



# Project URGE Spring 2012 News

Project URGE, Inc.  
31 West Church Street  
Fairport, NY 14450

Website—[www.projecturge.org](http://www.projecturge.org)  
Email—[proure@aol.com](mailto:proure@aol.com)  
585.223.8340

## Project URGE Presents: 5/11 Bridging the Gap Presentation & Networking



**When: May 11<sup>th</sup> (Friday) 6:30 pm – food & networking**

**7 pm – presentation & meeting**

**Where: Foodlink – 1999 Mt. Read Blvd.**

**RSVP: [proure@aol.com](mailto:proure@aol.com) or 585.223.8340**

Networking with ministries & organizations serving the under-resourced

Learn how to be more effective & collaborative in impacting city challenges, eliminating the barriers

Churches can more effectively engage in ministry

Learn more about Project URGE ministries

Meeting problems with solutions

## 2011 Financial Information

### PROJECT URGE, INC. Profit & Loss Prev Year Comparison January through December 2011

	Jan - Dec 11	Jan - Dec 10
<b>Ordinary Income/Expense</b>		
Income		
Income	20,608.04	17,261.37
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>20,608.04</b>	<b>17,261.37</b>
Expense		
Administration and Consultant	35.00	285.00
Dues	150.00	150.00
Insurance	353.46	514.16
Legal and Accounting	35.00	25.00
Office Expenses	90.59	518.56
Payroll Expenses	0.00	7,814.70
Programs	16,363.43	3,881.38
Publicity	3,201.40	6,646.77
Telephone Expenses	524.60	509.81
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>20,753.48</b>	<b>20,345.38</b>
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	<b>-145.44</b>	<b>-3,084.01</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>-145.44</b>	<b>-3,084.01</b>

## Project URGE wishes to thank...

our donors who financially support our organization throughout the year, allowing us to continue our programs and furthering our mission and goals. Heartfelt thanks to the following people for their support in 2011:

Church of Assumption	John Robert Bosco, MD	Debra Palumbo
Crosswinds Wesleyan Church	Chris & Laura Boss	Diane & Neil Parry
Edgewood Free Methodist Church	Eva Irene Daughtery	JoAnne Rosato
Fairport United Methodist Church	Barbara Gonyeo	Elaine Rose
	Marlena Graves	Graham & Debra Smith
	David & Deborah Honness	Mary Stevens
	Sandra Jackson	Ron and Cathy Tocci
	Katie Kreutter	Aino Turu
	Joony Lomenzo	Elvira Velasquez
	Garry & Mary Manuel	John & Maria Wehrle
Alice Anderson	Mildred Manuel	
Larry & Linda Anderson	Marcia O'Brien	

## Your financial support helps Project URGE...

continue our ministry efforts of:

**Bread Run Team:** Delivering bread and baked goods to homeless shelters and soup kitchens each Saturday and every other Sunday

**Jacob's Ladder Team:** Repair, refurbish and renovating the facilities of non-profit organizations that serve the under-resourced

**Volunteer Coordination:** Helping to coordinate service projects and plugging in volunteers of church groups, schools and individuals to the many organizations who are Affiliated Collaborative members of Project URGE, as well as others

**Training:** Hosting and sending people to CCDA workshops, contributing to the CUPP (Community University Partnership Training) and more throughout the year

**Publicity:** Creating awareness of what our affiliated member organizations do, communicate needs, events, trainings, personal stories through our newsletter, E-brief communications and website. We also sponsor the **URGent Presentation and Tour** annually, where people meet with representatives of our Affiliated Collaborative Member Organizations and tour some of their facilities.

**Concert of Praise:** People from various churches and organizations come together for worship and praise. This event typically includes praise and worship, prayer, dance, youth involvement and a guest speaker.

**Prayer Team:** Prays for the initiatives, organizations and people involved in serving with and around Project URGE.

**MINO (Mothers In Need of Others):** Serving the under-resourced moms, churches, organizations and families with household and furniture items.

