

# STREETLIGHTS

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## Merry Christmas to All!

### Christmas is Coming, Christmas is Coming!!

Let me be the first to say, "Merry Christmas"

Isn't it funny how fast time seems to pass. Here it is Christmas already! Yes, really, it is that time again!! That time when I really depend on you to jump out of that very comfortable chair, bundle up and come out into the cold, to spend some of your most precious possession, your time. You did such a great job last year; I am praying that you will be able to repeat it again this year.

Again this year we need NAMETAKERS:

I need volunteers to take names of the children and gift requests. If you can use windows, a mouse, and can type at all, we could use your help. Call Kathy at 508-831-7455 or email us at [mailbox@urbanmissionaries.com](mailto:mailbox@urbanmissionaries.com), to determine when you could schedule some time.

Every Saturday starting October 5th, from 5:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and on the following Sundays from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.: October 13th, 20th, 27th, November 3rd, November 10th

BAG MAKERS, SORTERS, GIFT DISTRIBUTORS and SITE WORKERS:

We need volunteers to bag incoming gifts and then distribute them. We will be working at the distribution site from December 7th to December 24th from 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. We will need a lot of help on Sunday, December 8th and Sunday, December 15th. On these two days, gifts come in from the churches and we will need every bit of help we can get. We also need help from December 16th until December 23rd especially, from 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. and from 9:00 a.m. to noon on the 24th. This is when most of the people come to pick up their gifts.

This year, for the very first time, we will be working out of the Christmas Shed at 242 Canterbury St., Worcester MA 01603. That's right, our very own site!! As always, your friends, neighbors and any willing strangers you may meet on the way are most welcome.

*May your Christmas be blessed because of what you are about to do.*



### It's About Time, Your Time!

Let's face it. Every nonprofit organization, especially those whose missions involve helping the poor, needs to raise money. It would probably astound you if you actually counted the number of requests for funds that arrive in your mailbox – or inbox – every month. The Urban Missionaries are no different. As you are aware, we call or write our supporters several times a year asking their financial support.

There is, however, another big need we face each day – the need for volunteers. We are a small group. On an average day, Kathy, Sue, and Walter run our 6,000 square foot store. They work with customers, straighten the merchandise, receive donations of clothing and small appliances, sweep the floors, and try to stay sane during the summer's heat and humidity. There are also several great volunteers. On Tuesdays and Thursdays, Bob, a small, wiry, retiree, assists Walter with furniture pick-ups and deliveries, as well as making small repairs throughout the building. Joe, another retiree, runs the counter on Mondays. Each day, a small group of women and

CONT'D ON NEXT COLUMN

KEN RICARDI AND BRUCE PEASE ENJOY A LAUGH WHILE CLEANING UP AFTER THE BUSINESS NETWORKING LUNCHEON.



men take turns visiting local supermarkets, picking up donations of bread and pastries, which we distribute at the Little Store (Where else can you get a loaf of crisply crusted cheddar

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# STREETLIGHTS

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## How to reach us

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*Leave a message  
 on the answering machine  
 at any time, day or night.  
 Or email us at:*

[mailbox@urbanmissionaries.com](mailto:mailbox@urbanmissionaries.com)

Or visit us on the web at  
[www.urbanmissionaries.com](http://www.urbanmissionaries.com)

## Business Networking Luncheon

On October 25, 2013 Our Lady of Hope Center was awash in business people who came to network with other business people. The Urban Missionaries of Our Lady of Hope hosted the event by providing the space and food for the occasion. Matt LeBarre was responsible for rounding up the attendees. We had over 100 business people come to the meeting and the noise level was on the high side. The meeting started at noon and ended at 1:30 p.m. with the last of the folks leaving around 2:00ish.

This was our first attempt to reach out to a non-church group. We were quite unprepared for this type of function in that we expected to be more of a participating member. In fact we were, for the most part, invisible. The few people I had the opportunity to speak with were extremely friendly and listened to our story and asked questions. We were so busy setting up, welcoming people and making sure they had a bite to eat that the time flew by and before I knew it the event was over.

I need to thank Lois Mossa and Pricilla Barros for the wonderful job they did in making everyone feel welcome and insuring they had enough to eat. Jim Adams helped to set up. We also had Bruce Pease, Deacon Tony Fiore, and Ken Ricardi welcoming the people at the front door and giving tours of the facilities.

There were vendors who set up stations to display their products, some of which were very tasty.

In all it was a good time, everyone left happy and we learned another lesson about the "market place" and our interaction with it.



