



## RESTORATION OUTREACH PROGRAMS

### Street Ministry on Ice

by Deb Ford

It is a frigid 7 degrees out tonight. The line for people needing food is long. Many stand shivering in the cold without adequate clothing to protect against these below freezing temperatures. I, however, have a warm coat and gloves, but I am still chilled to the bone. My fingers and toes feel like they are going numb. Finally, the last person is served and I hurry to get back into my car and warm up before we head to our next location. As I sit in my car, I begin to weep thinking that I have a warm house to retreat to in warmth and safety while many will sleep outside on this bone-chilling night.

Last year, Restoration Outreach Programs (ROP) launched the Street Ministry through a desire to minister to the homeless population in our community. Every Monday night, we pack up our van and take a warm meal to those in need. In the beginning, it was hard to find where the homeless were congregating. In January 2011, we served 18 meals. Only 12 months later, we served 276 meals, giving us a total of 2147 meals served in 2011.

The Monday after Thanksgiving we served a traditional Thanksgiving meal. We were met by people happy and excited as they had not had a Thanksgiving meal. At Christmas, our desire was to bless the homeless population with something special. Through several donations, we were able to distribute new warm clothing items and a gift bag filled with personal care items, warm socks and food items appropriate for someone who is homeless.

When we first started this ministry, people were hesitant and untrusting. They would come, obtain their food and quickly scurry off. Now, when they see us coming they all flock around us and linger wanting to share their lives, hear hope and receive personal prayer for their needs. A year ago, recipients would barely allow us to give them a flyer for our sister church, Restoration Worship Center (RWC). Now, we are seeing people come almost on a weekly basis to attend our Sunday morning service. Some have come back week after week and now have become faithful members of our RWC family.

So, is it cold outside? Yes, but our hearts are warmed knowing that we are following God's plan in reaching out to the poor and needy. Week after week we are reminded that it is through our partners in ministry that we are able reach out! Thank you for your faithful support and partnership in being the hands and heart of Jesus to this community!



### Serving Our Community with an ABCD Approach

by Kent Scroggs

Conventional wisdom dictates that when trying to solve a problem we first focus on identifying the nature of the problem and then we go about fixing the problem. Historically, this has also been the approach of domestic and international mission workers. But imagine the difference if,

instead of initially asking our clients "what's wrong with you?" the first question we ask is "what's right with you?" And imagine how much more effective and enduring solutions to problems might be if missionaries and mission agencies focus on how they can best partner with individuals and communities in resolving their own problems, rather than fixing the problems for them.

This is the approach promoted by Asset Based Community Development (ABCD). Last August, most of ROP's staff participated in an all-day seminar where we and participants from other ministries were challenged to consider how we might implement an ABCD approach as we seek to be facilitators of healing within hurting people and communities. We were convicted to take up this challenge. So what might ABCD look like within ROP's context as we move forward into 2012 and beyond?

The first area of application has been ROP's Food Bank. Our Food Bank team is led and composed of people from the community we serve and primarily from ROP's affiliated church, Restoration Worship Center (RWC). Our RWC members have welcomed the opportunity to serve and it has been wonderful to see how God has used this opportunity to grow them spiritually as they partner with Him in sharing His love with their neighbors, friends and others.

A second area where we are implementing ABCD is through a more intentional outreach to the local churches. Certainly, the local churches are among this community's best Kingdom-building assets. Within a radius of 10 blocks from ROP's building, we have identified 11 churches. Yet, most, if not all, of these churches minister in isolation. How exciting and how much more effective the Body of Christ might be if we prayerfully sought opportunities to partner together in meeting the needs of our community.

We covet your prayers as we move forward with an ABCD mentality and seek to mobilize this community in more effectively serving itself.



## Snow Days are Back!!!

by Earline Hardy

The winter months give us the opportunity to take our kids outside of the inner-city to experience tubing, skiing, snowboarding, etc. and to generally enjoy a special day in God's creation with friends, volunteers and staff. In so doing, we are committed to providing a safe and structured environment for our children to learn and grow.

With a donation of just \$40 per child...

**YOU can help plant amazing seeds in the fertile soil of our children's lives . . .**

- Seeds of character
- Seeds of God's Word made alive
- Seeds of putting others first
- Seeds of responsibility
- Seeds of loving themselves & others
- Seeds of spiritual understanding & growth
- Seeds of SUCCESS in a life lived for God
- Matthew 13:3-8

**If you have any questions on how you can partner with us, please feel free to contact Earline Hardy, Youth Ministries Director; Dena Boyce, Children's Director; or Lorah Finkenbine, Teen Director, at 303.344.4219 or simply email me at [Earline@RestorationOutreachPrograms.org](mailto:Earline@RestorationOutreachPrograms.org)**