**Saturday Sonshine Program:** This program serves children/youth between the ages of 6-16 approximately twice a month on Saturdays throughout the school year.

Kids get to journey on field trips, exercise and experience new learning environments, such as parks, farms, hiking, gyms, designing pottery, art galleries, museums, the zoo and more

**SPEAK (Spiritual Prophetic Edification Advancing the Kingdom):** Youth in flag and dance ministry, also reaching out to serve the community.

**US (Urban/suburban) Youth Group:** Youth from various urban and suburban churches serve the community, build relationships and have some fun together.

**Heart for the City:** A team that comes along side other groups interested in ministering to the kids in the city. They are involved in the Ryan Reading Program.

**Social Events:** While we work together and do ministry, we also take time to get acquainted and celebrate our work together through the annual July picnic, annual dinner and team meetings.

**Community Development:** Our general meetings provide opportunities for organizations; churches and individuals to network, collaborate and share information, creating relationships that behind the scenes are positively impacting the community.

**\*Syracuse branch of Project URGE:** For the past three years people in Syracuse have been following a similar path as those in Rochester, sharing information and becoming acquainted with the work of organizations serving the under-resourced. This effort continues to grow in its connections.

**Project URGE Board of Directors:** Chris Boss, I Geena Cruz, Eva Irene Daughtery, Prof. Leornard Erb, David Johnson, Joony Lomenzo, Garry Manuel and Mary Stevens

---

## The Children of a Rochester Community Need YOU!

### Community Lutheran Summer Camp

“Community Lutheran Ministry, Inc. begins planning for summer camp as soon as the Christmas tree and decorations are put away. “Preparing for camp is a big task,” said Deaconess Maggie Harris, “but one that is so important to the children in this community. Long after they have ‘graduated’ from CLM (age 16 or so), they come by to see me and reminisce about the fun times they had at camp.”

But we need your help to make the Community Lutheran Traveling Day Camp a reality. We are looking for churches who can host camp for a day or a week and individuals who will sponsor a child for a day (\$25), a week (\$125) or the session (\$750). We serve over 100 children during the six weeks and while a portion of them will qualify for \$400 in aid from the county the remainder of the camp fee comes from donations. Please help to make a child’s summer, one they will always remember.

Reflection from a Summer Camp host—

Our church has been privileged to be a host church for Miss Maggie’s Summer Camp for more than 5 years. The first year we hosted all 120+ children and other years we have hosted the older children. Each and every year has been a blessing and holds special memories. My most recent memories are the children responding so positively to a weeklong “arts” camp. We explored theatre, dance and the visual arts. Another special program was with Chris Cuby and Tony Jordan from R.O.O.T.S. Chris and Tony helped the children to consider what traits and characteristics they needed to develop in order to be successful. They emphasized education and personal integrity.



The children and youth arrive each day around 9:30am. Each morning we schedule a classroom-learning type setting. Miss Maggie and the adult counselors emphasize the need to include reading and writing exercises to continue development of the children’s language skills. One year held discussions about music and media and their influence on the culture. The children and youth have shared their hopes and dreams as well as their fears and disappointments.

We have lunch around Noon and have some years relied on Foodlink to provide lunches. Other years we have been blessed with churches participating by providing lunch for us!!



After lunch we get outside, weather permitting, and have participated in activities such as canoeing on the canal, visiting the Perinton Recreation’s Aquatic Center, picnicking in the park and many more.

The children and youth are accompanied by adult counselors who are with the children all summer. Their relationships with their children allow the host churches to focus entirely on the programming and the establishing of new relationships with the children and youth.



I look forward each year we host to the familiar faces of the children that attend Summer Camp. I am always excited to see the new faces that join us. We all grow and learn by being together for a time!