PAULINE WEAGLE FROM TRUE TOUCH MASSAGE THERAPY, GAVE FREE 10 MINUTE MESSAGES TO ANYONE WHO LINED UP AT HER STATION



ROBERT AND FRANCES PIKE FROM THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL, PASSING OUT INFORMATION ABOUT THE WORK OF THE SOCIETY



JAMES BANCROFT FROM SAFETY 911 NEW ENGLAND PASSING OUT SAFETY LITERATURE.



LEA BERRIER FROM LEA'S SWEET ART WITH A VERY TEMPTING PUMPKIN!

## What Urban Missionaries Do

If you hang around the Urban Missionaries for any length of time you will hear me say often and somewhat loudly, "This is a faith ministry!" By this I mean that when we are faced with a need we always receive what we need, but it never arrives a minute too soon.

A couple of weeks ago we received a request for furniture from a long time friend of the UM. "Friends of mine are moving back into the Worcester area and they need the following furniture items, a computer desk, no more than 48 inches with a hutch top, a kitchen table, less than 36 inches, a four drawer file cabinet, no more than 24 inches deep, and a dresser." "Ok, I said, "When do you need them?" He replied, "By the end of August," "Done," I replied.

The reason I am being specific is to give you an idea just how specific the Lord takes care of the little things in our lives when we put all of our trust in Him. When I hung up the phone after talking to my friend I knew that we did not have any of the items and I certainly didn't have any idea if we would be receiving one, or some, or all of these items in the next month. But as I have learned over the years, whenever we need He knows, even without our asking, and things start showing up, maybe not the exact thing, but more often than not it will suffice.

Just as I expected, within days we received a solid desk that was small like a computer desk and it was only 42 inches! "What about the hutch top?" I wondered. The next day in came another donation and guess what? There staring me right in the face was a 4 drawer file cabinet of the 24 inch variety and a small bookcase that could be used as hutch top. "Ok," I thought, "and the kitchen table?"

All I had to do was to wait a few more days and, "Poof!" in came the dresser. "Ok, here we go again," I said to myself. "All we need is the kitchen table." Over the next week two kitchen sets came in, but they were too large and I began to wonder if we would be getting that kitchen table that would fit the bill. As I was taking one of the too large kitchen tables to the holding area in back I noticed a small kitchen table stacked up with items waiting to be put on the floor. It had been sitting there for over a month. I pulled it out and took a quick look just to make sure it was the right size and sure enough it was.

I lined up all of the furniture so that people who needed it could easily look it over when they came. But this isn't end of this story. I have to admit I was still a little nervous about the computer desk request because the

one I had put aside really wasn't a computer desk. A few days later we were at a pick up and there was, you guessed it, the computer desk. I just smiled and said, "Thank you." But He wasn't finished. At the very next pick up I found myself staring at another hutch top! "Ok," I thought, "We have it all now, Thank you Lord"

So now we have everything we need and in one case we have two computer desks with hutch tops. Like I always tell anyone who hangs around the Urban Missionaries of Our Lady of Hope, this is a faith ministry!

### It's About Time CONT'D FROM PAGE 1

cheese bread for a 40 cent donation?!) During the week, Martha hangs clothes, Lois helps with book-keeping, Jim keeps the grounds clean and neat, Bruce and Leane keep the food pantry stocked. A group from St. Gabriel's parish in Upton continues to volunteer one Saturday a month as they have been doing for the past eight or so years. During the school year, you can often find volunteers from Assumption College and the Mass College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences doing internships at the store. During the summer, we are frequently gifted with groups of high school students working with Young Neighbors in Action, a Christian social action organization that sends students on week-long sojourns to the inner city, where they labor with groups such as ours to get a small taste of what it's like to work with the poor. Even with all this help, there's always more to do than we have people to do it, and that's why we turn to you for help.

Some of you might think you don't have enough time to help us out. In reality, we have volunteers who work one Saturday morning a month – twelve times a year. A neighborhood friend comes in two hours a week. Some folks come only on summer Saturday mornings to help set up our weekly yard sale. No amount of time is too small. If your CCD class, Girl or Boy Scout troop, or community group (Knights of Columbus, Rotary, etc.) has a service project as part of its criteria, we have large-scale activities for you, too!

While some of you have specialized talents, we demand no exotic skills to work here. What we do is not glamorous. We sort clothes in the back room, hang new merchandise in the front store,

organize our constantly overflowing boxes of sheets, pillowcases, and towels, and get dirty. We also make friends. Sue, who works the register five days a week, speaks four languages – English, French, Spanish, and Arabic! We can't count the number of people for whom English is not their primary language who ask for her by name because they can communicate with her so easily. The smiles on peoples' faces when they spot a piece of furniture or an appliance they both like and can afford (a formal dining room set for four for \$80.00 anyone?) really do light up the room.

