



News from the Executive Director

Rev. Claudia Lovelace

Greetings in the Name of the Risen Lord

Read Deuteronomy 26:1-11

As I write this article on November 16th I ask myself, Do I write about our celebration of the coming of our Savior Jesus Christ or do I write about thanksgiving? The conclusion I came to is that I am so grateful that I can remember Christ in my thanksgiving for all of those that have allowed Skyline Urban Ministry to be the hands and feet of Jesus this year. Without your time, talent, and contributions to the many ways we serve the marginalized, we would not be doing all the wonderful things that you read about in the rest of this newsletter. Therefore, being Christ here for the poor, I want to write about thanksgiving because I am so thankful!

Thanksgiving Day, the widely observed and underappreciated holiday, often merely kicks off the holiday season, the period that includes Christmas, Hanukkah, and New Year's. Five weeks of intense shopping, eating, visiting and hurrying.

That is really too bad. Thanksgiving deserves better than football and parades. Thanksgiving should focus our attention on our common humanity, our need, and our interdependence, and our helping those in the human family to remember that everything is a gift.

Our food is usually produced through the work of others and only then because the earth, the sun, and the rain, those magnificent gifts of God. Our homes, our cars, our other stuff to which we become so attached come to us largely as a result of circumstances over which we have little control. These benefits are also gifts. Our families, our

health, and the next breath we take. None of these is perpetually guaranteed, (again, a gift.)

Deuteronomy directs the Israelites to take the first fruits and return them to God. Thanksgiving to God is not to stow away three months of food in the basement freezer or sock away twelve months of income in the bank (contrary to what the economists say) and then show up to the altar to give a token offering. By returning the first fruits to God we open ourselves to sharing with others and, even more important, to trusting that tomorrow and the next day and the day after that, God will provide for our needs.

Giving God our first fruits is a lesson we need to heed and to practice. By doing so, we might actually reduce the indefensible gap between the marginalized poor and everybody else in this world. We might actually break the punishing power that possessions can exert on us. If we did, we might appreciate a holiday that reminds us that everything is a gift.

The celebration of the coming of Jesus as a babe in Bethlehem is to remember that Jesus himself was and is the greatest gift of all! It has been a joy beyond description to be able to a part of this great gift of Skyline Urban Ministry. I hope and have faith that God will see us through another year of spreading the love of Christ through our love to others. Thank you for all you have done to be a part of this great work.

The prayer I would say right now is: Good and gracious God, help us to remember that every day, that all is a gift and that you are the giver. May that knowledge profoundly affect the way we live. You understand the struggles of our human life. May Jesus, fully human and fully divine, always be our model for the challenges in life. And may his example bring us eternal trust in your care. Amen.

REMEMBER THE REASON FOR THE SEASON AND HAVE A HAPPY THANKSGIVING AND A MERRY CHRISTMAS!



If you would like to receive the newsletter electronically, please email: gjohnston@skylineurbanministry.org

SKYLINE MONTHLY NEWS

Skyline's mission is to impact lives, to empower those in need and to address the roots of poverty in Oklahoma.

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Garrett Johnston, Editor*

www.Skylineurbanministry.org

YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS MAKE MINISTRY HAPPEN AT SKYLINE. WE THANK YOU!



BE A RAY OF LIGHT!
by Garrett Johnston, Editor

What is a Ray of Light, you might ask? A Ray of Light is each individual who believes in the mission of Skyline and who will make a monthly contribution to Skyline to support that mission. Please, open up the envelope enclosed with this newsletter, check the box that you want to be a Ray of Light and fill in the amount that you will contribute monthly. It's that simple.

Skyline has made it even easier for you to make contributions with the capability of making them via your MasterCard or Visa card. You can also go to the Skyline website at: www.skylineurbanministry.org and make a contribution by clicking on the PayPal button that you will find on every page.

As you use the remittance envelopes, please fill in ALL information: your phone number, your church home, and your email. Skyline would like to be able to recognize each of the congregations and their members who are partners in ministry here at Skyline. Please take a few extra seconds and fill in your home church information.

Did you know that you can receive the Skyline News via email? The email edition goes out the day the print edition is sent to the printers- two weeks earlier than the print edition hits your mailbox. Another feature of the email

edition is that it is in color. If you want Skyline to add your name to the growing list of email subscribers, just send an email to the address listed above in the masthead of the newsletter.

As always, it is a great joy to share with each of you the many ways that your contributions make ministry happen! May your Christmas be filled with rays of light!