Pam Renfro—Fairport United Methodist Church

For more information about hosting a day or a week please contact

Deaconess Maggie Harris  
942 Joseph Avenue, Rochester, NY 14621  
338.2420



## 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, 14621 & 14609 area codes. In 2012 the group will once again travel to a wide variety of activities in the region, which include: Ganondagan State Park honoring Native Americans, Cummings Nature Center, Church of the Assumption gym, Mendon Ponds, bowling, Taughannock Falls in Ithaca and more!

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.

We invite others to collaborate with us in the future. For more information contact:

Garry Manuel – prourge@aol.com or 223.8340

### Recent events/activities:

Feb. 4 – Ganondagan Winter Festival, Victor

Feb. 18 – Mendon Ponds Park

March 3 – Noah's Ark Project

March 17 – Cummings Nature Center - Bristol

March 31 – Gym/games at Church of Assumption

### Future events/activities:

April 21 – Taughannock Falls or Buttermilk Falls – Ithaca

May 5 - Weaver's Farm in Rushville

May 19 – Letchworth State Park

June 2 – Grimes Glen in Naples



## Compeer Rochester's Sports Mentoring Program is a Home Run!

With the help of numerous community organizations and local universities, Compeer Rochester has launched a new program called Sports Mentoring that seeks to connect at-risk youth with recreation and fitness opportunities as well as positive adult role models. Compeer clients spend time with volunteers each month either playing or watching a sport and engaging with physical activity in the community and have opportunities to meet with professional sports teams and players. This program provides participants with invaluable experiences that foster relationship-building and promote mental, emotional, and physical well-being. If you would like more information about Sports Mentoring or to become involved with one of Compeer Rochester's other worthwhile mentoring opportunities, please visit [www.compeerrochester.org](http://www.compeerrochester.org), call 585-546-8280, or contact [information@compeer.org](mailto:information@compeer.org).



A recent Compeer outing



God has richly blessed the Mothers In Need of Others ministry this year with the addition of many new caseworkers and pastors to our distribution list! Our ministry has dramatically expanded in 2011, as we have served many churches and social service organizations in the city of Rochester

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!

We received BIG news recently as MINO was one of 31 ministries selected by Kingdom Bound Ministries to receive a monetary donation to help fund our efforts with those in need in the city! We are sincerely grateful to God and the people at Kingdom Bound for their generous donation!

We thank Foodlink for their collaborative role in the provision of much needed additional space to further our mission for 2012. When we get settled into our new home, we will be in need of teams of volunteers to sort, clean, repair, mend and box our donations.

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

It is our fervent hope that by showing these individuals the Love of Christ in this very real and tangible way and by offering them the Holy Spirit in our words and deeds that they will be moved to devote themselves to a life of loving Christ and serving others as well!



Maria Wehrle  
 Mothers In Need of Others Ministry  
 (a ministry of Project URGE, Inc.)  
 585-348-8596  
[mothersinneedofothers@gmail.com](mailto:mothersinneedofothers@gmail.com)  
<http://www.projecturge.org/mino>  
<http://www.facebook.com/MINO.Rochester>

### **Furnished for Life/MINO Ministries** **IT TAKES SO LITTLE TO DO SO MUCH!!!**

A ONCE a YEAR commitment from your agency or church can help to deliver  
 Gently used furniture & appliances to those who need them most!  
 You could change lives forever!

If your church or agency owns a truck,  
 We need a commitment from you of one day out of the year to help us transport donations to those without access to transportation by supplying the truck, a volunteer driver and movers. Call (585) 348-8596 to schedule your appointment TODAY.

