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*** **The Miracle News** ***

FIRST STEP BACK HOME, INC.
Faith-Based, Christ Centered Christian Homeless Ministry
501 (c) 3 Public Charity

Individual Highlights:

Ministry Update

In-Kind Services

Motel Meals

Bible Study

Friendraising

Editor's Corner

Miracle Report

FSBH Board

Members



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Ministry Update by Paul Kruse

Welcome to the very first newsletter of FSBH! We hope this tool will provide useful information about the status of our ministry and allow us to share our hearts with all of you who have in some way come along side to support us. It is only because of YOU that this ministry even exists. We believe it is God who has touched the hearts of the many who assist the poor and homeless with their time, gifts or money through FSBH. So we sincerely and with grateful hearts THANK YOU for listening to God's calling, making it possible for FSBH to grow and help so many poor and homeless over these past five years. Included in this newsletter is information about our Fifth Anniversary Benefit Concert coming up at the end of March. We hope you will consider being a part of this celebration with us, as we offer our Praise to God for all He has accomplished through FSBH.

We are inundated everyday with the calls and crying out from the poor and destitute looking for help from their fellow man for their survival in the basic necessities of life. We receive 20 to 40 calls most days from all sorts of people, hurting because of all sorts of situations. The most immediate needs are food, shelter and most importantly, a reassurance of knowing God Loves them and someone cares. The existing larger shelters in the area are overwhelmed, understaffed, under funded and claim they are always out of funds. They are also very restrictive helping only 50% of the entire homeless population or less. Therefore we are one of very few agencies with the least restrictive acceptance policies enabling us to help over 90% of the people who come to us for help.

We are a small and growing 501(c)(3) public charity (25% growth in the last 2 years) helping about 400 heads of households annually with a comparatively small budget of about \$100,000. Over 86% of your donations are used for direct client services, plus other small costs of doing business expenses. We have the best rate in client success of 50% and the lowest average expense of \$250 per person of most agencies our size. The end goals and mission of our ministry is to see our clients enjoy a lifestyle of gainful employment, to obtain permanent housing, and to show love and respect for our Creator and Savior, God and His Son Jesus Christ, and love his fellow man as God loves us, His believers. We also believe by showing others the love of God they will be more attentive to the word of God as a guide for living and salvation for their souls.

In the beginning, I was curious as to why there were so many underserved poor and homeless people without food, shelter counseling etc. in St. Charles one of the most affluent counties in Missouri. Then I found out there are so many who are homeless or close to it that the existing larger agencies are overwhelmed, understaffed and under funded, as we now are, and can't handle the load. We started FSBH to try to fill some of those gaps in service. By God's Love, Grace, Mercy and Power we have closed the gap in service considerably, but there are still many needy people we can't help because of lack of staff, volunteers and funding. Our financial and personal goal is to raise by the power of God, enough money, staff, and volunteers, which will enable us to say, "We will leave none of the least of God's people behind." Our far-reaching vision is to acquire a building serving as a one-stop shop that will provide every direct service needed for the success of our clients in obtaining a normal life style of gainful employment and permanent housing. We will use the existing models of Missouri Motel and Victory Square in Springfield Mo. and the Midnight Mission in L.A. California, which are very complete and successful homeless complexes.

After beginning this ministry with my credit card and many prayers (one of which was that my wife didn't leave me or worse, HA!) 5 years ago, we have been unbelievably blessed by God to have received over \$500,000, which we have spent 90% of in direct services to the homeless and start up expenses for the ministry. The other 10% is in the bank slowly being depleted at the rate of \$5000 to \$10,000 per month. This money has allowed us to serve over 2000 homeless heads of households with over 1000 obtaining jobs and housing during these past 5 years. We continue to assist approximately 400 heads of households per year, which adds up to about 500 men, women and children at the end of the year.

~ Continued on next page ~

*** The Miracle News ***

The Marines have a slogan they use to describe their beliefs in life, which is, 'Semper Fi' which, in Latin means "Always Faithful." Sounds to me like it is right out of the Bible. That is what God expects from His believers, He wants us to always trust in Jesus Christ!

