

# Project URGE, Inc.

## 2011 Annual Report



February 27, 2012

585.223.8340

[www.projecturge.org](http://www.projecturge.org)

[ProUrge@aol.com](mailto:ProUrge@aol.com)

#### Board of Directors

Chris Boss  
I Geena Cruz  
Eva Irene Daughtery  
Professor Leonard Erb – Co-leader, Syracuse Chapter  
David Johnson  
Joony Lomenzo - Secretary  
Garry Manuel - Chairman, Co-director (non-compensated)  
Mary Stevens – Vice Chair, Co-director (non-compensated)

#### Treasurer

Graham Smith

#### Ministry Teams & Leaders

Bread Run – Linda Conklin  
MINO (Mothers In Need of Others) – Maria Wehrle  
Jacob's Ladder – Chris Boss  
Heart for the City – Burt and Joanna Tornstrom & Jim Bucholz  
Prayer Team – Eva Irene Daughtery  
Saturday Sonshine Program – Garry Manuel & Joony Lomenzo  
Newsletter – Pam Renfro & Garry Manuel  
Website Development and Management – Mary & Greg Stevens  
Social Events – Eva Irene Daughtery  
SPEAK (Spiritual Prophetic Edification Advancing the Kingdom) – Geena Cruz  
Syracuse Chapter – Prof. Leonard Erb  
URGEnt Presentation and Tour – Garry Manuel, Ron Tocci, Mary Stevens & Katie Kreutter  
URGEncy Collection – Chris Boss  
Volunteer Coordination – Garry Manuel

### **Project URGE, Inc.**

Urban Revitalization, God Experienced

## **Annual Report 2011**

#### **Project URGE General Meetings and Networking:**

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 and Sunday afternoons as to accommodate those who work but wish to participate in learning of the vast opportunities to serve and to build relationships.

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 training announcements, 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 the community.

2011 meetings grew to approximately thirty participants each meeting. These gatherings continually become the catalyst for relationship building and greater participation in working collaboratively. The number of churches represented and diversity of organizations has increased. Four to five meetings are held from September through June.

**URGEnt Presentation and Tour – Workshops – CCDA (Christian Community Development Association) Regional Conference & CCDA Immersion – Trainings:**

This year was an incredibly active year for training and inspiring volunteers to participate in various activities. It began as we sent Dave Johnson to Chicago for the CCDA Immersion training, which included workshops on empowerment, racial reconciliation, listening to the community, wholistic ministry and indigenous leaders.



In late April nearly all Project URGE board members and many of our volunteers and affiliated members joined us in Buffalo for the first Regional CCDA conference, which featured Dr. John Perkins and Jim Swearingen. The conference had many workshops to choose from and worship time both days with Dr. Perkins finishing the conference with an inspiring message and Q & A time.

In mid-October Project URGE continued to promote the CCDA concepts and values by once again inviting Dr. John Perkins (CCDA co-founder), Dr. Barbara Williams-Skinner (Chairperson for CCDA & President of the Skinner Institute) and Jim Swearingen (Executive Director of Buffalo Christian Center and CCDA board member) to speak and lead workshops. All delivered inspiring messages and participated in our Pastors/Church Leaders Forum, while the participants in the URGEnt Presentation and Tour were touring the sites of ministries and organizations around the City of Rochester.

Following the tour and forum, we offered a choice between two workshops: Bridging the Racial Divide and Understanding Poverty. Approximately forty-five people participated in those workshops. In 2012 we hope to increase the number of trainings offered through our involvement with the CCDA Regional Conference. By joining with people in Buffalo, Syracuse and Rochester, we have the potential to offer more trainings and workshops more affordably to a larger audience.



The URGEnt Presentation and Tour had a lower number of participants this year. Despite having our distinguished speakers and more publicity, approximately just over fifty participated; however, there were just shy of thirty ministries and organizations represented. Over one hundred gathered to hear the speakers and network.

