

# partnership



winter 2010-2011

## Jericho adds new partners

Jericho Partnership's collaboration with ministries to Danbury's at-risk communities continues to grow with the addition of two new ministry partners.

Bethany Christian Services plans to open its adoption agency in Jericho's 13 Rose St. building by year end, and Brotherhood of Christ, a men's mentoring and support group, already meets at Jericho Mondays at 7:30 p.m.

Bethany is the nation's largest adoption agency, with 80 domestic offices and staff in 15 coun-

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## Jericho grants \$2.8 million

Jericho Partnership has distributed \$2.8 million in grants to its 11 ministry partners, a 20 percent increase over last year.

"The Partnership reaches thousands of at-risk Danbury residents each year," said Carrie Amos, executive director. "Jericho is all about transformation – transformed lives, potential, and communities."

Jericho is a nonprofit collaboration of 11 Christ-centered ministry organizations, two private foundations and a dozen greater Danbury congregations. "Through a unified and integrated effort,

*(Continued on page 4)*



Emma Devine, left, Aubrey Nickelsen and Caitlin Cancilla deliver blankets they collected for use at the Jericho homeless shelter this winter.

## A heart for the homeless

Ask Aubrey Nickelsen what she did over her summer vacation and she'll tell you she collected blankets for homeless people this winter. "If I was homeless I wouldn't want to be cold," the 11-year-old Ridgefield girl explained.

Aubrey's impetus for the blanket drive was a fifth-grade project for the summer months at Scotts Ridge Middle School in Ridgefield. "It was this thing where we could help out, like raise money for a place that needs help, a charity," said Aubrey, who's in the sixth grade this year.

Aubrey and friends Emma Devine and Caitlin Cancilla decided to collect blankets for Jericho's homeless shelter, and conducted a sidewalk bake sale in Ridgefield to raise money for victims of the Haiti earthquake as well.

"We decided on blankets because I know there's a homeless shelter there and in the winter the homeless people would be cold," she said.

Aubrey had some help and suggestions from her parents, LeAnn and Joel Nickelsen. The three girls "told my mom what to write, and she sent out an e-mail to a ton of parents she knew," Aubrey said. "We went house to house and got the blankets. Some were old, some were new."

They collected 31 blankets during the Dog Days of summer, then Aubrey's mom drove the girls and blankets to Jericho's 13 Rose St. building, the collection point for donated blankets, clothing, furniture and nonperishable food-pantry items.

*(Continued on page 5)*



# From the Chairman



Bill Beattie

## VISION 2012: HOW ARE WE DOING?

In 2005, we prayerfully developed a vision to build an organization by 2012 that would mobilize ministry and transform Danbury far into the future.

Back then we wanted to share with our partners, volunteers and supporters where we believed the Lord was leading us, and how the people of Danbury would be blessed if we faithfully served and obeyed Him.

Our vision for Jericho in 2012 continues to be that:

- Jericho will engage 3,000 volunteers contributing 50,000 volunteer hours a year.
- We will have up to 20 partner congregations and up to 15 partner ministries.
- We will provide \$5 million of annual support to mobilize ministry in Danbury, \$3.5 million in grants, \$500,000 gifts in kind, and 50,000 volunteer hours valued at \$1 million.
- Jericho ministry will elevate the relevance of the Christian community for the common good of Danbury.

### God's goodness

The table below shows our progress, and highlights the

challenge we must meet in order to achieve our 2012 goals. We're greatly encouraged by how God has blessed us since 2005, and humbled by his goodness and faithfulness. Here are some highlights of his faithfulness:

**Volunteers:** We now have more than 1,200 volunteers, well on our way to our goal of 3,000. That's about 2 percent of the metro Danbury population, the percentage some say is necessary to shape a community and influence its people.

Volunteers are our lynchpin, linking us with our congregation and ministry partners and generating generous giving of time, talent and treasure.

