

# GOMOC NEWS

“Agency of Last Resort” Genesee Orleans Ministry of Concern Summer 2006

## Working Poor Have to Choose



The working poor have to choose between purchasing food, filling prescriptions, or paying utility bills. There are approximately 43 million people working in low-income jobs. That is one-quarter of the US Workforce.

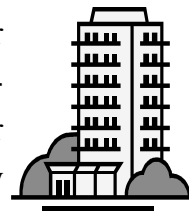
Many of these jobs are essential to the economy, but the people who are doing them are finding they cannot support their families. These jobs once sustained a family with solid wages as well as offered decent benefits. Today, these jobs are more likely to bring a life of poverty, and are less likely to have decent benefits-- if any at all. Many have to spend a large amount of their monthly income on health insurance – out of an income that was already barely enough to go around. Some have two or more family members working, some are working two or more jobs. These occupations consist of food servers, health care aids/workers, grocery/retail clerks, security guards, hotel workers, receptionists, telemarketers and other service jobs. These people wait tables at restaurants they can not afford to eat at, wash cars but can only afford to take the bus, and watch children but can not afford child care. For tens of millions of Americans, it is a relentless, miserable struggle to make ends meet from week to week. We are the richest country in the world and we have maximum insecurity. If one bus missed, one stalled engine, one sick child means the difference between keeping a job and getting fired, between subsistence and setting off the financial tremors of turned-off utilities, and emergency room bills that can bury us in a mountain of debt. Your donations keep people with a small sense of security as they know they have a place to go for help with their emergency.

## Tenant Certification Program Back in Action

The Tenant Certification Program is alive and well in Genesee and Orleans counties, improving landlord and tenant relationships.

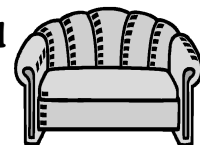
Prospective tenants who qualify for the program can receive a loan for their first months rent. Loans will be forgiven if the tenant completes the year long program of monthly and quarterly inspections, pay their rent on time, attend educational tenant training and keep the rental unit clean and free of damage.

Applications for the program can be completed in Albion (585)589-9210 or Batavia (585)343-5452 by contacting Sheila Kendzierski .



## FURNITURE DONATIONS NEEDED

**If you have gently used furniture to donate please call us at 589-9210 or 343-5452. These donations are given to the needy at no charge. We are always in need of beds, couches, chairs, kitchen table sets, washing machines, electric dryers, electric stoves and refrigerators. We will pick up.**





Hi, from the Just Friends Program! We hope everyone is having a wonderful summer. The Program has been very busy! In February a dance party was held in which the children learned many different dances from the chicken dance to the electric slide. March the Zoo Mobile visited us and many different animals were brought for the children to see. April we painted heart boxes, made picture frames and made our own painter hats at the craft party. At May's Garden Party we learned how to take care of plants and flowers. Each received their own flower to take home and plant outside. Thank you to Navarra's Green House for donating all the materials. June's Strawberry Festival was a large community gathering. July brought a Penny Carnival in which games, food, and prizes were enjoyed. On August 26 the Just Friends Family Picnic will be held at Bullard Park. September's Back to School Party is planned and October is the Pumpkin Fest.



19 new children, 10 new mentors, and 8 new matches have been welcomed since I started. I am looking for Mentors. Remember OUR MISSION "Our goal is to match carefully screened adults with children who are in need of a positive role model, someone to spend time with and help them thru some of life's tough times." If you would like to become a Mentor, please call me at 589-9210.

Jori VanNostrand  
Just Friends Coordinator

**To our friends in Buffalo and Erie County:**

This agency is not a member of the United Way of Buffalo and Erie County, but may receive contributions through the United Way Donor Choice Program.

**DO YOU HAVE A WILL?**

Remember the Genesee Orleans Ministry of Concern in your will. A gift to the GOMOC Endowment Fund made in your lifetime or as a bequest continues in perpetuity to serve those in need and to help them on their way to independence.

Dear Friends,

Not long ago Tom, our Furniture Program Coordinator, had a request for a mattress. When he delivered it he found a mother and her children sitting on the floor eating dinner. They had no table. The mattress was also to go on the floor. There was no bed frame. Because one of you had just donated a table, Tom could give this family a table.

