



Jan 2008

How to contact MOM

MOM Main Office is open M-F, 9-4:30 pm, at 7432 Hubbard Ave, Middleton, WI 53562

Food Pantry & Clothing Closet & DC are open Mondays-Thursdays, 10-2 pm; Fridays and Saturdays, 10-12 noon (at 8710-2 Montclair Drive, off Pleasant View Rd in the Middleton Business Park)

MOM is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit agency, supported solely by donations, and we charge no fees for services

MOM's website is now updated: www.mompop.org

Contact us at 836-7338; fax 836-0799; or Email, mompop@chorus.net

InTouch is published quarterly and **eConnections** is published monthly. To subscribe, go to our website.

Editor: Dietrich Gruen

InTouch Contributors:
MOM Staff

"MOM Sunday" at....

At West Middleton Lutheran, it was January 13. Dietrich preached. Schedule your "MOM Day" at a time and place of your choosing. Sunday morning, leadership group, whatever, whenever, Dietrich or other MOM staff will be there, with food barrel, volunteer opps, a MOM update. Call now.

InTouch with Churches

MOM Changes to Enhance Mission in '08

by Dietrich Gruen, Executive Director of Middleton Outreach Ministry

Growth in programs, clients, staff, resources and expectations from various segments of the community has led MOM to evaluate how best to accomplish their mission. Following consultation with and recommendations by the leaders of its member churches, MOM is pleased to announce two significant enhancements to its structure:

First, the establishment of an "Ecumenical Service Council" (ESC), comprised of key representatives from each of MOM's twelve member churches, aimed at strengthening the ties with its faith-based constituency. The role of the ESC will be to:

- Promote open, two-way dialogue between the MOM staff and board and its member churches to help identify community needs and seek consensus on the services that MOM is best able to deliver;
- Initiate and sustain programs with sufficient financial, in-kind, and volunteer resources from represented churches to satisfy those identified community needs;
- Strengthen and hold accountable this faith-based partnership for coordinating and providing needed services vital to the neighbors in its service area.

Second, MOM's Board of Directors (BOD) is being reconstituted with community leaders to strengthen the local business and institutional ties with MOM. The role of the new governing BOD will be to:

- Strengthen the vision, mission and underlying values of MOM;
- Encourage collaborative efforts between MOM and its churches with other key community institutions, such as area schools and businesses and other social service agencies, to address unmet needs;
- Grow the resources of MOM and help decide how to best allocate them to satisfy the unmet social service needs and to ensure the long-term viability and accessibility of this community asset, leaving no eligible person behind;
- Develop and implement policies that fulfill their role as long-term trustee for this nonprofit organization in the most prudent, ethical, and effective way possible.

I am very excited, as the new organizational structure extends our long-held faith-based tradition, while also incorporating new community resources to better fulfill our mission of connecting our neighbors for good. The success of this new adventure builds on the truism: "The Right Thought plus the Right People in the Right Environment at the Right Time for the Right Reason = the Right Result" (John Maxwell, in *Thinking for a Change*).

MOM provides emergency care, social services, and Christian witness to more than 1100 families per year in the Middleton and west Madison area. Some of MOM's key program initiatives, and the number of client households who relied on them in 2007, are very revealing. More specific metrics are available on the MOM website. This is what your contributions make happen, but there is more to do. From all the MOM staff, volunteers, and clients--Thank you!

MOM is connecting neighbors for good

MOM says thanks for Christmas Charity

The past several weeks I have been blessed with the opportunity to see what can happen when a community truly comes together.

As the Middleton Outreach Ministry (MOM) Christmas Day dinner Volunteer Coordinator, I witnessed the many who donated their time, resources, and made financial contributions to help those in need this Christmas season.

Dozens of people from the community and from the churches with whom we regularly work stepped up to donate the turkeys, hams, stuffing, cider, salads and desserts we needed to serve just over 500 meals (424 in the Parish Hall at St. Bernard's, and close to 80 carry-out meals and deliveries).

