



GMC NEWS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GEORGETOWN MINISTRY CENTER

A GRATEFUL COMMUNITY

When people think about GMC and “giving back to the community,” they often think about donors or volunteers coming into our Center to serve our homeless members. However, our members also give back in many ways. They help us clean the Center at the end of every day and assist staff in other tasks like running our computer lab. And in January, some GMC members also started giving back to the Georgetown community.

We started a partnership with the Georgetown Business Improvement District (BID) to create a community service and job readiness program. Volunteers from GMC have been working to help sweep streets, paint the bridges of the C&O Canal, and stuff envelopes. This program is a way for our members to feel productive during the day and to demonstrate a readiness and willingness to work. For our members who show us that they truly want to enter the workforce, we will serve as references and help them find suitable jobs.

Our first two members who agreed to be our guinea pigs for this program impressed the BID with their enthusiasm and attitude so much that the BID offered them jobs on their Clean Team! We are working closely with Warren and Tony, who were also in our shelter this winter, to help them find permanent housing. And, because they now have jobs, we are able to offer the volunteer opportunity with the BID to more members who are interested in working again.

We could not do this without the help of the BID, especially Sherman Gardner, the BID’s Street Service Manager, who has not only organized the projects for our members, but also recommended Warren and Tony for the Clean Team. Both of us hope that this partnership will continue to be a fruitful relationship for all involved.

—Stephanie Chan



A GRATEFUL MEMBER

I walked into Georgetown Ministry Center in the middle of December of 2012 penniless, hungry, homeless, and deeply depressed. I hadn’t showered in more than three weeks. My parents had recently died, and the only thing that I had left in my possession was my faith in God.

It had been one month to the day that I had lost my apartment. I was immediately offered a sandwich, a shower, use of the telephone, and more than anything else, a safe place out of the brutal elements for nine hours a day.

After a couple of weeks of going to GMC every day, I began to volunteer to help clean up at the Center. When a space opened, Roy invited me into their shelter program. In the revolving church-based program I was physically fed and spiritually nourished by the wonderful volunteers at each congregation.

I jumped at a chance to give back, volunteering in a joint GMC/Business Improvement District community service program in which homeless members helped clean the streets and community of Georgetown. The volunteer job turned into a full-time job with insurance benefits!

And to top things off, GMC is providing me with a room in a very nice house for three months at their expense to ensure that I am clean and well rested to meet my working obligations. They are also providing me with a bus pass so that I can get to and from work until I am able to start getting a full-time check at the beginning of May.

In a nutshell, GMC changed my life in a profound and rapid way. Many people spend years being homeless, and I spent a little over four months. I am still coming back to help, even though I have a job and place to live. I plan on attending law school in the fall of 2014 and will always try and come back and give back to an organization which so freely gave to me. None of this would have happened without God and the good people who toil tirelessly at GMC. I am forever thankful for what they have done.

—Anthony “Tony” Coleman



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GRACE CHURCH

When asked to consider holding special "homelessness awareness" services as a way of participating in the "Help the Homeless" program, Grace Church enthusiastically signed on and scheduled our service for All Saints Sunday, the first Sunday in November. On this special Sunday, we hear selections from the Beatitudes, either "Blessed are the poor in spirit" from Matthew's gospel, or the yet simpler and more direct "Blessed are the poor," from Luke's. It seemed an especially fitting occasion to recognize and lift up our homeless neighbors as cherished members of our community.

Many GMC members participate in Grace's Table, a meal and ecumenical Bible study offered by Grace members and friends every Saturday from September through May. I approached several homeless participants and asked if they'd be willing to read passages of scripture and lead the Prayers of the People on All Saints Sunday. Each happily agreed.

They read their selections with clarity, understanding, and conviction, then listened intently to the sermon, which addressed themes related to homelessness and the Biblical mandate not only to care for the poor, but to invite them into our communities. Regular service attendees seemed to listen with heightened attention, and one newcomer told me later that he'd attended several churches that offered programs for homeless persons, but never one that welcomed homeless persons so warmly into their worship.

