

partnership



fall 2010



Dr. Donald Sampson, left, Samaritan Health Center's interim pediatrician, Eva Tan, the clinic's executive director, and nurses Susan Heller and Maureen Wiley, prepare for the arrival of a patient.

September 30 "Sermon on the Streets": Meeting people where they are

Danbury's Spring Street is a study in contrasts.

On the one hand, it is a stable downtown neighborhood that boasts the 158-year-old Octagon House, on the National Register of Historic Places; a 200-year-old house and 30 more houses built throughout the 1800s; two churches and at least four businesses – a neighborhood grocery store, a disc jockey business for weddings and other events; a heating contractor and an electrical contractor with an upscale home-entertainment business for high-end suburban homes.

But it also has a reputation, one that makes some Danburians avoid even driving down the through street – a reputation for drug deals and prostitution.

And adjacent to the grocery store is one of the city's homeless shelters and the Dorothy Day soup kitchen, which has been serving the city's homeless and needy each day with meals and shelter for more than 25 years.

It's these latter populations that Jericho Partnership ministry partner Christian Community Out-

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Samaritan Health Center not affected by federal law

The Christ-centered ministry of Samaritan Health Center in Danbury shouldn't be adversely affected by the new federal health care law – at least for the foreseeable future.

"I do believe the impact is going to be minimal," said Eva Tan, the clinic's executive director. "Most of our patients are undocumented, and the new law is not going to be beneficial for them."

"The population we serve is uninsured," Eva said, and that includes children whose parents are unemployed, who've lost a job or

recently moved into the state, as well as the undocumented.

And the federally-funded community health center in Danbury shouldn't affect Samaritan, either, even if its proposed multi-million-dollar, four-story clinic is built on Main Street to replace its North Street location. The federal clinic charges patients on a sliding scale depending on income, and many people may not be able to afford even those fees, she said.

"Samaritan is the only free pediatrics clinic in Danbury," Eva

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From the Chairman



Bill Beattie

LEADERSHIP: MOVING FROM HERE TO THERE

This past August more than 300 people from around Fairfield County gathered at Walnut Hill Community Church in Bethel for the 15th annual Willow Creek Association Global Leadership Summit, joined by more than 150,000 others around the world in 225 other satellite locations.

Jericho has co-sponsored this satellite event for the past three years because we believe good leadership is critical for volunteer-based organizations. The Summit is a great opportunity to pursue Paul's message to us in Romans 12:8: "If God has given you leadership ability, take the responsibility seriously."

I'd like to share with you some of my "take-aways" from the Summit that I have already put in my Jericho tool box. Much of it was framed by Bill Hybels, founder and senior pastor of Willow Creek Community Church, in his opening presentation on "Leadership: Moving People from Here to There."

Take-away #1 Moving from here to there

In order to strategically move people to "there," we must clearly explain why "here" is no longer acceptable. As Bob Pierce, founder of World Vision International, said, "Let our hearts be broken by the things that break the heart of God."

Take-away #2 The land between

In going from here to there, passing through the "land between" often brings tough times when excitement is waning and success is not obvious. Transformation is possible but hearts are at risk. Three things are essential when moving through the land between: Celebration of "achievement markers," re-filling of vision buckets, and a fantastic team.

Take-away #3 The fantastic team

Building a fantastic team that doesn't quit in the 'land between' should be based on four 'C's of candidate selection:

- Character (Is s/he a good person?)
- Competency (Can s/he do an excellent job?)
- Chemistry (Can s/he work smoothly with the team?)
- Culture (Does s/he embrace the organization's faith statement or values?)

Take-away #4 Mentor leadership is not rocket science

Mentoring leadership is intentional, focused on shaping the lives of people for whom we are genuinely concerned, based on principles that are accessible to anyone and everyone, and that are Biblical (2 Timothy 2:2).

Take-away #5 Noble organizations can make bad decisions

Bad decisions by noble organizations are still bad decisions. Humility is a key distinctive of leaders who make good decisions.

Join us

Finally, I'd like to return to Romans 12:8 and Paul's message to take the responsibility of leadership seriously. I believe this is a call for us to seek excellence in our leadership activities and to sharpen our leadership skills through practice and training.

The Jericho Partnership always has opportunities for leaders or people who would like to develop their leadership skills. Please call us and get engaged in His service.

We serve an awesome God! •

Bill Beattie is the founder and chairman of Jericho Partnership.

