

UPCOMING EVENTS:

CHRISTMAS EVE DAY,
Thurs., Dec. 24th...

THE MANTLE:

(5140 S. Ashland Ave.)

Volunteer Needs:

Driver, Servers, Cooks, Childcare & Activities...

Please call Dave, Kris or John at 773-778-5955.

9:00am: Food Prep. at Theresa House Kitchen, (5017 S. Hermitage Ave.)

11:00am: Caroling and The Blessing of the Crib at the Mantle.

12:00pm: Festive Meal, Gifts and activities for our Mantle Families.

1:30pm: Clean up.

2:00pm: End of Event.

BREAD TRUCK:

5017 S. Hermitage Ave.

Volunteer Needs:

Please call ahead at 773-778-5955, 10:00am:

Preparations at Theresa House.

11:00am: Serve lunches, Treats and Gifts at 5 neighborhood sites from the Bread Truck.

1:30pm: Return to Theresa House, Clean-up.

2:00pm: End of Event.

Port Ministries is CLOSED

CHRISTMAS DAY,
Fri., Dec. 25th

CLOSED
NEW YEARS DAY,
Fri., Jan. 1st

PORT MINISTRIES POURRI

...A NEWSLETTER OF CHRISTIAN SERVICE TO THE POOR

 **We THANK God and all Benefactors & Volunteers who make our services possible!**

24TH YEAR OF SERVICE

VOLUME 25

NUMBER 3

FALL/WINTER 2009

IMPORTANT ITEMS OF INTEREST

We are soon receiving a **NEW BREAD TRUCK**, custom upfitted for our purposes thanks to a generous grant from the **Knights of Malta!** (the story in next issue). Our old truck has been serving us well since 1994 and is certainly ready for it's retirement. Also, we welcome **Jimmie Wright, our new Bread Truck coordinator** for the winter season. The Bread Truck is currently serving up to 375 meals nightly to hungry neighborhood people, plus helping families to make ends meet in difficult economic times. Come and be an active part of this wonderful evening volunteer opportunity! (reservation only.) *

The Mantle is currently serving 20 families who come faithfully 5 days a week to better their own lives as well as their family's through our free supplemental educational services. This translates to 20 adults in **ESL and computer classes** and 54 children

in our various educationally-based childcare areas. Also, our "child initiated" **After School Tutoring Program** currently serves 30 children who truly need an "extra mile" of help, attention and care... (maybe from you?) whose life circumstances has truly caused them to be "left behind".

We are blessed and thankful for the opportunity to know and serve the families and children that come through our doors! We are inspired and moved by their dedication to "being here" in light of some formidable obstacles they face. With faith, constant prayer and hard work, together we are doing all we can to help them persevere, overcome and meet their goals! Come join us! We always need help; especially in the childcare and tutoring areas. *

Mark your calendars for Our 25th Anniversary Banquet, which will be held in May of 2010! It will be a very special celebration, so, please come! Date, time and place will be announced in upcoming newsletters.

The Port Free Clinic has seen an increase of uninsured people needing the free services we offer. Cold/flu season and the effects of the struggling economy has been keeping our volunteer doctors and nurses very busy. We thankfully welcome **Bro. Michael St. Jaques, O.F.M., R.N.** to our volunteer team! His compassionate and joyful presence brings an extra healing touch to the hearts of our guests. If you are a medical professional, come and share your gifts with the poor as a volunteer! *

The Home Visiting Ministry continues to visit the neighborhood homebound 2 days a week with compassionate care and a listening presence. The approaching holidays are an especially lonely time for some of the elderly we visit. Come and make a difference! Spanish and polish speaking ability would be helpful.

* **Please see needs list & volunteer details on the back of this page.**



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S DESK...

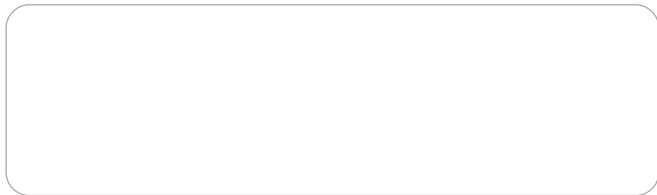
It has been very busy and exciting around Port Ministries lately. We just celebrated the Feast of St. Francis, it was such a beautiful day and we served about 125 people a lovely meal donated by Jack Lancione of Villa Cesare in Scherrerville, Ind. Thank you Jack! The food was great and everyone enjoyed it so much!

