



### THE EMPTY BASKET...

Port Ministries relies entirely on donations to meet our daily needs. Some items are desperately needed at this time. These are the current "most needed" items:

For pick-up & delivery info, please call: 773-778-5955

- ❖ MONETARY DONATIONS
- ❖ HAMS (BUTT, SHANK OR WHOLE)
- ❖ FILLED EASTER BASKETS
- ❖ GROCERY/FOOD GIFT CARDS OR CERTIFICATES

- ❖ Hot Cocoa Mixes (no marsh.)
- ❖ Bulk pack chili or stew
- ❖ Plastic soup spoons
- ❖ Apples or Oranges
- ❖ 8oz. hot Cups
- ❖ Plastic sandwich bags
- ❖ Anti-bacterial hand wipes
- ❖ Diapers - all sizes
- ❖ Baby Wipes
- ❖ Adult cough syrup
- ❖ Adult cold & flu med.
- ❖ Tylenol P.M.

**Mailing Address:**  
 Port Ministries, P.O. Box 09168  
 Chicago, Il. 60609  
**Phone:** (773) 778-5955  
**Fax:** (773) 778-2451  
**E-mail:**  
[info@theportministries.org](mailto:info@theportministries.org)  
**Website:**  
[www.theportministries.org](http://www.theportministries.org)  
**\*E-GIVING AVAILABLE!**  
*It's completely safe and convenient for you and for us!*  
**Just click and donate!**



### Please Assist Us...

in being better stewards of our God Given Gifts of funding, time and of His creation... our environment.

The rising cost of printing, paper and of stamps is straining our budget and the over-use of paper mail is depleting our already strained environment. There's another option available: Email. Can you help by choosing to receive our newsletter by Email? If so, please send an Email with your name, mailing address and Email address to: [info@theportministries.org](mailto:info@theportministries.org). Or, complete and send the following form to the provided address via postal mail...

Yes, I would like to help by receiving the Port Ministries Newsletter by e-mail instead of postal mail.

No, I would not like to receive the Port Ministries Newsletter at all; please remove me from the newsletter listing.

Please print clearly

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: (to help us identify you) \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Return this form as soon as possible to: Port Ministries Newsletter  
 P.O. Box 09168  
 Chicago, Il. 60609

**Thank You!**

### UPCOMING EVENTS:



22ND YEAR...  
**GOOD FRIDAY STATIONS OF THE CROSS on the Streets**  
 Come walk & pray with us!...  
 Friday, April 10th,  
 Noon to 3pm  
 Begins at the Mantle,  
 5140 S. Ashland Ave.



**EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 12TH**  
**CELEBRATE THE RISEN CHRIST WITH US... IN SERVICE TO THE POOR!**

**Food Prep.** at Theresa House: 5017 S. Hermitage Ave., 10am to Noon  
**Easter Dinner** with our families at The Mantle (5140 S. Ashland): Noon to 2pm  
 Volunteers Needed!: Pre-commitments only; please call ahead at 773-778-5955

### Port Ministries After-School TUTORING PROGRAM...

Helping build a brighter future for our children!

Since opening the Mantle doors in January to offer neighborhood children afterschool homework help, between 11 and 21 children are ringing our bell daily. This program is offered Tues. thru Fri. from 3:30pm to 5:00pm and the children range from pre-K thru 7<sup>th</sup> grade. This program is also "child-initiated" which means they are coming on their own... they truly want this support. Our greatest need is Volunteer Help so that we can serve our children with as much personal attention as possible.



As I look around the Mantle, I see children who come for so many other reasons besides help with their homework. Some are just hungry; others are seeking kindness, such as a hug or a warm smile. Many need to be heard... to have someone listen to them and give them words of encouragement. Still others are looking for a safe place where they can just be a child. All we need is simply YOU to come with love in your hearts. You don't have to be a "teacher", you can just be a "lover"! Know that the success of this program is very dependent upon the number of volunteers; the more volunteers we

*"For these are our children, and we shall all profit by, or pay for, what they become."* James Baldwin

have, the more effective and personal is the help! So, please, if you can assist us in helping them realize more of their own great potential and dignity, we have a good chance to help save our children from the perils of the street! Come and make a difference in a child's life!



