



Rays of Hope

A publication of the Walk-In Ministry of Hope (WIMOH)

Fall 2009 Edition

A 501(c)(3), Not-For-Profit, Serving Those in Need

Fostering Hope

*for all who walk through
our door...*

Lending

*a compassionate
ear to life
stories ...*

Connecting

*with social service
agencies...*

Seeking

*a solution to
immediate
needs ...*

Responding

*with vouchers for
food, medicine,
transportation ...*

Educating

our community...

Improving

*the quality of life
for our clients,
if not for a life-time,
for the moment at hand.*

In the communities of:

Darien
Downers Grove
Lisle
Westmont
Willowbrook
Woodridge

... from our Executive Director, Janell Robinson...

The Walk-In Ministry of Hope is pleased to celebrate our ninth year anniversary this month! Looking at who we are and what we do, we realize The Walk-In Ministry of Hope is more than the name of our organization. It is a motto that we have tried to live up to in the nearly 2340 days we have served our community. If we examine our name word by word, it says a lot about who we are and what we hope to achieve.

WALK-IN

We are an organization where people in crisis can literally walk in off of the street to discuss available avenues of assistance. In doing this, the WIMOH strives to make sure everyone leaving our doors has received something, a voucher or referral that will serve them well on their journey towards a stable life.

MINISTRY

There are many ways that ministry is defined and one meaning seems to fit the WIMOH perfectly. Webster dictionary states that the word denotes an agency which serves as a means. For the last several years, we have proudly served as a means or resource for our community. A place in which people seek to donate their time to assist others and a place in which those seeking help have been welcomed.

HOPE

During the last nine months we have seen firsthand how our neighbors' lives have been affected by the economic downturn. In May through July 2009, the number of clients and service items given out has increased substantially compared to the same time period in 2008. Our volunteers have worked diligently to meet the 20% increase in client visits and to provide 23% more in voucher assistance than the same period the year before. A record \$10,000 was distributed to the community in service items in July alone! In the face of increased needs, volunteers have given assistance with compassion and provided hope.

But what does it mean to give someone hope? It seems like such an elusive or ephemeral thing. But we at the WIMOH know that hope can be something that is as tangible as a food voucher or a bus pass. Giving hope can be something as monumental as listening to those in crisis as they try to make sense of their situations. Hope can have a lasting effect for those "running on empty", pushing to reach into their reserves to continue on in their journey.

A husband and wife came into the WIMOH office very quiet and almost resigned. Jennifer had been laid off for a year due in part to an illness. Her husband, Carlos, was newly unemployed. Carlos was receiving unemployment benefits, but they still worried about the costs of conducting a job search such as transportation expenses. As I sat with the young couple, we talked about their ups and downs of looking for work. I noticed Jennifer looking at her watch. She was embarrassed of the time we spent talking, knowing the WIMOH had a lobby full of people who also needed help. On impulse, I reached out to Jennifer, squeezed her hand saying, "It will be ok; you guys will be ok". Carlos smiled for the first time during his visit, gathering gas vouchers and a job list to aid in his employment search saying, "I just want to get back to work, you know. I think something will come through, hopefully, soon."

Hope has been defined as looking forward, toward the future, with confidence that wishes will be fulfilled. As we, the Walk-In Ministry, head into our ninth year we are honored to be in the position to offer a measure of hope as people strive to improve their lives.

... A Call for New Volunteers to Help Support Growing Client Numbers ...

Currently over 45 volunteers work from once a month to once a week., but more are needed! People interested in volunteering should attend an observation session to experience firsthand how the client interview process works and get a sense of the general responsibilities associated with the position.

Call Janell Robinson, Executive Director, at 630-241-0187 for information on the position. Thank You!

... *Back to School can be Stressful...*

80 students, pre-K through college, are starting this school year off with new backpacks overflowing with school supplies! Thanks to the **Downers Grove Junior Womens Club and the Community Banks of Downers Grove and Willowbrook**, the Walk-In Ministry of Hope was able to assist over 40 local families to meet their back to



school needs. The smiles of the students were echoed in the voices of the parents, "This is a big help!", "That was so nice!", "You just saved me over \$50!", "I can't believe this! This is beautiful, the backpacks alone are great!", "This is so cool!"