The young man who led the Prayers of the People offered an extemporaneous and endearing tribute to Grace and its embrace of homeless neighbors.

In the end, though, the proof is in the pudding. And in this case, the pudding turned out to be a pretty satisfying \$1,437 of parishioner contributions for GMC from the special All Saints Sunday service. This represents Grace's most extensive participation ever in the Help the Homeless funding effort, and the Vestry and I are convinced that the incorporation of both the theme of homelessness, and homeless neighbors themselves, in the major feast of All Saints represents the key to an outpouring of member generosity.

—(Rev.) John M. Graham

Rector, Grace Episcopal Church, Georgetown

SHELTER FOOTNOTE

Our shelter closed on Easter this year. It was unfortunate. It is always unfortunate when we close because there is always unfinished business. To make matters worse, there was an unusual cold snap lasting for a week that began as we turned out our residents. But as we reviewed the year we realized some great things happened during the year. People who hadn't been willing before, applied for disability benefits that will soon allow them to gain housing. Two residents began as volunteers but soon became employees of the Business Improvement District's Clean Team. But most important of all, ten homeless people were welcomed into Georgetown churches and had a safe and warm place to be off the street for the winter. A special thanks to all of the volunteers who helped make this 22nd year so successful.

THANKSGIVING CARING

We were finishing up our Winter 2012 newsletter around Thanksgiving and weren't able to recognize two Thanksgiving dinners for the homeless that took place in Georgetown. Now, in our Spring newsletter, we would like to thank Georgetown Lutheran Church and the Ritz-Carlton of Georgetown for continuing old traditions and forging new ones.

Everybody on the street knows about it: the big Thanksgiving dinner at Georgetown Lutheran Church. Homeless people we meet on the street every year ask if the dinner is on again. Every Thanksgiving Eve, church members, along with friends and family, prepare a huge meal for anyone who wants to come. Homeless members of the community and people who live in Oxford houses (substance and abuse recovery homes) and subsidized houses flock from the upper northwest and the far reaches of the southeast to Georgetown Lutheran to partake in dinner and the optional Thanksgiving service afterwards.

At 7 p.m., Pastor Phil Gaines opened the doors to the Parish Hall where 94 places were set. The serving line was ready with volunteers eager to serve the food as the smell of hot turkey filled the air. As the line moved into the Parish Hall, Pastor Gaines and organizer William Schilling shook the hand of each person. The line never ended as newcomers



straggled in and others went back for seconds and thirds. Former GMC board member Bob Hand and his son Jakob offered take-out trays so that those who wanted to could take food for a friend or to eat later. The Georgetown Lutheran dinner has been a Thanksgiving tradition for many people for many years, and every year we are thankful that the church continues this tradition.

This past year, GMC was also grateful to have the Ritz-Carlton create a new tradition for our homeless members. Esmaralda Prifold, from the Ritz-Carlton of Georgetown, approached us to ask if they could cater dinner for our members. Naturally, the answer was yes! Grace Church let us use their Parish Hall as 60 members feasted on a gourmet Thanksgiving meal. Almost all of them listed the butternut squash soup as their favorite course! The staff from the Ritz, led by Esmaralda, served dinner with huge smiles on their faces. They also make sandwiches for us twice a month.

Every year when we come together as a community at Thanksgiving, we thank those who support the people we serve. We look forward to many more years of working together to end homelessness one person at a time.

—Stephanie Chan

UNITED WAY GRANT

On December 17, 2012, GMC was awarded \$15,000, which partially covers the cost of operating the Congregation Based Winter Shelter. In these times of shrinking funding, GMC is pleased and proud to receive this award from United Way and its recognition of the vital services that GMC provides.