Project URGE also remained active in the CUPP (Community University Partnership Project) meetings and trainings. Garry Manuel, along with Tom Ferraro, Executive Director of Foodlink, led training on Collaboration for the CUPP Academy. Professor Leonard Erb offered training on establishing a 501(c)(3).

## **URGency Coat & Food Drive October & November 2011**

### **Helpers:**

Phil and Eli Rhoda

Crew from Salvation Army: Charles, Don, John, and others

### **Donors:**

Church of the Assumption – Fairport

Crosswinds Wesleyan Church - Canandaigua

Irondequoit United Church of Christ - Irondequoit

First Presbyterian Church of Chili - Chili

Katie Kreutter of Compeer

Joanne Rosato of Project URGE

Dan Bardeen at Snap On Tools

The Manuel family

### **Donations were distributed to:**

#### ***Gerhardt Neighborhood Outreach Center***

5 boy's coats

15 women's coats

1 bag boy's clothes

1 bag girl's coats and snow pants

1 bag hats, gloves and scarves

5 small bags of canned & boxed goods

#### ***Heart for the City***

1 bag of jackets, clothes and assorted items for a needy family

#### ***Compeer***

10 women's coats

8 boy's coats

1 bag children's clothes

1 bag hats, scarves, gloves

#### ***MINO (Mothers In Need of Others – a ministry team of Project URGE, Inc.)***

31 Women's coats

1 uncounted large bag of women's coats (15 - estimated)

1 uncounted large bag of women's and children's clothing marked specifically for MINO

3 bags women and children's clothes

2 bags hats, scarves, gloves

1 bag purses

3 blankets

#### ***Outreach Temple Soup Kitchen***

5 men's coats

5 women's coats

4 girl's coats

#### ***Open Door Mission***

22 men's coats (15 were lighter weight jackets)

2 pair men's snow pants

40 women's coats

10 girl's coats

1 bag men's clothes

1 bag women's clothes

1 bag towels

3 small bags canned and boxed goods



***Salvation Army***

18 men's coats- small

7 men's coats – large

Helpers from S.A. men's ministry, took some coats, shirts, blankets

**Totals:**

48+ Men's coats (estimate of 42 total – with 15 of them being light weight)

118 Women's coats

15 + one large bag Girl's coats (estimate of 28 total)

15 Boy's coats

4 bags hats, gloves, scarves

9 small bags of assorted clothes

1 bag purses

1 bag towels

3+ blankets

A few pair of snow pants

8 bags canned and boxed groceries

**Food Collection from Crosswinds Wesleyan Church Congregation's "Bumper Crop" Campaign**

220 bags of groceries were distributed to the following organizations:

Cameron Community Ministry

Outreach Temple

Judicial Process Commission

Compeer

Open Door Mission

Catholic Family Center

Catholic Charities

Sanctuary House

Women's Place

Gerhardt Neighborhood Outreach Center

Grace Community Village

**The Saturday Sonshine Program:**

The Saturday Sonshine Program began in December of 2008. The age group has included children and youth from the ages of 6 to 16. The majority of the kids are coming from the 14613 and 14621 area codes. In 2011 the average attendance was 16, as the group once again traveled to a wide variety of activities in the region, which included: Ganondagan State Park honoring Native Americans, Mud About You, The Creamery Ice Cream Parlor in Fairport, Cummings Nature Center, Church of the Assumption gym, bowling, the Seneca Park Zoo, Rochester Museum and Science Center and the Weaver Farm in Rushville, NY.

Our goal is to provide educational, edifying and entertaining activities for the children, which will stimulate their minds, give them physical outdoor activity and contemplate life skills Bible lessons. While we encourage participants to bring schoolwork they may be struggling with on the trips, we have been, up till now, been unsuccessful; however, we intend to pursue this effort again in 2012 more vigorously.

Our volunteers came from both Project URGE and Grace Community Village. Our program launches from Grace United Methodist Church on



Driving Park, where the children gather for breakfast, typically with a family member. Many of the children are introduced to the program at the Deacon's Table Breakfast.