**Church partners:** We have grown from the original four congregations in 2005 to 12 this year. As we pray and work together united in Christ, we become a powerful force for the Lord in the community. Our goal of up to 20 church partners in 2012 represents 5,000 to 6,000 attendees at church services in greater Danbury each Sunday.

**Ministry partners:** We have grown from two to 12 ministry partners since 2005 and seek to

grow to at least 15 partners in the next two years. We mobilize new ministries when there is no word-and-deed, Christ-centered ministry available, or come beside excellent operating ministries that need resources to sustain their mission.

**Stewardship/grant aid:** Our 2012 goal for stewardship of \$3.5 million was the level believed necessary to clearly establish Jericho as a major social service organization in Danbury. This year we have distributed \$2.8 million in grants, 20 percent above 2009 levels, and plan to increase annual grants by another \$700,000 by 2012 to meet our goal. We believe our stewardship responsibility is to transform our supporters to be "rich toward God."

**Relevance:** Our growth during the last five years into a major provider of social service support in Danbury has been a blessing and has glorified God. The challenge is to transition from leadership in giving to the transformation of lives that will further glorify God and increase the relevance of the Christian community for the common good.

We invite all our brothers and sisters in greater Danbury to join us on this Vision 2012 journey that only sets the stage for God's mighty work in Danbury in the next decades.

We serve an awesome God! •

*Bill Beattie is the founder and chairman of Jericho Partnership.*

Jericho Partnership's Vision for 2012			
	<u>2010 Budget</u>	<u>2012 Vision</u>	<u>Challenge 2012</u>
Engaged volunteers	1,200	3,000	1,900 more volunteers
Church partners	12	15-20	3 more churches
Ministry partners	12	10-15	3 more ministries
Relevance	Leadership	Transformation	Lives changed
Grant aid	\$2.8 million	\$3.5 million	\$0.7 million more

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# Serving Together



Carrie Amos

## A VISIBLE DISPLAY OF A LIVING PARTNERSHIP

**J**ericho Partnership’s tag line, “Mobilizing ministry, transforming a city,” is only five words long but it’s packed with assumptions and goals and has been bathed in prayer.

Transformation of hearts, lives, relationships and neighborhoods is the work to which the Lord has called Jericho. But an essential component of being used by God in the transformation process is, in a word, collaboration.

God has called us – individual volunteers, entire congregations, hands-on ministry organizations, stewards, and staff – to collaborate and serve in partnership with each other for the good of all in Danbury.

Collaborating means putting our differences aside and coming together for a common purpose. It’s about serving with each other, encouraging each other and being a visible display of a living partnership.

And it’s fun!

As we reach out to impact the city through word-and-deed ministry, it’s essential that we continue to embrace the spirit of collaboration.

This holiday season offers many opportunities for collaboration. Be a part of a service group hosting a food drive that supports families in need, join the prayer team, serve the youth in our community with love and

grace through tutoring and mentoring, serve the homeless at the soup kitchen or shelter, or consider attending one of our monthly ‘Good Samaritan’ receptions beginning in January – a time of fellowship as we look to future ministry projects.

Give us a call. We want to serve with you. As one of our partnership pastors says, “We are better together!” How true.

With every blessing to you and yours this holiday season. •

*Carrie Amos is executive director of Jericho Partnership.*



# Growing Together



Michael Ronan

## STEWARDSHIP: WHAT IS JERICO’S ROLE?

**J**ericho’s approach to stewardship is based on three principles: 1) God owns it all; 2) God is the fundraiser; and 3) fundraising is about transformation.

Everything we have comes from God. He is the One who moves our hearts to give to others in response to need, whether the gift is of our time, talent or treasure. In giving, we become transformed into Christ-like generosity. We are “rich toward God” when we give back to God what was His to begin with. We grow a “giver’s heart” with each generous act or gift.