## The Mothers In Need of Others (MINO) ministry **WILL** accept:

- Gently used furniture: tables, chairs, dressers, rockers, end tables, cots, air mattresses, book shelves, desks, entertainment centers, lamps
- Cribs, car seats, strollers, play pens, pack n' plays, high chairs: gently used, no lead paint, no drop sides, meeting all safety standards (check: <http://wemakeitsafer.com> )
- Electronics and Appliances: Stoves, Refrigerators, Microwaves, Washers, Dryers, Televisions, Stereos, Crock Pots, Computers, etc. (in good working condition, no frayed cords, missing pieces, or leaks.)
- Clothes: Children's' and Maternity clothes, Clean, no rips or tears
- Sheets, blankets, mattress pads, and towels: clean and in useable condition (no rags!)
- Pillows: NEW or LIKE NEW
- Curtains, Drapes, rods, and curtain hooks
- Rugs: area and throw (clean and gently used)

## The MINO ministry **WILL NOT** accept the following items:

- Beds and Upholstered Furniture
- Toys (other than brand new during Oct.-Dec. for our annual Christmas Party)
- Drop Side Cribs
- Any car seats missing straps or damaged in any way (2007-Present)
- Any furniture, house wares, appliances, or baby items, with missing or broken pieces
- Electronics, lamps or house wares with frayed or missing cords
- No recalled items!
- Adult clothing and shoes
- No decorative pieces: paintings, pictures, sculptures, floral arrangements, nick knacks, vases, etc.

## The MINO ministry **immediate needs**:

- **\*People with administrative and supervisory skills**
- **\*People willing to volunteer to teach our volunteers furniture, appliance, and upholstery repair**
- **\*Volunteers! Lots and lots of volunteers to take shifts sorting, cleaning, boxing, mending, and repairing our donations!**
- Donations of furniture, appliances, household items, linens, baby items, and children's clothing (\*See attached list and tell all of your friends!)
- Copy paper boxes & black permanent markers
- Cleaning Supplies: Mops, buckets, Clorox wipes, Windex, paper towels
- Clear plastic garbage bags, gallon and 2 ½ gallon Ziploc bags (excellent for packing comforters, blankets, and towels)
- Sewing supplies
- Rubber work gloves
- Construction & Repair Supplies: Hammers, nails, screws, screw drivers, etc, sandpaper, paintbrushes

And PRAYERS...many, many prayers for a smooth transition and expansion of these ministries!



Send a donation to cover the cost of the truck rental and we will provide the volunteer driver and movers.

Make the check out to Project URGE, Inc.  
And write FFL/MINO on the memo line.  
Mail to: Project URGE, Inc., 31 W. Church St., Fairport, NY 14450

→ **OR**

# Project URGE—10 Years in Ministry



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.

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



On March 10<sup>th</sup> 2012, exactly ten years to the date, Project URGE celebrated its 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in style with a dinner-fundraiser at One Restaurant in Rochester (an appropriate name for the occasion we might add!). Approximately forty people attended a wonderful evening with conversation, great food, networking and socializing. While we are busy all year doing ministry we also try to take time for socializing and deepening relationships. One of the highlights of the evening was the playing of 10-year tribute DVD, which comprised the faces and ministry activity of Project URGE over the past ten years.

The relationships that have manifested over the past ten years came to life at the dinner, providing a glimpse at the dream and vision of Project URGE at bringing the Christian community together across the dividing racial and denominational lines. The evening provided evidence that the work this ministry has done has not been in vain and we are recognizing the fruit of our efforts.

At the close of the evening there was an honoring of Garry Manuel for his ten years of leadership and service, as well as the acknowledgement of his wife, Mary, for her vital support in of him in this ministry. Garry is the founder and executive director of Project URGE.



Garry & Mary Manuel





## More than Food—The Project URGE Bread Run

It's a snowy Saturday morning and we arrive at Tops on Lake Ave. We head to the bakery department to pick up day old baked goods. We are greeted with a bright smile and a huge hug. Passion has worked at Tops for several years and by now, knows us, and why we are there. She calls back to her coworkers to hurry and get everything scanned—"These guys have places to be!" Her name suits her perfectly as she has a fiery passion inside her that comes out as she tells us that she's been studying her Bible and has really gotten into the book of Numbers. She is thrilled to learn that we have recently moved into the city and can't wait to get together. After another hug and an exchange of new phone numbers, we head out with boxes full of food that can no longer be sold. We hit the jackpot this week—our trunk is at full capacity!