A COMMUNITY RESPONSE

This past winter we received a phone call from a Georgetown resident concerned about a homeless woman lying on the ground on Wisconsin Avenue. At the same time members of the BID Clean Team were stopping us on the street insisting that we see this woman. Bridgette was lying there nearly catatonic when I arrived with Craig Keller of the Department of Mental Health. The stench of excrement on her was evidence that she had not moved from the spot, even to relieve herself. The pouring rain did not move her. When Craig asked her if she would take a ride down to the Center, she nodded yes. At the Center she took a shower and we washed her clothes, but the smell was still there. We found replacements and encouraged her to come back the next day. She did, but by the weekend we were getting calls again. Officer Atkins of the Metropolitan Police brought her back down to us on Saturday. By Monday she was back on Q Street under her blanket. A concerned Georgetown resident put her in his car and brought her back down.

At some point she expressed a willingness to go into a crisis bed, but it was difficult to find her at first. Eventually members of the Homeless Outreach Program of the Department of Mental Health did locate her and took her to the hospital. Hospital social workers located Bridgette's sister in Tennessee and the two were reunited after a stabilizing hospitalization for Bridgette.

—*Gunther Stern*

NEW CLOTHES CLOSET

Since late January, we have been distributing clothes and toiletries every Friday at 10 a.m. Members can check off which clothes they need on an order form we distribute, and we will retrieve the items we have and pass them out. Now that we are several weeks into this program, we can name the most frequently requested items so far that we do not have: belts, men's jeans (34-38 waists most common), and XL-XXL shirts, sweaters, and sweatshirts. If you have adult-sized clothes or toiletries you'd like to donate, you may drop them off at our Center any day between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m.

We would like to extend a special thank you to Water Street Gym and Trish Peva, who ran a coat drive for us for the second year in a row. They collected so many wonderful coats to fill our Closet.

—*Stephanie Chan*



Georgetown University students Alexandra Waldon (left) and Kathryn Douglass organize our new Clothes Closet.

Board of Directors

<i>Christ Church, Georgetown</i>	Catherine Ballinger Elizabeth Bluhm
<i>Dumbarton United Methodist Church</i>	Martha Dickey
<i>Epiphany Roman Catholic Church</i>	Susan Gschwendner Won Park
<i>First Baptist Church, Georgetown</i>	Vinette Saunders
<i>Georgetown Lutheran Church</i>	Connie Baker
<i>Georgetown Presbyterian Church</i>	Alexander Bullock Pat Davies
<i>Georgetown University</i>	Ray Shiu
<i>Grace Episcopal Church</i>	Andrew Davis Kimberly Ludwig
<i>Holy Trinity Catholic Church</i>	Linda Formella Joe Ryan
<i>Kesher Israel, Georgetown Synagogue</i>	Jessica Ribner
<i>Mt. Zion United Methodist Church</i>	Deborah Owens
<i>St. John's Episcopal Church</i>	Jocelyn Dyer
<i>St. Luke's United Methodist Church</i>	Dorothy Preston
<i>St. Paul's K Street</i>	Eric Lobsinger
<i>St. Stephen the Martyr</i>	Laura Wilson

And from the community...

<i>Citizens Association of Georgetown</i>	Dick Stoll
<i>Community Representatives</i>	Pierre Moyer Beth Neilsen
<i>Georgetown Business Association</i>	Elizabeth Webster
<i>Georgetown BID</i>	John Weibenson
<i>Georgetown Clergy Association</i>	John Graham

Officers

President	Jocelyn Dyer
Vice President	Dick Stoll
Treasurer	John Lange
Secretary	Martha Dickey

Staff

Executive Director	Gunther Stern
Outreach Director	Roy Witherspoon
Business Manager	Dymenn Sasser
Program Coordinator	Stephanie Chan
Shower Program Managers	Ricardo Cooper William Jenkins Anne Kolar
	Lucane LaFortune

Consulting Physicians

Psychiatry	Ron Koshes, M.D.
Family Practice (<i>with Unity Health Care</i>)	Catherine Crosland, M.D.

Development Director

Claire Spencer-Spears

TRAGEDY COMPOUNDED

The horrific shootings in Newtown, Connecticut, this year galvanized public attention and concern around gun control but also focused on mental illness because the perpetrators of mass violence are almost always responding to delusions caused by mental illness. We certainly support more attention to early intervention and, if needed, “assisted treatment” —essentially forced treatment. We have been saying for years that something needs to be done about the very sad predicament of people who are mentally ill, many of whom are homeless. Most people with serious mental illness are not violent. They are victims of a society that will not take responsibility.

