

HOURS:
MON ,TUES ,THURS
11AM-2PM;
WED 1PM-4PM

IMPACTING THE
COMMUNITY ONE
LIFE AT A TIME.

**SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:**

- The Crosswinds Mission and how we're relevant - Part 2
- Consumer Product Safety Act Update
- What will we be Measuring at Crosswinds Downtown?
- Thank you to..
- Welcome

Crosswinds Downtown

BY LYNNE MCHENRY

MARCH 2009

Do We Fit the Crosswinds Mission? Part 2

Our Crosswinds Mission

"At Crosswinds we are a community of people loving God, serv-ing others and leading all into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ."

Last month, I asked "Do you think we are reflecting the mission and values of Crosswinds? What are we doing well? What should we improve on?"

Over the month, I had the opportunity to meet with 15 volunteers and get their feedback. And the timing is perfect, for listening to the "Every Soul" series of messages, we do have "The Means" and "The Party" all working together for the glory of God.

What are we doing well?

Everyone that I interviewed thought that we are meeting the Crosswinds mission and doing it very well. There's no doubt that people that serve at Crosswinds Downtown love God and have a serving heart. Everyone is trying their best to let God use them to reach others. We understand that we're here to feed the soul more than the body. We are focused on leading others into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ by following the Holy Spirit in each conversation. Planting seeds for Christ is our mission. We listen, we love, we show patience, gentleness, and kindness, and tell people about Jesus. We feed the clients physically, and then we feed them spiritually, like Jesus did. Most of our conversations go very well. After hearing John's message on Matthew 9, we do believe that clients see us for our Christian love, not for what Christianity opposes.

It's so affirming when we walk alongside a client and get to see changes in people and their relationships. Sometimes we're recognized by clients in different locations around town and they give us a genuine smile or hug. What an honor to plant a seed and watch it grow as a client comes to church, allowing us to love them even more and hear the gospel in a way they haven't before. We know that if we are obedient to the Holy Spirit and trust God, it's all worth the effort.

Most of the time, our volunteers feel they can take the time and show the love of Christ to our clients. But sometimes, when it's really busy, we may rush and not deeply engage a client because there are others waiting. Other times, some clients are in a hurry themselves and brush us off. Then we get that person who comes in month after month, unchanged, wanting food and nothing more. With these scenarios, we get the sense that we miss opportunities and/or hearts are closed and it can be discouraging. But we need to continue to rely on the Holy Spirit to guide us and change hearts; it's our role to be obedient and listen.

What should we improve on?

The consensus was that we make improvements as we need them. We change on a continual basis. We are not locked into goals A, B, C, D in the order of A, B, C, D. We do what we do because we are led by the Holy Spirit.

After interviewing volunteers, the following suggestions were made:

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Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act Follow Up

As I mentioned in last month's news letter, we are waiting to hear back from the US Consumer Product Safety Commission regarding how charities are to handle the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act (CPSIA). This Act is intended to protect children from consuming dangerous phthalates which are used to make vinyl and other plastics soft and flexible.

Meanwhile, we have begun educating clients regarding the dangers of phthalates in any child care article purchased before February 10th, 2009. A "child care

article" is a product that a child under 3 would use for sleeping, feeding, sucking or teething. This would include bibs, child placemats, child utensils, feeding bottles, cribs, booster seats, pacifiers and teethingers.

New procedures

We have put new procedures in place in the Parenting Resource Center which validates that any time a client shops in the baby boutique, they are informed of CPSIA. This is done by providing an educational handout and explanation by the volunteer. When completed, the client signs that

they have received the information.

In addition, if a client isn't comfortable with any of the items in the Baby Boutique, we give them the option to convert their "Mommy/Daddy Bucks" into Wegmans gift cards.



Dear Friends at Crosswinds Downtown:

I deeply appreciate all the wonderful items you gave me for the "U-Cans". I was overwhelmed with all the items and they will be such a help putting together more hygiene cans.

It gives me much pleasure to help others in need. How fortunate these people are that they have a place to come for help for food, personal items, and spiritual counseling. God Bless!

*In Christian Love,
Barb Scott*

Thank You/Welcome to..

Our **financial supporters** who have donated cash and/or gift cards in March to Crosswinds Downtown.

Thank you to **PathStone** Corporation (formally Rural Opportunities) for their quick clean up of the recent 'flood' at Crosswinds Downtown. In the adjacent area, a boiler pipe broke

flooding several areas. Our landlord was quick to contact us and have ServePro clean up after the event. Our carpets haven't looked this clean in years!

