



# THE GUIDING LIGHT

newsletter

## of Shelter Ministries Inc.

WINTER 2012-13

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## Miracle or Coincidence?

There are many circumstances in this world that can easily be explained by scientist as “*mere coincidence*”—but here at Shelter Ministries we see each one as its own little miracle, and we thank God daily for them. For instance, we needed the hedges trimmed for security reasons — when a man waiting for his wife to apply for the Christmas Bureau decided to trim them for us - and he had his own tools!

The handicapped ramp came apart — only to have a laid-off carpenter be the next person to enter the building.

There was the bicycle room that needed cleaning—when a local pastor had some time on his hands, and guess what - he enjoyed working on bicycles too! And the list goes on and on.

I remember one Wednesday, during flu season, when many of our volunteers were ill and there were people lining up for food. I wondered how I was going to be able to do it all on my own. When the first person that

entered said, “Do you need any help today? My husband brought me and I have some time.” (Thank you God!) The two of us served everyone that day without a hitch.

And just the other day while wishing we had some strong hands to help move some refrigerators — in walked a young man that needed another two hours of community service. The original place he’d stopped at was closed. Coincidence? We don’t think so. God used him to answer a need.

God is certainly blessing Shelter Ministries so we asked the young man over pizza how he liked being used by God. His quizzical look told us he hadn’t thought of that before.

We’re all being called to service by Him. Sometimes we hear it and we answer. Other times we ignore and go about doing what we want to do.

But we are always meeting and connecting with others... and we never know

how what we say or do affects another person. We may never know how a simple word or action may change another for life.

I recently gave a tour of Shelter Ministries to some friends... and we decided to walk to a restaurant rather than drive. As we went past the Cupbearer Café, I made a point of stopping and introducing them to Andrew, the proprietor. When we left my friend said to me, “You don’t know what you just did.” I replied, “Yes I do, God’s always at work.” That introduction made a connection that is sending 10 new tables to the Cupbearer ministry!

Also during that little stop on our way to dinner, a gentleman came up to me and thanked me for the help Shelter Ministries has given him... including connecting him to a place where he found God - the one and only true source of all we need. Coincidence? - Nah!

**Miracles** — and they’re happening everyday!

## Volunteers Needed!

“No one agency or person can do it alone,” says Renee Florin, Director of Shelter Ministries. “I’m just the Conductor, the Volunteers are the Instruments that make the Music! Without quality volunteers—and a lot of prayer—nothing happens here. No one in the community can be served

without the many hands that it takes to serve them.”

Right now we are looking for several quality volunteers who can commit to a regular weekly schedule for 2 to 4 (or more), hours a week.

We have several areas that may be of interest:

The Intake Room, Clothing Bank, Food Pantry, the Wheels for Work Bicycle Ministry, Building Maintenance, and the DeKalb County Christmas Bureau.

If you’re interested in one of these ministries, please stop by and pick up an application today! Blessings~

### STAFF

- Renee Florin, Director
- Robyn Smith, Bookkeeper
- Carole Bunting, Food Pantry & Clothing Bank Coordinator

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Brian Wessley
- Dr. Robert Edwards
- Anne Brandenburg
- Jean Ferrell
- Christine Simpson
- Shirley Souder

## 2012 Salvation Army Bell Ringing!



*At WalMart the Home Schoolers of DeKalb County raised the most money in one day! East Door \$ 547.40 West Door \$ 507.72*

A large portion of our funds for the Community Financial Assistance comes from the money raised through the Salvation Army's "Little Red Kettles" placed at the WalMart and Kroger entrances during the Holiday season.

*In 2012 we raised a little more than \$1,500.00 over the previous year — THANK YOU!*

That amount will help about 15 more families this year!

### Do Bell Ringers Make a Difference?

*You bet they do!*

Having a single Bell Ringer will *double* the amount raised in the kettle! The bells not only draw attention to the red kettles, but the simple "Merry Christmas" greeting by the ringer — or in some cases the singing of a Christmas carol — puts everyone into a *giving* frame of mind.

What better way to teach a child to give, than to have them ring the bell to help others! Being a Bell Ringer is not only a fun way to spend a couple hours,

but it is a ministry in itself in many ways! Your giving calls forth others to give — And that's worth "Ringing" about!!

Don't wait, sign up anytime for ringing in 2013, call 260-925-9200.



*DeKalb High School Honor Students not only rang the bell — but rocked it in song and dance as well!!*

## First Stop Re-Locates to the Shelter!

First Stop, a ministry supported by County Line Church of God, moved their downtown office to the Shelter Ministry location. First Stop is just that - the first place to go when looking for any kind of Social Service Assistance.

First Stop is staffed by trained volunteers who assess, evaluate, and then connect our residents to the agencies that can best assist their needs.

This merger is part of Shelter Ministries outreach program to connect local agencies and churches. "We can do so much more when we work together for

the good of the people," says Florin.

Together we can help with a family's immediate needs—and by putting our heads together we can address their long term needs as well.

God said we would always have the poor with us - so the work here is endless, and good volunteers are hard to find. Hopefully we'll soon have enough workers to be open for longer periods of time than just the current 5:30-7:30 pm on Tuesday and Noon-2:00 pm on Thursday. To reach First Stop call: 260-333-0555.

## Cookbook Sale

Shelter Ministries has only about 200 cookbooks left for purchase. These make wonderful bridal shower gifts! You can pick one up today at the Shelter office for



*Sharing & Caring Cookbooks \$10.00*

## Wheels for Work!



There are many in DeKalb County that aren't working, simply because they can't drive, or don't have afford-

able transportation to get to and from their jobs. So Shelter Ministries began a "Wheels for Work" Bicycle Ministry.

