

Northwest Presbyterian Church Small Group Mercy Activities

February 18, 2009

*These missions and activities are recommended to your small group by the Care Mission Team of Northwest Presbyterian Church. Your small group may choose one or more of these activities or missions as its own service and mercy ministry. The Care Team recommends that small groups find ministries that enable them to establish long-term relationships aimed at **transformation** for the poor and needy and for the care-giver.*

SALVATION ARMY HEART-TO-HEART

WEEKEND MEALS is a program that provides a hot, nutritious meal every Saturday and Sunday evening, year round, to the homeless in our community. Volunteers help prepare the meals and subsequently serve them on the mobile canteen. Minimum age is 16 (unless accompanied by an adult). Dates/Times: 2:00 pm until 5:30 pm every Saturday and Sunday.

Location: Chapel at Worthington Woods, 760

Worthington Woods Blvd

Salvation Army Contact: Jean Griffith at

jean.griffith@use.salvationarmy.org or call (614) 358-2627.

NPC Contact: James Presar at jamescpresar@yahoo.com or (586) 260-5091 (cell) or (937) 645-2235 (work)

INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIPS, INC. is a registered Ohio State University student organization and Christian community group seeking to promote friendship and hospitality for international students. The students participating are from a variety of countries. Staff members work closely with volunteers from local churches to provide various services that address the social, cultural, and spiritual interests of international students. Our activities are open to students from all cultural and religious backgrounds.

International Friendships has a wide variety of opportunities available to you. Look over the list below. Training is available (and mandatory in some cases) to equip people for many tasks. Go to www.ifiusa.org to obtain an application form or learn when training sessions are scheduled. The web site also has a number of links where you can learn more.

English Conversations Partners meet one hour a week with an international student to talk. Conversation partners must have transportation and in most situations children are welcome. Many students are waiting. Commitments to partners should last for at least three months.

Small group service outreach employs small groups to prepare food for International-American Bible study groups or pot lucks planned periodically throughout the year.

Christmas or Thanksgiving meal hosts invite two or more students to join your family or small group at a holiday gathering. It is a wonderful time to introduce International students to American culture and the living gospel of Christian faith.

Airport pickup and temporary housing is provided through IFI by volunteers. The IFI volunteers also help with transportation to local garage sales as arranged by IFI. These services provide a warm welcome to International students when they first arrive in the United States and the Ohio State University Campus. Welcome an International student with the love of Christ and the security of a new friend who speaks the language and who knows the routes. Internationals are invited to stay with host families (not always the same as airport pick up) for up to four days while they make arrangements for campus housing. The IFI web site is an excellent resource for helpful publications and guidelines for all of these ministries and for learning more about how to see things from the perspective of your International friends. *IFI activities can include families and children as you deem appropriate.*

195 Chittenden Avenue

Columbus, OH, 43201

Phone: (614) 294-243

NPC IFI Church Rep :Anne Nelson at anne8412@cs.com or call (614) 793-0037

PLAIN CITY FOOD PANTRY provides sustenance for rural families in the Plain City area. Their distribution center at 156 West Main Street in Plain City serves families on Saturday mornings. Families are welcome for work in the pantry stocking shelves, delivering groceries, sorting dry goods, and generally helping keep the processes moving. Tasks are simple enough for children to join in.

PCFP Phone: (614) 733-0909

NPC PCFP Contact: Dan or Sherry Quakkelaar at sher@quakkelaar.com

DUBLIN FOOD PANTRY is connected with the Mid Ohio Food Bank and operates out of the Dublin Community Church, 81 West Bridge Street in Old Dublin in collaboration with a number of other area churches—in addition to Northwest Presbyterian Church. NPC is committed to supplying volunteers to run the pantry each August. DFP Contact: Julie Schofield, Director, (614) 889-6590 or dublinfoodpantry@yahoo.com
NPC Contact:: Open

THE VICTORY MISSION is a Christ-centered food and clothing ministry assisting over 20,000 people each year in Central Ohio. Each year Victory Mission holds special events such as an Easter outreach, school supply give away, “Toys for Joy” and a Christmas outreach. To date Victory Mission has given away more than 5 million pounds of food to people in need. Hundreds of these same people have received Christ as Lord and Savior upon hearing the gospel message.