Also, we are excited to announce that our Adult ESL/GED Program is expanding to include Wednesdays. The Schedule is now Tues, Wed., Fri., Sat. from 10:30 to 12:30. Volunteers for our child care areas are always welcome and needed!

Peace and all good, Kris Openshaw, (Cordinator)

## CURRENT ACTIVE SERVICES:

### The Mantle:

•ESL/GED Adult Ed., Computer, Child Care, Arts & Crafts Educational Activities: Tues., Wed., Fri., Sat.: 10:30am to 12:30pm.

•“Harmony, Hope and Healing”

Music Ministry: Tues.: 10:30am to 12:30pm.

•After School Tutoring: Tues. thru Fri.: 3:30pm to 5pm.

### Port Ministries Free Clinic:

Tue. & Thur.: 1pm to 3pm  
Sat.: 9:30am to 12pm

### The Winter Bread Truck:

Tues. thru Fri.: 6pm to 9pm  
Sat.: 10am to 3pm

### Home Visiting:

Tues. & Thur. 9am to 3pm

### Tony's Gym:

7 hrs. per week

### Theresa House:

Temp. Closed

### Volunteering

Opportunities for Ministry for individuals and groups of all ages.

### St. Mary of the Angels:

Secular Franciscan Fraternity

## Thank You to all our Benefactors & Volunteers!

## Very Special PORT People... *Proof that you are never too young to make a difference!*



The Peterson family members have been faithful weekly Volunteers at the Mantle since the summer of 2008. **11 year old Audry Peterson**, as a regular volunteer along with her family found that her heartstrings were being pulled. She was concerned that some of the Montessori and Toddler area's child development equipment was getting worn out and needed replacement and updating. As a result, instead of complaining about the equipment, she decided to sacrifice her own Christmas gifts, totaling their cost and then to donate that amount towards the needs of these areas. She didn't stop with just involving herself, but went to work! She got the word out, pulled as many heartstrings as she could and soon her mission began to bear fruit! Her sister and cousins all took part; sacrificing their “getting” so that they could celebrate Christmas by “giving” to meet the needs of the Mantle children, who have become very special to them... to offer a gift that will serve them every day throughout the year. With the compassionate cooperation of parents and grandparents from



*Grateful Mantle Children presenting Audry and family a beautiful thank you card they made.*

the Peterson and McCurdy families, (believing this idea was a great one), the resulting amount turned out to be amazing; more than ample to truly enrich and update our areas. After Christmas, they went shopping and in mid-January arrived at the Mantle with two vanloads of beautiful new developmental dramatic play equipment, along with age appropriate educational puzzles, games, books and blocks for children ranging in age from 2 to 15! This was a real WOW moment! It is wonderful and heartwarming to see the children daily benefiting and growing from the use of this new equipment given to us with so much love.

Well... no matter what age we are, all one can do when witnessing this is say to ones self... “What's holding me back?”, “What's my excuse?”, “What could I do to make a difference instead of judging and talking?” So... a sincere THANK YOU to Audry and the Peterson and McCurdy families! You surely are bringing to all a lesson in sacrificial love; giving with no strings attached, except the ones that connect hearts!

~ Port Ministries Staff

## From the Executive Director: We Lovingly Remember “Mama”...



**Maria “Mama” Paz**  
1916 - 2008

On Nov. 20, 2008 the gates of heaven opened and all the Saints and Angels rejoiced as another SAINT CAME MARCHING IN! Yes on that day Maria (Mama) Paz ended her earthly life and made her final journey home. Mama spent about 15 years here at Port Ministries. She was a Secular Franciscan, was on staff here and ministered well into her 80's. A real dedicated lady who was very much in love with the Lord and shared that love with all of us, especially the families and children who came to the Mantle. You would find her in the toddler area with a baby in arms and was also an interpreter for us with the Hispanic parents who came in for english class, G.E.D. class, etc. Maria had a big heart and that special “mothers touch”... the infants would stop crying instantly in her arms. (A “mothers touch” she definitely had, after raising 9 children of her own, 31 grandchildren and 44 great-grandchildren!) Also, the Mantle mothers would always go to Mama for comfort and wisdom in times of difficulty, for, many of their mothers and grandmothers were living in Mexico.