"I" WITNESS NEWS
by Kim Parris, Site Director

In my last article, I pleaded for more folks to adopt families for Christmas Grace. Your response was awe inspiring. We would like to recognize and thank Acts 2, Dr. Jay Adams office, Thomasina Allen, The Busey Group, Chapel Hill, Church of the Servant, Crown Heights, Douglas Boulevard, Edmond First, Franklin UMC, Jenny Ferguson & family, Grace UMC, Karen Henderson, Kim Hicks, Home Extension Group, Verla Hull, Jones UMC, Lakeside UMC, Lambuth UMC, Linwood UMC, May Avenue UMC, Mayfair Heights UMC, Moore First UMC, New Covenant UMC, New Hope UMC, New Life UMC, Newcastle UMC, OCU Angel Tree, Quail Springs UMC, Piedmont UMC, Diana Showalter, Silver Lake Garden Club, St. Andrew's, St. Luke's UMC, St. Paul's School of Theology, Stay at Home Mom's Group, Sunny Lane UMC, Valliance Bank, and Village UMC. YOU are the reason for the success of Christmas Grace 2011.

If you also recall in last month's article, I shared with you about a grandmother raising her two granddaughters. She has been unable to use her stove because of an electrical outlet problem. I would like to extend a special thanks to this family's adopter who has agreed to personally make sure this electrical issue will be fixed.

Last month we also interviewed a mother who has a five year old son with Autism. All that he wanted for Christmas was a bicycle. Due to his limitations, he will require training wheels. He is a plus size boy, hence the size of bicycle that he needs did not come with training wheels. I would like to extend a special thanks to an anonymous donor who has made arrangements to have custom training wheels put on the bicycle.

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Phone: 8th St 405 236-5212
Fax: 405 236-5225**

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**SKYLINE URBAN MINISTRY
500 SE 15TH STREET
OKLAHOMA CITY, OK 73129**

Continued from Page 1 . . .

We will open our Christmas Store on December 20th . 22nd from 9:00 am . 4:00 pm. We need personal shoppers+ to accompany the parents as they select gifts for their children. The Christmas Store serves needy families that were not placed with Christmas Grace adopters. We will have a variety of shifts available based upon your availability.

Looking ahead, we are scheduling meal providers for our Prime Timers program for January, 2012. The following dates are open: January 9th, 11th, 13th, 23rd, 25th, and 30th. If you would like to serve in our Christmas store or provide a January meal, please contact me at 632-2644 or kparris@skylineurbanministry.org.

Thank you for sharing your resources and time to make this Christmas so special for so many. Merry Christmas and God bless you all.

NEWS FROM THE JETS

By Della Pickens, Jets After School Program Education Director

December will be a very short but eventful month for Jets. We have a lot to do before December 9th, which is the last day of school before the holiday break. The children will be finishing up their core curriculum, working on their Christmas projects, and singing carols at the Skyline volunteer appreciation celebration.

Many of you have answered the call for gift item donations for our Jets Store! Thanks to you, I know the store will be a huge success! The store will be held at Lambuth UMC on December 7th. The children will be able to make a list and shop for everyone in their family. We will set aside the following day for them to wrap the gifts before taking them home. I truly appreciate all of you who help to make

the Jet Store possible. This is something the children look forward to and work hard for. The twinkle of joy in the eyes of the children as they gather up gifts for their loved ones makes it all worthwhile.

Thank you for blessing us with your help in this mission. May God bless you and yours this holiday season and always.

NEWS FROM THE EYE CLINIC

by Janis Love, Eye Clinic Director

Recently a patient wrote us the following. "I just wanted to thank you for making it possible for me to get my glasses. I couldn't have gotten them without you. Everyone there at Skyline was very kind and polite. May God bless you and the people you touch every day. In Christ, Laura." We helped Laura with a partial scholarship and now, not only can she see, but also she is no longer having headaches when she reads. We help many people just like Laura. What a joy it is to be able to do that!

A few weeks ago, I ate lunch at a cafeteria near Skyline, where one of our patients works as the baker. He is the man I wrote about earlier, who gave me bear hugs, when he got his glasses. After another bear hug, he told me the glasses were working well. My husband also had the opportunity to meet him and hear his testimony about getting glasses. He never would have been able to get glasses without our partial scholarship program. Thank you so much to all who make that possible.

Now we are rapidly approaching the end of 2011. Just now it appears that this will be the best year yet for the Eye Clinic. If all goes well, we should exceed easily the total exams for 2010. Just in the past few months we have added two new eye doctors who see some of our patients in their offices. This has been a tremendous help in managing our long waiting list.

SKYLINE CELEBRATES—SPECIAL GIFTS

IN MEMORY:

GIVEN BY:

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| Melvin Baxter | Celestia J. Baxter |
| Willie Bivins | David & Diane Thomas |
| Betty Colven | Joe & Claudia Straw |
| Maxiene Clements | Bob & Donna Merry |
| Elaine Cunningham | Nancy Engel |
| J. P. Dew | Wayne & Polly Hutson |
| Gilbert Dupertuis | Nancy Engel |
| Auldon F. Hutton | Frances S. Hutton |
| Leonard King | Ann & Randy Wilson |
| Lora Bell Stone King | Elaine Reid |
| Jantz Kinzer, Jr. | Tom & Jan Murray |
| James W. Long | Jimmie Muller |
| Lawanda Majors | Carrol McEwen |
| Louis Melton | Elaine Reid |
| Charles Junior Sandburg | Spicer & Sandburg, Inc |
| Dr. Robert Sukman, MD | Charles & Phyllis Harvey |
| Paul Teasley | Bob & Margaret McClain |
| Glen Alan Trimble | Charles & Phyllis Harvey |

