

Dialogue

A reflective journal about faith and action
from Madison-area Urban Ministry

Fall 2010

Acting on our “Divine dissatisfaction”

There’s a lot to be said for asking the right questions. Reverend Jim Wallis writes that it doesn’t matter how good the answer is, if it’s the wrong question it won’t get us where we need to go. And too often we ask the wrong questions.

Dr. Reverend Martin Luther King’s last speech as President of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference was entitled “Where do we go from Here?” Written in 1967 it was a speech focused on racism, economics, poverty, and action. Dr. King said “...Now we’ve got to get this thing right. What is needed is a realization that power without love is reckless and abusive, and love without power is sentimental and anemic. Power at its best is love implementing the demands of justice, and justice at its best is power correcting everything that stands against love” He went on “...(Economist) John Kenneth Galbraith said that a guaranteed annual income could be done for about twenty billion dollars a year. And I say to you today, that if our nation can spend thirty-five billion dollars a year to fight an unjust, evil war in Vietnam, and twenty billion dollars to put a man on the moon, it can spend billions of dollars to put God’s children on their own two feet right here on earth.”

Forty three years later it is still about racism, economics, poverty and action. Forty-three years later not only are we still spending billions of dollars on war, we are now spending over thirty-five billion dollars a year to incarcerate

millions of men and women, stripping them of their right to vote, passing legislation that makes it difficult for them to find housing and work. Forty three years later the number of children living in poverty in our community is rising with children comprising over 30% of those who are homeless in Dane County. The number of individuals without a home in our community is rising. At the same time the work of

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government is held prisoner by politicians more in debt to special interests than to constituents, more concerned with tax cuts for those making over \$250,000 a year than to the very real threat to the economic security faced by individuals and families reaching unemployment cut offs. It’s time we spoke truth to power and become righteously indignant about the status quo, about the greed and unethical conduct of businesses and companies that put profit above all else. As people of faith we cannot remain silent on this truth.

In the conclusion of his speech, Dr. King charged his listeners to go forth with a “divine dissatisfaction.” He said “let us be dissatisfied until America will no longer have a high blood pressure of creeds and an anemia of deeds. Let us be dissatisfied until the tragic walls that separate the outer city of wealth and comfort and the inner city of poverty and despair shall be crushed by the battering rams of the forces of justice. Let us be dissatisfied until those that live on the outskirts of hope are brought to the metropolis of daily security. Let us be dissatisfied until slums are cast into the junk heaps of history and every family is living in a decent, sanitary home. Let us be dissatisfied until the dark yesterdays of segregated schools will be transformed into bright tomorrows of quality, integrated education. Let us be dissatisfied until integration is not seen as a problem but as an opportunity to participate in the beauty of diversity. Let us be dissatisfied until men and women, however black they may be, will be judged on the basis of the content of their character and not the basis of the color of their skin. Let us be dissatisfied...”

It’s about asking the right questions.

Are we satisfied that on a daily basis men, women and children can find no shelter because we are not adequately addressing poverty and homelessness?

Are we satisfied that we can spend millions of dollars on development

Dissatisfaction *from page 1*

projects but not adequately fund our social services safety net?

Are we satisfied that the State is not living up to its responsibility to adequately fund public education, which we know is one of the most effective routes out of poverty?

Are we satisfied that Wisconsin and Dane County rank among the worst in terms of racial disparities in incarceration rates?

Are we satisfied that after a decline in infant mortality rates among African American children in Dane County the rate has begun to increase?

Instead of asking "where can we cut services?" we should be asking "what would this city, this county, this state and this country look like if we were willing to invest in all of our neighbors at the same level we're willing to

invest in development and war?" What would our community look like if we effectively reduced homelessness, expanded mental health and substance abuse services, provided greater support for families and children in need, and focused on creating jobs that offered livable wages, health insurance and paid sick leave?

Some people have suggested that we're getting political, we are not. We are getting personal and getting personal can be far more challenging and uncomfortable for politicians than getting political. We're asking those we put in public office and those who represent us on committees and boards to hear the voices of those who are struggling, to hear what real people, not corporations, are saying and to respond in a personal rather than political way.

The other night I was downtown near the capitol, it was 11:30 p.m., walking to my car I noticed a woman with three children, one around 8 and two toddlers in a stroller. They were sitting in a bus shelter and the toddlers were crying. I wondered whether these four were among those who had been turned away from the Warming House that night because there was no room. I had spent most of the week pondering Dr. King's question "Where do we go from here" on a political scale. As I watched that mother try to comfort her children I wondered whether they too were asking "where do we go from here?" It's personal and it's up to us.

With "Divine Dissatisfaction,"
Linda Ketcham, Director

Where do we go from here?

MUM's Greater Isthmus Group (GIG) takes up the question.

Where do we go from here? MUM's Greater Isthmus Group (GIG) is a group of representatives from faith communities, community organizations, and concerned citizens some with and some without permanent housing. Traditionally GIG has been concerned with housing issues and it was GIG that helped secure the initial funding to start the Warming House. This past spring and summer GIG has been focused on what communities and people of faith can do to help strengthen and improve our shelter system while focusing on long term solutions to homelessness. On April 13 we held a luncheon at Mt. Zion Church entitled "Homelessness: Connecting the Faith Community. At that event attendees heard from various agencies working with individuals on housing who discussed their need for volunteers.

On August 10th a follow-up event was held. Over 85 individuals representing 31 faith communities gathered


at First United Methodist Church. Participants had the opportunity to engage in conversation over dinner about the shelter system and the growing needs in our community. A panel of representatives from several agencies, including Porchlight, Briar Patch, the Salvation Army and the YWCA talked about their services and the growing need in Dane County. After the panel discussion attendees had the opportunity to gather in smaller groups to talk about ways in which their congregation may become more involved.

If you or your congregation would like to learn more about the work of GIG, contact Barbara McKinney at MUM. Participation in GIG is open to all; GIG meets the third Thursday of each month (November 18, December 16th) at Immanuel Lutheran Church, 1021 Spaight St., Madison. Meetings run from 8:30 a.m. until 10:00 a.m.



