



Connecting and uniting churches, organizations and individuals in working together to break down barriers of poverty, race and despair in the name of Jesus Christ.

2010 Annual Report



2010

Board of Directors

Chris Boss - Secretary

Eva Irene Daughtery

Professor Leonard Erb – Co-leader, Syracuse Chapter

David Johnson

Garry Manuel - Chairman, Co-director (non-compensated)

Mary Stevens – Vice Chair, Co-director (non-compensated)

Treasurer

Graham Smith

Team Leaders

Bread Run – Paul Heilman

Concert of Praise – Eva Irene Daughtery, Melody Burri & Garry Manuel

Jacob's Ladder – Chris Boss & Fred Stresing

Prayer Team – Eva Irene Daughtery

Saturday Sonshine Program – Garry Manuel & Melody Burri

Newsletter – Pam Renfro, Melody Burri & Garry Manuel

Social Events – Eva Irene Daughtery

Syracuse Chapter – Prof. Leonard Erb, Rev. Aaron James

URGEnt Presentation and Tour – Garry Manuel, Ron Tocci, & Melody Burri

URGEncy Collection – Chris Boss

US (Urban/Suburban youth mission) – Eva Irene Daughtery & Pam Renfro

Volunteer Coordination – Garry Manuel

Project URGE, Inc.

Urban Revitalization, God Experienced

Annual Report 2010

Jacob's Ladder:

The Jacob's Ladder Team served Foodlink, Gerhardt Neighborhood Outreach Center and at The Shepherd's House in 2010. This team disassembled some of the indoor structures at Foodlink's new facility off Joseph Ave. In addition they, constructed a large storage closet, did framing, drywall, painting and installed a door at GNOC on N. Goodman St. They also worked on seam finishing, sanding and drywall at The Shepherds House, as well as collecting and sorting clothing and food for the URGEncy Collection in November.

Those helping the team were: Chris Boss, Katie Boss, Joe Marchioni, Dave Hanlon, Steve Shoemaker and Fred Stresing. They compiled approximately 150 hours in labor to help organizations save money that can more effectively be spent on their daily programs and operations.



We thank Fred Stresing for his many years of leading the Jacob's Ladder Team and his service to the many organizations. Fred has stepped down and the baton has been handed to long-time volunteer and board member, Chris Boss. This team has lost members due to health concerns and people moving from the area. In 2011 we hope to find fresh volunteers who are willing to serve once or twice a month.

Bread Run:



The bread run in many ways has become more important than ever. The economic downturn has made it harder on some of the inner city shelters. There are more people in need with fewer products to supply them. This has affected the bread run as well. There are consistently more people in the shelters and other locations that we serve. Today marks a time when the Bread Run could truly flourish, becoming an essential ministry within Project URGE.

The 2010 Bread Run team consisted of: Linda Conklin, Paul Heilman, Mike Furlong, Nelson Bowen, Karen Salaczynski, Mary Ewanechko, Cory Robinson, Melodie Rios, Bryan & Christin Babcock Mary Stevens, with several people listed as back-ups.

Paul Heilman has passed the leadership of this team to long-time volunteer, Linda Conklin for 2011. We thank Paul for his leadership over the past few years.

Saturday Sonshine Program:

The Saturday Sonshine Program served approximately 62 children between the ages of 6 and 16 about twice a month. The average number of student participants each week was a dozen. Activities included hiking into Taughannock Falls (near Ithaca), Cummings Nature Center, hiking in the Genesee River Gorge, Braddock Bay, The Weaver Farm, the Seneca Park Zoo and more.

The activities include hiking in the outdoors as well as providing new learning experiences, developing relationships and incorporating practical life-skill Bible lessons. Occasionally we'll take the kids out for a meal on our longer trips. They are able to have a breakfast at Grace UMC before the program begins.

We hope to have more parental involvement in the coming year and build our volunteer base to develop more of a mentoring-type relationship with the kids. While our hope is to engage in more in-depth conversations, there are some difficulties in achieving those goals due to the multi-cultural nature of the program and the wide age span (6-16 years of age) correlating to the challenge of effectively communicating .



This program runs as a collaborative effort with Grace Community Village and other affiliated partners. We welcome participants from other children's ministries to join us.

Volunteers included: Jane Ames, Bryan & Christin Babcock, Laura Boss, Pamela Brown, Melody Burri, Joony Lomenzo, Garry & Mary Manuel and Ron Tocci.