Several times weather conditions prevented us from taking part in outdoor hikes and activities that were planned. Though often not as desirable, we have back up plans for each week. Our hope is to expose the children to as much outdoor activity as possible. The past several years our trip to the Weaver's farm, about ten miles outside of Canandaigua, has provided a great example of the stimulating activity we seek to provide the kids. They roam among the cows, chickens, horses – play on swing sets, ride horseback and in a horse-driven buggy, as well as jump on a trampoline and paddling in a boat on a small pond. The Weaver family provides a terrific home cooked meal and *down home* hospitality.

In addition to the outdoor activities, the kids painted pottery, learned what it takes to run an ice cream parlor and make their own ice cream. We also traveled to the Church of the Assumption gym playing a variety of games and having lunch. On one rainy day intended for a long hike, we wound up at Clover Lanes.

In 2012 we will have similar activities and more volunteers so that we may accommodate a few more children in the program. We will broaden our outreach to some of the kids in the Beechwood neighborhood, as ministry teams in Project URGE have been active in that area in 2011.

#### **MINO (Mothers In Need of Others):**

God has richly blessed the Mothers In Need of Others ministry with the addition of many new caseworkers and pastors to our distribution list this year! Our ministry has dramatically expanded in 2011. The numbers of people we've been able to help has more than doubled! We have been able to meet the needs of approximately 208 under-resourced mothers and families in 2011 and our hope is to greatly expand our outreach in 2012! Here are a couple of quotes from some of the moms we've been able to help this year:



"Thank YOU so much for your help. I'm afraid to think of what the world would be like without people like you in it."

"MINO blessed myself and my family during a time of great trial. We lost our home to a devastating fire that left us with the clothes on our backs. Maria Wehrle and MINO were there for us in the following days/ months to meet our physical and spiritual needs! We will always remember and be grateful for the help and support of this excellent ministry!"

We thank Foodlink for their collaborative role in the provision of much needed additional space to further our mission for 2012.

We also had a couple of very successful events in 2011! Our first annual Bowling for Beds fundraiser netted \$800 with which we were able to provide six brand new beds to six extremely grateful clients compliments of Metro Mattress Company!



Our second event was our fourth annual “Noel-abration Christmas Party” held in the Youth for Christ building in the heart of the City of Rochester. Many thanks to Geoff Smith, Executive Director of that program for enabling us to use his beautifully renovated facilities for our event! This year we had a variety show for our guests, which included: several gospel groups, two rap artists, a Christian clown/magician, and Christian puppet show! Our appreciation to the following individuals for their selfless service during the performance: a worship team headed by Chris Stephens from Crosswinds Wesleyan Church, Pastor C.J. Rolle and Outreach Temple gospel singers, Darius Walker, Mike Beauchemin, Jamie and Audrey Cole, and Pastor Dan Ramos and the 30 + volunteers who gave of their time to distribute refreshments, goodie bags, and gifts to our 315 guests from the agencies and churches we serve throughout the year.

We are looking forward to a year of great promise and many blessings! With the anticipation of additional space, we hope to increase our furniture and appliance donations by appealing to a larger audience for these gently used and new items, and thus, increase the number of people we will be able to serve. We will also be looking into new and innovative fundraising ideas to help to further our ministry activities.

In addition, we’ll be exploring options for helping our volunteers work toward self-reliance and financial independence through:

- job training
- earning community service hours
- buying needed items by participating in a token economy

We have served the clients and congregational members of the following organizations and churches this year: Successful Pathways at Youth for Christ, Sojourner House, Monroe County Health Dept., Diocese of Rochester, Focus Pregnancy, Center for Youth, Christ Unity Church, Restoration Life Church, Monroe County Office of Mental Health, Compeer, Charity Bible Baptist Church, Perinatal Network, Bethel Express, Catholic Charities, Salvation Army, Petra Place, Elim Bible Baptist Church, House of Mercy, Hillside Children’s Center, South West Neighborhood Association, Asbury First UMC, Browcroft Community Church, Volunteers of America (VOA), Homeless Connect Project, Koinonia Fellowship, Saint Joseph’s Villa, Abundant Life Faith Ministries, Saint Vincent DePaul, the Society for Protection and Care of Children, Dept. of Social Services, Healthy Start Program, Bureau of Youth Services, Lifetime Assistance, Bethany House, Nurse Family Partnership Program and Monroe County Chemical Dependency. Outreach Temple COGIC, Youth for Change and others.