MUM is proud to be a member of the Wisconsin Network for Peace and Justice

Dialogue is a reflective journal of faith and action printed by Madison-area Urban Ministry staff. The positions expressed here are the opinions of the authors and not necessarily the board of directors or funding sources of MUM. All individual members and all faith communities in Dane County receive a copy. Individual membership in MUM is encouraged. Please mail contributions to our address below.



United Way of Dane County



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Warming House usage (per Salvation Army)

These numbers represent the month of August:

Date	People served	People turned away (due to lack of space)
Aug. 1	18 people (5 families)	
Aug. 2	18 people (5 families)	
Aug. 3	21 people (6 families)	13 people (4 families)
Aug. 4	24 people (7 families)	
Aug. 5	21 people (5 families)	13 people (4 families)
Aug. 6	23 people (7 families)	15 people (5 families)
Aug. 7	23 people (7 families)	
Aug. 8	22 people (7 families)	11 people (4 families)
Aug. 9	24 people (7 families)	2 people (1 family)
Aug. 10	25 people (7 families)	8 people (3 families)
Aug. 11	22 people (7 families)	26 people (7 families)
Aug. 12	23 people (5 families)	19 people (6 families)
Aug. 13	22 people (5 families)	16 people (5 families)
Aug. 14	19 people (6 families)	
Aug. 15	17 people (5 families)	
Aug. 16	14 people (4 families)	
Aug. 17	24 people (7)	2 people (1 family)
Aug. 18	24 people (7 families)	7 people (2 families)
Aug. 19	23 people (7 families)	6 people (2 families)
Aug. 20	22 people (6 families)	12 people (3 families)
Aug. 21	24 people (7 families)	
Aug. 22	21 people (6 families)	
Aug. 23	24 people (7 families)	9 people (3 families)
Aug. 24	22 people (6 families)	10 people (3 families)
Aug. 25	23 people (7 families)	10 people (3 families)
Aug. 26	21 people (6 families)	3 people (1 family)
Aug. 27	21 people (6 families)	7 people (1 family)
Aug. 28	21 people (6 families)	
Aug. 29	20 people (6 families)	8 people (2 families)
Aug. 30	7 people (2 families)	
Aug. 31	22 people (6 families)	

December 21st

National Homeless Persons Memorial Day

December 21st, the longest night of the year, MUM will again participate in the National Homeless Persons Memorial Day. The purpose of the event is to raise public awareness regarding homelessness, but more importantly to remember those in our community who were homeless and who have died this past year. It is a recognition too that people who are homeless are often the victims of violence, often die of preventable medical conditions because they lack healthcare, and may also experience mental illness or addiction that further complicate their ability to find permanent housing.

Walk with us

We will gather outside of the Madison Library on W. Mifflin Street at 4:15 and stand and wait with the men lining up for a spot at the Men's Shelter at Grace Episcopal. We will again partner with Community Action Coalition, Dialogues on Homelessness, faith communities and members of the community for this event.

4:15 p.m. Gather at Madison Library

4:30 p.m. Walk with the men from the library to the alley near Grace Episcopal where the men are allowed to gather.

4:45 p.m. Walk with the men as they go to the Courtyard at Grace.

5:00 p.m. Shelter doors open. We will proceed to the bench near the statue on the corner of Pinkney and King St. for our memorial service.

We need your help

We hope you will join us this year, we will have refreshments for the men, as well as warm hats, gloves and scarves.

To help, or to learn more, please contact Linda at linda@emum.org to learn more or if your congregation would be willing to provide refreshments or winter clothing.

Housing First

By Nan Cnare, Vice President United Way of Dane County

We all know that homeless shelters are part of the landscape for providing a short term safety net for homeless families. But homeless shelters do not end homelessness. The solution to homelessness is access to stable, affordable housing and for some households, quality case management.

Housing first is an emerging innovation that works to move people quickly from homelessness into their own apartment in the community. Based on the research evidence that a homeless household's first and primary need is to obtain stable housing and that other issues that helped create that homelessness or impact the household can't be properly addressed until housing is obtained. Traditional shelter programs operate from a concept that families should address other issues first that led to homelessness before they can enter stable housing.

Research in more than a dozen communities in the U.S. with Housing First programs shows that 80% of the households served have succeeded in maintaining housing in the community for up to 8 years (the length of the research). By comparison, traditional shelter programs that do not provide the intensive follow-up case management have a success rate of 37% in achieving long term stable community housing for their families.

Housing first centers on providing people who are homeless with housing as quickly as possible and then providing services as needed. This approach has the benefit of being consistent with what most people experiencing homelessness want and seek help to achieve. This is especially needed for families who face complicated economic, domestic violence, social, health, mental health issues. In

turn, many of these families need surprisingly little support or assistance to achieve independence, once stabilized, saving the system considerable costs in the long term, as born out by national and local research and data analysis.

Housing First programs share critical elements: a focus on helping households access and sustain permanent rental housing as quickly as possible, with varying degrees of financial support; a variety of quality support services delivered to promote housing and financial stability; supportive and involved landlords. Locally several agencies have worked collaboratively with the United Way of Dane County to bring Housing First to Dane County residents, including The Road Home, the YWCA, Porchlight and Community Action Coalition. To learn more about Housing First visit www.unitedwaydanecounty.org.

Take Back the Land

Z Luke Haukeness

Take Back the Land – Madison seeks to elevate housing to the level of a human right by engaging in the live-in movement to move homeless families into vacant, bank-owned homes, defend families from foreclosure-related evictions, and protect families from eviction from public housing.

Take Back the Land – Madison believes housing is a fundamental human right. It is our social responsibility to ensure the most basic needs of all community members are met – most specifically that everyone has access to housing. Take Back the Land – Madison seeks the following policy changes:

1. Corporate bailed-out banks sell vacant properties for \$1 each to local, community run non-profits (such as the Madison Area Community Land Trust) to turn into

affordable housing for low-income families...