Our hearts are saddened and we miss her, yet we rejoice that she finally is at home in her Lover's arms: JESUS! I'm sure our voices mingle with His as we remember Mama and say... WELL DONE, GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT! Till we meet again, Dear Mama..... ~David Krug,SFO

## Winter Bread Truck *Distributing Gratitude!...*

Due to our nation's growing economic crisis, the numbers of people in need of the Bread Truck's services has grown tremendously. Before December, I was serving 200 a night and now I'm averaging 300+. I'm finding more and more that the people are very thankful, sometimes simply for the ability to feed themselves and their children because their incomes are falling short. Some people are homeless, others are losing jobs or their hours are cut. Several Saturdays ago on the daytime route, we served a record 430 meals.

I have received many calls thanking the Port Ministries for this great service in the community. I'm fairly new to the Bread Truck and my heart has been truly touched with some recent spontaneous encounters: Several families have come to the Bread Truck in tears, not able to get the words out, but when they do, its just to say thank you for coming because if we didn't, they would not eat for the evening. They also shared that they are hoping and praying that they would someday be able to “give back”, because we have been a true blessing to the community. Yes, I am truly Blessed to be part of this Ministry.

I would also like to send a special thanks to all the volunteers who help me on the Bread Truck because I could not do this without you. So, thank you very much and may God continue to bless your hearts in helping those in need in these hard times.

*One of our dedicated volunteers has a story about helping on the Bread Truck and how it has changed his life: James Bigwood, who was working through recovery from a substance abuse problem, found out about the Port Ministries Bread Truck and wanted to come and help. Since he has been coming on a regular “commitment” basis for 5 years now, this ministry has changed his life and he truly is a blessing to those that he serves at the truck. He also reached out further, as he is constantly inviting friends and acquaintances that are going through similar difficulties in their lives to come down and see how people need help in ways one could never imagine. As they give themselves in service to them, they begin to change too! Jim knew that could happen.*

Also, a big Thank You to the different parishes/schools for preparing and sending us the meals and for all your support and help over the years! Thank you from the bottom of our hearts and May God Bless You All!

~ Michael Payton,  
Bread Truck Driver/Coordinator



*The Bread Truck at one of the 5 Saturday stops. Volunteer Geetha Govindarajan greets hungry guests with a smile*

## Listening To Needy Hearts...

### Home Visiting

A typical home visit begins with a focus on personal problems, mainly health, material needs and negative family relationships. Sometimes local and world concerns enter in. Fears, worries and anxieties dominate the conversation. As the stories unfold, the home visitor listens with care and understanding, knowing that these emotions run deep and need to be acknowledged.

The most successful home visit occurs when the emphasis can gradually shift from preoccupation with self and feelings of depression to prayer and trust in God. What emerges is a brighter, happier outlook. At the end of virtually every home visit, the homebound are glad we came and want to see us again soon. Their gratitude is our reward. Join us and be rewarded! Come and volunteer!  
~ Walter Koszut, Coordinator.

### Free Clinic

Dr. Fil Salileng, MD, a faithful weekly volunteer at our Free Clinic was asked, “why do you come all this way to freely give away your time here... what keeps you coming back?” His reply was: “Working as a Volunteer at Port Ministries gives me the JOY of sharing the gifts that God continues to bless me with”. Thank You Dr. Fil, and all our volunteer doctors and nurses for sharing your blessings with those in need! Isn't this the answer for so much of our present societies ills? If you are considering helping at the Free Clinic, just give us a call! Come share your gifts and you may find this joy too!

