



OLIVET
neighborhood mission

Newsletter

Spring 2017



A note from
the Director

Ever since I was a little girl, I longed to make a difference in the world. I knew I was here to make the world a better place. However, like many of us, as I grew up my dreams began to shrink in size. Life became less about changing the world and more about raising my children, doing the laundry, paying the bills, going to work, and other "grown-up" stuff. Scrolling through Facebook one day, I saw this quote by Dillon Burroughs: "God is calling you to change the world one life at a time and one small step at a time. Begin today where you are." It was a huge ah-ha moment for me. You don't have to join the Peace Corps or volunteer in Africa to change the world. You simply start by making the world around you a better place. I have a place for you to start. I have a way for you to change our world.....

OUR PANTRY NEEDS YOUR HELP

For the past few years, Olivet Mission has operated the Food Pantry at an annual deficit of \$27,000. Let me tell you why.

During the flood of 2008, Olivet Mission suffered financial damages of nearly \$275,000. With the generous assistance of many individuals, businesses, and churches, as well as eventual assistance from FEMA, we were able to rebuild and reopen the Mission within three months. The entire rebuilding process took three years. At the end of that time, we not only had all the facilities and programs back up and running, but we had been made financially whole. Truly a miracle!

However, the need was still there, and stronger than ever. In another difficult but crucial decision, we came to the conclusion that we would not turn away our neighbors who were hungry, while we sat with money in the bank. The decision was made to continue distributing food as it was needed, even if we had to purchase food to do so. We felt, at that time, that if we were meant to do this, the supply would be there.

The difficulty is that we have not been able to establish a stable, consistent funding source. As a result, we operated the Food Pantry at a \$26,500.00 deficit in 2016. We obviously cannot continue to do this.

We are asking you to consider "adopting" the Food Pantry, by committing to underwrite our food expense for one week at a cost of \$575. Due to our ability to leverage monetary donations via the HACAP Food Reservoir, each dollar donated results in over \$17.00 of food being distributed. Last year, this amounted to over 21,000 individuals being served. In exchange, you will have the satisfaction of knowing that as many as 500 people directly benefited from your generosity. We need your help to continue providing for thousands of local people. If you as an individual, or family, or a club or organization you are involved in, feel called to help 200+ families in a real, tangible way, please email erica@olivetmission.org to get your week secured!! Thank you for helping Olivet Mission continue to stand in the gap for our neighbors in need.




Donor Highlight

As you know, Olivet Mission relies 100% on donations from individuals like you, businesses, and organizations. Without you, our services simply would not exist. I would like to introduce you to some of our very special donors! Steve and Joy Mindrup were high school sweethearts who married in 1997 and moved to Cedar Rapids in 2007. They have three children ages 16, 14, and 12 along with a 13-year-old Labrador. Steve works at PCI in downtown Cedar Rapids, while Joy is a nurse who also serves on the board of the Linn Mar Foundation. They chose to donate to Olivet Mission because "they provide crucial support locally, and the Mission maximizes every dollar to provide service to fellow Cedar Rapidsians in need." They also hope that contributing to a local cause will allow their children to see firsthand how important it is to help others. There are so many ways in which you can donate to Olivet Mission; cleaning out your closets, donating toys your children no longer play with, and even giving just \$10 makes a huge difference! Please contact Erica for more information at erica@olivetmission.org.

Donate today at

www.olivetmission.org

click on the  link

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



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2016 YEAR IN REVIEW

- 70,121 - TOTAL ACTS OF SERVICE IN 2016
- 7,189 volunteer hours worked in the Clothing Closet & Food Pantry Programs (\$165,850 of in-kind donation)
- 213 children participated in After-School & Summer Recreation Programming for 6,417 contact hours
- 25,911 individuals/families utilized the clothing closet and food pantry
- 7,563 food boxes were distributed
- 21,621 individuals received food from those 7,563 food boxes (10,860 adults, 8,504 children, 2,079 seniors)
- 160 families were adopted for Thanksgiving
- 224 families were adopted for Christmas (609 children)
- 438 Parish Nurse hours worked

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230 10th St. N.W.
Cedar Rapids, IA 52405

"Without the Mission, I don't know how I would put food on the table for my 3 boys."

- Olivet Neighborhood Mission Client



Program Highlight – Holiday Adoption Program

Every holiday season, Olivet Mission runs a Holiday Adoption Program. This year, we had 160 families adopted by members of our community for Thanksgiving, and 609 children adopted for Christmas! On top of that, we also had some of Santa's elves make a special trip to the Mission before Christmas to pass out gifts. There really are not words to describe the feelings you feel when you see children walk into a room stacked with toys, blankets, winter boots, hats, and mittens. Their eyes light up, huge smiles come across their faces, they fill their bags until they are over-flowing, and no one leaves empty-handed. Thank you for all your donations that made this possible. Christmas is not a happy time of year for everyone, so we take pride in knowing that we make it a little brighter by spreading love.

Our Mission

Olivet Neighborhood Mission is built on a foundation of service and dignity restoring hope to families and individuals in need by providing basic needs such as food, clothing, and household items. The Mission also provides youth programs that encourage self-esteem, independence, and community long-term success through respect, compassion and community support.

Spring Cleaning

Keep us in mind when cleaning out your closets, toy rooms, or when you're upgrading your household items! We take donations during our open hours, accept everything in good condition (no furniture as we don't have the space), and everything stays within our local community. Thank you! Happy cleaning!