2. The police and Sheriff's departments adopt a policy of non-enforcement of foreclosure related evictions and evictions from bank-owned properties (as has happened in Detroit and Miami), allowing families to continue living in properties that would otherwise remain vacant.
3. The City Council and County Board adopt a vacant housing ordinance in which the owners of vacant properties are fined progressively for keeping a property vacant for more than a year (thus encouraging these properties to be sold for owner-occupancy or rented for the benefit of families needing housing).
4. The City Council and County Board adopt an ordinance halting

foreclosure-related evictions, instead requiring banks to sign one-year leases for the current residents whereby they would pay 30% of their income in rent.

5. That the Community Development Authority, Dane County Housing Authority, and managers of private Section-8 housing projects put a halt to all evictions except those deemed to be safety hazard to the community, determined by a 2/3 vote of housing residents as part of a community council.
6. That the City of Madison designate one park near downtown where it be made legal for street-homeless people to sleep if they have no other place to go.

The people's affordable housing vision

Modified from the *People's Affordable Housing Vision website*

The People's Affordable Housing Vision sets forth a vision for the Madison area to expand low income housing opportunities, ensure dignity and a path to stable housing for people experiencing homelessness, provide greater accountability for violations of local housing laws and increase local government resources to support housing programs.

The plan sets forth a number of recommendations, listed below is a brief description of each recommendation. For a more complete description of the recommendations go to: <http://www.thepetitionsite.com/128/support-the-peoples-affordable-housing-vision/>

- 1). Pursue innovative permanent low-income housing options: pursue development and prevent further demolition of single room occupancy housing (SROs); expand affordable options through housing cooperatives, co-housing and community land trusts...
- 2). Expand the Warming House: The City and County should work together to study how warming house services could be expanded so families are not turned away from shelter. More immediately the city should appropriate \$10,000 for the Salvation Army to use to secure alternate shelter for families using the Warming House who have sick children, as a public health measure.
- 3) Expand quality case management services for homeless and formerly homeless individuals...
- 4) City Grant Writer: Hire a city grant writer to seek federal and foundation funding for not only homelessness and housing issues, but staff support and training for funded agencies.
- 5) Property Tax Fairness - LLC's: investigate taxes lost through sales of LLCs which result in the true value of the property not being accurately reflected.
- 6) Greater enforcement of MGO Chapter 32 "Landlord and Tenant": the City Attorney's office should hire a full-time person to field tenant complaints of lease violations.
- 7) Expand language access and bilingual information and services to help LEP populations: hire more bilingual staff (Spanish and Hmong) in city departments including Housing Operations, Building Inspections, and Municipal Court.
- 8) Housing Operations Ombudsman: An ombudsman should be added to Community Development Authority of the City of Madison Housing Operations Unit and the Dane County Housing Authority to help resolve disputes between the housing authorities and those who participate in their subsidized housing.
- 9) Security Deposit Loan Program: The Security Loan Program, a program developed in Iowa City, would be a jointly established program between local housing organizations and a local bank to provide no-interest loans for rental security deposits.
- 10) Protect Tenants from irrelevant, unreliable and dated credit history: Housing providers should be prohibited from denying an application for residential tenancy based solely on: filing of an eviction action which resulted in dismissal, credit history which is unrelated to a housing obligation, or credit history related to housing obligation more than two years old.
- 11) Protect the use of Service Animals: support specifically expanding local equal opportunity ordinances to prohibit discrimination in housing and public accommodations against persons who have animals which a qualified professional has recommended as providing a beneficial service or support.

MUM supports the People's Vision. If you'd like to sign on to the Vision, go to <http://bit.ly/ppshsng> to sign the petition.

Madison Homeless Initiative

Dialogues on Homelessness

This year is the fourth season for the Dialogues, the focus this year is *Nurturing Our Capacity for Change*. Facilitated by Donna Asif, the Dialogues provide an opportunity for members of the community to come together, the program reaches out to the most vulnerable members of our community. The program is a holistic approach to working with those who find themselves homeless and helps facilitate services to meet unmet needs. The Dialogues on Homelessness is inclusive, 30% of those participating are experiencing homelessness, and the sessions are professionally facilitated.

Meetings are the Second Saturday (no meeting 2/11) from 1:30 - 3:30 p.m. at the Madison Public Library on West Mifflin St. The next meeting is November 13th.

For more information contact Donna at madisonhomelessinitiative@gmail.com.

Family Connections comes home

In April of this year Family Connections officially came home to MUM. Family Connections provides transportation for children and caregivers to Taycheedah Correctional Institution and John Burke Correctional Institution to visit their incarcerated mothers. The program was established under MUM's umbrella in 1999. The program spun off in 2004 and ran as its own non-profit organization until the realities of the current economy took a toll on the program's contracts and financial support. In February Family Connection's Board of Directors and MUM entered into an agreement to bring the program back to MUM permanently as part of our Restorative Justice programming. In May trips to Taycheedah resumed and in September we resumed the Reading Connections portion of the program where volunteers record incarcerated moms reading books to their children, the DVD, book and a note from mom are then sent to the child. We are currently making trips every other month and need volunteers and financial support.

If you would like to learn more about Family Connections contact Linda at linda@emum.org or 608-256-0906.

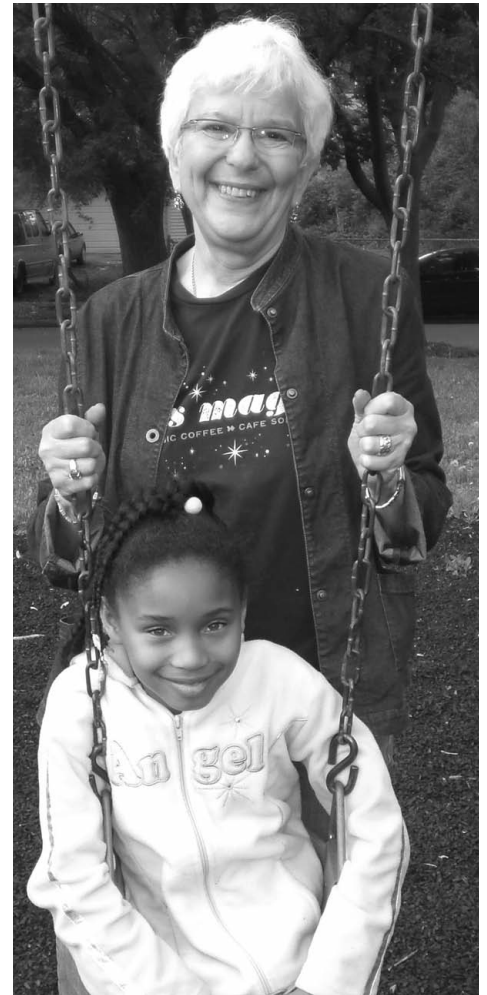


Jerome Dillard and his match are getting their hot dogs at the Grill-Out event.