IN HONOR / APPRECIATION:

GIVEN BY:

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------|
| Pat Drew | Kym Kyker |
| Marie Gately & Hugh Piatt | Joe & Karen Leonard |
| Pat Gentis | Joe & Karen Leonard |
| Joe & Phyllis Gorman | Joe & Karen Leonard |

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Rick Hawkins | Pat Norton |
| Rev. David Johnson | K. F. Snyder |
| Jones UMW | Carrol McEwen |
| Monte & Frances Lee | David Lee |
| Rev. Carolyn Murrow & Dr. Rod Murrow | Rev. J. Torrey & Joyce Curtis |
| Kim Parris | Robert Oltmanns |
| Rev. Howard & Trudy Plowman | Jerry & Carole Thrower |
| Pat Post | Nancy Craig |
| Skyline Staff & Volunteers | Jerry & Carole Thrower |
| Jean & Wilburn Terrell | Nila Gibbs |
| Jean & Wilburn Terrell | Anonymous |

IN CELEBRATION OF BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES:

GIVEN BY:

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| Ramona Arnold | Burchie Smith |
| Dan Burdette | Joe & Karen Leonard |
| Sue Ellis | Joe & Karen Leonard |
| John & Dena Gorrell | Joe & Karen Leonard |
| Joe Leonard | Karen Leonard |
| Ernie Limbo | Joe & Karen Leonard |
| Henry Limbo | Joe & Karen Leonard |
| Kaye Nelson | Marvin Nelson |
| Jeanne Putman | Joe & Karen Leonard |

As Christmas approaches, let us remember the birth of our Lord, as we continue to serve the least of these. We at the Eye Clinic wish each of you a very happy and blessed Christmas.

CAROLINE'S CORNER

by Caroline Lowery, Site Director

It is that time again, the holiday season is upon us. We here at Skyline would just like to say thank you for making it another memorable year. Thanks to your generous gifts we were able to serve over 17,500 individuals in the Community Cupboard. Did you know it only cost Skyline .43 cents per meal, or \$5.16 for a four day food supply for one person? That means your gift of \$25 feeds a family of 5 for 4 days! With so many loyal donors like you, I know that our hungry neighbors can rest assured knowing they have our support. We could not help those in need without you. We thank you for your volunteerism, financial gifts, clothing donations, food drives and most of all, your prayers. I am excited for the upcoming year as Skyline looks to improve its services and better assist those under

resourced members of our community. I hope you and your family has a happy holiday, and a blessed New Year.

CHEERING FOR FOOD!

A special thanks goes out to Oklahoma City University's Athletic Department. Every sports team at OCU collected food for the Community Cupboard this holiday season. We are very honored to report that they collected so much food (seven grocery carts, full and running over) that it barely fit in our storage area! We are so thankful for the students and faculty at OCU that diligently support Skyline every year.



Varsity Cheerleaders Savannah Owen and Allison Gappa help collect cans for Skyline.

SKYLINE URBAN MINISTRY—December, 2011											
Weekly Events: Community Cupboard at 8th Street Center: M-thru F- 12:30 PM Clothing Closet at McKee Center: Mon, Wed, Fri-12:30 to 1 PM ; Tue, Thur-9-11 AM Community Charity Eye Clinic at 8th Street Center: Optician Clinic-Wed-8:30-9:30 AM, eye exams by appointment only Jets After School Programs: 4 locations, Mon-Fri- 3-5 PM								1	2	3	
								Christmas Grace begins at McKee Center		AISN @ 6:15PM Meal provided by FUMC Edmond	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	No Prime Timers This Week Christmas Grace Continues at McKee Center				
1 PM Listening Post @ 8th ST		Staff Meeting 2 PM at McKee	Jets Christmas Store at Lambuth UMC: 3-5 PM				AISN @ 6:15PM Meal provided by Church of the Servant				
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	Prime Timers move to St. Luke's December 12 -21 Christmas Grace Continues at McKee Center				
1 PM Listening Post @ 8th ST	PT 9AM-Noon NEED MEAL	Health Alliance for the Uninsured 5:30 PM	PT 9AM-Noon Meal provided by: Church of the Servant (MVC)		PT 9AM-Noon Meal provided by: New Covenant UMC		AISN @ 6:15PM Meal provided by Bridgeview UMC				
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	Christmas Store at McKee Center 9AM to 4 PM Skyline Closed for Holiday Break				
1 PM Listening Post @ 8th ST	PT 9AM-Noon Meal provided by: ACTS II UMC		PT 9AM-Noon Meal provided by: Mayfair Heights UMC		No AISN,						
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	Skyline Closed for Holiday Break				