

Robert Paoni

BOARD MEMBERS EMERITUS

David E. Beatty

Philip Hanna

Larry Lipka

Marianne Stowers

Robert C. Walbaum

Stan Welch

MISSION STAFF

Kenneth E. Mitchell
Executive Director

Mary Lynn Mitchell
Associate Director

Danny Yocum
Men's Ministries Director

Jim Medley
Coffee Hall Coordinator

WEB SITE

wsmission.org

NEIGHBORHOOD CONTROVERSY OPENS MINISTRY DOORS WIDER

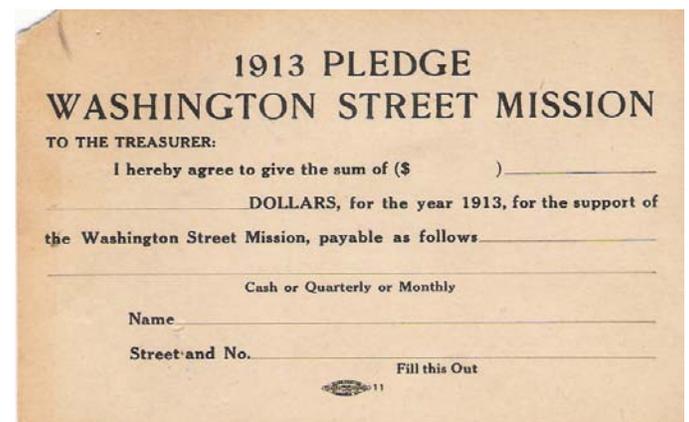
Finding ourselves in the middle of a neighborhood controversy has not been pleasant, but we have discovered new opportunities for ministry opening up in front of us as a result. We are thankful that the Lord leads us into unexpected challenges and enables us to step up to meet them.

The controversy began with plans for the relocation of a shelter operated by Helping Hands into the building next door to the Mission which had housed the Ace Sign Company. We made plans to cooperate with the shelter and hoped that we would be able to work together well.

Unfortunately the planned relocation unleashed concerns about the growing number of homeless people in the area, the safety of residents in nearby housing units, and vandalism of property. Community meetings at Sangamon Towers and Near North Village became heated and the Mission struggled to defend our ministry to hurting people in the neighborhood. We stressed our concern for people housed in the area as well as homeless people.

The required zoning for the relocation of the shelter was defeated by the City Council, but there have been several positive developments. We began a cooperative relationship with Helping Hands that will be fruitful in the future. We are improving the safety of the Mission with the installation of cameras. And we have begun plans for afternoon classes and Bible studies that will provide more help for people in need.

With the continuing support of people who believe in our ministry we can turn these challenges into a stronger ministry. Please continue to pray with us and to give generously.



Times have changed. One hundred years ago the Mission used pledge cards like this one to raise support for its ministries. Today we still rely on the faithful support of individuals, businesses and churches, but pledge cards are a thing of the past.



A special Thanksgiving dinner with the children in the afterschool tutoring program and their volunteer tutors has been a highlight of the program each fall. We will miss it very much.



CHILDREN'S PROGRAM UNDERGOING MAJOR REEVALUATION

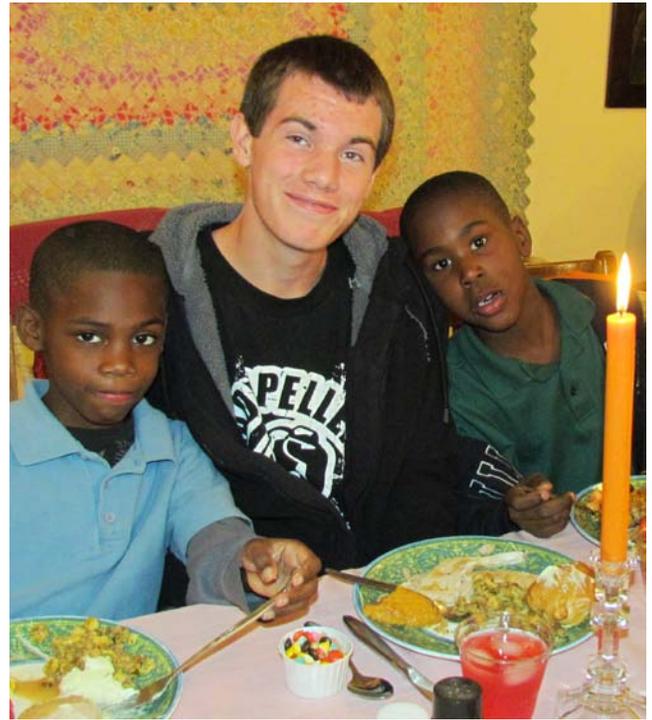
A very difficult decision was reached this fall to suspend the current afterschool tutoring program at Washington Street Mission. We hope to be able to redesign and relaunch the program as soon as next fall. A number of issues were involved in reaching this decision.

The dramatic increase in the number of people we serve during the morning coffee hours at the Mission has meant increased staff demands and less staff time and resources available for the children. It has also made it harder to insure the safety of the children in the immediate vicinity of the Mission. Transporting the children to the Mission and

back to their homes each afternoon and evening was becoming difficult. Finally it was clear that the kind of intensive tutoring program we maintained was limited in scope and impact, despite the number of children who have been significantly impacted over the years.

As the program is reevaluated each of these issues will be considered. Insuring that solid financial support for appropriate staffing and a secure location will be essential. We hope that the new program will be more of a community center where children can get to the program easily from their schools and homes.