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Carrie Amos

THERE IS JOY IN THE JOURNEY

This is a busy season. As I write this, we at Jericho Partnership are prayerfully and strategically planning for next year as we wrap up our 2009-2010 fiscal year and reflect on what God has accomplished during the past year.

We are excited to be part of His work of uniting and mobilizing metro Danbury churches and Christ-centered word-and-deed ministries in His service to the city's at-risk communities. The strength of a unified, integrated effort is bringing hope and transformation in a way that has not been seen before in our city.

Here are some reasons to pause and celebrate some of the things God has accomplished through Jericho Partnership in the past year:

Expanded youth ministries

Jericho's youth ministry partners have expanded their outreach into the community, serving more than 600 city children and youth.

Pathways Academy completed its second school year and opened this September with three grades – sixth, seventh and eighth; **Pathways Danbury** welcomed a new ministry director to oversee the one-on-one mentoring program; **S.A.Y. Yes!** launched a holistic, individualized summer school program, extending its after-school program through the summer months; the **Young Life Danbury** staff continued to 'meet kids where they are;' and

the **Samaritan Health Center** – the only free pediatric clinic in the state – completed its first year, and is serving more than 500 uninsured city children.

Christ-centered services

Other ministry partners served hundreds of at-risk Danbury people with Christ-centered services. Some examples:

Christian Community Outreach Ministries graduated its first resident from Discipleship House transitional living program; **Young Life Danbury** increased its outreach to young adults at Western Connecticut State University in Danbury; **Highways and Hedges** doubled the capacity at its food pantry and moved to a larger, more central location; and a mentoring program is being planned for residents at **Amos House**, a transitional living program for homeless women and their young children.

Undergirded by prayer

All this and more was undergirded by an active prayer ministry that includes a monthly Prayer Furnace gathering the second Wednesday of each month, prayer walks in downtown Danbury, and individual prayer support. And more than 900 active volunteers from a dozen partner congregations are serving the city's youth, at-risk and homeless populations through Jericho's partner ministries.

All of this was helped by generous financial donations from Jericho supporters. Between our first annual gala last December and this past summer's 90-in-90 fundraising campaign, donors provided nearly \$500,000 for those most in need in our community.

New service projects

In the year ahead we plan to implement new service projects for individuals, families and groups; inaugurate a leadership development training program; execute city-wide mission days; and prayerfully consider adding more congregations and ministry organizations to the Partnership.

We have seen tremendous growth this past year and have experienced our share of trials and challenges as well. We have learned and experienced that when God invites you to join Him in His work, it is impossible to do it without Him.

There is great joy in the journey! As we set our goals for the year ahead, my prayer is that we all would seek individually, as a Partnership and as a community to draw closer to our Lord Jesus and seek total dependence on Him.

Keep going! •

Carrie Amos is executive director of Jericho Partnership.

Pathways Danbury names new ministry director

Mark D. Lounsbury of Southbury has been named to the newly-created position of ministry director of Jericho Partnership's ministry partner, Pathways Danbury.

Mark will be responsible for providing on-going faith, academic and life-skill guidance to the more than 40 boys in the mentoring program. Each boy is mentored from middle school through high school graduation by an adult male from a metro Danbury church.

"This position is right in line with things I've been doing over the last decade," Mark said. When he was youth director for ten years with Lighthouse Ministries in Danbury, "I would see the kids a couple of times a week," he said. "Now I'll have a continual impact on middle and high school kids. Having more direct contact with the Pathways kids was really attractive to me."

Pathways Danbury's mission is to develop boys into Christ-filled

young men who understand and live their lives from a Christian worldview. Since its founding in 1997, more than 70 at-risk boys

have entered the program in middle school, more than a dozen have graduated high school so far, and most of those have gone on to college.

"Mark brings a great passion for serving youth in the Danbury area," said Bill Beattie, founder and chairman of Pathways Danbury. "We are blessed by the fact that Mark grew up in this community and that he experienced the transformation of his life through the saving grace of Jesus. His desire is to assist young men in discovering God's purpose for their lives."

"I'm really excited about this

opportunity," Mark said. "I'm looking forward to taking Pathways to the next level."

Mark, who is 35, has been associate pastor of Lighthouse Ministries for the past two years following his decade as youth pastor there. He graduated magna cum laude with a major in anthropology and sociology from Western Connecticut State University in Danbury, and has a master of divinity degree with honors from King's University in Van Nuys, Calif.