Volunteer Coordination:

Project URGE organized service projects and volunteer opportunities for approximately 350 plus volunteers from high schools, colleges, church groups and individuals serving organizations such as: Cameron Ministries, Community Lutheran Ministry, Foodlink, Grace Community Village, His Hands Nursing, His Branches, Catholic Family Center's Homeless & Housing, Mercy Residential, Outreach Temple, RAIHN, Rochester Recovery House, SWAN, and others.

Williamson High School continues to be a major highlight each year. For six years their service day has been a win/win for our affiliated organizations and the school. They typically have visited twice a year, serving 7-8 organizations each time. In addition we set up service projects for Trinity Immanuel Lutheran Church and Faith Lutheran Church and helped plug individuals into various serving opportunities in an ongoing basis with Project URGE and affiliated members.



One of the primary goals of Project URGE is to open doors to opportunities in becoming involved serving others. A conservative estimate of value in regard to hours of In-Kind-Service volunteering for and through Project URGE totaled approximately 2400 plus for 2010. This includes folks serving on our various ministry teams within URGE.

Publicity and Information:

(Includes URGEnt Presentation & Tour, Newsletters, Website, Letters, Booklets, Brochures, DVDs, E-briefs & Speaking Engagements):

We rely on our website, booklets and brochures to provide information to groups and individuals about affiliate organization needs and what volunteer opportunities exist if they chose to become involved. Our E-briefs (e-mail alerts) are sent approximately twice a month to approximately 260 people covering both organizations and individuals. This keeps participants informed about needs, volunteering opportunities and upcoming events.

In 2010 we distributed approximately one hundred fifty booklets and brochures. We also mailed hundreds of cards, letters, DVD's and invitations to social events, seminars and community collaborative workshops.

Through our newsletter (distributed to approximately 750), we keep our community, organizations, volunteers, churches, public servants and donors informed as to what has

transpired and what is about to take place. This newsletter is both mailed out and posted on our website.

Our eighth annual "URGEnt Presentation & Tour" was once again held in November and continues to play a major role of publicizing agencies, ministries, needs and volunteer opportunities. This year we invited Dr. Wayne Gordon, Chairman of Christian Community Development Association and pastor of Lawndale Community Church in Chicago, to be our guest speaking at the Concert of Praise, the URGEnt Presentation and Tour, the Community Forum (while the tour was in session) and the "Family Conversation", which followed the URGEnt Presentation and Tour. The luncheon/discussion was for Project URGE volunteers and our affiliated collaborative partners.



This year was perhaps one of our most informative URGEnt Presentations and well attended tours in our history. In addition to the Presentation and Tour, we held a Community Forum, led by Wayne Gordon, which allowed him to speak on growing grassroots initiatives in neighborhoods of poverty, indigenous leadership and encouraging others not to let the lack of funds deter people from starting to act on new ideas that come from residents.

Capping off the weekend of activity was a luncheon held after the Presentation and Tour at Community Lutheran Ministry. This time with Dr. Gordon was titled, "Family Conversation", which was for Project URGE volunteers and our affiliated collaborative associates. Approximately 30 people attended the luncheon. A wide range of topics ranging from race, to reaching the next generation to starting housing rehabilitation was discussed. Much was shared in a short period of time. Many shared that we needed an entire weekend to address these issues together.

Syracuse Chapter of Project URGE:

Project URGE Syracuse has been meeting monthly for almost 2 years at Second Olivet Missionary Baptist Church. The pastor, Aaron James, Sr. and Dr. Len Erb are the facilitators of URGE. URGE has a membership of about 30 churches, denominations, and para-church ministries. The social ministries that URGE supports include Determination Center led by Bettie Graham. It is an after school-mentoring program for children and youth that are transported by city school buses from all over the city of Syracuse. Lighthouse Mission, led by Pastor James Pannafino, serves children and their families on the Northeast side of Syracuse with food, recreation, and spiritual ministries. Exodus 3 Ministries is a ministry for women who desire to be set free from drug addiction and prostitution, founded by Debra Person, who was in a similar circumstance. Greater Syracuse Association of Evangelicals led by Dr. Bruce Jones, brings churches and other ministries together to pray for racial healing and other needs of each ministry, through a prayer emphasis.



Project URGE General Meetings and Networking:

The General Meetings continue to be a catalyst for organizations and churches to come together to share information, open doors to potential collaboration and connect with each other. The topics covered have been about volunteer opportunities, planning for the URGent Presentation and Tour, CUPP trainings, ministry and organization presentations, seeking more beneficial collaboration, racial

reconciliation, gaining input on what Project URGE strategies and efforts can best reflect the needs of our affiliated collaborative members and more.