Mentoring Connections: Life After Federal Funding

In September of this year we learned that we would not be receiving a third three year federal grant to support Mentoring Connections. However, Mentoring Connections has always required an agency match, meaning that the federal grant did not comprise the total income for the program. Knowing that federal funding applications are never guaranteed we have developed a strategy and funding plan to continue Mentoring Connections, a program that provides community based volunteer mentoring to children of incarcerated parents.

Created by MUM in 2003, the Mentoring Connections program recruits, screens and trains caring adults to mentor children of incarcerated parents. While the loss of federal funding poses a challenge, we are committed to continuing this specialized program, the only one in Dane County that offers specialized, community based mentoring for children of incarcerated parents. We are hoping you will help us through your time as a volunteer, perhaps a financial gift to Mentoring and Family Connections, or both.



Linda Newman and her match.

Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

MUM gives special recognition and thanks to TDS Metrocom for their ongoing support to hold regular events for the children, their brothers and sisters, the mentors and the caregiver's children. This year's Spring Into Summer Garden program was a great success. We were joined by horticulturalist Jason Garlynd of the Kids Garden Outreach Network of Oakhill Corrections Institution. We now look forward to a holiday party for Mentoring Connections.

Thank you for all you did for the kids, Jason, and a **BIG THANKS** to TDS Metrocom!



L: TDS Metrocom volunteers serve up hot dogs and burgers at the Mentoring Connections Grill-Out!

Mentoring Connections Grill-Out at Penn Park was a fun and tasty success

“MUM’s “Spring into Summer” gathering for Mentoring Connections was held in Penn Park. The Kids Garden Outreach Network of the Oakhill Correctional Institution in Oregon seeded and grew a variety of ornamental and food plants for the children. Jason Garlynd held a brief garden program and instructed the children about the kinds of plants. He showed them how to nurture their plants in a window box or a garden. Each child got to pick a variety of plants to take home. Volunteers from TDS brought a big grill and served up a wonderful picnic dinner. Mentors and their matches enjoyed meeting new friends. It was a perfect beginning for to the summer season!”

Many thanks to TDS Metrocom and Jason Garlynd and the Kids Garden Outreach Network.

L: Garden plants were a big attraction.



Mentor Mike Sweitzer-Beckman and his match get out on the court.



Horticulturalist Jason Garlynd talks about plants and every child got some plants to take home and grow!

2010 has been a year of transitions at MUM

MUM moves to new home and adjusts to many staff changes

2010 has been filled with transitions for MUM. In February we relocated to our new space in the old Villager Mall. We hope you will stop in during our Open House on November 4th, 3:00 – 6:00 p.m., 2300 S. Park St., Suite 2022, Madison, WI 53713. Help us honor those who have given so much to MUM and our mission, join with us as we celebrate where we have been and where we are going with our shared ministry.



Linda Ketcham reads the plaque presented to Everett Mitchell in honor of his work with MUM.

Everett Mitchell graduates law school, accepts new role

In June Associate Director Everett Mitchell, a new UW Law School graduate accepted a position with the Dane County District Attorney's office. As sad as we were to lose Everett (although he still volunteers with Mentoring Connections), we are very pleased to know that he brings his passion for justice and an understanding of the challenges faced by men and women involved with the criminal justice system to the District Attorney's office.

Barbara McKinney promoted

In June 2010, Barbara McKinney was promoted to the position of Associate Director.

Barbara had served as the Program Coordinator for the Circles of Support program since 2006. Barbara moved to Madison in 2005 from St. Louis, MO. Before moving to Madison, Barbara was a Senior Retirement Specialist,

managing her own business for over 18 years. She was a special education teacher, and had worked for the East-West Gateway Council of Governments. Barbara has degrees in Special Education, and Master's degrees in Business Administration and Urban Planning and Public Policy Analysis. Barbara volunteers extensively in the Madison community and currently serves on several nonprofit boards.

Welcome John Givens

With Barbara assuming the Associate Directorship, John Givens was hired as the Circles of Support Coordinator. Since 1983 John has been a business owner, served on numerous non-profit boards, worked with youth and adults as a Supervisor with the Wisconsin Department of Juvenile Corrections Sprite Program (John was with the program for 17 years), and he has served as a consultant to various organizations working with at risk youth. John is very knowledgeable about reintegration challenges and strategies for youth and adults' skill building, youth gang intervention, resource development and making the connections that are integral to a person's success in maintaining a health and productive life. John's personal experience in prison is now an asset to MUM. In 1980, John Givens was released from the Wisconsin Correctional system after serving eight years in prison.

Welcome Ya'qub Shabazz

Ya'qub Shabazz joined the staff as a Resource Specialist in July. Ya'qub was born and raised on Chicago's South Side, Ya'qub dropped out of school in his freshman year of high school and headed to Job Corps in Morganfield Kentucky where he, along with many other young men found escape from the trials of the inner city. After spending several years in the U.S. Army he worked odd

jobs until he was laid off. He then decided to commit an armed robbery to get money. He was ultimately sentenced to prison for his crime and served seven years in prisons in Wisconsin, Oklahoma, and Tennessee. While incarcerated Ya'qub prepared himself for release almost immediately by studying and preparing to build a life.

