

The Crisis Ministry is a program of Princeton Outreach Projects, Inc., a 501 (c) 3 nonprofit organization.

Neighbor to Neighbor



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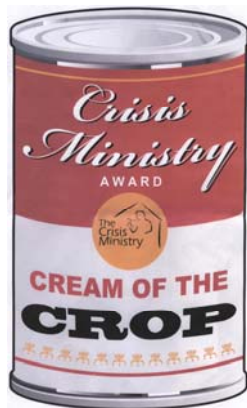
Pat Foo

Administrative Assistant, ext. 27

*Save the Date for the Crisis Ministry's Fall Benefit—
Friday, October 21
In the Johnson Education Center of D & R Greenway, Princeton
Watch for details!*



Students from the Pennington School came to the Crisis Ministry's downtown Trenton store this spring to work at our free Friday Farmer's Market. Our outdoor market serves up to 300 households each week with fresh vegetables and fruits, plus donated soups, breads, yogurts, and more. Above, students work with Harvesting Hope participants to assist the Market's visitors. At right, two students bag fresh produce inside the store.



And the Cream of the Crop Awards Go To...

- **Steve Carney of McCaffrey's Supermarkets** for outstanding community service and support from a local business
- **Reaney Kunkler**, for energetic, creative, and effective leadership and event planning. Best wishes in Chicago, Reaney!
- **John Witherspoon Middle School**, for amazing results—\$3,000 raised and 300 bags of food donated—during Valentines for Food 2011
- **JUST THINK** student service group, for their successful collection of personal hygiene products (please read the great article by founder **Alexis Etheridge** on the next page).

Would you like to nominate a Crisis Ministry volunteer for a Cream of the Crop award? Please tell us!

Thank you, RIVERSIDE SCHOOL, Princeton!
The school's organic garden project, guided by resident gardener Dorothy Mullen, will donate summer vegetables, herbs, and flowers to the Crisis Ministry. PLUS, students donated \$1,000 raised during their Read-a-Thon for produce for our Princeton pantry!

“JUST THINK”

By Alexis Etheridge, student at West Windsor Plainsboro H.S. South

I would like to reflect on the positive experience I had and the opportunity of a lifetime to work with the **Crisis Ministry's Valentines for Food Drive**.

It all started when my family went to visit our friends, the Delks. While we were sitting at their kitchen table, Mr. Delk told us that at his son's basketball games they were collecting canned food as the price for admission and would donate the proceeds for those families in the area that were less fortunate. This piqued my interest and I wanted to learn more about his group and what they were setting out to accomplish. He informed us that the Crisis Ministry, for which he served as a board member, was holding a canned food drive over the next 3-week period to help raise a school goal of 600 canned food items to help stock the food pantry shelves for those families in need. He said that local high schools and churches were working together. He went on to explain that with so many people out of work and financial constraints, that the shelves were more bare than usual. And without thinking, I said “only 600 cans!” and that's when he looked at me and challenged me and said, “Do you think you and your friends can help make that a bigger number?” And that's when I proudly said, “I can do it myself.”

“We just need to open our eyes and realize that each one of us can make a difference, and when we combine our individual efforts we can make a huge difference.”

As he spoke to our family, he was not only speaking to my parents, but directly to me, which helped me feel more like a responsible young adult. I accepted his challenge and started thinking of ways I could encourage my friends to also help contribute to this wonderful cause. He gave me the opportunity I was looking for – a chance to do for others and to make a difference, to truly change the world around me in a positive way.

I always wanted to help those who aren't as fortunate as myself. My parents have always told me that we are truly blessed and with all that we have, we should give back to others. Over the years, my family has helped provide food for the holidays and gifts for less fortunate children and their families during the Christmas season. I have always felt on top of the world knowing that I played a role in making a positive difference in someone else's life. The feelings we have when we help one another—including a sense of pride, accomplishment, and inner strength—is one of the greatest rewards one can experience. It is priceless. So I jumped at the opportunity to accept Mr. Delk's challenge and to put that idea to the test. However this time I was the one in charge.