Guided by irrational fears and invisible delusions, our street-bound neighbors choose to avoid offers of help, often associating the assistance with their invisible tormentors. They are intractable because of the mental illness. Nor are they obligated to accept the help we offer as long as they are not visibly hurting themselves or someone else. Never mind that they are living in curbside squalor in unbelievably unsanitary conditions—they don’t meet the requirements of the law until they become an obvious and immediate danger to someone.

We have talked about anosognosia before. It is often associated with neurological disorders, and it is clearer by the day that this is the driving force behind the inability to perceive one's own mental illness and accept help. So, while we can see that there is something wrong with the disheveled guy on the corner screaming at the moon, that person has no understanding

that the problem is in his brain. He is living out a disaster movie in his own head: the world is against me. Every one of the rest of us has become the enemy. Each of the mass murders probably started out with delusions of persecution, but few if any of the mentally ill people on the street are capable of the violence of Newtown. The tragedy is an individual one, repeated thousands of times all over our country. They are condemned to a life on the streets. Is the street not worse than any treatment?

As we renew our efforts to expand services to people with mental illness, let’s be sure we include the homeless mentally ill. It is time to end homelessness, and a first step should be to insist on help for these sad and deserving individuals whether or not they want it.

—*Gunther Stern*

GOOD FRIDAY OFFERING

Each year on Good Friday the faith community of Georgetown has a special ecumenical service that starts out with a procession through Georgetown stopping at several of the churches for a service. The offerings are allocated to Georgetown Ministry Center for our homeless members. This year the offerings totaled \$846.71. Thank you so much, Georgetown.

GEORGETOWN MINISTRY CENTER
1041 WISCONSIN AVENUE, NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20007

Save the Date

Spirit of Georgetown

Oct. 17, 2013

The BEST party in town!

Taste
OF GEORGETOWN

Saturday, June 1, 2013

11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Wisconsin Ave. & M St. NW

Proceeds benefit GMC!



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GEORGETOWN MINISTRY CENTER Annual Report

Fiscal Year Ending 2012

CONTINUED EXPANSION

Our fiscal year 2012 (Oct. 1–Sept. 30) was marked by continued expansion and refinement. After our 2011 renovation to allow more space for our guests, the need to offer even more showers and laundry could only be met by expanded hours of operation. We had already extended weekday hours to 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and added weekends from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. We now operate 7 days a week from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. We offer 20 showers a day and 5 laundry opportunities.

However, we are more than just showers and laundry. Not everyone who comes through our doors is ready to file for Social Security or to go into housing. Sometimes, there are many baby steps that need to be taken before one is ready to get a job or sign up for benefits. For some people, these steps are seemingly inconsequential but as important as regularly bathing and doing laundry. We see people evolve from refusing to shower to accepting one if offered to actually asking for a shower. There is never any pressure, but always some gentle guidance from staff. We try to meet people where they are and work with them from there.

We have continued to emphasize a dignified and welcoming environment, employing the Clubhouse philosophy as much as is possible. Members get to discuss policies and concerns at our regular Tuesday meeting, and staff and members vote on proposed changes such as how many showers a week an individual is entitled to. Neither staff nor members are allowed to speak condescendingly to anyone else. We don't talk down to anyone!

In 2012 we provided more services than ever before. We connected with 1,034 different homeless individuals with an astounding 29,245 services from showers to disability benefits and homes. The increased demand is attributable to increased capacity created by our expanded hours and redesigned space.

Our Congregation Based Shelter served 12 individuals who otherwise would have slept on the street. We placed 3 in housing before the end of the year. Others were assisted in making applications for disability benefits that have since been approved.

Once we get people into housing we continue to support them with various informal case management activities, including our representative payee service in which we become trustee of disability income accounts and ensure that rent is paid and basic needs are met. We are currently supporting 7 people this way.