After his release, Ya'qub went on to work for several area organizations, acting as a mentor and example to many men and women who have been released from prison. Ya'qub served several years as the Co-chair for Voices Beyond Bars, served on the Madison-area Urban Ministry Board of Directors from 2005 through 2008, and remains an active voice for justice in our community. Ya'qub's hope is that organizations like MUM (an organization that acted as a vehicle in his own re-entry process) remain active in the development of effective programming, ensuring public safety and creating an environment where prisoners can be redeemed and reintegrated into society.



George and Nancy Anderson, with the plaque thanking George for his years of service to MUM.

George Anderson retires

In July our long time Accountant George Anderson decided retire to join his lovely wife Nancy as she retired from Lakeview Lutheran Church. George was with MUM for eight years and helped navigate us

through the ups and downs of a small non-profit. He also helped us build and support numerous incubator projects. Upon George's retirement we just couldn't find the right candidate to fill his shoes, so after a candidate search we decided to work with Catherine Joy and Acede Accounting Services.

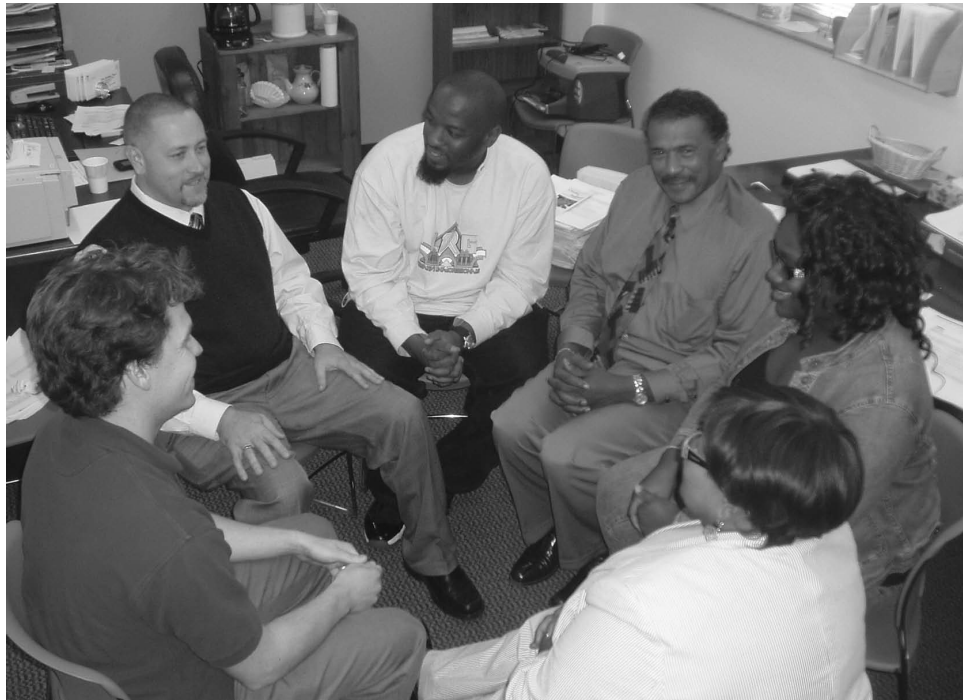
Jerome Dillard moves on

Also in July, Resource Specialist Jerome Dillard left MUM to explore new interests. Jerome was with MUM for nearly five years and was instrumental in the building of both Voices Beyond Bars and the Journey Home program. Jerome is well known throughout the community for his work in raising the issues and challenges faced by formerly incarcerated men and women and we miss him greatly.

AmeriCorps volunteers join MUM

Also this year we have been blessed to be part of the United Way's Volunteer Mobilization initiative. As such, we were one of the sites included in their AmeriCorps funding application, and now have two full-time AmeriCorps members. Conrad Wiles and LaVaisha Terry join us as AmeriCorps Members/Circles of Support Volunteer Coordinators. They will be helping to recruit new volunteers, recruitment, training, and helping coordinate and organize volunteer materials.

Conrad came to Madison in 2002 for school, he obtained his Bachelors at UW in 2006. In addition to working in a couple of research offices at the University, he has spent the past couple of years exploring his curiosity in the criminal justice system. Most notably, he participated in a Restorative Justice class for inmates inside of Columbia Correctional Institution. Earlier in the year he served on a Circle of Support. Conrad is contemplating pursuing his Master's Degree in Social Work.



Members of MUM's Re-Entry Team gather to discuss the practice of restorative circle-keeping. L to R: Conrad Wiles (AmeriCorps Member) – Joshua Clauer (Resource Specialist) – Ya'qub Shabazz (Resource Specialist) – John Givens (Coordinator, Circles of Support and Re-Entry Service Fairs) – Lavaisha Terry (AmeriCorps Member) – Barbara McKinney (Associate Director of MUM).

LaVaisha Terry came to Madison as a first-generation college student who currently attends UW-Madison. She will be graduating in May 2011 with a Bachelors in Social Work and with certificates in Criminal Justice and Women's Studies. After graduating and completing her AmeriCorps service, she will be pursuing a Masters in Social Work.

As you can see we have a lot of new faces and a lot of new energy to take MUM and our programs to new places! We truly hope you'll stop by for our Open House and meet our new staff, tour our new space and share some refreshments with us.

Welcome Bill Bittner

Bill has been hired as the janitor to clean the office twice weekly. He formerly worked at Urban League. He is keeping us much more tidy than we used to be.

In Loving Memory

DeLoyd McCoy

May 12, 1957 – October 11, 2010

We at MUM, volunteers and staff were saddened by the loss of our friend DeLoyd McCoy. DeLoyd was a loving brother, father, grandfather and friend. He was an avid fisherman with a quick smile, a mischeivous gleem in his eye and a kind heart. DeLoyd loved to cook, and he took great pride in his work and he worked hard – ask anyone who works on the fifth floor of the City County building. DeLoyd's life, while not without significant struggle, offered hope to many. He touched many lives through his willingness to share, his gregarious personality and his sense of humor. We will miss him and extend our deepest sympathies to his siblings, daughter and granddaughters.