There is space for you here. There are jobs and there are people you'll like. There are friends to be made. Maybe there's a world you've never seen. Peter Maurin, the French Catholic social philosopher, said that one of our jobs is to help make a world where it's "easier to do good." That's what we try to make happen at the Little Store.

Finding us is easy. Our new (and, hopefully, final!) location is at 242 Canterbury Street in Worcester (on the corner of Canterbury and Cambridge Streets). We have well lit, off street parking for over 150 cars, and we're open from 9 AM to 4PM Monday through Saturday. (Sundays belong to Someone Else!) If you'd like to get an idea of what we do, call Kathy or Walter Doyle [(508) 831-7455] and set aside some time to come see us. We'll both be happy you did!!

## MEMORIALS

*Memorials can be given in memory of a deceased person by sending a donation to the Urban Missionaries of Our Lady of Hope.*

**In memory of Deacon Joseph Cieri  
By Sister Mary LeBlanc, PBVM**

**In memory of Corinne Shepherd  
By Meg and Ed McDevitt**

**In memory of Richard Trainor  
By Deacon and Mrs. Myles  
Hayes**

*A memorial card in your name will be sent to the family. Please send the name of the person being remembered, where the acknowledgment should be sent, and your name and address.*



## The Director's Chair

BY WALTER DOYLE  
CO-DIRECTOR

Well here we go again, Merry Christmas everyone!!!! Yuppers, it is that time again. The leaves are starting to fall,. There is frost in the air and mothers are standing outside our door every Saturday at 5:00 a.m.

Volunteer letters have gone out and volunteers have already started to stream in. We have been busy getting the shed ready, we've added heat and lighting and have removed about 75% of the items in there to make room for Christmas toys. We started taking names for this year's Christmas Giving Program at 5:00 a. m, October 5, 2013.

The first day over 70 families signed up, just about the same as last year. All we need now is your prayers; time, and money to make this year's program a success.

Our interns returned from China with some exciting stories about their adventure. We are very proud to be part of this program and proud of the caliber of interns we have been able to send to China. We are already starting to talk about next year!

Well we finished up our Flea Market experiment. We ran the flea market every Saturday from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. from May 25th to September 28th. We lost three Saturdays to rain. We were very happy with the amount of items that went. We actually had up to 3 other vendors here on one of the Saturdays. The number of people who came varied from week to week, but I would say we had around 150 people stop by to browse and buy. One side effect from the flea market was a definite increase in Little Store customers. We need to say a special thanks to Ken Ricardi for sticking with it every Saturday. Without his help there would not have been any Flea Market. We also need to thank Deacons Phil Devine and Pat Driscoll for spending their Saturday s peddling the stuff and to Susan Arraje and Kathy Doyle for their faithfulness in unpacking the items to get ready and then packing up at the end of the day.

We are continuing to press forward with the sustainer appeal. We are asking everyone we know if they will sign up for at least \$5.00 per month. You can sign up by going to our web site [www.urbanmissionaries.com](http://www.urbanmissionaries.com) and clicking on the "Donate" button or you can send in a voided check with our sign up form and we will take care of the rest of the

CONT'D ON NEXT COLUMN

details for you. It is our hope that we will be able to drop our other appeal requests to our sustainers unless they tell us explicitly that they would like to be notified. We are doing this to reduce the number of appeals you receive from us.

We are undertaking a new approach to volunteers. We have received a grant from the Sisters of Saint Anne to teach our volunteers about Catholic Social Teaching and its connection to the work they do here. Many of the volunteers who come here to work are high school students and their parents. They work hard, get dirty, tired and hungry, but we rarely have the opportunity to review or process with them their experience here through the lens of gospel teaching. Sometimes we have only a 10 minute talk at the end of their time here to tell them what we do and why it is we do it. This has concerned us because we knew that the students likely would never be back and we had lost the opportunity to teach them the "why" of this work.

Another volunteer topic is being worked on. We will be unleashing our "Got Time?" email system on you in the very near future. With this system we are hoping to reach all of you who have expressed an interest in volunteering whenever we have a specific need. We will be sending out emails whenever we have a need, hopefully 5 to 7 days in advance or more if we know about the need sooner. Then all you need to do is reply to the email and we will put you on the schedule. This is a result from the countless times we have heard, "You should have called me, I could have come." Now you will know and we are praying you will come.

