



GOMOC NEWS

“Agency of Last Resort” Genesee Orleans Ministry of Concern

Fall 2005

Happy Holidays

In Europe during the Middle Ages, revelers had a unique way of celebrating the season: The poor would knock on the doors of the rich and demand their finest food and drink. Compelled both by tradition and by a need to repay society for their wealth, the affluent often obliged, inviting the less fortunate right into their homes for a meal and good cheer.

This time of year should be filled with love and laughter. It’s a time of giving, celebrating, and thanksgiving – for most of us. But the challenges of life overwhelm others so they have nothing to give- they are barely hanging on.

GOMOC assisted with 2,974 emergency housing, utilities, prescriptions, basic furniture, personal care items and food. A Follow-Up Support Program exists which helped and supported 162 clients in setting priorities, developing a budget, job assistance, and obtaining child care. We also have monthly educational activities with Just Friends youth and mentors.

During the year we have helped 3,136 people in Genesee and Orleans County and with your help we can help even more next year! As you decide on how much to spend during the holidays, consider giving a portion to help a less fortunate individual or family.

GOMOC Assists Hurricane Katrina Survivor in Orleans County

Since hurricane Katrina hit New Orleans many of the survivors have relocated around the country. One such survivor, C., and her family, 2 school age boys and a baby came to Orleans County to start over.

Upon arriving here with virtually nothing she came to GOMOC for assistance. We supplied C. with personal care items, such as soap, toilet tissue, deodorant, toothpaste and brushes. School supplies were received including backpacks for the boys. From our Furniture Program C. received a full size bed, 2 twin beds, a crib, bedding, a kitchen table and chairs, dishes and living room furniture.

We also referred C. to Community Action for clothing for the entire family, All Babies Cherished for baby furniture, the department of Social Services for diapers and the Red Cross for financial assistance. C. and the children have survived!

Your donations help make it possible for GOMOC to help those who come to us in need.

More are living in poverty

Even with a robust economy that was adding jobs last year, the number of Americans who fell into poverty rose to 37 million-up 1.1 million from 2003. It marks the fourth straight increase in the government’s annual poverty measure.

Household income remained flat, and the number of people without health insurance edged up by about 800,000 to 45.8 million people.

Overall, the nation’s poverty rate rose to 12.7 percent of the population last year. Of the 37 million living below the poverty level, close to a third were children.

The increase in poverty came despite strong economic growth.

Poverty is the worst form of violence.

Be the change that you want to see in the world.

Don't listen to friends when the Friend inside you says 'Do this.'

Mohandas Gandhi

Just Friends Summer / Fall

Boy, it seems like Summer just arrived and now it is over, where has the time gone? Well let me tell you! Just Friends has held 3 exciting activities this summer/fall. The 1st activity was a Patriotic Party celebrating Independence Day. The children made flag sun catchers and firework magnets. The 2nd activity was a summer picnic held August 27th, the children played hot potato and competed in an egg race and a sack race. It was a joy to see the expressions on the children's faces while trying to balance an egg on a spoon while walking. On October 1st, a Back to School party was held. Math games were played, bookmarks were made and a yummy lunch was enjoyed. Fun was had by the children and by the volunteers as well. We would like to thank all of the volunteers and parents who helped with the activities. Without your help we would not be able to hold the activities for the children. We would like to give a special thank you to the Gaines Congregational United Church of Christ for the use of their church hall.

These children do enjoy participating in these activities, but they would be even more thrilled to be matched with a one-on-one mentor—someone to spend time with on a regular basis who is there just for them! We currently have over 60 children waiting for their special friend. Chris Goetze, Coordinator of the just Friends Program, is available to speak to your group.

The difference you can make in the life of a child is immeasurable. Please consider becoming a mentor today!



