



**OLIVET**  
neighborhood mission

# Newsletter

Fall 2017

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

**WOULD YOU LIKE TO BRIGHTEN THIS HOLIDAY SEASON FOR FAMILIES IN NEED?**

## ADOPT-A-FAMILY PROGRAM 2017

Do you know what it's like 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? The families we support struggle to provide the bare necessities for daily living, let alone afford any extras during the holidays. Fortunately, we have the opportunity to change their situation this year. It's our mission to help make the holidays a happy time of year for the families we serve. 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 and with your help, we aim 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 (they then cook the meal themselves). You may 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 preferably by November 1 so we have time to match you with a family.**

### Christmas

As a sponsor you purchase at least one Christmas gift 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 preferably by November 15 so we have time to match you with a family.**



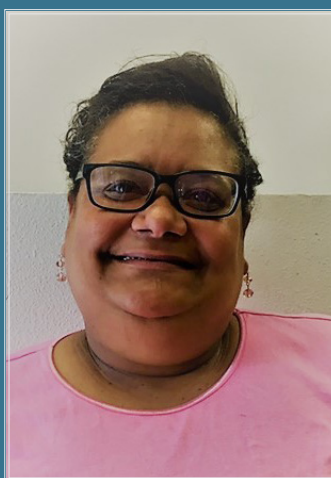
## Program Highlight Summer Youth Program

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!!



**To Become a Sponsor, Fill Out the Attached Form and mail to:  
Olivet Mission - 230 10th Street NW, Cedar Rapids IA, 52405  
OR simply fill out the form on our website  
at: <http://www.olivetmission.org/holidayadopt>**

## Volunteer Highlight Laurel



We could not function without Laurel! Laurel has been with us for about 4 years. She drives the mission truck which allows us to get food from HACAP, donations from various places, and drop off unusable items at Goodwill. Starting as a client, this mother of 4 and almost grandmother, is now an invaluable member of our volunteer corps. She always seems to be where we need her! If you're interested in being a volunteer, contact Pat for more information at [pat@olivetmission.org](mailto:pat@olivetmission.org).

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!



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**A note from  
the Director**

Last year, over 21,000 people in our community received food from the Olivet Mission Food Pantry. These families may be managing a loss of employment, high medical bills, fixed incomes, the rising cost of utilities, or the ever-increasing prices at the grocery store. These families are your neighbors and may need access to a necessity—wholesome, nutritious food. Olivet Mission can provide this food, clothing, and household items thus enabling them to be able to also heat their homes or pay their rent.

With the help of generous supporters, our first annual Food Pantry fundraiser, Adopt-A-Week, was an enormous success! We had 44 out of 52 weeks adopted, with a total of \$25,300 raised! We are so grateful for 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  
pat@olivetmission.org

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Erica Carrico, Director



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230 10<sup>th</sup> St. N.W.  
Cedar Rapids, IA 52405

*"Without the Mission, I don't know how I would put food on the table for my three boys."*  
- Olivet Neighborhood Mission Client

## 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 service. We aim to foster self-sufficiency and achieve long term success through respect, compassion, and community support.



*"It's our duty to lend a helping hand to our neighbors in need."  
"Everyone deserves to have good food available no matter what their circumstances"  
"Olivet Mission fills a genuine need in our community, and does this in a very efficient way."*