Street outreach continues to be a passion for the staff. We are out on the street less because the people we see on the street are coming into the Center. Still, we go out three times a week and with our psychiatrist, Ron Koshes, on Mondays and our general practitioner from Unity Health Care, Catherine

At a glance: Program Statistics

Year	FY2011	FY2012
Individuals served	689	1,034
Unique contacts	12,069	13,896
Venue		
Office	17,819	26,296
Street	2,717	1,156
Phone	97	72
Other	25	87
Shelter	1,207	1,620
Total	21,865	29,245
Service		
Shower	2,700	5,391
Laundry	835	1,697
Sandwich	7,960	9,879
Computer use	2,734	5,657
Doctor	486	638
Psychiatrist	395	350
Medical van	302	0
Case management	682	746
Phone	1,176	486
Mail	2,079	1,948
Clothing	414	219
Other	895	614
Shelter bednights	1,207	1,620
Total	21,865	29,245

While our financial condition continues to be good, the coming year is filled with uncertainty. Expanding the hours of operation this past year from 5 days a week to 7 days at 9 hours a day has significantly expanded expenses.

Crosland, on Thursdays. Both doctors see people in the Center as well.

An important part of our program is community education, usually involving students from Sidwell Friends, Georgetown Day School, and various universities from around the country. We engage the students in meaningful activities and



At a glance: Financial Statement

Year	2011	2012
Support & Revenue		
Contributions & grants	\$487,146	\$499,937
Other income	\$6,987	\$74,986
<i>Total cash contributions</i>	<i>\$494,133</i>	<i>\$574,923</i>
In-kind contributions	\$89,516	\$70,095
Total support	\$583,649	\$645,018
Expenses		
Program	\$402,959	\$430,073
Management	\$71,701	\$105,830
Fundraising	\$48,995	\$58,584
Total	\$523,655	\$594,487
Balance Sheet		
Current assets	\$738,616	\$789,664
Property & equipment	\$370,328	\$356,650
Liability	\$52,988	\$49,827
Net assets	\$1,055,956	\$1,096,487

In next year’s Annual Report, we hope to be able to report on concrete goals and measurements of those goals and report on, among other metrics, the number of people moved into housing, Social Security applications, and other benefits applications completed in order to give our supporters a better understanding of how we are helping our guests.

FINANCIAL REPORT

As we have expanded hours and days of operation, we have expanded staffing and incurred new costs related to utilities and additional costs of leasing for administrative space. GMC continues to be conservative in the use of donated funds. There are no lavish expenditures. We now have modest administrative space that allowed us to dedicate the space in the Center to program services. Our program expenses currently consume 73% of our budget with the remaining 27% divided between administration and fundraising. The value of in-kind donations increased by \$10,516 (ignoring the previous year’s one-time donation of architectural services valued at \$30,000), thanks to the popularity of the sandwich program.

At the end of FY2012 (Sept. 30, 2012) our financial condition was sound with a net asset value enough to cover approximately two years of budgeted operating expenses.

We anticipate the coming year to be a transitional year as we seek new ways to support our expanded services.

discussions about homelessness. In addition, individual students have an opportunity to design practicums and perform community service at Georgetown Ministry Center.

We are connected to the city through various liaisons. Craig Keller from the Department of Mental Health visits the Center each Tuesday morning and sees people at the Center and walks with us on the street where he sees people we are concerned about. Officer Antonial Atkins from the Metropolitan Police regularly drops by the Center. He will address the members at our house meetings from time to time much as he does with other community groups, talking about current police concerns and imploring our members to help keep an eye out for problems in the community.

In 2012 the staff of GMC began to look at management metrics. What are the important things that we do and how do we measure them? We had the good fortune to have a group of MBA interns from the Danaher Group offer to help us with this task. We are in the process of becoming more sophisticated in our approach, which should help us understand how what we are doing helps, how to tell our story, and what is not helping. Most important, we have found that these numbers establish goals and expectations for us. We expect this to have a huge impact on our services by 2014.



GMC's four full-time staff members: left to right, Dymenn Sasser, Roy Witherspoon, Stephanie Chan, and Gunther Stern.