Our furniture needs far exceed the supply. The GOMOC is the only agency in this area which picks up furniture donations and delivers them to people in need. All furniture is donated. We received a grant to purchase the truck. The only expenses of the program are gasoline, truck maintenance and some of the furniture program staff (a total of ten hours). There are volunteers who assist the drivers with pick-up and delivery. Other volunteers take telephone requests and offers of donations.

We collect only basic furniture— stoves, refrigerators, washers and dryers (in good working condition), beds, dressers, kitchen tables and chairs and living room chairs and couches.

I am hoping that we will be able to increase our hours of service. It is only because of your generosity that the furniture program exists. I am grateful to you for your donations to this program and your volunteer time.

Enjoy the summer! Let us continue to keep one another in prayer.

God Bless,  
Marian M. Adrian, GNSH

**GOMOC WISH LIST**

- |                   |                  |
|-------------------|------------------|
| Laundry Soap      | Personal Hygiene |
| Dish Detergent    | Soap             |
| Paper Products    | Deodorant        |
| Cleaning supplies | Shampoo          |
| Wipes             | Razors           |
| Toilet Paper      | Toothbrushes     |
| Diapers           | Toothpaste       |

## GOMOC Helps Domestic Violence Survivors

In May a domestic violence case worker brought in a client, MC who had recently left her abusive husband. MC is the mother of one and needed help starting over. The case worker was able to help her in getting an apartment, but nothing else. Everything she had was left in her abusive home and she said she will never return there. MC was put on the furniture list and we gave her personal care items for herself and her child.

Two days later we received a phone call from a woman whose mother had passed away. She was packing up her mothers house and wanted to know if we could use these items. We immediately thought of MC and told the woman "yes we could". We told her we could use everything, that we have a woman starting over. Our furniture staff went out and picked up 30 boxes of house hold items. After going through all the boxes we realized we had a lot more than one family could use. A few phone calls were made and we ended up not only helping one family but three. Two in Orleans county and one in Genesee county.

What a wonderful gift this daughter has given in her mothers name.

Help us put people's lives back in balance, so they can once again be self-supporting and regain their confidence.



*We have grown literally afraid to be poor. We despise anyone who elects to be poor in order to simplify and save his inner life. If he does not join the general scramble and pant with the money-making street, we deem him spiritless and lacking in ambition. ~ William James*

### MEMORIALS

(Received by June 15, 2006)

**Dorothy Hartman**

by Mr. and Mrs. Frank Theeman  
and Family

**Holly Starwell**

by Ken and Elizabeth Rush

**Bob Cahoon**

by Madonna Elmore

**Gary Blanc**

by Gloria Gruber

**Ann Zeis**

by Frank Zeis

A donation to the Genesee Orleans Ministry of Concern in the name of a relative or friend is a meaningful gift for a birthday, anniversary, Christmas or other festive occasion. Send with your donation the name and address of the person in whose name the gift is being made and we will send a card with your best wishes and acknowledging your gift.

We will send a sympathy card acknowledging your memorial gift to the family of a deceased relative or friend.

### **Gifts given to the Ministry of Concern**

A gift was given in honor of Sister Marian Adrian by Susan Locke.

A donation was made in honor of Sister Dolores O'Dowd by Bill Bertsch

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



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*“A human being is part of a whole, called by us the ‘universe,’ a part limited in time and space. He experiences himself, his thoughts and feelings, as something separated from the rest— a kind of optical delusion of his consciousness. This delusion is a kind of prison for us, restricting us to our personal desires and to affection for a few persons nearest us. Our task must be to free ourselves from this prison by widening our circles of compassion to embrace all living creatures and the whole of nature in its beauty.”*

*- Albert Einstein*

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

If you live in either Genesee or Orleans County would you consider giving an occasional hour or two of your time? It is a great help to our staff to have people available to answer the telephone and it need not be on a regular basis. If you can help or would like more information, please call the office in Albion at 589-9210 or in Batavia at 343-5452.

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Jori VanNostrand..... Coordinator Just Friends Program  
Jacob Warney.....Furniture Program

**CONTACT US**

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**FAX.....(585) 589-9617**

**BATAVIA OFFICE.....(585) 343-5452**  
**FAX.....(585) 343-5503**

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