He and his wife, Sandra, have four children ranging in age from 2 to 9. •



Mark Lounsbury, new Pathways Danbury ministry director

Homeless shelter's 3rd season to begin Nov. 14

Jericho Partnership's overflow homeless shelter at 13 Maple Ave. in downtown Danbury will open Sunday, Nov. 14 and remain open seven nights a week through next April.

The shelter accepts up to 14 homeless men for overnight stays when Danbury's other three shelters are full. Jericho usually welcomes 5 to 12 homeless men seeking shelter each night.

The shelter's minimum volunteer needs include at least 20 men able to commit to staying overnight at the shelter at least once a month – a total of about six times for each volunteer during the winter. Volunteers who can stay only one night won't be turned away. The shelter opens at 6 p.m. and closes at 6 a.m. the next morning, and two male volunteers are needed each night.

Other volunteer needs are folks willing to help organize the shelter with general cleaning, washing and drying bed sheets and blankets (the shelter has a washing machine and dryer), making beds and preparing donated snacks. For more information about the shelter and its needs, or to volunteer, contact volunteer@jerichopartnership.org.

Pathways Academy on track with major goals

Pathways Academy began its third year with 28 middle-school-aged boys in September amid signs of success in some of the academy's major goals – helping close the achievement gap between upper and lower income students, reducing the dropout rate among at-risk students, and laying the foundation for a Christian worldview.

Two years ago, most of the 11 sixth-grade inaugural students reflected general statistics for the state – the worst in the nation – and were reading below their grade level, said Ced Rice, the academy's principal. That's turned around, and most are at or above their reading level as they enter the eighth grade, with some reading at 11th grade level.

A few are still struggling to master their reading skills, while others are working to catch up to their grade level on math, science and social studies. "We get kids who are two or three grades behind in math, who don't even know their times

table," Ced said. "We've made good progress, but not as much as we need."

Preparing for high school

All but one of the 11 students who entered the Academy in the inaugural sixth-grade class two years ago entered the eighth grade this year, giving hope that each of the at-risk students will make it to high school graduation.

"We want to prepare the kids for high school," Ced said. "We believe middle school is the linchpin for that."

Students who fall behind in lower grades enter middle school at a great disadvantage. "It's hard to build on something that's not there," he said. "Trying to bring kids from such a long way back can be difficult."



Pathways Academy Principal Ced Rice, left, welcomes 28 students on the first day of school Sept. 2 and lays out hopes and expectations for the new school year. Administrative Assistant Mensah Robinson stands at right.

let the middle-schoolers know some of what's expected of them in high school.

Each Friday a two-hour seminar will include such things as guest speakers, tours of Danbury High School and Henry Abbott Technical High School in Danbury, and special classes ranging from note-taking to doing research that will take some of the mystery out of graduating to the 3,000-student DHS, the 600-student HATS, Immaculate High School or one of the other local secondary schools.

"We want to help them understand how to find their own moral compass" when they enter high school, Ced said.

Their moral compass

But Pathways Academy – a Jericho Partnership ministry partner that recently was awarded 501(c)(3) nonprofit status by the IRS – seems to be developing a winning formula, including a new class this year that will

Power and simplicity

But progress isn't only in academics. "They've grown spiritually," he said of the boys who entered the upper grades. "They've learned more about themselves and the Lord, and they understand the power and simplicity of prayer."

It is, Ced said, the Lord who is bringing success to the students and the Academy. "We wouldn't be where we are without Him," he said. •



Rommy Ferreira, a coach at Athletes of Christ's annual soccer camp, tells players that just as a ball is the most important thing to have in the game of soccer, Jesus Christ is the most important Person to have in life. About 15 kids attended the two-day soccer camp and evangelistic outreach in August at the Lake Kenosia city park.

Meeting people where they are

(Continued from page 1)

reach Ministries (C.C.O.M.) is targeting with its “Sermon on the Streets” cookout and Gospel outreach on Sept. 30.

“We’re there to build trust with a population that normally will not walk through the church doors,” said Michelle Cook, coordinator for the event.

Life-changing hope

The second annual evangelistic outreach features free food, testimonies from those who have come out of a lifestyle of drugs or alcohol, Gospel music from individuals or groups with a heart for the at-risk populations who haunt the street, and real, life-changing hope.

“This is an outreach to the homeless population, to persons addicted to substance abuse or who have other issues and need to be connected with services and resources that bring them to a better quality of life,” Michelle said.

“We’re targeting people who have relative dysfunction,” said the Rev. Meredith Payton, C.C.O.M.’s chief executive officer, “anybody with a physical or spiritual or emotional need for help. We want to respond to their cry of need.”