Our meetings are held at different churches and organizations, predominantly in the City of Rochester. They often consist of light fare and networking time. The majority of the meetings are Friday evenings; however, a Sunday and Wednesday meeting are also mixed in to accommodate those who cannot typically make a Friday time.

Attendance at our 2010 meetings averaged much higher than in past years. People have met new acquaintances, learned more about what others are doing and it has been a catalyst for relationship building. Approximately five meetings are held throughout the year.

URGEncy Clothing and Food Collection:

This collection typically takes place in churches in the month of October and then is dropped off at the site of our Presentation and Tour. Our “tourists” are asked to bring food or clothing donations in lieu of the Presentation and Tour event.

First, the quality of items was very good. Very few items needed to be discarded. Approximately 450 coats were taken in.

We thank Crosswinds Wesleyan Church, St. John’s Lutheran Church (Victor), Chili Presbyterian Church, Dan Bardeen at Snap On Tools and many individuals who contributed to the collection.

We apologize any churches we have not mentioned. The collections came in fast and kept the volunteers working full-throttle.

132 Mens/ young mens coats

40 small boys coats

118 Womens coats

114 Girls coats

~70 lbs of food (5 heavy shopping bags + a box)



- ~ 8 large (45 gal) bags of clothes
- ~ 3 small bags of Mens shoes/boots
- ~ 2 small bags of Womens shoes/boots
- ~ 2 small bags of Kids shoes/boots
- 2 1/2 Large bags of hats, scarves, gloves and mittens

The clothing was distributed to: Nielsen House, Gerhardt Neighborhood Outreach Center, Salvation Army (Alexander House & Liberty Pole Way), Outreach Temple, MINO (Mothers In Need of Others), Ave. D Rec Center, Cameron Ministries, Crosswinds Downtown, Grace Community Village, Birthright and Rochester Family Mission.

We thank Chris and Laura Boss, Burt and Joanna Tornstrom, Don Washington and Phil Rhoda for their work in sorting, collecting and organizing the collected items!

US (Urban/Suburban Youth Mission):



In 2010 the US group met once at Mendon Ponds Park with youth and leaders from Outreach Temple COGICU, Fairport UMC, Crosswinds, Roberts Wesleyan College and Abundant Life Faith Ministry. This group is dedicated to connecting urban and suburban communities with regard to "breaking down cultural boundaries through fellowship and serving others in the name of God.

Despite having no snow for sledding everyone had a great time hiking around Mendon Ponds, playing games, chatting by the fireplace and eating home-cooked food inside the shelter.

The intention was for this group to meet three or four times per year; however, there have been challenges with coordinating schedules with the church youth groups, but also with the busy schedules of the youth themselves.

It was our hope that leadership could be handed off to a younger leader sometime in 2010. Both Eva Daughtery and Pam Renfro are incredibly busy with a variety of activities in ministry and

consented to lead until a young leader emerged who might be willing to pick up the baton. This did not materialize this past year, so this ministry has been in a hold pattern since April.

Past experience has shown this ministry to be a meaningful one. Strategically it aligns perfectly with our mission statement. While we haven't abandoned the *US* ministry, it remains on hold until we find a young leader with leadership skills and a passion for rebuilding this ministry effort. Once this momentum is rekindled, we'll once again seek involvement from a greater number of urban and suburban churches.

Social Events:

In July of 2010 we continued our tradition of the annual Project URGE Picnic, typically held the 2nd Sunday in July. We slightly changed the focus of the picnic to be more a time for volunteers and affiliated collaborative organizations to come together for food and fellowship. While we work



together and attend meetings all year long, we want to provide an atmosphere for people to grow friendships and become better acquainted, as well as to continually provide opportunities to informally open doors toward further collaboration.

The picnic was once again held at Island Shelter in Ellison Park. There was of course, great food cooked on the grill, games and canoeing in through park on Irondequoit Creek.

Concert of Praise:

The Concert of Praise (C o P) was held at the Youth for Christ facility in November 2010 in conjunction with our URGEnt Presentation and Tour, as we utilized the services of Dr. Wayne Gordon for both events. This year's C o P event included worship groups from Outreach Temple and Crosswinds, PUSH Physical Theatre, with dance and flag ministries. While attendance was down from some previous years, people seemed to embrace a sense of "community", while worshipping and listening to Pastor Gordon's inspiring message. The diversity of worship styles and Christian artistry flowed naturally and emulated perfectly the mission of Project URGE.



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