... *WIMOH 2009 Fast Facts ...*

In the last 6 months

We have had: 1,900 client visits and 1,400 children
We have 320 new clients/families
We help an average of 16 people/families per day

We issued: \$20,000 in food vouchers
\$15,000 in gas vouchers
\$10,000 in medical, dental, car repair, housing
\$8,000 in transportation, PACE, Metra

*Community Bank Heritage Fest
Fundraiser a Success!*

Community Bank of Downers Grove generously donated their parking lot in downtown Downers Grove to the WIMOH during Heritage Fest. From Thursday afternoon through Sunday night, volunteers from WIMOH collected \$5 per car from anyone who parked in the lot. Proceeds from this event totaled \$1,200 and will go to help our clients.

Thank you to **Janet Pleimling and Mike Busse** from the Community Bank of Downers Grove for offering this opportunity to us! We also thank the volunteers who manned the parking lot over the four days. This includes Diane Ray, Marty Schranz, Jordan Graham, Megan Graham and friends, James Graham and friends, Janell, Nathan and Ryan Robinson, Dan Troy, Chesteen and Rich Stern.

What does the word "ministry" mean in our name?

n. pl. **min-is-tries** The act of serving; ministrations.
One that serves as a means; an instrumentality.



... *Volunteer Spotlight...*

Dee Baker

Dee is one of the wonderful volunteers at WIMOH. She has been working with us for over three years. She has been a resident of Downers Grove for the last six years and lives with her husband, daughter, two Pomeranian's and a cat. Her husband John is self-employed and is an environmental and renewable energy expert doing business as Alan Environmental. Her daughter recently graduated from high school and is currently modeling full time in the Chicago area. Dee and her husband learned about WIMOH by attending a "business breakfast" at Ballydoyle's that was hosted by the Community Bank of Downers Grove. After learning about our mission, she decided that she would like to help by becoming a client interview volunteer.

Dee grew up in Hickory Hills, lived a short time in various south suburbs, then southern California, and eventually ended up in Wheaton after she married, about 25 years ago. There she attended the 1st Presbyterian Church and became a Deacon for one term. She attended the College of DuPage as a young adult and later the DePaul University's School for New Learning before becoming a full time mother. She has worked in sales in contract administration, resale homes and new construction sales. She enjoys gardening, reading, and being with family and friends. She and her husband recently joined Christ Church of Oak Brook.

One Bite at a Time:

Share a Meal to Fight Hunger

**PANCAKE
BREAKFAST**

...a recent survey of food pantry clients in northern Illinois shows that large numbers of client households have to choose between food and other necessities.

Please join us on

Sunday, September 13th 7:30am - 1:00pm
Divine Savior Catholic Church
6700 Main St. Downers Grove

or

Saturday, September 19th 8:00am - 11:00am
Gloria Dei Lutheran Church
4501 Main Street, Downers Grove
Fellowship Hall (lower level)

Parking available in the church lot (south side) and the North High School lot (north side) of the church. Funds raised from this event will be matched by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans

\$5 for adults

\$3 for ages 12 and under



Hands of Hope Campaign

Goal: 500 individuals/families sponsored
100 clients sponsored since November 2008

The WIMOH sees the need for our services during this time of economic uncertainty now more than ever. Many of us have the good fortune to live in one of the most prosperous counties in the United States. It's easy to miss the increasing challenges faced by our neighbors.

1 in every 20 people in DuPage County live in poverty

The services provided by the WIMOH are tools to make sure that no one falls between the cracks. With our services, clients are able to maintain households, if not improve their overall living situations. By extending a **"hand of hope"** we combat the growing problem of poverty to ensure the maintenance of our viable and vibrant state, villages and neighborhoods.

because what affects one, affects us all.