We are now gearing up for the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. It is always an exciting time here in the ministry. The children from the Mantle are already asking about the festivities and of course the gifts. (*see the christmas needs list on other side*) This holiday season will be leading us into the 25th year of our celebrating with the poor and homeless. Seems like only yesterday! I was going through some old files and came across Fr. Gus' message from a newsletter from our 1st year: November 1985, I would like to share it with you:

What has the Lord done for you today? If you can't say something specific, you might just be suffering from spiritual glaucoma and heading for blindness. Just the other day a woman related how the Lord has healed her eyes. As I thought over her story and the working of the Lord that has happened, I realized that she was a woman of thanksgiving. Spiritually, she is seeing very well, she was seeing the hand of Jesus in her daily walk. There isn't a day at the Port which does not challenge this spiritual vision for all of us. It causes us to seek daily what His poor need and to thank daily... and what we see is God supplying abundantly. "BLESS THE LORD MY SOUL, AND ALL THAT IS WITHIN ME BLESS HIS HOLY NAME. AND REMEMBER ALL HIS KINDNESS" - Psalm 103: 1-2. I want to thank all those who come to help and those who bring food. I want to Bless the Lord for those who come and bring their hearts ready to give compassion and a listening ear. You are all part of the Thanksgiving which we celebrate daily here at The Port. Remember... The Poor are God's gift to His church! Fr. Gus (1985)

Well as I see it things have not changed in 25 years. Yes, we still celebrate thanksgiving daily. Although we no longer have the soup kitchen, the Bread Truck is serving over 200 upwards to 375 every day. And thanks to many people, we are able to feed all that come for food. The generous hearts from many parishes and organizations make it all possible. The many hands that come daily to serve in our various ministries are a true gift to us, the staff and especially the poor and homeless we serve. **WE PRAISE AND THANK THE LORD DAILY FOR ALL OF YOU!**

~ David Krug: Executive Director



Port Ministries
CURRENT SERVICES & HOURS

The Mantle: Tues. thru Sat.: 10am to 1pm ESL Adult Ed, Computer, Child Care, Arts/Crafts, Music, Tutoring.
After School Tutoring Program: Tues. thru Fri.: 2pm to 5pm
The Port 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 2pm
Home Visiting: Tues. & Thur. 9am to 3pm
Tony's Gym: 7 hrs. per week **Theresa House:** Temporarily Closed
Volunteering: Opportunities for Ministry for individuals/groups of all ages.

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

THE EMPTY BASKET...

These are the current needed items:

- ❖ **MONETARY DONATIONS**
- ❖ **GROCERY GIFT CARDS OR CERTIFICATES**
- ❖ **TURKEYS & HAMS**

- ❖ Bulk hot cocoa mix (no marshm.)
- ❖ Bulk chili
- ❖ Plastic spoons
- ❖ Apples or oranges
- ❖ 8oz. hot cups
- ❖ Plastic sandwich bags
- ❖ Anti-bacterial hand wipes
- ❖ Anti-bacterial hand lotion
- ❖ Diapers - sizes 3,4 & 5
- ❖ Baby wipes
- ❖ Adult & childrens cold & flu med.
- ❖ Sanitary pads
- ❖ Construction Paper: (especially red, purple, green)
- ❖ Primary color tempera paints

***CHRISTMAS NEEDS...**

Children's Gifts:

- * Underwear
- * T-shirts, socks
- * Pajamas
- * Hats, scarves, gloves
- * Books, board games
- * Crossword pzl. books
- * Culturally diverse baby dolls
- * Non-violent toys
- * Coloring books/crayons
- * Soccer balls
- * Footballs
- * Basketballs

Adult Gifts:

- * Hats, scarves, gloves
- * Warm socks
- * Sweatshirts
- * Lap robes

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

Thank You!

Return this form as soon as possible to: Port Ministries Newsletter

P.O. Box 09168
Chicago, Il. 60609

Email Address: _____

Mailing Address: (to help us identify you) _____

Name: _____

Please print clearly

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.

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. Or, complete and send the following form to the provided address via postal mail...

Please Assist Us...

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