Please pray with us that the Lord will guide and provide for the continuing ministry of the Mission to children in need.



We will remember the many happy times around the Thanksgiving dinner table with children for a long time. Their shining faces remind us of the love and joy we find in Jesus. We are so thankful for the opportunity we have had to work with each one of them.

Over the years many children have been involved in the afterschool tutoring program or one of the youth support groups at the Mission. Here is a list of the names of over 170 of the children we have worked with during the past fifteen years. Please take some time to pray for them by name.

Aaliyah	Dalecia	Floyd	Kathy	Mike F	Richard M	Tiffany
Aaron B	Daria	FredTesha	Kazla	Mike G	Richard S	Timothy
Aaron M	Darontae	Gregory	Kenrick	Mikiya	Robbie	Tiyanni
Aaron P	Darren	Hollisha	Kent	Monique	Rome	Tony
Adrienne	David	Hope	Kiara	Morgan	Sabrina	Tonya
Alicia	Dayshiana	Howard	Kiesha	Nathan	Sacred	Toreon
Alonzo	Deantre	Ilesha	Kiya	Neko	Septiembra	Toya
Amanda	Debeyun	Issaac	Kourtney	Niccoss	Shakey	Travion
Andrew	Deborah	Isiah	Kyle	Octavius	Shanice	Travis
Angelique	Demaria	Jakylia	Lakesia	Oquita	Shataka	Tyrese
Ashley	Demario	Jamarice	Lanesha	Patrick C	Shawntelle	Tyshawn
Ben	Demetrius	Jamarion	Latonya	Patrick M	Shemika	Ulysses
Brianna	Demillio	Jameka	Latoya	Perry	Shnaya	Vernesha
Candice B	Derrick	James	Lavell	Perryion	Shunderika	Warren A
Candice P	Desiree	Jasmine	Lavonda	Quinn	Sierra	Warren P
Capria	Devonte H	Jeanette	Leah	Rachel	Stephanie	Whitney
Carlos D	Devonte W	Jeffrey C	LeAndre	Rakiya	Steve	Willard
Carlos G	Diamond	Jeffrey S	Leshawn	Raven	Tahshiana	William
Carmaine	Dominiqua	Jelissa	Lonell	Raynesha	Takira	Willie
Ciarra	Edrick	Jeremiah	Marco	Raysheanna	Tara	Zenaria
Clemence	Elias	Jerome	Marquisha	Rhyan	Tariel	Zi'Sean
Cortez	Elijah	Joann	Martez	Ricardo	Taurus	
Courtney	Eugene	Jordan	Marvel	Ricco	Teddy	
D'Amonte	Fantashia	Karmeletta	Maurice	Richard B	Terrance	
D'Vonte	Fernando	Kartel	Melissa	Richard H	Terry	

THE FIRST THANKSGIVING CONTINUES TO INSPIRE

*"Blessed are those whose strength is in you,
whose hearts are set on pilgrimage."*

Psalm 84:5

When we try to place our Thanksgiving celebration in some historical perspective, we usually begin with the Pilgrims arriving on the *Mayflower* and landing at Plymouth Rock in 1620. We traditionally date the first Thanksgiving from the day they set aside for a feast with their native American neighbors in the fall of 1621. The faith and confidence exhibited by these men and women can inspire us along with their evident thankfulness.

But it is not as simple a story as we have often made it. We often ignore the context of the story. These were real people in a real world very different from our modern world, struggling against enormous obstacles. They were still in the middle of a struggle for their very survival when they stopped to thank God.

As historian Robert Tracy McKenzie has written, "I feel as if I am standing on holy ground in trying to know them at all. . . . The Pilgrims endured trials far more arduous than most of us have ever experienced, and they did so with courage and determination and hope and gratitude. . . . Living in an age in which we reward self-promotion and cheapen the virtues of fortitude and perseverance . . . there is much in their story that is refreshingly subversive." (*The First Thanksgiving: What the Real Story Tells Us About Loving God and Learning from History* [InterVarsity Press, 2013], pages 186-187).

Let's practice some subversive and counter-cultural thankfulness as we celebrate this season. As we see people all around us in need and try to reach out to them, we need to remember that our strength is in the Lord. We are on a pilgrimage to deeper faith and gratitude as we learn to be people of God in a hurting and difficult world.

OUR MISSION

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

MORNING COFFEE MINISTRY CONTINUES TO GROW

Five years ago in the fall of 2008 the Mission made a commitment to expand its morning coffee ministry. Instead of opening at 9 am, we began opening at 7 am and welcomed people from the overnight shelters and others who needed a safe, comfortable place for a few hours. The Mission became a day center for many people who had no where else to go. We opened new shower and laundry facilities to help people deal with the demands of their daily lives and to move forward into stable housing and employment.

The numbers are quite dramatic. In 2005, 2006 and 2007, before the expanded hours, we averaged 65, 75 and 87 guests per day during the morning coffee hours. The average number of daily guests in 2008, 2009, and 2010 were dramatically higher: 123, 148 and 138. The comparable numbers for 2011 and 2012 were 151 and 170. This year through September we have averaged 176 guests each weekday morning during our coffee hours.

This dramatic increase from 65 to 176 reflects our expanded ministry to all sorts of people in need -- men, women, families and children of all ages. At the same time the Mission's transition house has continued to serve dozens of men who are ready to change their lives and move forward. The house provides a stable place for men to live for up to a year with the necessary support for obtaining employment, developing life skills, growing spiritually and learning to live productively.