### **The Prayer Team:**

The prayer team continues to pray for our sick, shut in and for the Project URGE Ministries with special attention to our chairperson as well as our co-chairperson. We pray for God's approval and blessings on what we are trying to do for his people. We are always looking for new members that would like to join our intercessory prayer team.

### **SPEAK (Spiritual Prophetic Edification Advancing the Kingdom) Ministries:**

- Accomplishments
  - SPEAK currently has 5 dedicated young ladies ranging from 8 to 19 in age, who love to minister through worship and praising God with dance and flags. They have traveled through various parts of the USA to minister for churches, gospel artists and concert of praise from Rochester to Florida to Buffalo, Ohio, Atlanta and other places throughout Rochester. They were made to worship!
  - 2012-2013 Goals
- Plan to expand to about 10-15 youth in 2012-2013
- Location of SPEAK rehearsals & Hours logged in service
  - Salvation Army will be allowing SPEAK flag ministry 2 hours a week or biweekly in the summer for space to rehearse
  - City School District #19 school will also provide space
- Encouragements
  - Outreach & Community Education Service -In 2012 they are planning to reach God's children in praise, worship and educating parents and youth on the at risk issues at hand substance abuse, domestic and dating violence, HIV/HPV and bullying. SPEAK will also inform the community what is available in urban/suburban areas for the youth of the community with a Youth Fair in the 1<sup>st</sup> ever Youth Fair, Teen Summit name *Many Face & Move, One Nation*.
    - A grant was applied for and interview to be scheduled for mid-February, with location is to be determined
    - Project URGE, Inc., local churches, City of Rochester, Monroe County and a local union are affiliates and sponsors
  - Concert of Praise
    - SPEAK plans to join on the 2012 Concert of Praise for Project URGE
    - Singing, Dance, Mime, Flags, Poetry, Drawing and many more creative arts to come out of Project URGE, Inc concert of Praise
  - Ministry Opportunities – Engagement to minister as requested





### **Heart for the City:**

Ryan Reading Program – this program was our largest project during 2011 and the following statistics summarize the program for the school year 2010/2011.

- Number of students 138
- Number of quizzes taken 1,099
- Quizzes passed 979
- 50% of the students performed with no deficiencies
- 22 children succeeded in gaining 42 different achievement levels

In addition, we were involved in two associated ministries: Consortium for Youth Justice and Choice Kids Club (city ministry).

The Consortium for Youth Justice is a gathering of institutions, social service agencies and non-profit groups serving family and youth in the city. Participation is voluntary and its only focus is seeking to develop neighborhood based safety nets focused on identifying youth that have a risk of entering the Youth Justice System and developing unique intervention plans that will prevent that from happening. The first group that met some 18 months group numbered 15 and now there are 100+ individuals representing all city youth institutions, agencies and non-profits. Six neighbor safety nets have been/are being organized. Our role in this work was to speak from the Faith Based perspective and encourage faith-based groups to participate. Now that the consortium has been formed and neighborhood safety nets started, we have moved into the background of this effort for 2012.



One of the key objectives of Heart for the City is to come along side other groups interested in ministering to kids in the city. In early 2011 we were approached by individuals from Old Path Baptist Church who had developed a Children's Bible Study Ministry called "Choice Kids Club" to see if we could help them bring this ministry into the City. Choice Kids Club was started in the Beechwood Neighborhood at the Ryan Community Center in March. The club has been very successful and is continuing at the Ryan Center once a week. Participation has ranged from 15 – 60+ kids for any single session. We are thanking God everyday for these wonderful people from Old Path Bible Baptist Church of Holly NY.