Moses, David and Paul understood these principles. Moses’ call

for offerings for the Tabernacle was met by “all whose hearts were stirred and whose spirits were moved” (Ex. 35:21 NLT). David recounted his own gifts toward building the temple, and then challenged the people to follow his example. “The people rejoiced over the offerings, for they had given freely and wholeheartedly to the Lord, and King David was filled with joy.” (1 Chron. 29:9 NLT). Paul encouraged generosity pointing to the Macedonian churches who gave beyond their ability, “because they wanted to, not because of nagging on my part” (2 Cor. 8:3 TLB).

Jericho’s role is to simply show the needs of the city and to present opportunities to serve, give, and grow. We invite you (no nagging!) to understand the needs of the people we serve in Danbury and to learn what we are doing about it. Only God can move your heart. We’ll help you engage . . . when you want to. •

*Michael Ronan is stewardship director at Jericho Partnership.*

# Jericho provides \$2.8 million in grants

the Partnership is bringing hope and transformation to the people of our great city in a way not seen before,” Carrie said.

Jericho provides funding, facilities, staff support and more than 1,200 volunteers to serve the city’s youth, homeless and other adult at-risk communities. It is one of Danbury’s largest social service agencies in terms of grants.

“This year’s grants represent another infusion of private funds from the Christian community into hands-on ministries that are transforming lives – and the city,” Carrie said. “In the coming year we hope to add more congregations and ministry organizations to the Partnership to reach even more of those in the community we serve.”

“Our strategy,” said Bill Beattie, Jericho’s founder and chairman, “is based on Biblical

commands to love and care for those needing mercy and justice. The collaboration of ministries, congregations and volunteers underpinned by privately-sourced funding will significantly impact all the people of Danbury.”

“Our goal,” Carrie said, “is to mobilize more than 3,000 volunteers, partner with more than 20

congregations in greater Danbury, and raise \$5 million to help fund more than 15 hands-on ministries, all by 2012.” •



Jericho Partnership ministry leaders, partner pastors, executive board and staff gather for a group photo.

## Jericho congregation partners

These 12 greater Danbury congregations serve together with ministry partners to offer hope to Danbury’s at-risk communities.

- All Nations Baptist Church**, Danbury
- Cambodian New Life Evangelical Church**, Danbury
- Christ the Shepherd Presbyterian Church**, Danbury
- First Assembly of God**, Brookfield
- First Congregational Church of Ridgefield**
- Immanuel Lutheran Church**, Danbury
- Lighthouse Ministries International**, Danbury
- New Hope Baptist Church**, Danbury
- New Life Community Church**, New Fairfield
- Victory Christian Center**, Danbury
- Walnut Hill Community Church**, Bethel
- Wilton Baptist Church**, Wilton

## Jericho ministry partners

These Christ-centered, hands-on ministry organizations serve thousands of people from the city’s at-risk communities:

- Amos House.** A residential facility for homeless families transitioning to permanent housing and self-sufficient living.
- Athletes of Christ.** Portuguese- and English-speaking sports ministry provides youth summer soccer camps and an annual 5K walk/run in downtown Danbury.
- Bethany Christian Services.** The soon-to-be-opened office in Danbury of the nation’s largest adoption agency provides adoption and foster care services.
- Brotherhood of Christ.** A mentoring and fellowship program for Christian men.
- Christian Community Outreach Ministries.** A broad-based ministry offering support and resources to individuals and families in crises.
- Highways and Hedges.** Provides a downtown community food pantry and case management services to those affected by HIV/AIDS, substance abuse and homelessness.
- Hopeline Pregnancy Resource Center.** Offers free peer counseling and accurate information about all pregnancy options, material resources and ongoing support.
- Jericho compassionate ministries**, including free back-to-school backpacks, Thanksgiving dinner and a Thanksgiving take-home dinner-in-a-box, toiletry/care kits for area shelter guests, and community-wide days of service.
- Jericho Homeless Shelter.** Overnight shelter for up to 14 homeless men each November through April.
- Pathways Danbury.** A mentoring program for at-risk boys from the sixth grade through high school graduation.
- Pathways Academy.** An educational facility for at-risk middle-school-aged boys, with goals to help close the city’s achievement gap and high-school dropout rates.
- Samaritan Health Clinic.** Free pediatrics clinic for uninsured and underinsured children from birth to 18; the city’s only free pediatrics clinic.
- S.A.Y. Yes!** An after-school, tutoring and enrichment program for youth.
- Young Life Danbury.** Provides programs, activities and fun for youth, meeting kids on their own turf and helping them navigate through life.