Please join us as we raise funds and awareness of community need through our Hands of Hope Campaign. If your club or organization would like to learn more about our community efforts and clients please contact Janell Robinson at 630-241-0187.

... A Busy Summer for the WIMOH ...

We have taken part in various events including the Memorial Day parade at the invitation of the Lisle VFW. Several businesses and organizations have made the WIMOH their "project"! Their generous help has raised much needed funds and community awareness as we continue to serve our community. Hats off to our partners!

Culver's Restaurant (2500 Ogden Ave, Downers Grove) donated more than \$600.00 to the WIMOH through their *Culver's Day of Giving* program which took place on May 12th.

Whole Foods (201 63rd St Willowbrook) asked shoppers to donate 10 cents for a bag they reuse for their groceries in their *One Dime At A Time* program. The money raised, \$220.00, during the months of April through June was donated to the WIMOH.

The Walk-In Ministry of Hope is the proud recipient of two grants awarded during the last four months. **A \$5,000 grant from DuPage Community Memorial Foundation** was given in support of our Immediate Needs Program. **\$25,000 in grant assistance was received from the Community Memorial Foundation.** This will help support general operating expenses and aid clients in accessing dental care and prescription drugs and medical supplies.

... 2009 Dates to Remember ...

Mark your calendar!

Pancake Breakfast

One Bite at a Time:

Share a Meal to Fight Hunger

September 13th

Divine Savior Catholic Church
6700 Main St, Downers Grove
7:30am to 1:00pm.

September 19th

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church
4501 Main Street, Downers Grove
8:00am to 11:00am

Night at the Theatre

October 23, 2009

Enjoy the play *Sense and Sensibility*, at **The Theatre of Western Springs**. The play was adapted from the classic book by Jane Austin. Tickets are \$30 each, \$20 which is tax deductible. Contact diane.ray@wimoh.org for information.

Holiday Toy Sale

Beginning October 19

Bring your new or gently used toys in to sell at discounted prices. Call Jerry Christensen at 630-322-9311 to drop off items or drop items at WIMOH (between 10am - 11:45am Mon, Wed-Fri. For more information call 630-241-0187.

December 5th & 6th

Shop this event to raise funds for the WIMOH while providing an inexpensive way for our clients to give their children a wonderful Christmas!

Max & Erma's Presents

The Walk-In Ministry of Hope Fundraiser!

Thursday, October 22nd

20% of your lunch, dinner or carryout sales will benefit the Walk-In Ministry of Hope!

Flyer distribution on Max & Erma's property is prohibited and will result in the forfeiture of your organization's entire donation.

Fundraiser for the Walk-In Ministry of Hope!

Present this ticket to your server and 20% of your sales will help us raise funds for the Walk-In Ministry of Hope!

Max & Erma's

Woodridge
2020 West 75th Street, 630-241-0609

Visit maxandermas.com to view our menu & learn about our Good Neighbor Rewards program.
Proceed donation does not include gift card/locate sales.

Communities Served
 Darien, Downers Grove, Lisle, Westmont,
 Willowbrook and Woodridge

Office Hours
 Monday, Wednesday—Friday 10:00a.m. to 11:45 a.m.
 Monday evenings 6:30p.m.—8:15 p.m.

Location
 1047 Curtiss Street
 Downers Grove, IL 60515
 Phone 630.241.0187
 Fax 630.241.3224

Visit our website at
www.walkinministryofhope.org

Board Officers

President
 Rev. Laura Hoglund
 Vice President
 Deacon Jerry Christensen

Second Vice President
 Adrienne Colvert
 Treasurer
 Karen Klickman
 Secretary
 Linda Mandarino

Executive Director
 Janell Robinson

Board of Directors
 Gene Ognibene
 Janet Pleimling
 Diane Ray
 Gretchen Sauer

You can help the Walk-In Ministry by supporting their fundraising events!
 Mark your calendars with the event dates listed inside!



Walk-In Ministry of Hope
 1047 Curtiss Street
 Downers Grove, IL 60515

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION
 U.S. POSTAGE PAID
 DOWNERS GROVE, IL
 PERMIT No. 92