Last year, NPC families donated nearly 100 bags of food to the September food drive. The effort has been coordinated by Teri Hinckley and Karen Brockway. You can learn more about Victory Mission by visiting www.victorymission.org or by calling (614) 752-2500.

LOCAL RETIREMENT AND CONVALESCENT FACILITIES—Get the kids together, take a few cards or crafts, and visit folks who seldom have the opportunity to enjoy the laughter of children and the warmth of caring friends. We have dozens of retirement homes and convalescent centers in Dublin and the surrounding Central Ohio area—with two next door to NPC: The Convallarium, our immediate next door neighbor, and Dublin Retirement Village (two doors down). Emerald Crossing is near United Dairy Farmers on Muirfield Drive and Trillium Place is on Dublin-Granville just east of Sawmill. These are just a few. Plan an event, sing songs, and visit with the lonely. Call ahead for a good experience and a good match.

PREGNANCY DECISION HEALTH CENTERS is a non-profit organization that exists to help women and men who are faced with unplanned pregnancies. PDHC has been working with women in the community for over 23 years providing free and confidential services. PDHC provides loving support and services during a difficult time and they provide accurate information on all options available to women. The PDHC goal is to empower individuals to make healthy life choices. Individuals and groups can serve by staffing the hotline and by participating in the annual Walk for Life raising funds for PDHC.

665 East Dublin-Granville Road
Columbus, OH 43229
Phone: (614) 888-8774
Hotline: (614) 444-4411

www.pregnancyquestions.org

NPC Contact: Deanna Breeding at dhbread@aol.com

ANGEL TREE AND PRISON FELLOWSHIP MINISTRIES

“No child should be forgotten at Christmas. This is why we started Angel Tree 25 years ago.

“Children suffer deeply when they see a mom or dad taken away to prison in handcuffs. There is shame, even though the child did nothing wrong. There is teasing at school, and finally—at Christmas, the happiest time of the year for most children—there is the absence of someone they love. It hurts. And that’s where Angel Tree steps in...”

Families can “adopt” the child of a prisoner by providing the parent’s gifts to the child at Christmas time. The program’s goal is to establish long-term relationships between the volunteer and the child who is temporarily without a parent—and to strengthen the child’s relationship with his or her absent parent. Angel Tree volunteers can coordinate church-wide Angel Tree activities including at-home package deliveries, presentation of gospel messages, arranging Christmas parties and more—even into the spring and summer. Angel Tree provides a wonderful set of activities that can be pursued year-round and can include whole families and small groups. Check out Prison Fellowship Ministries at www.pfm-angeltree.org and Angel Tree.

NPC Contact: Ellen Kemper at kemperfam@gmail.com or call (614) 733-0801.

FRUIT OF THE VINE is a ministry of Vineyard Church of Columbus (6000 Cooper Road, Westerville) to people in need. Some people say it’s about social justice, racial reconciliation, ending hunger and seeing every person treated with the dignity they deserve. If we follow Jesus in what he is doing, we will see all of those things addressed and even more. Our greatest joy is in seeing God draw people to himself as they come to know and follow Jesus. The amazing thing is that even as God is meeting our own desperate needs, he is willing to use ordinary people like us to bring his kingdom into the lives of the people around us. For more information contact Rhodie Shreve at (614) 259-5441 or Rhodie.Shreve@vineyardcolumbus.org.

One way to volunteer as a group would be to participate as a group on a Saturday morning at their Fifth Street Food Pantry. From 8:30-11:30, your group would stock, pack groceries, and hand-deliver to those in need. A very easy and rewarding way to serve.

NPC Contact James Kessler at jkessler@npc-dublin.org or call (614) 799-2300.