Last year we had helped about 200 heads of households by November when we ran very low on funds and just could not help anymore people until God decided to send more money and help. Well, God heard our cry because He opened up the heavens and through the media and the most outpouring of love from others we have ever experienced, showered us with staff, funds and volunteers to give another 70 men, women and children a great Christmas and the necessary shelter and sustenance to survive and make good progress in their quest for self-sufficiency. We believe this was God's way of saying "Keep fighting the good fight and being obedient to my Greatest Commandments, the Greatest act of Love, The Gospel, and the Great Commission which I have given you in My word the Bible." Amen!



So we are encouraged greatly that God is in complete control and wants FSBH to grow and help more people, greatly reducing this miserable, life threatening plight of homelessness experienced by what seems to be more people with the numbers increasing daily. With your partnership, we will remain an ever-increasing guiding light in the world of showing God's Love by homeless crisis intervention and homeless prevention. FSBH will be blessed by God and you, led by His Holy Spirit to succeed in its mission and vision by the power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ!

We need your financial support and we covet your prayers. There is a place for you in this ministry if you desire to become involved. All those who have become involved were and are greatly blessed by God and seeing the results of our clients mended hearts who were previously broken before someone came along side and said, " don't worry we are here to help". We hope you will join us for our 5th Year Anniversary Celebration and Benefit Concert March 28th.

This is not just my ministry it is YOURS, God's and all those who choose to get involved and experience the many blessings it brings to our workers and clients. I am just the lucky guy who God chose for some strange reason to get it all started.

I need to give a special thanks to my wonderful and understanding wife Lana, Helen Schmidt our bookkeeper, all of our Board Members, Deborah Faulkner our new caseworker/fundraiser who is graciously willing to be under paid and overworked, Melissa Huelskamp, our newsletter editor, and all others who work consistently to make this ministry a success.

Value Through In-Kind Services by Lana Kruse



Other than cash donations, which meet our daily client service needs for housing expense, one of the best ways for people to help, is through their very creative and loving acts of service. In-kind donations to the ministry from 2009 showed great acts of service in many ways. Here's a synopsis of ways you and others have made a difference in our clients' lives during 2009:

- 20,474 value of in-kind was recorded.
- 308 new volunteers helped in various ways with many folks participating several times throughout the year.
- 2186 hours were donated to the ministry.
- 13 different churches provided meals at the motels for 15-20 people per night on 162 different dates valued at \$8125.
- \$3365 value of Christmas gifts provided mostly by readers of the Post Dispatch articles that showcased our ministry needs last December.
- \$2400 value of vendor cards contributed for gas, household goods, or food.
- Professional services were donated for ministry administrative functions.
- 1991 Buick Le Sabre was donated for ministry use.

One of the most unique ways a couple creatively supported our ministry at Christmas time was to anonymously take to the motel 10 laundry packs for the families staying there. The couple quietly dropped off these gifts of love the Friday before Christmas, as we just happened to be there when they arrived. I would have never thought of this, but it was such a sweet gesture for the moms in our homeless camp at the time. Each bag was a recycle grocery type bag, filled with laundry detergent, fabric softener, rolls of quarters for the Laundromats, and a box of chocolates (for the moms!). What a real treat for them. Without laundry facilities at the motel, it is a major chore just getting that task done, needing to walk or get a ride to a laundry facility in town.

Another wonderfully delightful creative gift was that of having Santa himself show up on Christmas morning at the motel with gift cards for the adults and presents for every child. Santa's friend, Jim McCormick, a Lake St. Louis resident, orchestrated all the details so that Santa could arrive at 7am after all his worldwide travels. What a joy and blessing that was to the homeless parents and children alike!

*** The Miracle News ***

Motel Meals by Chris Young

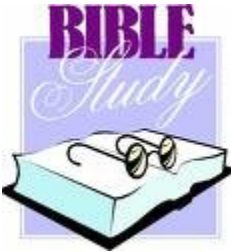


My name is Chris Young. I am the meal coordinator for FSBH. The First Step Back Home Meal Ministry is a Ministry that provides meals for the homeless. Its goal is to provide at least one hot meal a day for folks who are currently experiencing a down time in their life. At the current time, there are 18 different groups providing these meals. These groups consist of individuals from churches, care groups, outreach groups, and folks who just love the Lord and want to help the less fortunate. On an average month, there are between 500 and 600 meals served. These meals are served at the Budget Inn, which is located in Wentzville, MO. We are always looking for people to help in this meal ministry.