Volunteers fix up donated bicycles that are then given to our DeKalb County residents needing transportation for work—or to look for work.

Even though it's winter, the first four recipients of bicycles (two young men and two young women) are already using their bicycles to put in job applications around the Auburn area, and/or for getting them to and from their part time jobs.

"Right now we are working with a zero budget for the ministry," says Heinz Florin, a Wheels for Work volunteer. "We hope that monetary donations for this ministry will come in soon so we can purchase more parts and tools, or perhaps even discounted new bikes direct from the manufacturer before Spring arrives."

Our goal is simple. To give anyone wanting to work, a way to get to their job! Riding a bike just 5 miles a day for a year can save you over \$250.00 in gas — and keep you healthy too!!

## Food Pantry Makeover!

Just before the holidays, the Food Pantry emptied its shelves by serving over 500 individuals food to last them through the holidays. Although there were thoughts of, *“What are we going to do for food in January?”* We reminded ourselves that you simply, **“Can’t out-give God”**. So we put our focus into rebuilding the existing shelving and adding more. Moving the freezers and refrigerators together to make serving easier, and giving the pantry a good cleaning.



Under the direction of Carole Bunting, we de-cluttered, hung curtains to allow the natural sunlight in, replaced broken floor tiles, re-arranged metal shelving, and gave the wooden shelves a new paint job. With Christian music playing to keep us all focused on our reason for the ministry, we looked at a

clean, but nearly empty, pantry.

Then the phone call arrived... The DeKalb Middle School kids had a food drive contest and they donated over 4000 cans of food to the pantry!

So, along with our local Churches, Organizations, and the School Students,

we filled the pantry again!

*No, you simply can’t out-give God!*

**Thank you!**

The Pantry is now open on **Mondays from 2-5** and **Wednesdays from 10-1**.



## Clothing Bank Success!

Our Clothing Bank is a great success with the DeKalb County community! Every **Thursday, from 10:00 am until 2:00 pm** anyone with a need for clothing can browse through the racks and shelves looking for what they need.

“We try our best to keep the inventory moving”, says Kathy Myers, the Clothing Bank’s lead volunteer.

But although she won’t admit it, keeping that inventory moving is a monumental task. Countless hours are spent sorting and folding the clothing.

Items not being selected are removed and taken to the Salvation Army Store. New items arrive weekly into the Intake Room, and have to be inventoried, sorted, and hung or folded, onto the racks and shelves.

Kathy, and Millie Gaff, have donated many hours keeping the Clothing Bank looking like a neighborhood boutique.

“Winter isn’t over yet,” says Kathy, “So we still have plenty of coats, hats, and gloves to keep you warm. But those 2 days of 60° weather started us

thinking about Easter and Spring now too!”

### What Do We Need Most?

What the Clothing Bank needs most are blankets! Many homes in DeKalb County have just enough heat to keep the pipes from freezing, and we are asked all the time for blankets. “We simply can’t keep them in inventory,” says Kathy, “We’ve even asked our local hotels and motels for some.”

*So if anyone has an extra blanket — please, share the warmth!*

## YOUR Helping Hands

### COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE

Autumn Quarter (Oct, Nov, Dec)

Oct: 8 Families (19 Individuals)  
 Nov: 12 Families (48 Individuals)  
 Dec: 13 Families (42 Individuals)

#### Totals

**33 Families (109 Individuals)**  
 Utilities: \$1,787.04 Medication: \$33.90  
 Transportation: \$40.00 Rent: \$1,400.00  
**\$3260.94**

### FOOD PANTRY

Autumn Quarter (Oct, Nov, Dec)

Oct: 160 Families (431 Individuals)  
 Nov: 183 Families (591 Individuals)  
 Dec: *No Numbers are available due to a change in staff.*

#### Totals

**342+ Families 1,022+ Individuals**



***This is all possible because of YOU!!***

### CLOTHING BANK

Oct. Families: 39 (Individuals: 134)  
 Nonprofits: 1 (Individuals: 3)  
 Nov. Families: 131 (Individuals: 393)  
 Dec. Families: 90 (Individuals: 331)

#### Total

**255 Families (861 Individuals)**



## RETURN ADDRESS REQUESTED

Shelter Ministries  
PO Box 565  
315 East Seventh  
Street  
Auburn, IN 46706



*"Offering light and hope through the storms of life"*

*Here at Shelter Ministries Inc., we strive to help the people of DeKalb County. Countless individuals and families are in great need, and we want to be here for all of our community members. We are a Christian based ministry and we know God has a purpose for us, as a ministry, and as a community. We ask for your continued prayers, guidance, and funding, in order to continue our mission of*

*"Offering light and hope through the storms of life."*

## There's Always a Wish List!

### Building Maintenance:

- Someone to fix the Stucco siding on the portico.

### Office Supplies:

- Forever Stamps
- Epson 200 Black Printer Ink
- Index Cards
- Copy Paper

### Food Supplies:

- Breakfast Cereals
- Oatmeal

- Peanut Butter
- Mac & Cheese
- Hamburger Helper
- Noodles/Pasta/Rice
- Boxed Potatoes
- Canned Fruit
- Canned Vegetables
- Soups
- Tuna & Tuna Helper

### Wheels for Work:

- Money for Parts
- Helmets
- Used Bicycle Clothing

- Inner Tubes
- Tires
- Brake Cables
- Brake Pads
- Shifter Cables
- Handlebar Tape
- Seats
- Tools
- Concrete Floor Paint
- Bicycle Paint

*If we but ask — God will always provide!*

We're on the Web!  
[shelterministries.org](http://shelterministries.org)

Join us on **facebook**  
Together we make a difference!