As I started thinking of ways to support the food drive and how to encourage my peers to also make a difference and contribute to this worthy cause, my father posed to me yet another challenge. He proposed that I come up with a name or slogan that represented what I was trying to do and work towards. After reflection, I came up with the name “Just Think.” **JUST THINK**—what a difference we could make if each student brought in just one can of food. Just think – how many families we could help and how many mouths we could feed. **JUST THINK**—if we took the money that we spend on a trip to MarketFair or to see one movie, how many people we could help. **JUST THINK**—even though we are only teenagers, we can make a real difference in the community we live in. **JUST THINK**—all we really need

to do is just think about those around us. **JUST THINK**—what would we feel like if we did not know whether or not we would be able to have food on the table, clothes on our backs. From that moment on, I felt great and more determined than ever. I thought that the name I came up with—**JUST THINK**—truly summarized everything my parents and Mr. Delk were telling me about helping others.

I am proud of what I have achieved and the amount of food I was able to raise for such a wonderful cause, however, the thing that gives me the most joy is the love, support and sense of accomplishment that my parents and Mr. Delk have given me. When Mr. Delk said he was proud of me and what I accomplished, I immediately started thinking of new ideas for our next project and fundraiser to help our community.

We all need to JUST THINK—about those around us. We are so blessed, and unfortunately take a lot of things for granted. However, there are so many people around us, in our own communities, who are struggling and in need. We just need to open our eyes and realize that each one of us can make a difference, and when we combine our individual efforts we can make a huge difference. Starting my own group—**JUST THINK**—has not only been a great challenge, but has led to incredible feelings inside of me, like I can make a difference, and I look forward to discussing all my ideas with my parents and Mr. Delk in the near future.

UPDATE: The **JUST THINK** group coordinated a spring collection of personal hygiene items—toothpaste and toothbrushes, deodorants, soaps, shampoos, and more—for Crisis Ministry clients. They visited and filled two shelves with collected items and, pictured below with our Volunteer Coordinator Alicia Morrison, presented us with \$800 collected for CM to purchase items. **Thank you!!**



From left, holding Crisis Ministry Cream of the Crop awards presented by Alicia Morrison, Just Think's Anais D'Ottavio, Tahliah D'Ottavio and Alexis Etheridge. Member Aarcha Sagar was unavailable.



From left, Carolyn Biondi, CM's Interim Executive Director; student Alexis Etheridge; teacher Erik Daniels, who guides many school outreach activities; and principal Roseann Bonino.

HUNGER PREVENTION UPDATE



Participants in **Valentines for Food 2011** donated **\$19,200** and **11.7 tons** of food! Click the *Community* tab on our website for details!

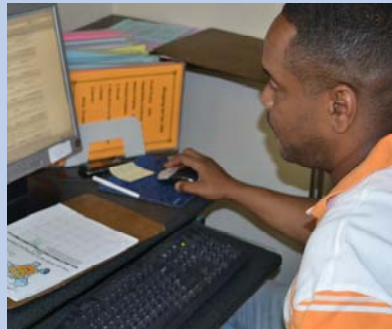
- The Crisis Ministry's free Friday Farmer's Market makes fruits and vegetables from the summer's harvest accessible to up to 300 families per week at our Trenton location.

- In 2010 the Crisis Ministry provided food to a total of **3,723 households that made 11,325 visits** to our Princeton and Trenton locations.
- Frequent food drives by schools and congregations, businesses, and organizations such as Yes We CAN Food Drives, provide important sources of inventory to offset our annual food purchase budget of \$82,500.
- Every year we increase our focus on providing fresh, heart-healthy food. That means local produce, poultry and other proteins, and low-sodium and low-added-sugar canned items on our shelves.

WORKFORCE TRAINING

Harvesting Hope coordinator **Margaret Cowell** reported that March and April **program graduates started new jobs** at Lowe's, New Jersey Division of Taxation, Wiley's Sweeping and Cleaning, and On the Border Mexican Grill. Congratulations to all!

Below, William Franklin, one of 15 men and women now enrolled in Harvesting Hope, spends afternoon time at Crisis Ministry searching and applying for retail, food service, and warehouse job openings in the area.