Remember you can now make your donations at [www.urbanmissionaries.com](http://www.urbanmissionaries.com)!

Have you tried making your donation from our website? It is a secure transation through PayPal and won't cost any postage!

### Needed and wanted: Volunteers with good cheer!

*Looking for a service project?  
Got a few hours to spare?*

*We always need people to assist us in carrying out our mission. Please, don't hesitate to call and let us know if you have some time to give, be it for an hour, a day, or for a routine schedule throughout the year.*

*And, consider making it a family affair. You'll work hard, meet some wonderful people and leave with a warm feeling of self-satisfaction.*

**Call and ask at (508) 831-7455  
or email to:  
[mailbox@urbanmissionaries.com](mailto:mailbox@urbanmissionaries.com)**

BELOW, TINA FULLEN CAKE DESIGNER FROM SWEETER BY THE MOMENT, PASSING OUT SOME OF HER VERY DELICIOUS CAKES.



# Your Continued Assistance Throughout the Year Enables Us to Carry Out Our Mission - Thank You!

Walter O'Keefe, of **Acton**; Mary Sheehan, Elie Kahale, M/M Paul Verderese, of **Auburn**;

M/M Brian Inman, of **Barre**; Mr. James Bancroft, of **Billerica**; M/M John Diefenbach, of **Bolton**; M/M Angelo Guadagno, of **Boston**; Mr. & Mrs. Thomas LaRoche, of **Boylston**; Denise Cremins and Tony Forgione, of **Braintree**; George & Marie Oprica, of **Brookfield**; Larry Mongeau, of **Byfield**;

Christine Turpin of **Charlton**; M/M Mark Rayla, **Dudley**; M/M George Conrad, of **Framingham**; David Standing, David and Barbara Lamacchia, of **Holden**; Alan Doiron, of **Jefferson**;

Rev. Richard Fortin, Francine Smith, M/M Paul Benoit, M/M Richard Martel, of **Leicester**;

Charles Newfell of **Marlborough**; M/M Bob Heumann, of **Mendon**; Kavinelli & Sons Plumbing & Heating, Inc., M/M Joseph Mattus, M/M Bruce Pease, of **Millbury**; Deacon & Mrs. John Dugan, of **Millville**;

James Duffy of **Natick**; Linda Belliveau, of **Needham**; Jean and Don Christensen, Mary Mattock, Brenda Seymour, M/M Jack Gallagher, M/M Dennis Gagne, M/M John Tegan, III, of **Northborough**;

M/M William Moran, of **Northbridge**; Nancy Sodden, of **North Brookfield**; M/M Dick Hammond, Ellin Clifford, M/M Alfred O'Leary of **North Oxford**;

M/M Edward Urbanowski, Janet Slabich, of **Paxton**; Linda Goehle, of **Princeton**;

Eleanor Hallen, Arthur Levesque, M/M Ray Raboin, of **Rochdale**; Patricia Grenier, of **Roslindale** Cana Community, Michael DiBara, of **Rutland**;

Sang Nguyen and Muon Dinh, Rev. John Connell, Tricia Robinson, of **Shrewsbury**; Paulette Beaudin, of **Spencer**; Gerald Kelley, M/M Al Petkus, M/M David Charpentier, M/M Eugene Mossa, M/M Robert Kolofsky, M/M Jeffrey Remillard, M/M Charles Trainor, of **Sutton**;

Janet Flanagan, of **Tewksbury**; M/M Richard Gentili, of **Upton**; Dwain Robbins, of **Uxbridge**;

Peg Mongeau, of **Webster**; Dorothy Breen, M/M Edward Wilchynski, Mary and Tim Hodgens, Leah Hally, of **Westboro**; Paul Pinato, of **Weston**;

Hanover Insurance, Religious of the Assumption, M/M Phil Maurice, M/M Thiet Ho, M/M Bruce Willard, John and Anita Kelley, M/M Ken Ricardi, Dr. & Mrs. Donald Favreau, Eileen Lush, of **Worcester**;

Bob and Jane DeJoie, of the **Marshall Islands**;

M/M Joseph Curtin, of **Middleton, NH**; Rev. Peter White, of **Wauseon, OH**; Unum Corporation of **Chattanooga, TN**



TO THE RIGHT, JIM FORAN, OWNER OF A CHIP ABOVE THE REST PASSING OUT SAMPLES OF HIS VERY GOOD COOKIES!

MATT LEBARRE MANNING: THE WELCOOMING TABLE AT THE BUSINESS NETWORKING LUNCHEAON.