“This is a day that we secure beds at rehabilitation and detox centers with long-term substance abuse programs for those we meet on the street,” Michelle said. “The last time we did this, seven people went into long-term substance abuse programs, and five are still there. Two walked away.”

Untidy outreach

But Sermon on the Streets isn’t a slick, high-tech presentation of the Gospel-in-action. “This is pretty much in the middle of the street with a microphone and no agenda,” Michelle said. “This is not a highly-organized and structured event.”

That’s because the people C.C.O.M. is trying to reach may be drunk or dope-sick or homeless, she said. They may be angry men “who are upset with us because they were supposed to meet their dates on the street” and are apt to look for prostitutes and mingle with the small and ever-changing crowd.

And this street-wise congregation doesn’t sit still, either, but people “filter in and out, come out of curiosity and leave or stay” throughout the five-hour event in front of the soup kitchen and homeless shelter. In short, Michelle said, any volunteers who want to be part of the untidy evangelistic outreach

“need a heart for this population and experience with them.”

It is, most importantly, a day when those on the street can hear a clear Gospel call to salvation. “We go outside the four walls of the church and go to them,” she said. “We demonstrate the love of Christ by meeting people where they are.”

“Jesus has called us to be an extension of His heart,” Pastor Payton said. “We are giving with our hands, our feet, all of ourselves to make life easier for those who are struggling.” •

Call for Sermon on the Streets volunteer opportunities

Many volunteer opportunities are open that need no experience for the rain-or-shine Sermon on the Streets, said Michelle Cook, coordinator of the Sept. 30 event.

“We need donations of anything from hot dogs or hamburgers to drinks to store-bought baked goods and paper plates. We need set-up and clean-up committees, because we leave the area better than we found it. And we need interpreters and prayer partners.”

Volunteers who want to donate anything from money to food to time and experience should call Michelle at C.C.O.M. (203.794.9672, ext. 202) for specifics and for information on “how-to” training for those who want to be on the street for any portion of the 5 to 10 p.m. event.

Other Jericho opportunities

Individuals: Prayer partners, after-school tutors, life-skills facilitators, mentors, youth leaders, board and committee members, translators (Spanish and Portuguese), event planners and support, fundraising support, child care, meal or snack preparation, after-school and classroom facilitators, camp and club leaders.

Small groups: Prayer partners, carpentry/maintenance, event planners, soup kitchen preparation and service, street cleaning, fundraising support, local youth group missions planning and oversight, meal or snack prep.

Families: Prayer partners, compassionate care event planning and support (Thanksgiving meal, back-to-school backpack distribution, Easter event, birthday party), soup kitchen, sort and organize Hopeline material resources and assemble gift baskets, food pantry support, fundraising support, meal or snack preparation.

Information: volunteer@jerichopartnership.org.

Clinic not affected by federal law

(Continued from page 1)

said. Other city clinics charge sliding fees or are for adults only. In fact, Samaritan Health Center is the only free clinic in Connecticut serving pediatric patients only, she said.

Expanded clinic hours

The clinic opened in December of 2008 in Jericho Partnership's 13 Rose St. facility in Danbury, and has served more than 570 children since then. "The number of patients continues to grow weekly, but there are many more patients we're not reaching that we can as we become better known," said Jim Kennedy. Jim is chairman of Samaritan's board of directors and vice chairman of the board of Danbury Hospital.

Samaritan's board is exploring expanding the clinic's hours from three to five days a week, recruiting more volunteers to work with the core of paid full- and part-time staff, he said.

"We're also looking at expanding our impact by offering obesity and nutritional initiatives and general health education for a disenfranchised group of patients in inner city Danbury," Jim said.

"We'll partner with anyone who will help us make a difference."

The clinic is currently in transition from Dr. Pamela Paulhus, who helped found the clinic and was its pediatrician until the end of August, and a new full-time replacement. Dr. Pam joined the federal community health center in Danbury as pediatrician. Until Samaritan hires a new full-time pediatrician, Dr. Donald Sampson, a missionary pediatrician with SIM on furlough from serving in Nigeria, is filling in.

Meeting the needs

Dr. Sampson – he likes to be called Don – was chief of pediatrics at a teaching hospital in central Nigeria for the past three years. He cared for hospitalized children, orphans and children with HIV, and provided medical care in outlying villages.

"I'm here temporarily, and have agreed to work for three months," Don said. "I'm looking forward to helping meet the needs of children without insurance in Danbury. We serve the underserved, people in between insurance, the working class who have lost insurance, the self-employed."