WE THANK the following for their financial partnership since our last newsletter

- ◆ Andersen Corporate Foundation
- ◆ Corella and Bertram F. Bonner Foundation
- ◆ Bristol-Myers Squibb
- ◆ The Bunbury Company
- ◆ Chapin School Runathon
- ◆ Church & Dwight Employee Giving Fund
- ◆ City of Trenton
- ◆ Community Foundation of NJ
- ◆ David Mathey Foundation
- ◆ Dorothea Van Dyke McLane Foundation
- ◆ GE Healthcare
- ◆ J. Seward Johnson, Sr., 1963 Charitable Trust
- ◆ Lawson Valentine Foundation
- ◆ Lena Willis Fund of Central Presbyterian Church, Summit
- ◆ Mary Owen Borden Foundation
- ◆ McCaffrey's Supermarkets
- ◆ Anonymous Foundation
- ◆ Merancas Foundation
- ◆ Mercer County
- ◆ Motel and Goldie Bass Foundation through the Jewish Center of Princeton
- ◆ New Jersey Office of Faith-Based Initiatives
- ◆ Novo Nordisk
- ◆ Ortho-McNeil Janssen Pharmaceuticals
- ◆ PNC Bank Advisors
- ◆ PNC Bank Fund of Princeton Area Community Foundation
- ◆ Princeton Area Community Foundation
- ◆ Rita Allen Foundation
- ◆ Robert & Joan Dircks Foundation
- ◆ Robert Wood Johnson 1962 Charitable Trust
- ◆ Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
- ◆ Roma Bank Community Foundation
- ◆ The RSW Foundation
- ◆ Tenacre Foundation
- ◆ Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Princeton
- ◆ United Way of Mercer County
- ◆ Yes We Can! Food Drives
- ◆ The 700+ runners in Trinity 5K Turkey Trot, who raised \$5,761 for the Crisis Ministry
- ◆ And over 1,000 individual donors!

HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION

- At the end of May, the Crisis Ministry had helped **337 households to stay in their own homes** in 2011 through emergency back rent, security deposit assistance, mortgage assistance, and utilities payments.
- The Summer 2011 Outcome Study conducted by interns Lyndee Speranza and Jacqueline Bossart revealed that **91% of contacted households remained stably housed**.



Meet Vanessa Lagares, who came to us through Harvesting Hope and now is on our Homelessness Prevention staff. Vanessa handles *Utilities Assistance* intake and care coordination, processing inquiries from some 250 households each month.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Volunteer coordinator Alicia Morrison reports the following

- openings for volunteers:
- Harvesting Hope mentors—to assist with online employment search and internet navigation guidance
 - Office volunteers (noon – 2pm Mondays & Thursdays)
 - HomeFood Delivery (Saturdays)—This activity, which serves our homebound clients, is ideal for church or other groups of 6 to 10.

Visit our website for full volunteer descriptions or contact Alicia: cmvolunteer@gmail.com or 609-396-9355, ext. 12.

Princeton Outreach Projects, Inc.

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Princeton, NJ 08542

Trenton Office:
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If you prefer to no longer receive this newsletter, or if you need to update your name and/or address, please send an email to:
patf@thecrisisministry.org.

The Crisis Ministry is a program of Princeton Outreach Projects, Inc., a non-profit 501(c)3 charitable organization incorporated in the state of New Jersey.

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More and more of Crisis Ministry's friends and supporters receive their CM news from Facebook and Twitter announcements and links, when visiting our website, or through **Can Do**, our monthly e-news. If you would like to be removed from our mailing list because you use other communications to keep up with us, just let us know with an email to:
patf@thecrisisministry.org. Thank you!

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Trenton: 609-396-9355

Princeton: 609-921-2135

Some of our partner organizations



capitahealth

FAMILY GUIDANCE CENTER CORPORATION

Family & Children's Services



United Way
of Greater Mercer County



THE CORELLA AND BERTRAM E.
BONNER FOUNDATION



Yes We CAN! Food Drives