At the current time, we have the following openings that we are trying to fill: The First Friday of Each Month, The Second Thursday and Friday of each month, The Fourth Wednesday and Friday of each month, and the Fifth Sunday (when there is one) of each month. The time required to provide a meal is minimal compared to the tremendous help it provides to the men, women, and children that are in need. Most of the time, you are actually at the Budget Inn for less than an hour. I can't tell you enough how much this meal ministry means to these folks. In some cases, it is the only meal that they will have for the day. I ask anyone who thinks they might be interested in providing a meal once or on an ongoing monthly basis, or just to ask me some questions to please give me a call at 636-456-3004. Thank you very much!

Bible Study by David Bonney

Over the years, the ministry of First Step Back Home (FSBH) has attracted many Christian based organizations to help with the plight of those affected by homelessness. One of these organizations is the "Men Accountable to Christ", who are on a mission to share the good news of salvation. Two of the members of this group also serve on the board of FSBH, and saw a real opportunity to partner with FSBH to share the good news presented in the Bible with individuals who really needed to hear a positive message on how God can change lives.



Herb Sullins answered the call by volunteering to lead a Bible Study every Monday night at the Budget Inn in Wentzville. This is the hotel where many of the patrons of FSBH are housed until they can move into more permanent housing. Bible study is conducted immediately after a group dinner is served by other volunteers, around 7:00. The goal is not only feed the body but to feed the soul with the one book that was authored by God, the Bible. This book not only reveals God's nature and character, but also provides instruction on how to lead productive and fulfilled lives. By revealing God's character and sharing examples of how God has always provided for those that love and serve him, others can come to share in God's Grace and grow in understanding. The gift of salvation is offered to all regardless of financial status or challenges, and is the one gift that we need to live in a manner when we can bask in a peace and contentment that only God can provide. In the two months that Herb has been conducting the class, the blessings have not only flowed to those who hear the message but back to Herb, as he lives according to God's plan.

This Bible study is conducted every Monday at the Budget Inn in Wentzville, which is on the northeast corner of the intersection of Highway 40-61 and Interstate 70. The class starts at 7:00 and lasts for 1-½ hours. Anyone is welcome to attend, regardless of whether you are staying at the Budget Inn. You do not need to contact anyone, just show up and go the breakfast room that is located immediately in front of the indoor pool.

For more information, please contact Dave Bonney at dave@menaccountabletochrist.org or visit our website at www.menaccountabletochrist.org.

Friendraising & Donations by Debbie Faulkner

~ Calendar of Events ~

Join Paul, Lana, and all your Friends at First Step Back Home Homeless Ministry....

March 28, 2010 ~ 5th Anniversary Celebration & Benefit Concert at Wentzville Christian Church – Refreshments will be served! Admission is Free ~ Love Offerings will be accepted. **Mayor Paul Lambi will be the Master of Ceremonies for this event!!!**

April 24th, 2010 ~ Lunch & Learn Friend Raiser at Bristol Seafood Grill ~ **1st in the three part series** ~ Wine Flight & Wine 101, Cooking Demonstration & Wonderful Lunch ~ \$25.00 per person ~ Reservation are a must!

May 22nd, 2010 ~ Lunch & Learn Friend Raiser at Bristol Seafood Grill ~ **2nd in a three part series** ~ Wine Flight & Wine 101, Cooking Demonstration & Wonderful Lunch ~ \$25.00 per person ~ Reservation are a must!

~ Continued on next page ~



*** The Miracle News ***

5th Anniversary Benefit –

June 26th, 2010 ~ Lunch & Learn Friend Raiser at Bristol Seafood Grill ~ 3rd in the three part series ~ Wine Flight & Wine 101, Cooking Demonstration & Wonderful Lunch ~ \$25.00 per person ~ Reservation are a must!

September 24th, 2010 ~ Homeless Not Hopeless Gala at The Columns Banquet Center ~ Dinner, Silent & Live Auction ~ Details to Follow. Save the Date!

FRIENDraising Wish List: Gift Certificates to Local Restaurants, Hotels, Fitness Clubs, Tickets to Sporting Events, Golf Outings, Gift Baskets and Gift Basket Items, Travel, Get-A-Ways, Airline Miles, Hotel Credits, Salon/Spa Make-Over, Jewelry, Antiques & Treasures of all kinds. Donations are Tax Deductible and Greatly Appreciated! Please consider FSBH for your donations of time, talents and treasures.