# Blankets for the homeless

(Continued from page 1)

“Think about it,” said Jim Wiley, the Christ-centered shelter’s ministry coordinator. “An 11-year-old girl takes an idea and it manifests into something that really makes a difference in these men’s lives.”

## A few good men

The blankets will add more comfort to the men seeking overnight shelter, Jim said. “A blanket may seem trivial to you and me, but in a shelter, it gives both physical and spiritual warmth.”

The guests also need sweaters, sweatshirts, hats, gloves, socks, and warm underwear.

And the shelter needs lots of volunteers. Jim’s goal is 180 men so each would volunteer one night during the November-through-April season. He only had about a third of his goal when the shelter opened Nov. 14.

Jim solicits volunteers from men’s and Bible-study groups at Jericho Partnership’s dozen partner congregations, and from Jericho’s pool of more than 1,200 volunteers. In addition to men volunteering for an overnight stay, other shelter volunteer needs include morning-after clean-up crews, and donations of snacks for the overnight guests.

“This shelter is different from the others in the city,” Jim said. Volunteers “can engage the guests staying there about their day and how things are going, establishing the beginning of a Christ-centered relationship with them.” •

## More information . . .

. . . about volunteering or donations:  
[volunteer@jerichopartnership.org](mailto:volunteer@jerichopartnership.org)

# Jericho adds two partners

(Continued from page 1)

tries. Its goal is to place children in loving Christian homes, said Nancy Dykstra-Powers, Bethany’s tri-state director in New Jersey. “Our mission is to show the love of Christ by providing social services to children.”

The Danbury office will initially serve all of Connecticut, and will be staffed with committed Christians, Nancy said. “We will be working with anyone with an unplanned pregnancy.”

Bethany’s counseling and adoption procedures are free of charge for birth mothers; adoptive parents pay a sliding fee based on family income. “We don’t want just the rich to adopt,” Nancy said.

## Spreading the news

Bethany ([www.bethany.org](http://www.bethany.org)) will have an office in the same corridor as Hopeline Pregnancy Resource Center at 13 Rose St. Hopeline isn’t an adoption agency, so “there’s no overlap or competition,” Nancy said. Office hours will be announced later.

“The services Bethany provides will deepen the offerings available through the Partnership,” said Carrie Amos, Jericho’s executive director. “We’re so pleased that Bethany will bring its long-standing national reputation to Connecticut and will be able to provide services that are so badly needed here in Danbury.”

Bethany’s initial two-woman staff will “spread the news of Bethany’s existence to youth groups, churches and schools to explain that adoption is certainly an option” for unplanned pregnancies, Nancy said. “Everyone

knows about abortion and single parenting, but not everyone has the facts about adoption.”

Word about Bethany’s planned Danbury office is already getting around. “People who wanted to adopt called six months ago,” she said. “We have a waiting list of a couple of people and have two birth moms waiting, too.”

## More than mentoring

Brotherhood of Christ is a mentoring group for Christian men who have some knowledge of Jesus Christ but really don’t know what’s next. “We show them how to be a better dad or husband, or how to represent Christ on the job,” said John Parille.

But Brotherhood of Christ ([www.brotherswithchrist.org](http://www.brotherswithchrist.org)) “is more than a mentoring environment,” said John, who helped found the program nine years ago. Brotherhood groups also meet at Grace Christian Fellowship in Newtown and Jericho partner congregation New Life Community Church in New Fairfield. “We want to reach out into the community. We’re trying to find an outreach that works.”