### **Looking ahead at 2012**

- The Ryan Reading Program continues with a registration at present of 103 with an active participation of approximately 65%. As we go into 2012 we have 12 committed volunteers, 4 – 6 High School seniors fulfilling their community service requirement plus 3-4 Center/Library staff on call when needed.
- Choice Kids Club will continue at the Ryan Community Center and is looking into starting a ministry at the Avenue D Recreation Center.
- The School 33 volunteer project is new for Heart for the City and will begin on February 6 2012. There are currently 16 volunteers signed up to work with children K-1 on an individual basis. The volunteers will be there to support the teacher's effort of improving the child's learning capabilities by providing more individual attention of each child. The

goal is to have 33 volunteers working one day a week between 10 and noon resulting in improved learning as measured by standardized tests

### **Jacob's Ladder Team:**

In January and February Chris Boss spent a minimum of two nights, 3 hours each, painting and dry walling at the Shepherd's House, which is a women's shelter on Lake Ave. On one of the evenings, Katie Boss joined. This was a continuation of work that was done in December of 2010.

Chris Boss day spent some time evaluating the work that needed to be done in the Beechwood Neighborhood for the 411 Ministry on Parsells Ave. One Saturday, from 8am to about 2:30pm, was spent creating a frame for drywall around heating pipes to keep the pipes insulated and from overheating the office area.

Due to some of the volunteers moving and their work schedules interfering with a Saturday commitment, the Jacob's Ladder Team will be recruiting more team members in 2012.

### **Bread Run:**

The Bread Run has now been operational for 7 years. There were approximately 7 families and/or individuals who continued the weekly Saturday deliveries of baked goods and desserts to Women's Place (CFC), Nielsen House, Outreach Temple Home Mission, Sanctuary House, Mercy Residential, Grace Community Village, Eastern Service Workers, Francis Center and if there were remaining goods, they are taken to House of Mercy, St. Joseph's Hospitality House and the Open Door Mission. The majority of this team are folks primarily from the Canandaigua-Farmington area, who pick up the items from Tops on Lake Avenue in Rochester for the deliveries. The round trip is approximately 60 miles, taking about two hours or so. This team is looking for people in church congregations to volunteer who live in the city or in closer proximity than our current "runners". It is a great opportunity for folks to do ministry at an entry-level commitment. The main volunteers were Linda Conklin (team leader), Karen Walrath, Nelson Bowen, Debra Faulkner and Mary Ewanecho. We thank them for their service! Bryan and Christin Babcock are heading up the Bread Run in 2012.

### **Social Events:**

As has been customary since URGE began, we held the annual picnic on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in July in Ellison Park. The kids and adults had a wonderful time. Apart from our ministry efforts this event serves as an opportunity to fellowship and become better acquainted with folks in various churches and organizations.



### **Volunteer Coordination:**

Project URGE continued to organize service projects and volunteer opportunities for volunteers from high schools, colleges, church groups and individuals to serve organizations such as: Catholic Family Center's Homeless & Housing, Community Lutheran Ministry, Eastern Service Workers, Foodlink, Grace Community Village, His Branches, MINO, Outreach Temple, 411 Parsells, Recovery House of Rochester, SWAN, Youth for Christ, and more. Williamson High School's Service Day continues to be a major highlight each year as this bi-annual trip serves as a win/win for our affiliated organizations and the school. They have been serving organizations and ministries in Rochester for 6 ½ years.

We have carried on this coordination and connecting mission of Project URGE since we began in 2002. Our objective was to steer people into volunteering with a hope that this would foster future relationships and ongoing service. Many who initially used this service of Project URGE have now built long-term relationships and no longer require us to line up the projects for them. This indeed is and was the goal. Our hope is to foster growth in all the organizations we serve as well as within Project URGE itself.