Annual Meeting, “Advocacy Opportunities for Interfaith Collaboration”

By Rev. Lori Powell

Our annual meeting was held on June 15th, a beautiful summer day in downtown Madison at Grace Episcopal Church. In the afternoon we had two workshops reviewing the reports by: The Dane County Task Force on Poverty and the Dane County Report on Racial Disparities in the Criminal Justice System. We went through the recommendations of each report to better understand how we as faith communities can work together, supporting and building on the recommendations for the betterment of the community. Since June, when MUM has become aware of an advocacy opportunity for any of the recommendations, we have provided that information through email to the attendees of the Annual Meeting and other MUM supporters who have expressed an interest in these issues. Providing leadership in alerting faith community was one agreed upon action point.

Greta Hanson and Michael Bashford presented on the Dane County Task Force on Poverty. One of the strongest recommendations that emerged is to make the County Board Task Force on Poverty a permanent Commission.

Celia Jackson presented on the Dane County Task Force Report on Racial Disparities in the Criminal Justice System. It was noted that Minnesota has half the Wisconsin budget for prisons and half the number of people incarcerated. It isn't that Minnesotans are so different from Wisconsinites but that Minnesota is way ahead on restorative justice. Another important point is how crucial it is to keep kids of color out of the criminal justice system and to make sure our schools are working for children of color.

Listed below are the top ten recommendations from each Task Force. The full reports can be found at the Dane

County website, at www.countyofdane.com. If we keep them as a part of the community conversation when it comes to making decisions, voting, and evaluating our community, we can make a difference.

Recommendations from the Task Force on Poverty:

It is crucial to keep kids of color out of the criminal justice system and to make sure our schools are working for them.

1. Consider the Impact of people in poverty before making any decision regarding finance, zoning, ordinances, resolutions and otherwise.
2. Restore proposed cuts to vital Human Services Programs throughout Dane County and resolve to maintain or increase the level of investment in these services.
3. Make the Task Force a permanent Commission.
4. Collaborate with municipal and school leaders to maximize resources for households affected by poverty.
5. Ensure that future transportation plans include practical and affordable options for people in poverty to improve access to jobs and services.
6. Transportation planning to senior citizens.
7. Support the expansion of community and pantry gardens.
8. Adopt a self-sufficiency matrix to measure progress out of poverty.

The Top Ten Priority

Recommendations that may not require funding from the Dane County Task Force on Racial Disparities in the Criminal Justice system.

1. Hold regular meetings between deferred prosecution and diversion program managers and Criminal

Justice Partners, to share program information and racial demographics of referrals, admissions, and outcomes.

2. Conduct testing for employment discrimination based on race and offender status among Dane County employers.
3. Sheriff's deputies should not notify immigration (ICE) about inmates booked into the jail for minor offenses and bailiffs should not notify ICE or detain immigrant residents who come to the courthouse, even if they have an immigration hold, as it is not required by law.
4. Support efforts in the state Legislature to reduce driver's license suspensions for failure to pay child support, drug violations and unpaid traffic citations.
5. Increase representation of people of color working in the criminal justice system, including prosecutors, public defenders, court personnel, law enforcement, probation/parole agents and court personnel.
6. Establish a community education program to teach residents about their rights and about strategies to help those most affected by racial disparities take personal responsibility to keep themselves free of the criminal justice system.
7. Law enforcement should issue enforceable warnings in lieu of arrests for low-level, high discretion offenses.
8. Develop Racial Impact Statements prior to implementing initiatives, policies or ordinances.
9. Build routine data collection and assessment of racial/ethnic disparities into all Criminal Justice Partners' processes, and require the collection of Latino/Hispanic ethnicity data.
10. Call to Action for our leaders to make a commitment and give high priority to reducing racial disparities in Dane County's criminal justice system.

City and County budgets don't keep pace with need or costs

Is this okay with you? Will you make a call or write a letter ?

Neither the City of Madison's proposed budget nor the Dane County Executive's proposed budget kept pace with the growing demand on human services this year as requests for funding to the city topped \$11 million with only \$5.5 million budgeted. The proposed budget includes significant cuts to many long standing community programs while increasing funding to others or granting new funding to previously unfunded programs.

Many people are paying a high cost for the County's flat budget

At the County level the County Executive has proposed a budget that holds purchase of service agency funding at the 2010 level. Were it not for the fact that agencies took an across the board 2.8% cut in 2010 and before that most agencies experienced years of flat funding, the proposed 2011 budget would be good news. For most businesses, when your income remains flat or decreases you cut back, however purchase of service agencies with the county are not afforded that option. In fact the need for services has increased and agencies are doing their best to meet the need. Adjusted over the last decade for inflation and we find that many non-profits that contract with Dane County Human Services have experienced a budget hit.

County has options to support the work of social service agencies

An additional problem with the Dane County budget is the amendment proposed to reduce funding for developmental disabilities services. At the Public Hearing on October 25th County Supervisors heard from over 400 people through registrations and testimony, over 350 of those individuals were there to oppose cuts to the Developmental Disabilities budget and to try to preserve the 2010 human services funding. There is some wiggle room in the county budget, sales tax

revenues as reported at the end of September are higher than the budget assumed, providing perhaps nearly \$900,000 in additional funding. The County could also explore ways to help the non-profit agencies address their rising costs, for example explore the possibility of allowing private non-profits to purchase into the county's insurance plan to provide greater purchasing power to smaller non-profits.

It's not too late to influence City budget decisions

The budget process is not over, City Council members and Dane County Supervisors need to hear from their constituents. We must ask the right question - what are our priorities? Do we value all of our neighbors? What would our community look like if we adequately funded housing and

homeless services providers, mental health and substance abuse services, education, the list goes on. Are we, as Dr. King said "divinely dissatisfied?" or will you tell the woman being abused by her husband who is trying to get out that the County's only Domestic Violence shelter is full and that you can put her on a waiting list? Could you tell a mother with three children, ages 3,5 and 8 that they will have to sleep on the streets tonight because the warming house is full?