MEMORIALS

Between June 15, 2005
and October 15, 2005

James Keeler

by Dorothy B. Haines

Alma Starkweather

by Marian Adrian, GNSH
Gerald and Jean Brooks and Family
Dora Bruning and Family
Richard and Ann Cooke
Rhea Durrant
Local 1498 United Steel Workers of America
David Mitchel
Pfaudler Reactor Systems, Inc.
Ellen and Adin Pickett
Irene Rouse
Doris Sabourin
Ruth Starkweather
Marge and Arnold Tower

Vincent Trupiano

by Catherine DiLaura

The Genesee-Orleans Ministry of Concern will send a sympathy card acknowledging your memorial gift to the family of the deceased relative or friend. The name of the deceased will be printed in the following newsletter with your name as the memorial donor. The newsletter will be sent to you and to the family of the deceased.

**A gift was given to the
Genesee Orleans Ministry of
Concern in honor of Sister
Marian Adrian, G.N.S.H., by
Susan Locke.**

Dear Friends,

During the past year two of our loyal volunteers have died. For many years Joanne Barry and Alma Starkweather supported the work of the Genesee-Orleans Ministry of Concern. We offer our sympathy to their families and will continue to remember them in prayer.

One of the ways that enables us to help the people who come to us in need is the raising of funds with the Salvation Army Christmas Kettles. For many years Joanne and Alma came once a week for the entire six week period of the kettle drive to count the bills and coins dropped into the seven Orleans Kettles. Alma not only coordinated that project but worked on preparing our newsletter for mailing.

We are grateful to Joanne for her generous bequest and to Alma for arranging for her memorial to the GOMOC.

Volunteers are essential if this agency is to continue to maintain its level of service to those who come in need. If you are able to volunteer please contact us at either (585)343-5452 (Genesee County) or (585)589-9210 (Orleans County).

As we approach Christmas, we take this opportunity to thank you for your generosity through the years. Like Tiny Tim we pray, "God Bless us every one".

Sincerely,

Sister Marian M. Adrian, GNSH

Please consider GOMOC in your bequest/will.

>>No cook Monday's<<

FUNDRAISERS

>>No cook Monday's<<

Monday, January 16, 2006 Albion Pizza Hut will donate 20% of your purchase to us. All you have to do is put your name on a coupon and give the coupon to them when you pay. These coupons are available in our office and in public areas around Albion and Medina.



Monday, April 10, 2006 D& R Deport Restaurant at 63 Lake St. (Rte. 19), LeRoy will donate 10% of their proceeds to us.

Come out and support our local businesses, which will support us so that we may support the poor.

The language of theology is: God, love, forgiveness and compassion

**GENESEE-ORLEANS
MINISTRY OF CONCERN, INC.**
“Agency of Last Resort”



Arnold Gregory Memorial Complex
243 South Main Street, Suite 271
Albion, New York 14411-1644

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From the desk of the Executive Director...

“I long to accomplish a great and noble task, but it is my chief duty to accomplish humble task as though they were great and noble. The world is moved along, not only by the mighty shows of its heroes, but also by the aggregate of the tiny pushes of each honest worker.” Helen Keller

The wave of natural disasters that we have witnessed has the potential to create a feeling of overwhelming hopelessness and helplessness. These feelings are common if we believe that we can do nothing to change the problem. However, a move to action has the power to alleviate or at least reduce the anxiety that can be felt when we witness or experience human suffering. It is because of this desire to help others that we are blessed with volunteers and donors nationally and locally. The fact that you are reading this newsletter is proof that you have given your resources of time and or money to help your poor and disadvantaged neighbors in Genesee and Orleans Counties. When your interest moved to action to help those who may be disadvantaged you became one of the heroes that Helen Keller spoke of in the above quote. As a result of your commitment to take action to help others, The Genesee-Orleans Ministry of Concern continues to provide the services to the poor and disadvantaged in Genesee and Orleans County that face life unable to meet their daily needs. Just as we joined with other agencies and citizens to assist Hurricane Katrina Survivors who were expected to move to Orleans County, we continue to help local families who face problems of homelessness and other circumstances that prevent their families from having their needs met. Thank you for your continued support.

Edward Everett Hale wrote, “I am only one, But still I am one, I cannot do everything, But still I can do something, I will not refuse to do the something that I can do.”

Malika Hill
Executive Director

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