

A Few Needs

■ Audio / Visual Support

Streets is in need of a volunteer to assist in the sound room for Monday and/or Thursday night "Club" next semester. While some experience running a sound board would be preferable, volunteers would for the most part be working with students already in the booth. Duties would include playing CD's, adjusting microphone levels and running slide shows from the computer. If you are interested, or would just like to know more about this opportunity, please contact Richard at Richard@StreetsMinistries.org.

■ Ski Clothes

This December 27th, four girls from Booker T. Washington high school will be making a 22 hour bus ride out to Winter Park, Colorado for their first ski trip. And while everyone is excited about the trip, we are lacking a few ski gear essentials. Currently we are in need of goggles, glove liners, hats and fleeces. If you have any of these items to either donate or loan, please contact either Carmen Coleman at Carmen@StreetsMinistries.org or Miriam Avery at Miriam@StreetsMinistries.org.



The Rec Room sound board is in need of a volunteer during middle and high school "Club" Nights.

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Defend the cause of the weak and fatherless; maintain the rights of the poor and the oppressed. Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked.

Psalms 82:3-4

Being Keenly Aware...All Year Long

But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you. He is Christ the Lord."
Luke 2 10-11

I love the holiday season. Christmas is a time of friends, families, parties and just plain old fun. We eagerly anticipate the expressions of our children as they open that special gift under the tree. We will all eat food in quantities that cause us to commit to New Year's resolutions. We will see relatives that only come together once every 365 days. On Christmas Eve, many of us will end up in the local church singing carols and kneeling at the Communion table. Oh, and I almost forgot...We will also reach out to the poor. We do this because this is the season to be keenly aware.

Many of us take this time of year to be intentional about our concern for the poor. There are coat drives and food drives and toy collections. We sit our kids at our feet to let them know how blessed they are and how they should be a blessing this time of year to the downtrodden. The cold weather that usually accompanies this season tends to heighten our senses to those who are the left out in our world. Our mailboxes are filled with reminders of people who lack the resource to participate in Christmas at the level we choose to engage. It is just that time again. We are so keenly aware.

All the things listed above speak right into the Bennett household. Being the great spiritual leader that I am, I have done very little to change it. I do not have the passion and compassion to be keenly aware 365 days of the year. Christmas becomes a feel good checklist that salves guilt until another year passes. So how do we remain keenly aware? What is the magic to staying engaged with the disenfranchised of our city? As Christians, we believe that this is done by staying engaged with God's word through healthy fellowship, and by embracing the empirical fact that all people are created in His image.

Let us make this Christmas season no longer seasonal. Let us commit as believers to being keenly aware of people in need of God's resources 365 days of the year. I pray this Christmas is the one that we look back on and say that our lives were changed forever. Be keenly aware!

"Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to men on whom His favor rests." Luke 2:14

Your Brother in Christ,

Ken



Ken Bennett
Executive Director

Miriam Avery
Director of Development

Andreana Brown
Education Director

Carmen Coleman
Education Coordinator

John Cowherd
Middle School Coordinator

Paul Crump
Operations Manager

Jenny Fratesi
Elementary Coordinator

Mary-Wilkes Harris
Volunteer Coordinator

Delvin Lane
Ministry Director

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Gifts and Experiences: by Andreana Brown

I have heard it said over and over again that education is the key to changing our kids' situations. While that is true, education is not just about being a better reader or graduating as valedictorian. It is about the knowledge of knowing. Knowing that there are options and choices which can only come through new encounters and experiences.

Through knowledge and wisdom we are able to find truth and define it. That is when real education begins. When our children gain the experiences that awaken them into the different choices that their lives can take, we have all succeeded.

As I think about Christmas and the ultimate gift that was given to the world, Jesus Christ, it reminds me that each of us has a gift to give to the world because of Him. Each of us is able to be an educator, because all of our experiences are different and need to be shared.

Jesus is the perfect example of how communion with just a small group of people changes a multitude of lives. We are commanded to share our faith and ourselves with one another. Everyone's life is enhanced when we interact with one another.

"Club" Food Opportunities: by Mary-Wilkes Harris

Each Monday and Thursday night, hundreds of eager students flock to the Streets Center for "Club" where they sing, visit, play games and hear the gospel. As a result, we are seeing the fruits of how our geographical move has expanded the opportunity of what Streets' mission is in the neighborhood. Many whom had been unable to walk the distance from their homes in the past are now able to simply cross the street and be fed both physically and spiritually. It is a tremendous blessing.

Please help us introduce those whom have never been to Streets take in a "Club" experience by getting to know some of our students while providing and serving food. To learn more about this opportunity, please contact Mary-Wilkes at MaryWilkes@StreetsMinistries.org for information concerning "Club" food next semester.



Streets' Education Director, Andreana Brown, works with Jeremy, a Vance 7th grader, in the homework lab.

This is why I am awed by the people and volunteers I meet at Streets on a daily basis from different areas, that give their lives freely in order to share education and most of them aren't teachers by profession. We all educate people every day, either positively or negatively. So as you buy gifts for family and friends consider giving your gifts and experiences away. Andreana@StreetsMinistries.org



The golf, tennis and baseball teams from the University of Memphis during a recent high school "Club".

Staff Spotlight: Miriam Avery

Streets is excited to have Miriam Avery on our full time staff as Director of Development. Miriam comes to us from Independent Presbyterian Church where she has served on the youth staff for the past two years. But it is her love of people and ministry, coupled with her gifts in accounting, that have led Miriam to Streets.