Could you tell a mother with three children, ages 3,5 and 8 that they will have to sleep on the streets tonight because the warming house is full?

Create hope!

Are you satisfied with the status quo or will you be moved to make a call or write a letter? William Sloane Coffin wrote "Hope criticizes what is, hopelessness rationalizes it. Hope resists, hopelessness adapts." Will you resist or adapt? It's up to us.

Poverty is on the rise in Wisconsin

According to data from the American Community Survey, released through the U.S. Census Bureau, Wisconsin's child poverty rate increased significantly in 2009, from 13.4% in 2004 to 16.7% in 2009. The poverty rate among African American children in Wisconsin was 48% in 2009. Although that rate is still lower than the national average (20%), the rate of increase in Wisconsin was greater than the national increase. What this translates to in actual numbers is 214,000 Wisconsin children living in poverty, an increase of 42,000 children. Overall poverty rates in the state also increased to 12.4. Dane County's overall poverty rate was 13.3%. Nearly half of Dane County residents are spending over 30% of their income on rent

**In 2009,
the poverty rate among African
American children in Wisconsin was**

48%

and utilities. Wisconsin also experienced an increase in the number of people without health insurance as more individuals lost jobs, however, because of programs like Badger Care Plus, we fared much better in this category than many other states. In fact, Wisconsin's rate of 9.4% of individuals without health insurance was the 7th lowest nationally.

Source: WI Council on Children & Families



Beat the Winter Blues & All That Jazz

A Musical Fundraiser for Madison-area Urban Ministry

Thursday, March 3rd, 2011

4:30 to 7:30 PM

Top of the Park at the Inn on the Park

22 S. Carroll Street, Madison



Jan Wheaton will be headlining our entertainment.

This event, MUM's largest fundraising event of the year, will feature entertainment by the wonderful Jan Wheaton, a blues band, a silent auction, snacks, cash bar and a beautiful view of the city as the sun sets.

Tickets are \$25 and are available in advance at MUM or from our staff and Board members. Tickets will also be available at the door.

All proceeds will go to support MUM's work in Dane County. If you'd like to be a sponsor or donate to the auction, please call Linda at 608-256-0906.

**Be a sponsor, or
donate auction items!
OR -- do it all!**

**\$50 » Individual
Sponsor**
Includes one ticket.

**\$100 » Business/Corporate
Sponsor**
Includes two tickets.

Silent auction donations
are tax deductible. All sponsors and
auction contributors will be
acknowledged in event
material, promotions and
the MUM newsletter.

**Yes, I'd like to support MUM's work in our community
by helping with the 'Beat the Winter Blues' event**

Name/s _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone/s _____

Email _____

I have an auction item to donate. (Email lori@emum.org)

We'd like to be a Corporate/Business sponsor at the **\$100** level

I/We'd like to be an Individual sponsor at the **\$50** level

Additional tickets are \$25 per person. Please list how you would like your name or company's name to appear in the program and other listings:

Print clearly: _____

Please return this form **by February 22nd** with your check payable to:

Madison-area Urban Ministry

2300 S. Park St., #2022

Madison, WI 53713

Questions? Contact lori@emum.org

It's beyond time for a beer tax increase

Representative Terese Berceau's Office has indicated that they are getting ready to introduce legislation to increase the beer tax. The Beer Tax Increase legislation will be introduced in the January Session of the state legislature. The beer tax has not been raised in 40 years in Wisconsin. It's beyond time and it is beyond time to recognize the toll that drinking takes on our communities in Wisconsin. Wisconsin has a problem with binge drinking, we have the highest percentage of women who drink during pregnancy, we have a significant OWI problem and yet we chose to ignore the cost to all taxpayers when it comes to addressing the problems caused by alcohol abuse and addiction.

**It's
beyond time
to recognize the toll
that drinking takes
on our communities
in Wisconsin.**

Recognize the addiction

In our offices we work with individuals returning to the community from prison. We see lives torn apart by addiction, and let's remember that alcoholism is an addiction. Many of the men and women with whom we work who have drug related convictions are African Americans and many were sentenced to prison and supervision for possession. And yet, those who come to our offices as a result of OWI's are there only because they have committed the offense so many times they finally reached the felony level. There is a racial disparity here that needs to be named and challenged. Alcoholism is as destructive as addiction to crack or cocaine. Yet we tolerate repeated OWI

offenses, which tends to be an offense committed primarily by White males.

There has been great interest and effort on the part of elected officials to demonize and punish men and women who use marijuana, cocaine, crack, heroin, and other controlled substances. There has been virtually no interest in holding accountable men and women who drink alcohol and then get behind the wheel of an automobile, truck, motorboat or snowmobile putting in danger the lives of every other individual on the roadways and waterways. Why the reluctance? It seems hard to imagine that race doesn't play some role in this.

An increase in the beer tax would help raise funds to support drug and alcohol treatment programs in the community. Increased accessibility to treatment means a safer community and healthier families. It seems to us that a few extra pennies on a six pack is well worth the additional cost.

Thank you, Thank you, Thank you

We have been very fortunate this year to have the support of a number of wonderful foundations, community organizations and businesses and event sponsors:

Ristad Foundation
Alliant Energy Foundation
TDS Metrocom
Evjue Foundation
Madison Rotary Foundation
The Capital Kids Fund
Jan Wheaton
Vogel Brothers Foundation
Club Today Not Tomorrow
Proppa Intro
"R" Place on Park
Inn on the Park
M&I Bank
Burnie's Rock Shop
Leccia & Associates
Dale Carlson, Retirement Planner
Apartment Association of South
Central WI
WORT
SERRV

Barriques
Dardanelles
Fabu Mogaka
The Women of John Burke
Correctional Inst.
Coach Brett Bielema
The Men of Redgranite Correctional
Institution
Bunky's Cafe
HAIR on Monroe
Co. Supervisor Carousel Bayrd
Frank Remington Center UW Law
School
Kyle Richmond
Mary Fulton & Steve Koslov
Ernest & Helen Madsen
Fran Bicknell
Brian Blanchard
Paul Rusk
Doug & Kathy Johnson

Steve Tupper, LCSW
Congresswoman Tammy Baldwin
Co. Supervisor Denise Duranczyk &
Robert Komes
Co. Supervisor Tom Stoebig
Rev. Ken Pennings & Dr. John
Leonard
Sheila & Tom Spear
Linda Newman
Barbara Gerloff
Sister Mary Ellen Lewis
DJ Laurie
George & Audrey Hinger
Richard Wildermuth
Douglas & Carol Dalton
Kim Fisher

Of course we are also blessed to have the support of many faith communities and hundreds of volunteers.