Spiritual support

"There will always be people who fall through the cracks of any government program," said Jim of the new federal law's impact on Samaritan. "The easy ones to identify are children of illegal immigrants. They're the innocent victims in the immigration debate. But children and aliens are very near to the heart of Jesus Christ, and we're being His hands and feet by caring for them."

The clinic's caseload could easily grow to between 800 and 1,000 children, he said. "We're ready to engage in more local fundraising to expand the ministry" beyond its current \$300,000 annual budget and caseload. "That's a big number," he said of the budget figure, and it currently comes from foundations and fundraising efforts in the community.

"One thing we do in the clinic that other clinics cannot do is offer spiritual support," Jim said. "Physical help and spiritual support are at the core of the clinic, and that's not going to be replaced" under the new federal law. •

School supplies and 'Christmas in August'

Jericho Partnership's fourth annual backpack event in late August provided 227 inner-city Danbury kids with a free backpack filled with school supplies.

Earlier in the month, Jericho gave away an uncounted number of donated clothing items, with 86 people taking home "Christmas in August" donations.

The bulk of funds to buy backpacks for Kindergarten through sixth-grade children came from Vacation Bible School students at Walnut Hill Community Church in Bethel. The VBS raised money to buy and fill 150 backpacks.

The clothing give-away, advertised to several social service agencies in Danbury such as Family & Children's Aid, could be more frequent with ongoing donations of lightly-used, laundered clothing. Jericho is putting in place a better system to handle the donations.

Almost 75 volunteers participated in the two events. •



A young mother selects clothes for her baby from the hundreds of free items available at "Christmas in August."

Save the date!



Prayer Furnace,

Wednesday, Oct. 13;
Wednesday, Nov. 10;
Wednesday, Dec. 8, noon to 2 p.m. each day,
Wilberforce Chapel, Jericho Samaritan Center,
13 Rose St., Danbury.

New volunteer orientation, Thursday, Oct. 14, 6 p.m., Jericho Samaritan Center, 13 Rose St., Danbury.

Pathways Danbury Annual Breakfast, Saturday, Nov. 13, Stony Hill Inn, 50 Stony Hill Road, Bethel.

Jericho Partnership overflow homeless shelter opens, Nov. 14, 13 Maple Ave., Danbury.

Boxes of Love Thanksgiving meal-in-a-box and Thanksgiving dinner for ministry clients, Tuesday, Nov. 23, Jericho Samaritan Center, 13 Rose St., Danbury.

Jericho Partnership's Annual Gala fundraising event, Friday, Dec. 10. Details to be announced.



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June Renzulli

June Renzulli joins Jericho executive board

June Renzulli of New Milford, former chief executive officer of the United Way of Western Connecticut in Danbury, has been named a community member-at-large on Jericho Partnership's executive board.

"I'm looking forward to working with June in all areas of non-profit management and leadership," said

Carrie L. Amos, executive director. "This is such a tremendous opportunity to serve this great city together." The executive board is responsible for governance issues, organizational guidance and support, she said.

June has more than 16 years experience in metro Danbury nonprofits, and is director of philanthropy and major gifts for Regional Hospice of Western Connecticut in Danbury. Before that, she was CEO of the United Way of Western Connecticut in Danbury, a 2007 merger of United Ways in Danbury, Stamford and the New Milford region that she led.

She joined United Way in 1994 as director of finance "and just kept putting on different hats" until she was named CEO.

Jericho "was looking for someone who understands the nonprofit sector and the leadership challenges it brings," Renzulli said. "Danbury is truly blessed to have Jericho Partnership, and I'm proud to be part of it." Being on the board, she said, "is a way for me to live out my faith."

She and her husband, Glenn, have three grown children and three grandchildren. •

Volunteer orientation scheduled

A meeting for Jericho Partnership's new volunteers or those interested in volunteering will be Thursday, Oct. 14 at 6 p.m. at the Jericho Samaritan Center, 13 Rose St., Danbury.

Participants will learn about our mission and ministry partners, our goal of having 3,000 Christ-centered active volunteers by 2012 (we already have nearly 1,000), and will hear about volunteer needs from partner ministries.

Jericho and our ministry partners serve the youth, homeless and other at-risk populations in Danbury. Volunteers can be matched with a ministry, if they wish.

Orientation meetings are conducted once a quarter, rotating between Thursday evenings and Saturday mornings.

For more information, e-mail volunteer@jerichopartnership.org