Miriam was born and raised in Memphis, graduated from ECS and was an accounting major at the University of Mississippi. While at Ole Miss, Miriam was heavily involved in Reformed University Fellowship, and it was through RUF that she discovered her heart for ministry.

While some of Miriam's responsibilities include maintaining and expanding the Streets donor base, the most exciting part of her job has been coordinating the weekly staff lunch commonly known as "Fun Food Friday".



Miriam (third from the left) takes a break from her Development duties to hang out with some kids.

Year-End Giving: by Miriam Avery

As you well know, the holiday season marks our busiest fundraising period of the year at Streets. In 2005, we raised almost 30% of the annual budget in months of November and December alone. While the process of raising capital every year can sometimes be challenging, it is certainly worth it. Our staff's compassion and energy is unmatched

only by its zealously to bring kids to Christ and empower them with the Gospel.

2006 was a significant year at Streets as we moved from a 9,000 square foot facility into our present 34,500 square foot facility. Additionally, we have expanded our full-time staff and are currently in the process of re-vamping our Pathways curriculum. Of course, all these new programs and personnel come with a price, and our annual budget has increased by almost \$190,000 this fiscal year.

Streets was started when God called Ken to serve this community, but it has sustained and prospered over the last 20 years largely because of the generosity of all our supporters. As we approach the end of year, I would like to invite you to participate in helping Streets prosper and continue to reach out to young people for Christ. Whether it is your first gift or you have been supporting us since 1987, and whether you give \$10 or \$10,000, your tax-deductible gift plays a vital role in all that we do at Streets. For that, we thank you. May you and your family have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Miriam@StreetsMinistries.org



As many as 1,200 kids a week have come through our doors here at the new Streets Center.

What We've Been Up To

- For the first time in over 20 years, Booker T. Washington hosted a playoff football game. To mark the occasion, students from **Briarcrest High School** created a "run through" for the team complete with balloons. In addition, over 40 members from **Independent Presbyterian Church** chartered a bus, prepared a pre-game meal and stayed to cheer the team on.
- On November 3rd, Delvin served as "Principal for a Day" at Vance Middle School.
- On November 7th, the Streets staff attended a Servant Leader Luncheon at **Second Presbyterian Church** where Civil Rights Leader John Perkins was the speaker. After the presentation, Perkins personally signed copies of his book, "Let Justice Roll Down", for the Streets staff.
- Andreana, John and Rob took ten students to **Victory Ranch** for a three day stay on November 10th.
- On November 14th, Streets opened its doors to the families of the Foote and Cleaborn Homes community for Christmas Basket sign up. In 2 just hours, the vast majority of the baskets to be assembled were spoken for.
- The High School youth group from **Independent Presbyterian Church** participated in a "38126 Weekend" short-term missions trip on November 17th-18th. As a part of the experience, the group ran an "Elementary Explosion" VBS for over 80 students in the neighborhood, did some painting at Georgia Avenue Elementary, and ate dinner at the Four Way Restaurant. If you or your group would like to find out more about how to have your own "38126" mission project, please contact MaryWilkes@StreetsMinistries.org.
- Prior to Thanksgiving break, Streets hosted "Elementary Honors Day" for 45 deserving Georgia Avenue students. Students played games, ate a box and watched a movie in the Rec Room.



Edwina proudly displays her craft time project with IPC youth group member, Rachel, during a recent "38126



Chanel and Veronica about to enjoy a Thanksgiving feast.

- Delvin, Carmen, Jenny and Andreana all took groups of students to the **Orpheum Theatre** to see the Broadway presentation of Annie. To date, you can still hear kids in the hallways here at Streets singing any number of the songs from the show. Streets would like to thank the Orpheum Theatre for their generous support.
- On November 20th, **Fleming-Associates Architects** provided a full "Thanksgiving Feast" for High School "Club". The meal was complete with a turkey from Holiday Ham, stuffing, potato casserole and desserts.
- On November 27th, Delvin broke out the disco ball, turned up the music and hosted a High School "Club" Dance. Close to 300 students attended.



What's Coming Up

- The **Crichton College** Comets are playing all of their home games in the Streets Center gymnasium this season. The atmosphere is lively as students from the Foote and Cleaborn Homes community have been allowed to attend each game free of charge. For a complete schedule of games and times, please visit www.crichton.edu/athletics.
- With the weather turning a bit cooler, Streets is taking part in a coat drive benefiting the students of Georgia Avenue Elementary. If you have any new or used coats, sweaters or sweatshirts that you would like to donate, please stop by our donation boxes located at **Christ Methodist Day School, First Evangelical Church, Independent Presbyterian Church** or please contact Jenny@StreetsMinistries.org.
- Over the past few weeks, Streets has been participating in the annual Operation Christmas Child put on by **Samaritan's Purse**. With items donated by **First Evangelical Church**, Streets students assembled gender specific shoe boxes of supplies and prayed for each child that would be receiving it. In total, Streets was able to assemble and deliver nine boxes to **Bartlett United Methodist Church** where they will then be distributed over the world to people in need. It is a great chance for our students to feel what it is like to give rather than receive.



With ten home dates remaining on the schedule, there is still plenty of fast-paced Comet action to come.

- On Saturday, December 16th, the members of **Independent Presbyterian Church** will assemble and distribute over 600 Christmas Baskets for Streets. Each basket, which is loaded with over 40 pounds of food and cooking supplies, will then make the trip to Streets where volunteers will be paired with a student to help deliver the baskets into the community. The annual event will once again be an engaging time for all involved and a tremendous ministry to the community we serve.



Elementary students help assemble gender specific shoe boxes for distribution through Samaritan's Purse.



Students from Georgia Avenue have been enjoying the results of this year's coat drive.