Circles of Support

From prison to community... together we can do it

MUM continues to develop our Circles of Support program.

Volunteers come from diverse backgrounds and all walks of life. They are a reflection of the community through a diversity in occupations, ages, faith traditions and cultures.

The foundation of MUM's Circle of Support program is built on the principles of restorative justice.

- Victims, offenders, and community members working together in an effort to put things right
- Expect offenders to take steps to repair harm they have caused
- Seek to restore offenders to contributing members of society

Adjusting to community living after being incarcerated requires support

Our goal is to re-connect formerly incarcerated men and women with positive community role models to assist in their transition from prison to community. Volunteers in MUM's Circles support former prisoners to overcome the impact of their crime, past hardships, and the stigma of being labeled an offender.

Each Circle of Support consists of four to seven volunteers and one Core Team Member (the formerly incarcerated person). The circle requires a six-month commitment. Circles meet weekly for 90 minutes. Meetings are held at the MUM office or other public locations around the community.

The Circle

- Listens
- Supports
- Reduces isolation
- Provides positive role models
- Gives encouragement
- Helps to solve problems.

A volunteer's experience

“These men and women are not a forgotten population...we re-create a community, we re-create a sense of belonging, and we re-create a sense of hope.”

A client's experience

“I wake up every morning and give praise to my Father that I have people in my corner that are willing to take the time to help and work with me on my day-to-day issues.”

CIRCLES OF SUPPORT

If you are interested in volunteering for the Circles of Support program, please contact MUM. We are available to present to your organization or congregation about the Circles of Support.

Mentoring Connections and Family Connections

Making a difference ...one child at a time

Seventy percent of incarcerated women are mothers of dependent children. Children of incarcerated parents face health, isolation, attachment and bonding issues. They may also be at risk for going to prison themselves.

Mentors are adult volunteers who make a one-year commitment to spend an hour or more each week with their mentee child. Mentors participate with their mentee in group activities organized by MUM. Mentors are screened and trained and must be familiar with and non-judgmental about the children and their families.

Family Connections takes children to visit their mothers in prison. Knowing that their parent is safe and that the visits will occur regularly, a child will feel secure, be able to focus

“...[He] taught me that I can be like my dad in the good ways, that I can love my dad and still make different decisions.”

~A child's experience

on learning, and perform better in school and other activities.

MUM's Mentoring Connections and Family Connections programs help to maintain and strengthen family relationships affected by incarceration by giving support to children, their incarcerated parents, and the children's caregivers. MUM trains and supports the community members who volunteer to get involved.

You can make a difference in a child's life. To find out more, contact MUM!



MUM depends on your help

Learn about the many different ways to volunteer your time with Madison-area Urban Ministry. We hold regular Volunteer Information Sessions at the MUM office – you are invited to attend! These sessions require no commitment and we provide refreshments. At each session we tell you about MUM programs. Our volunteers help out by connecting with a program on a regular basis or by coming to a single event as a one-time-only helper. For details, contact MUM. We invite you to sign up for our Social Action Connection list serve or to join MUM’s Facebook group. However you reach us, we are happy to connect!

Volunteer Opportunities include:

Board service : working together to sustain and develop MUM

Mentoring Connections : mentoring the child of an incarcerated parent

Family Connections : accompanying children to visit their moms

Circles of Support : Re-connecting formerly incarcerated men and women with positive community role models who assist in the transition from prison to home

Office Assistance : helping with a variety of tasks in the MUM office

Returning Prisoner Simulations : guiding participants as they “take a walk in the shoes” of a newly released prisoner

Re-Entry Simulations : helping MUM conduct “rehearsals for re-entry” for prisoners who are near their release date

Please return this form to:

Madison-area Urban Ministry
2300 S. Park St., #2022
Madison, WI 53713

OR

Email Jackie at the MUM office
at jackie@emum.org

MUM would love to hear from you

Please let us know how you’d like to connect

___ I’d like to volunteer. Please contact me about:

- Board service
- Mentoring Connections (mentor to a child)
- Family Connections (visitation & reading programs)
- Circles of Support
- Office volunteer options
- Returning prisoner Simulations (in the community)
- Re-Entry Simulations (workshops in the prisons)

___ I’d like to know more. Please add me to your email list:.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Phone(s): _____

UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, November 18
8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

Greater Isthmus Group At Immanuel Lutheran Church, Spaight Street in Madison.

Sunday, November 21
2:30 p.m.

Interfaith Thanksgiving Celebration Lakeview Lutheran Church, Call Linda Ketcham at MUM for details.

Thursday, December 9

Mentoring & Family Connections Holiday Party Hosted by TDS Metrocom. Call Fabu at MUM for details.

Tuesday, December 21
4:15 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

National Homeless Persons Memorial Day. Starts at Madison Public Library on West Mifflin Street.

SAVE THE DATE : YOU ARE INVITED

Thursday, March 3, 2011
4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Beat the Winter Blues & All That Jazz

Top of the Park at the Inn on the Park. Featuring Jan Wheaton. Become a sponsor. Donate auction items. See details on page 12.

SAVE THE DATE : Thursday, March 3, 2011
Beat the Winter Blues & All That Jazz Top of the Park at the Inn on the Park. Featuring Jan Wheaton. Donate auction items. See details on page 12.

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Madison-area Urban Ministry
2300 South Park Street, #2022
Madison, WI 53713



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URBAN MINISTRY

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