### **The Beechwood Neighborhood Group:**

In late Spring we brought together numerous churches and organizations for a breakfast to seek ways that the various churches and organizations might begin to work more cohesively to make positive impacts for that neighborhood. There were several general meetings as well as a group of those people committing to come together in a prayer group on a monthly basis. The role of Project URGE was to use its connections to bring people together to discuss tangible ways to collaborate and communicate to the neighborhood more effectively. Our objective was to hand this off to a leader living and/or having a ministry in that neighborhood, but to continue in a supportive role, since the Heart for the City ministry already held a presence in that neighborhood. Heart for the City had already been trying to involve more people in their ministry efforts that lived in the Beechwood neighborhood. Our efforts stalled in the Fall due to a reluctance of anyone willing to take a leadership role due to having other ministry and professional commitments, with a



sense that there isn't yet enough organization of churches in the neighborhood. The lack of response from church leadership along with Project URGE's need to focus on the details of the URGEnt Presentation and Tour curtailed those gatherings. We are confident this group will reengage in 2012; however, it will still require a leader from that neighborhood to take on the responsibility of the "driver".

### **The John Perkins Institute:**



For a number of years we have been hopeful about introducing the possibility of a Dr. John Perkin's Institute to become a reality in the Rochester area. While Dr. Perkins was here in October, Project URGE invited leaders from Roberts Wesleyan College and Northeastern Seminary to a dinner and discussion with Dr. Perkins to entertain the idea of moving this concept forward. The meeting was met favorably and Dr. Perkins hopes to return with others from CCDA (Christian Community Development Association) to discuss the institute possibility in more detail.

### **Syracuse Chapter of Project URGE:**

The transition of co-leadership of Project URGE Syracuse has transpired with Pastor Phil Turner, Senior Pastor of Bethany Baptist Church, assuming the leadership with me. Professor Erb has contacted him to set up a meeting to discuss the schedule of meetings of the Project URGE members.

The two groups that are progressing in their growth and development are: Destination Center – an after school program for children from the Syracuse School District who are bused to the site from the whole system. We have recruited volunteers to work with the children as mentors, Bible studies leaders, and sports teams.

Exodus3Ministries is a new organization that works with women and their children, who have been trapped in drug addiction and prostitution. Professor Erb will serve on their Board temporarily to help jump start this ministry. It is currently working on acquiring a former Roman Catholic Church that is in "move in" condition to receive these hurting women and children. Various major donors have made commitments to help fund the ministry as it opens its doors to receive its first clients.

The Greater Syracuse Association of Evangelicals is working as a partner in helping to bridge the racial divide. Dr. John Perkins has been in Syracuse through their sponsorship and desires to return to spend time with the African-American pastors to challenge them to cooperate with churches and para-church ministries to do urban ministry together.

## **Our mission:**

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

**1 John 3:18** "Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth."

## **Goals & Objectives:**

- 1. Assist churches** to unite in ministering together, in an effort to promote and spread the Gospel message by working on problems that deal with (a) poverty, (b) racism and (c) raising awareness of opportunities to serve and helping to facilitate the involvement of more volunteers in a variety of ministry settings.
- 2. Provide information** listing ministry titles, needs and contacts. Collect and distribute materials that may be helpful to ministries and organizations affiliated with the Project URGE family.
- 3. Be a catalyst for church partnering.** Linking those who are willing to serve in specific areas, with those who might benefit most with regard to available strengths in resources, talents and gifting.
- 4. Create a forum for dialogue** on how to implement change and forming subgroups to work on specific initiatives.
- 5. Encourage cross-cultural exchange**, both in worship, teen ministry and outreach in general.
- 6. Establish workshops**, seminars & task force meetings as needed, in regard to the development of the various ministries and Project URGE itself.

**Matthew 5:15** "Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds, and praise your Father in heaven."

Respectfully submitted,

Garry E Manuel  
Director/Founder

Project URGE, Inc.  
31 W. Church St.  
Fairport, NY 14450  
585.223.8340