We start out on our route, stopping at shelters and soup kitchens greeting familiar faces and meeting new people. We head to Mercy Residential, a home for pregnant and young mothers. Since I'm expecting too, I'm excited to drop off some sweets that they can enjoy as a special treat. We move on to Francis Center, a men's shelter. As we approach, we notice that something seems to be wrong; everyone is filing out of the building to a vacant lot nearby. We stop and ask one of the guys what's going on and are informed that there's been a slight mishap in the kitchen triggering the fire alarm. Since we can't get closer and all of the employees are busy doing other things, we hand the guy a box of donuts, jesting that he must share! Finally, we end our route a few blocks from our home at the Women's Place. I ask about a resident and am happy to learn she is still there. The staff calls Angel\* down and we spend a few moments hugging and catching up. She is getting ready to take her LPN test this month and is nervous. "Please pray for me, Christin," she says. After reminding her that we are just two blocks away and she's welcome anytime, we head home.

I reflect on the morning and think how different my attitude is at the end of the bread run than when I left my house. First thing this morning, I was tired and cold and didn't want to go anywhere. Now, I'm so glad I did. Each person we encountered changed my heart just a little bit. Yes, we were meeting tangible needs at each stop, but I believe the presence of Project URGE goes beyond the provision of food. We offer encouragement, hope and friendship.

Each time I do the bread run, I am reminded that simple acts done with love and that a smile can make a difference. I am reminded of God's grace and the blessing of relationships. I am reminded that I want to truly love—and that I have a long way to go.

\*Names have been changed to protect privacy of individuals.

If you are interested in serving with the Bread Run, please contact Christin Babcock at [christinmae@gmail.com](mailto:christinmae@gmail.com) or 334.456.8396. Volunteers typically serve one Saturday morning every six weeks.

## Project URGE Annual Volunteer Picnic

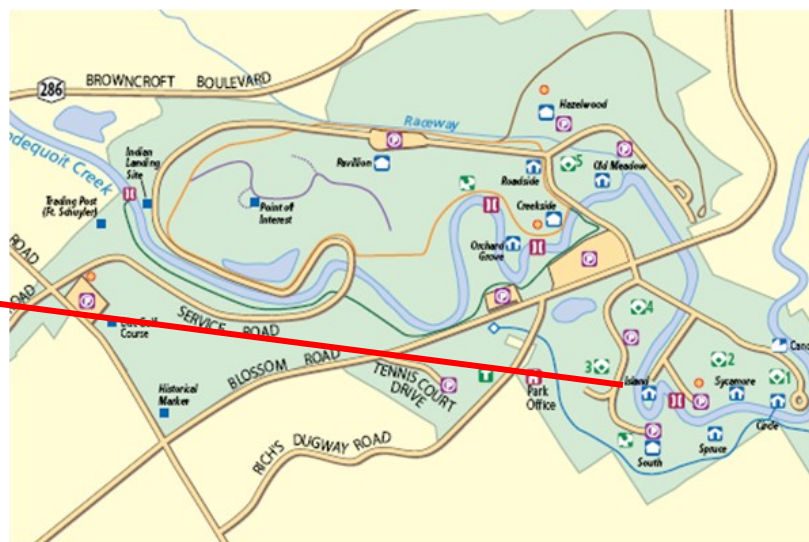
Join Us!