## China Interns Return

## Samantha Grey

### Jenna Soiles

What really struck me going for the second time to the same place in China was the fact that people were genuinely happy and welcoming me back to their home. I was so excited to be going back, but I was a little afraid that the experience wouldn't compare to the experience that I had last year because I found out that one of my Chinese friends, Xin Xin wasn't going to be at the children's center in the factory. That fear quickly went away on the first day that Sam and I arrived and we immediately came in contact with the other Chinese interns and started playing basketball and eating meals together. There was a lot of down time that allowed for me to get to know the other Chinese interns better, and I couldn't have been happier in my decision to return. Although I missed XinXin, this year was even better because I feel that I was starting over, as if I had never been there before, and this time around, I made even more friends than I did last year. Sam and I are really good friends now, and I still keep in contact with my Chinese friends with this app called QQ international, so I can instant message them and share photos and such. I even keep in contact with some of my students, too!

First of all I want to thank you for the amazing opportunity that you gave with this trip. It was Amazing!  
 I attached some pictures as well as a write up. The first picture is of the kids playing on the pond and the different activities we were doing that day. The second picture is of me and one of my students Lizzy. She was a character. The third picture is of me on the Great Wall! The fourth is a picture from the Great Wall of the Great Wall. The fifth picture we were in Guilin, in a cave and they had the cave all lit up. The sixth picture is also in Guilin with all the interns, except Jenna who took the picture. From left to right, Emily (US), me, Andre (S. Africa), Dave (US), Addison (US), and Ben (US). The seventh picture is in Hong Kong when we were leaving. Jenna and I found this place while walking around looking for lunch. The eighth picture is the ceiling of the Charlie Brown cafe. The ninth picture is of a phone booth in Hong Kong; I never see them any more so I had to take a picture.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: NOT ALL OF SAM'S PICTURES ARE SHOWN.)



SAM AND LIZZY POSING FOR THE CAMERA!

SAM AND HER FELLOW INTERNS ENJOYING A DAY OFF TOGETHER.



THE CHINA COUNTRYSIDE, UNLIKE ANYTHING NEAR WHERE SHE LIVES IN THE U.S.A.

TO THE RIGHT, CHINESE ARCHITECTURE IN THE TOWN NEAR THE FACTORY WHERE THE INTERNS ARE WORKING.



JENN WITH HER CLASS AND CHINESE TEACHERS. NICE BUNCH OF SMILES THERE!



## Opting Out

We at the Urban Missionaries of Our Lady of Hope realize that in today's fast-paced world the requests of your time and money can be staggering. Sometimes it seems that every phone call and every envelope in your mailbox is just another group asking of you.

We'd like to give you the opportunity to 'opt out' of our promotional system. On the form below, please fill in the appropriate boxes and return it to us in the return envelope that came with this newsletter.

### Opt Out Form:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

*(Please print clearly)*

Do not call.  
*You will still be on our mailing list.*

Remove me from the mailing list.  
*You will not be called or receive any mailings, but you will receive our newsletter*

Remove me from the database.  
*You will not be called, nor receive any mailings, nor receive our newsletter Streetlights.*



SAM, RESTING AGAINST THE GREAT WALL OF CHINA DURING A BREAK FROM HER DAILY WORK SCHEDULE.



SAM'S, "I JUST GOT TO TAKE A PICTURE OF A TELEPHONE BOOTH.."



TO THE RIGHT, CHILDREN ENJOY A WATER BREAK WHILE THEIR PARENTS ARE WORKING IN THE FACTORY.

Urban Missionaries of Our Lady of Hope  
242 Canterbury St.  
Worcester, MA 01603

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...Just Helping since 1979



**STREETLIGHTS**  
a publication of the Urban Missionaries of Our Lady of Hope. A social action ministry in the Catholic Diocese of Worcester, Massachusetts

for I was  
hungry  
you gave  
me food;  
I was thirsty and you gave me  
drink; I was a stranger and you  
made me welcome; naked and  
you  
clothed  
me; sick  
and you  
visited  
me in  
prison  
you came  
to see me  
Matthew  
25:35-36 TM

**Urban Missionaries of Our Lady of Hope Mission Statement**  
The Urban Missionaries' mission of service, under the auspices of the Bishop of Worcester, is to assist newly-arrived refugees in the Worcester area, immigrants and those in the neighborhoods where we work. We are committed to bringing together the skills and resources of staff and volunteers from local churches and the community to provide services to these individuals, ensuring that any human rights afforded by God are placed at their disposal as needed, including medical or legal access, advocacy, food, clothing, housing, language and work skills, in the fellowship of Christ.