To Help with FRIENDraising contact Debbie Faulkner at 314-568-6453!



Editor's Corner by Melissa Huelskamp



My name is Melissa Huelskamp and I recently volunteered to create the newsletters for the First Step Back Home ministry. I wanted to do something to get involved, and think this is a great cause. If there is something you would like to see in the newsletter, please let me know. Also, if you would rather receive the newsletter in an email format, rather than postal mail, please send me your email address. Thanks!

melissa_huelskamp@yahoo.com

Miracle Report by Paul Kruse

The reason we call this article "The Miracle Report" is because this whole ministry is a miracle and it is a miracle everyday we are here. God gives us at least one miracle each day and some are a lot bigger than others. The point is, we know God loves us and is 100% behind our efforts because we are operating directly in the center of His will, loving and helping the least of His people. God calls the Greatest Commandments, the Gospel, which is the greatest act of love, or our duty to the world being the Great Commission because He wants us to realize they are the "greatest." As you can see, I am totally into the "greatest" instructions in God's word. The Bible says in Rms. 8:31 "What shall we say to these things? If God be for us who can be against us?" And we believe this is why we have had such great success from day one, nearly five years ago!



Here are some of the recent miracles we've experienced. Clients Joe and Cherri and their two children have been with us for about 5 months. They have raised some of their support and we paid for most of it. Well, praise God a couple weeks ago they moved into a house. They did all the footwork and applications to get their NECAC voucher and were accepted by a landlord that heard about them in a Post-Dispatch news article at Christmas time. The landlord called me and I referred them to him. Now Cherri has found a job and Joe is still looking. Furniture has been provided by the Sharing Shed and they know they can make it. They can live a normal life of gainful employment and permanent housing. All they need now is a better car and a few other household items.

Next, our new friend raiser/ caseworker Debbie Faulkner was helping with our clients the other day and was strongly initiated to the homeless crisis intervention world as to see what type of work we really do. Her first case was a homeless guy living out of a tent who needed help. We put him in a motel and Debbie brought him food as she initiated him in our program.

Then Debbie helped a guy named Mark, his wife and 4-month-old baby who called and said they were living in their car. We gave them some nights in a motel and bought them a cell phone, gas and made sure the baby was taken care of. Mark said he had a job interview at the Mall and was sure he would be hired.

Finally, we helped a guy who was sleeping in his truck that had recently broken down. We gave him lodging, food, etc. and now we're trying to decide how best to fix his truck.

These are just some examples of a few of the requests we receive at the rate of 20 to 40 on some days. For some these may not seem like miracles, but to the ones out of the tent or out of their car as a place to "live," they truly are. That is why our dream and prayer is for more of everything, funding, staff and volunteers. At present we have to turn people away everyday because we just can't handle the load. But what an awesome God we have! He always gives His faithful believers what we need and not more than we can handle. We are getting a little more help, volunteers and donations. So we just need more of everything beginning with the money to pay staff and most of all patience and wisdom, to grow, and to help more people.

***** The Miracle News *****

FSBH Board Members

<u>Contact</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Organization Affiliation</u>
Paul Kruse	President	FSBH Founder
Lana Kruse	Treasurer	St. Joseph Hospital West
Chuck Gatschenberger	Secretary	MO House of Representatives
Pastor Steve Colaw	Church Coordinator	St. Peters Wesleyan Church
Drew Rector	Member	St. Joseph Hospital West
Mayor Paul Lambi	Member	City of Wentzville
Dave Bonney	Member	Computer Consultant
Kia Phillips	Member	Missouri Career Center
Carla Campbell	Member	House of Refuge Ministries
Bonnie Green	Member	Deaconess – Church

FSBH summarizes what it tries to do to show the love of God to the poor by these three ideas of instruction:

- **RENEW**: *Renew their minds to be Christ-like (Romans 12:2 To renew their thinking and trust in Jesus alone so they may progress successfully toward self-sufficiency).*
- **RESTORE**: *Restore their souls through salvation which puts them right with their creator God (Psalm 23).*
- **REBUILD**: *Rebuild their lives now that they have the power God gives us all when we turn to Him in obedience and faith. (Matthew 4:4 Man does not live by bread alone but lives by every word from God).*