

THE GOOD SAMARITAN INN

920 N. UNION STREET DECATUR IL 62522

WWW.GOODSAMARITANINN.ORG

Our Mission:

To feed the hungry and economically disadvantaged a hot meal.

Board of Directors

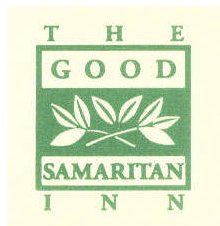
Ann Adams
Jim Beckhart
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Judy Ford
Norma Hubert
Norm Jensen
Randy McGeehon
Bob Moore
Annemarie Mudd
Rich Ruedi
Gale Salzman
Norm Stivers
Stan Wood

Director

Brenda Gorrell Pyatt

Board meetings are held the 2nd Tuesday of every month at 3:00pm at the Inn; meetings are open to the public.

The Good Samaritan Inn is a 501(c)3 organization.



Newsletter 2011
Volume 2

SETTING RECORDS

On June 29, 2011, the Good Samaritan Inn set a new record. Staff and volunteers served 437 patrons for the first time.

This is a terrible record to set. Even more tragic is the realization that this is a record that will fall – and will probably fall before the end of this summer.

The staff and volunteers who served that day were champs – they had anticipated the rise in numbers, and when the 400 mark was not only passed but was left in the dust, they rose to the challenge and made sure that everyone who came through the doors had something to eat.

The day made our building feel like a fresh blessing. Feeding so many at the old place would have been terribly difficult; people would have had to bolt their food and leave in less than twelve minutes to give everyone a chance to eat. As it was, our new home was bustling.

But you don't know the worst of it.

The saddest part of this new record is that of the 437 people who had lunch with us that day, *104 were children*. That's right. Nearly a quarter of the hungry who came through our doors on that bright, beautiful summer day were children.

It's a heartbreaking reality. Hunger is a vicious enemy that hits the most vulnerable the hardest. *Hunger steals childhood*. Hungry kids get sick more often; they don't grow as fast; they don't learn as well; they don't sleep as well; they suffer in ways too subtle and too numerous to comprehend. It is a cruelty too harsh to accept without a fight. And at the Good Samaritan Inn, that's what we do every day – we fight. We fight against the monstrous evil known as hunger that is stealing lives. It steals from the elderly, it steals from adults, and it steals from children. We fight every day, and we will fight to our last breath until this evil is defeated.



Nibbles

21 million kids in the U.S. rely on a free or reduced-price school lunch during the school year; however, less than 3 million get summer meals when schools are closed.

Hungry kids have trouble learning, tend to get sick more often and don't develop as fast or as soundly as other kids.

Nearly one out of four children in America struggles with hunger.

From Share Our Strength, a national non-profit that fights childhood hunger

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Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."

Matthew 19:14

Sandy's Family

Sandy is a young wife with three children: an eight-year-old daughter, and sons who are five and two. Her husband is an independent roofer who works as often as he can. Sometimes, though, a client doesn't pay when a job is done, and in the winter there's no work, so money is often tight.

Sandy and her children live just a few blocks from the Inn and are regular visitors. Eating lunch at the Inn means a little more money for nutritious dinners at home. Sandy says there are unexpected benefits to lunch at the Inn, too: it helps the children learn better meal habits, because they are more attentive to their table manners when eating with other people. They also do a better job of cleaning their plates when they see dessert waiting for them on the tray! They all appreciate the quality of the food at the Inn.

Sandy and the children enjoy the social aspect of lunch at the Inn, too; they are new to Decatur, so they are glad of the opportunity to meet people. They like the people they've met and say that the people who come to the Inn for lunch are just like everyone else.

Special Items Request

Sometimes people ask if they can donate toward a particular item for the Inn. If you're interested in doing so, we're currently raising money for:

- A garage where we can park our van. (Right now an employee takes it home every night for safety reasons.)
- A laptop, PowerPoint projector, and portable AV cart that we can use to give presentations to groups

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- An outdoor picnic table for the staff to use on their breaks. Right now they sit on empty 5-gallon buckets and a bench made of scraps!

Sandals are Never in Season at GSI

Just a reminder that even though it's summer, sandals – including flip-flops or other open-toed shoes –



aren't appropriate footwear when volunteering at the Inn. Think of the steaming liquids, sharp knives, hot pans and so on that you'll be around, and make sure your feet are covered. We don't want anyone to lose a toe! Proper footwear is also a safety requirement of the Macon County Health Department. That's why, if you come to the Inn in open-toed shoes, you'll be invited to go home and change shoes before helping.

