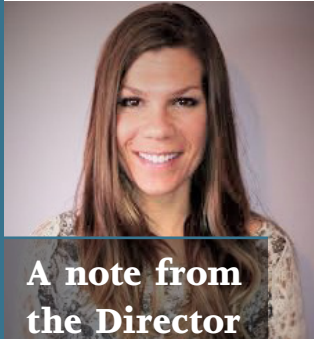




**OLIVET**  
neighborhood mission

# Newsletter

## Fall 2016



### A note from the Director

As the Director of an organization with a large Food Pantry, the question I am most often asked is, "What items do you need right now?" There certainly are food items we need more than others, however what I want everyone to understand is that one dollar donated to and spent by our organization can go 4 times as far as a dollar spent at retail costs. This means that if you buy ONE can of food with your dollar, I could have taken that dollar and purchased FOUR cans of food. Though we greatly appreciate any donation of food, we prefer to receive monetary donations to get more value for your dollar. We so appreciate your support – without your help, we would not exist. On behalf of our Board of Directors, staff, and the people we serve, thank you for investing in Olivet Neighborhood Mission.

Erica Carrico - Director  
erica@olivetmission.org

Pat Glasier - Volunteer Coordinator  
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#### Board of Directors

Tom Grommon Jr., Chair

Tom Suchomel

Shannon Grommon

Chris Swalley

Ann Torticill

Erica Carrico, Director

## HOW IS IT POSSIBLE IT'S THIS TIME OF YEAR ALREADY!?

### WE NEED YOUR HELP THIS HOLIDAY SEASON – ADOPT-A-FAMILY PROGRAM 2016

Do you know it feels to struggle financially? Have you ever been in a position where you could not afford gifts or holiday meals for your children? Have you ever had to tell your children there will be no Christmas gifts this year? This is a reality for the families we support. YOU have the power to change their situation this year. YOU can make the holidays a happy time of year for parents and their children! Olivet Mission's annual Holiday Adoption Program is a way for families that are struggling with difficult financial situations to receive help with meals and gifts. Each year we have over 1,000 requests from families hoping to be sponsored. Please help us to not turn anyone away.

#### Thanksgiving

As a sponsor, you purchase the food needed to cook a Thanksgiving meal with traditional food items for the family. You can choose the family size to sponsor and either deliver the basket directly to the family or drop it off at Olivet Mission. **Sign-up to sponsor a Thanksgiving Family by November 1!**

#### Christmas

As a sponsor you purchase at least two Christmas gifts for each child, 15 and under, in the family. You choose the family size you would like to purchase gifts for, and you choose your delivery preference to the family or Olivet Mission. **Sign-up to Sponsor a Christmas Family by November 1!**



**To Become a Sponsor, simply fill out the form on our website at:**  
<http://www.olivetmission.org/holidayadopt> OR mail in the included form if you received our newsletter in the mail.

## Program Highlight

### Summer Youth Program

This summer, the Olivet Youth Program was at capacity again with 78 registered children. The kids were kept active and engaged with several weekly programs including Triple Play Fitness, Healthy Habits Cooking, and Drop Everything and Read! Weekly field trips were a favorite amongst the children with visits to the YMCA, CR Public Library, and Collins Road Theater. Of course summer isn't a summer without plenty of visits to local splash pads and pools! They were even lucky enough to take special trips to a Cedar Rapids Kernels Game, the Playstation, and Lost Island Waterpark in Waterloo. Olivet Youth Program also had a partnership with the Eastern Iowa Arts Academy where the kids were able to participate in art exploration classes free of charge. Huge thanks to them!!



## Volunteer Highlight

### Darrell

Meet our Super Volunteer Darrell! He is a native Cedar Rapiidian who graduated from Kennedy High School. He has been a Mission volunteer for 12 years, and also works at the Fairfield Marriott. Thank you Darrell for all your hard work!! Volunteering is a significant way you can impact Olivet Mission. Volunteer opportunities exist in most of our programs and services and provide you multiple ways to engage with the organization. Contact Pat for more information [pat@olivetmission.org](mailto:pat@olivetmission.org)

### Our Mission

Olivet Neighborhood Mission empowers community members by providing resources during their times of need. The Mission serves as a catalyst for community organizing, growth, and development of community spirit and identity. We advocate for individuals, groups, and causes which lack a voice and strive to establish social justice in our community.

Donate today at

[www.olivetmission.org](http://www.olivetmission.org)

click on the  link

Like us on  and see what we are up to next!

## Upcoming Events and Other Ways to Support Your Community

Being the largest food pantry in Linn County, our biggest challenge is keeping our pantry shelves stocked. Our belief is that no one is turned away hungry, regardless of how difficult it is for us to purchase the food. We spend an average of \$30,000 per year on food, which means it costs \$575 to stock our pantry for one week. This spring we are running a

month-long event to have every week of the year "adopted" by local individuals, families, businesses, churches, clubs. We need your help to continue providing for thousands of local people. If you (or your club/organization) want to help 200+ local families in a real, tangible way, please email [erica@olivetmission.org](mailto:erica@olivetmission.org) to get your week secured!!



## How Your Donation Can Help

**\$10** will supply three families with a food box

**\$25** will buy two cases of canned veggies for our Food Pantry

**\$75** will prepare two community garden plots for upcoming season

**\$150** will provide field trips for one Youth Program member for a year

**\$575** will stock our Food Pantry for one week

**\$1,000** will provide a Summer Youth Program for three children

**We Are The Neighbors of the Neighbors We Help**