WELCOME

Welcome **Kathy Woodhams** ! She has been attending Crosswinds

for the last year. She has 3 children, 16, 13, and 10. Kathy has been a Nurse Practitioner for 17 years. "I am so grateful to be able to do the Lords work with the people at Crosswinds Downtown."



We hold you in high regard

How do we measure the spiritual realm?

As I mentioned last month, we are trying to plant seeds. We don't directly know which seeds take root and which don't for only God sees the big picture. But we do get little glimpses from time to time of seedlings. We get to share God Stories and share moments we know we are used

by God.

MEASUREMENTS

But there are also other things we can meas-

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Do We Fit the Crosswinds Mission? Part 2

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- More free advertising by distributing brochures in other ministries
- Encourage our brothers and sisters in Christ to come and see us if they're struggling in this economy. This suggestion led to a sincere reminder that we're there for everyone in the Crosswinds bulletin.
- Ongoing prayer in the client intake area when volunteers don't have clients
- Reminder to review past conversations with clients as indicated on the forms

Is Crosswinds Downtown Relevant?

When I am with those who are oppressed, I share their oppression so that I might bring them to Christ. Yes, I try to find common ground with everyone so that I might bring them to Christ. I do all this to spread the Good News, and in doing so I enjoy its blessings. (1 Cor 9:22-23)

As Jon Stephens said in his message "Every Soul - The Means", may we always be compassionate, caring, and relevant. What a great message for us here at Crosswinds Downtown as well in all of our lives. And, as Jon outlined for us, may we:

- Have a **heart** to be a slave to everyone – putting our needs second to the needs of others.
- Have wisdom to be culturally relevant – share the truth and with **actions**
- Have eyes to see the moments and opportunities
- Have courage to step into those moments

Enjoying God's blessing / God Stories

During the interviews, I heard many praises and

God stories. Here are some of the stories of encouragement to remind us how awesome God is to us.

Some of the volunteers mentioned how they see God touching lives. For example, when a client allows us to pray with them, and we use their name and make that prayer personal, we find there's a supernatural connection. The client often returns and requests that same person next month if possible.

Another volunteer shared the story how she served a client a while back and then God put them together again at church months later. The client remembered this volunteer and was delighted to connect with her again.

When one volunteer asks, "Is there anything I can do for you?" most clients respond with "pray".

One of our clients was taking the "Boundaries with Kids" class and realized a volunteer forgot to read the scripture that relates to the chapter. He pointed this out and couldn't wait to read it himself. At the end of the class, he also eagerly awaited for the volunteers to pray for him, too.

And, most lovingly, Crosswinds Downtown has given one of our volunteers a family. This volunteer doesn't have any immediate family members and has been looking for a non-judgmental church. She feels she's found not only a church, but a family as well. Thank you God.

Thanks to you all for your input! It's an honor to do ministry with you!

Crosswinds DOWNTOWN

- **Hours:**
- **Mon ,Tues ,Thurs 11am-2pm;**
- **Wed 1pm-4pm**

Impacting the Community one life at a time.

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“Sharing the love of Jesus through tangible acts of service that lead to the transformation of hearts by serving those in need”

Since we opened our doors in 2004, we’ve reached over 1850 households in this community with 8300 visits. We serve up to 200 families a month. On each visit, we have clients pick 10 non-perishable and paper products from a list of available items. That’s over 65,000 items we’ve given to those in need. Thank you to all those who contribute to and volunteer at Crosswinds Downtown!



How do we measure the spiritual realm?

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ure which give us a glimpse into this ministry. We report 11 things right now, from the number of households served to the volunteers we have per month. We began looking at new measurements which will also help others to understand that we’re here to build relationships and spread the Gospel. They include:

- How many prayers are offered?
- How many CWC ministries and services do we connect people to (We are tracking 10 ministries)
- Which agencies do we connect people with? (We are tracking 10 agency referrals)
- How many Bibles do we give away?

PROMPTING QUESTIONS

- In order to assist volunteers to ask relevant questions based upon where the client is spiritually, we

have prepared a list of questions on the intake form to prompt conversation. They include:

- Do you have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ?
- Who do you believe Jesus to be?
- Would you like to know more about Him?
- What are your beliefs? Would you like to know how you can have peace and hope in this life?
- How are you doing in your relationship with Jesus?
- Is there anything you would like me to pray with you about today?

Thank you all for your feedback and a special thank you to Vickie for redoing the intake form!

Crosswinds Downtown is celebrating it’s 5th anniversary in April! We’ll be celebrating with our clients as we increase our items to be given away, including bus tokens. Stay tuned!