Plans include steering Brotherhood men into the Pathways Danbury mentoring program, encouraging volunteering at the Dorothy Day soup kitchen, and working with residents at Christian Community Outreach Ministries’ Discipleship House for a “pizza and root beer” recreation night, he said.

“Adding Brotherhood of Christ to the Partnership as a ministry partner serving the adult at-risk community has blessed the entire Partnership,” Carrie said. “It’s a joy to see how they intentionally invest in the lives of men.” •

**“Not everyone has the facts about adoption.”**

# Dr. Sampson to remain at Samaritan Health

**D**r. Donald Sampson will become the Samaritan Health Center's permanent pediatrician in December after serving the clinic on an interim basis since September.

Don – he likes to be called Don – had been a missionary and chief of pediatrics at a teaching hospital in central Nigeria for the past three years. “We made a decision not to return to Nigeria as a full-time missionary,” he said. “It was a family decision. We felt our work there was finished.”

Instead, “I was interested in finding a medical position that's also a fulltime ministry,” Don said. Samaritan Health Center, a free pediatrics clinic for uninsured and underinsured children, fulfilled his dual goals. He'll continue to be associated with SIM

(Serving in Mission), an international mission organization “so I can go back to Nigeria for shorter-term missionary trips,” he said.

“We are extremely happy that we are going to have a fulltime health care provider,” said Eva Tan, the clinic's executive director. “It's very good news.”

## A good future

One change Don hopes to help bring about is adding two more days to the clinic's current three-day schedule to increase its patient load and services. The clinic's board is exploring ways to expand its hours and recruit volunteers to work with the core of paid staff.

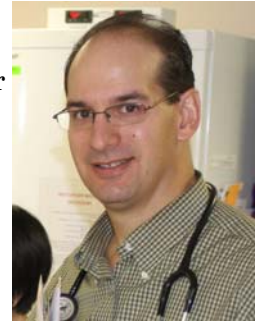
“If we are open five days a week,” said Eva, “that will ease the number of children going to

Danbury Hospital's emergency room for routine care.

“The hospital helps us a lot with lab work and radiology, so if we can help reduce the number of chil-

dren in the emergency room, it's a big help for them.”

And the clinic's staff will continue to offer services to other Jericho ministries and ministry partners. “We're examining further ways to work with our Jericho partners,” Don said. “I'm excited to be a part of this ministry. I see a good future for Samaritan Health Center, and I'm glad to be part of it.” •



Dr. Don Sampson

## Jim Wiley named ministry coordinator

**J**im Wiley of Danbury has been named ministry coordinator for Jericho Partnership's overflow homeless shelter and for Jericho initiatives on Spring Street in downtown Danbury that are still in the planning stages.

Jim will be responsible for overseeing the shelter's operations and administration, and managing and coordinating the Spring Street initiative.

He began volunteering at Jericho in the winter of 2008 as a front desk greeter at Jericho's 13 Rose St. building, and became volunteer coordinator for the over-



Jim Wiley

flow shelter last winter. He began his new duties this past October, and is currently looking for men to volunteer an overnight oversight stint at the shelter.

He was with Metro-North Railroad for 32 years, most recently managing operations and administrative functions relating to stations, shops and yards.

Jim and his wife, Maureen – she's a nurse at the Samaritan Health Center – have three daughters, Marissa, 21; Lauren, 19; and Megan, 17.

He has a bachelor of arts degree in business administration from Western Connecticut State University in Danbury. •

## Chuck E. Cheese's party

**M**ore than 200 children served by Jericho Partnership and its ministry partners will have a special treat this holiday season – a Christmas party on Monday, Dec. 13, at Chuck E. Cheese's Danbury location.

The children will be recruited from the ranks of those served by the Samaritan Health Center and the other Jericho ministry partners, said Crystal Perkins, Jericho's operations manager.