Decorations

You may have noticed that we have at last begun to decorate the new Inn – and the effort is long overdue! If you haven't been to the Inn since Easter, take a look around the dining room the next time you're in. We're doing it one step at a time, so you'll continue to see small changes over the coming months. We're happy to finally be bringing in reminders of God's gracious

presence to all who come to the Good Samaritan Inn.

A New Shed

Have you see the new storage shed that popped up on the north side of our building this summer? It was a group effort to put it together, but it looks sharp! It has a heavy-duty lock on it and will be home to our lawnmower and maintenance equipment.

Across the Board

We're sorry to say good-bye to Board member **Dave Gendry**. Dave has been a valuable friend and servant who has served the Inn as Communication Secretary and more recently as Vice President of the Board. Our prayers and blessings go with him!

We want to give a special thank you to **Candy Moore**, as well, who has moved to Indiana after working at the Inn for so many years.

At the May meeting, two new members joined the Board of Directors, **Jim**

Beckhart and **Melody Bodine**.

Please join us in welcoming them; we're so glad they heard and answered God's call! We'll tell you more about Melody in the next newsletter.

Jim Beckhart is a member of Mt. Zion Presbyterian Church where he is a Trustee and former Elder and also chairs the Mission Committee. He has been the Good Samaritan Inn work team coordinator for his church for the past nine years, so his service to the Inn goes way back! Witnessing the service that the Inn provides to the underprivileged in our

community made him want to get even more deeply involved. Jim has long ties to this area; he grew up near Monticello and worked for the Mt. Zion School District for 34 years before he retired in 2002. Now he keeps busy by serving others – he volunteers with the Lions Club and the Macon County Historical Society – and by having fun: he and his wife of 49 years, Shirley, enjoy bike riding, traveling, attending Illini football and basketball games, and spending time with their two daughters and five grandchildren.

Thank You



It isn't easy to find words to express our gratitude, but the kids who come to the Inn have taught us what's important: food to eat,

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family to care for you, and remembering to say Thank You. We thank God every day for you, our Good Samaritan Inn family – especially our volunteers and our benefactors. We are grateful that we are able to do so much for so many, thanks to God's grace and everyone who supports the Inn. Please keep us in your prayers as we keep you in ours; without prayer, none of this would be possible!

Hunger on Sesame Street

Covenant Partners Help Feed Hungry Children

Many people sponsor a child overseas for a small sum each month.

Why not "sponsor" a child right here in Decatur? The Good Samaritan Inn can feed a hungry child for about \$3 per meal. Why not sponsor a week's worth of meals each month – or even more?

Please consider becoming a Covenant Partner.

You can choose how many meals you would like to sponsor each month.

Details can be found on the last page of the newsletter.

Seventeen million American children — nearly one in four — are food insecure, meaning they do not receive food that meets basic nutritional needs due to financial instability. Of these children, more than half (9.6 million) are under the age of six, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Now the nonprofit organization behind *Sesame Street* has tackled the problem. In partnership with United Healthcare and The Merck Company Foundation, they have created **Food for Thought: Eating Well on a Budget**, an outreach initiative

designed to help support families who have children between the ages of two and eight cope with uncertain or limited access to affordable and nutritious food.

In addition, the organization has released Big Bird booklets to be distributed to social-service agencies, health departments, and community programs. In the booklet, titled *A Delicious Day*, Big Bird says "food pantry" for the first time. Another character explains, "A food pantry is a place we go to when we need help getting food."

This extraordinary effort is both wonderful and tragic – wonderful that such a marvelous organization is reaching out to children who don't always understand why they are hungry, and tragic that such a need exists.

HOW MANY PEOPLE WOULD YOU LIKE TO FEED TODAY?

The Good Samaritan Inn can provide a hot, tasty, nutritious meal for around \$3. How many people would you like to feed today? Our **Covenant Partners** feed a dozen people with a monthly donation of **\$36.00**. Want to feed more? You can do that, too! Please consider becoming a Covenant Partner with us.

- ↑ **I would like to feed a dozen people for \$36.00 each month.**
- ↑ **I would like to feed _____ people each month as a Covenant Partner. Enclosed is my first month's donation of \$_____ (\$3 x number of people).**

Name: _____
Address: _____

Phone Number: _____
E-mail Address: _____



*Please make your check payable to:
The Good Samaritan Inn*

Please send to:
The Good Samaritan Inn
Covenant Partners Program
920 N. Union Street
Decatur, IL 62522

You can also donate online at www.goodsamaritaninn.org!