Date: Sunday, July 8th, 2pm

Where: Ellison Park - Island Shelter

For more information

- visit the Project URGE website  
[www.projecturge.org](http://www.projecturge.org)
- Call 223-8340
- Email—[prourge@aol.com](mailto:prourge@aol.com)



## 2012 URGEnt Presentation and Tour

### Workshops - CCDA (Christian Community Development Association)

In mid-October Project URGE continued to promote the efforts of CCDA (Christian Community Development Association) in tandem with Project URGE ministries and close to thirty other ministry and organizations such as, Foodlink, Catholic Family Center, Cameron Ministries, Gerhardt Neighborhood Outreach Center, 441 Ministry, Mom's In Touch, Community Lutheran Ministry, Grace Community Village, Youth for Christ, Outreach Temple Home Mission, SMART, Genesee Finger Lakes Regional Volunteer Center, Community Place and others. We were once again grateful for being able to use the facilities of the Salvation Army at 100 West Ave., which offers a central location in proximity to the affiliated organizations.



We sought to further the concepts and core 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 (City Vision Exec. Director) 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, Project URGE 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, over one hundred gathered to hear the speakers and network. The room was buzzing with activity while people learned about various opportunities to serve in the community and become more acquainted with one another.

The guest speaker's talks were sandwiched between people meeting with representatives of the organizations and the touring of facilities. Dr. Perkins kicked the morning discussion off with an impassioned oratory that touched on the historical realities and a plea for living out the Gospel that is more reflective of God's Kingdom. In looking back he declared that, "All the churches in America accommodated racism and bigotry within the church. And the Gospel was designed to deliver us from that!"

And in reflecting on the present, he reminded us "Our political people have lost their minds! All they have time to do is raise a lot of money and get elected. They can't make any decisions. They can't help you!"

Dr. Perkins went further to explain on how we have to more effectively minister to those who are poor by not just talking and handing out pamphlets, but rather, "We have to reach out to total person with the Good News of Jesus Christ. Jesus came to save the body, the soul and the spirit. Then the world will know us as Christians by our real love, and not just in words."

To push the point of how we need to work beyond our anemic attempts at racial reconciliation, Perkins beckoned us to stop calling our churches a black, white or brown church, but to be more intentionally multi-cultural. “We’ve created a culture of racism and we don’t love Jesus enough to overcome that?!”

Dr. Perkins applauded the efforts of Project URGE to bring people together to serve the least of these. “This is a wonderful morning. What URGE has been doing is not in vain.”

And he closed by proclaiming how there is a genuine need for authenticity and sincerity in our efforts to becoming more engaged with one another in ministry and relationally across the racial lines: “The more we get together, together, together... there ain’t no answer to racism but gettin’ together! Getting together to know God and each other! And when we know God, he let’s us know that we were created in his image.”

Dr. Williams-Skinner spoke of her experience in developing a deep, longstanding friendship with a white woman, whose background, cultural and political views were drastically different from those she ascribed. The point was driven that we are to love others, despite our differences and that racial reconciliation that is meaningful is not necessarily easy. If it were, we wouldn’t have a need to be still talking about it. Dr. Williams-Skinner opened by stating, “The hardest part is not deciding to be together, it’s getting somebody who’ll actually stop talking and do it.” Another question she posed was, “At what point will our love for God trump our culture?”

Jim Swearingen reiterated our need for sharing ideas with each other: “This is not rocket science – we’re brothers and sisters in Christ and let’s get together to share with one another what we’re learning.” And Jim hopes this will happen in a more pronounced way with a Regional Chapter of CCDA.

As in the past, our survey indicated that many of the participants in the tour had only known about a few of the ministries and organizations. This reinforces our belief that there is a need to keep the public and in particular, the churches, in tune with how they can support and be involved in many of these efforts. Project URGE offers people a smorgasbord of opportunities in serving the under-resourced and we remain intentional about breaking down the barriers of doing ministry together and tearing down the cultural divides that continue to divide the Christian community.

Nearly all the people attending the workshops indicated they appreciated the material, dialogue and would like to have more opportunities to interact and learn from CCDA urban practitioners. In 2012 URGE would like to make that a reality.

**Watch for news  
about upcoming  
2012 presentations.**



**Dr. John Perkins**



# Project URGE, Inc.

31 West Church Street  
Fairport, NY 14450



Visit the Project URGE website [www.projecturge.org](http://www.projecturge.org)