Clausen's and Scott's donated bread; Hubbard Avenue Diner donated pies; and the Marriott, Fairfield, Residence Inn and Hilton Garden all donated rooms to homeless families (totaling 70 people) who would then be driven by volunteer drivers to join us on Christmas day.

Volunteers also donated the time needed to cook, prep and serve an all-you-can-eat Christmas dinner with all the trimmings to all who came through the doors. Money that was donated (over \$1,000 specifically designated to help us feed those in need this Christmas) more than covered our expenses, and was used to buy everything from potatoes and cranberry sauce to milk for the kids to drink with their meals.

Finally, a special thank you to Bill and Nette Schlinsog. This was their final year coordinating all that goes into cooking a meal for 500 people. They are retiring after serving our community in this capacity for over 20 years, and they will be missed. We cannot thank them enough for the years of dedicated service, and the mentoring they have done for those of us who are working to fill their shoes in the years to come.

Mother Teresa has been quoted as saying, "God doesn't look at how much we do, but with how much love we do it." In the past several weeks, I have found joy in speaking with so many people in our community that just wanted to help in any way they could.

Thank you, Middleton, for your generosity. Without it, we at MOM would never have been able to share the warmth and love of good food and good company with so many this Christmas.

If you want hands-on, year-round opportunities for giving, check our website, www.mompop.org.

Thank you, one and all, for letting your light shine through MOM this Christmas season.

Gratefully yours,
Cindy Liu,

MOM is thankful to the individuals, churches and the business community for their generous contributions through the end of 2007. This strong giving has positioned us to move into 2008 with great optimism for the services that we can provide our clients.

Client Demographics 2007

In 2007 MOM served 488 households through our Good Samaritan Emergency Fund. This fund provides direct cash assistance (in the form of vouchers) for such emergency needs as eviction prevention, utility assistance, car repair, medical assistance, and motel lodging for the homeless.

- 22 households were served *multiple times* out of our Good Sam Fund.
- 11 households benefited from our *Rent Subsidy program*.

Those 33 households were under ongoing case management by our MOM staff, and likely rely on MOM as a budget-sustaining resource for ongoing needs and housing stability.

- 75 households were served *twice* under Good Sam programs
- 380 households used our financial services *only once* last year.

Those 455 households (93% of the total) indicate to us that MOM is a safety net, used for emergency needs only. When people suffer temporary or sudden losses of income, we are there for them.

Of the 488 households in 2007 who benefited from our Good Samaritan Emergency Fund, the specific needs met were:

- 147 households received utility services.
- 91 households received car repair.
- 17 households received medical assistance.
- 150 households received funding for eviction prevention.
- 54 households received security deposit assistance.
- 83 households received lodging vouchers.

In 2007, in addition to our cash assistance, MOM also served 975 households through our Food Pantry and Clothing Closet. Many pantry patrons also use the financial services identified above, but 50% are content to just visit the Distribution Center for food and clothing as need be, and rely on MOM for nothing else.

In 2007, MOM served 135 individuals through Project for Older People; 126 POP clients need volunteers to assist them in their independent living on a regular basis, while 9 others engage POP volunteers for one-time service projects such as leaf raking, moving, or house painting.

In 2007, many individuals were also helped through MOM referrals to Stephen Ministry, which extends spiritual care, one to one with a trained lay person, to those who request and qualify for that kind of help, usually following some kind of loss (divorce, death in the family, health decline).

In 2007, in addition to cash assistance and gifts of in-kind resources through our regular year-round programs, MOM also provided help of a more seasonal or one-time nature:

- 126 households received metro bus passes.
- 367 people received pool passes.
- 300 households received Thanksgiving baskets.
- 186 families (with 406 children) received school supplies
- 400 families received special "backpacks" of food.
- 323 families (with 1276 individuals) received Christmas gifts

In 2008, we will also be tracking UNMET needs, both in kind and frequency, to assess what more MOM and its churches can best do to satisfy the growing needs in our community.