“It really is an honor to do this, to help some children out during the holiday season,” said Erica Hill, a manager at the 20 Backus Ave. family restaurant. “I hope they have a good time when they come.” •

# CCOM's CDLI: Help beyond the classroom

Sometimes progress seems to be measured in small increments that build to large results – an illiterate man in his 50's learning the alphabet in order to learn to read so he'll be able to find a better job to support his family and better function in the community.

Many social service agencies provide help in achieving those steps, but Career Development Learning Institute offers something more – a spiritual foundation that lets CDLI students know there's help beyond the classroom.

"If you come for a class, you'll get the Gospel message, but not in a 'Let's turn to your Bibles' kind of way," said Yeharar Vielot, education manager for the program now in its third year. "Our standard is to have prayer before every class. In our application, we state that if you don't want to take part, you can be silent or step out of the classroom."

The CDLI program is on the second floor of the three-story Jericho House at 22 Maple Ave. in downtown Danbury. The top floor houses Discipleship House, a transitional living program for men with life-controlling issues who have completed a rehabilitation program; the first floor houses Christian Community Outreach Ministries and its programs, which include CDLI and Discipleship House.

"Programs on the three floors are very interconnected," Yeharar said. "Sometimes someone will come here for a class and I'll get talking with them and they'll share some of their struggles.

Without pushing Christ on them, I'll invite them downstairs for devotions."

## Increase skills

CDLI "is geared to helping individuals increase the skills they already have or helping them build new life skills," she said. "We have individuals who have graduated college and need to learn QuickBooks, and people in their 50's and 60's who didn't finish fifth grade."

The majority of students begin with CDLI's ESL classes to learn how to speak and read English. "When they get to a certain level, they come for computer basics, then advanced computer courses – we're literally building them up. Now we're looking at some of them transitioning to management classes or accounting classes."

"Since we started in 2008, we've had four completion ceremonies for about 50 people who have completed classes on basic computer skills, money management, advanced computer skills, QuickBooks or job preparation," Yeharar said. "Most people were employed when they started and wanted to increase their skills; some were looking for jobs."

"Our program is like building blocks," she said. "We give people a foundation of how to read, how to speak English, how to prepare for entry level jobs, how to fill out



Yeharar Vielot

a job application."

More than that, CDLI students learn how to hold onto a job.

"Getting a job is great, but if you don't know how to maintain it, you've got a bigger problem," she said. •

## Volunteers are needed

"I don't foresee us turning away any volunteers," said Yeharar Vielot, education manager at Career Development Learning Institute. "We can always use more volunteer instructors for computer basics and ESL, especially an ESL daytime instructor for people who work in the evening. About 50 percent of the people who come through our doors are native speakers."

Equally important are volunteers to teach life skills, "everything from basic budgeting and shopping sales at the grocery store or learning what questions you should ask the doctor. We're in desperate need of life-skills instructors."

For more information, e-mail [volunteer@jerichopartnership.org](mailto:volunteer@jerichopartnership.org).



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**E-newsletter.** Our one-page e-postcard contains short news items that can be read in a minute. E-mail [info@jerichopartnership.org](mailto:info@jerichopartnership.org) and we'll add you to our e-mail list.

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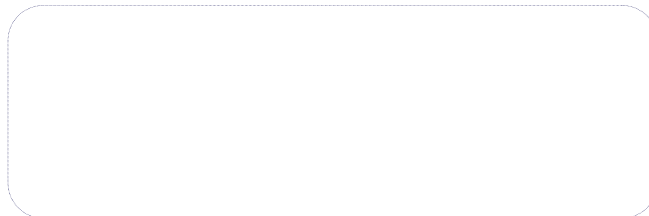
**E-donate.** Don't feel like writing a check to make a tax-deductible donation to Jericho? Use our PayPal link at [www.jerichopartnership.org](http://www.jerichopartnership.org). On the home page, click the "Donate" tab.

**Web site.** Our Web site is going interactive! Visit and re-visit [www.jerichopartnership.org](http://www.jerichopartnership.org) to learn more about Jericho and its ministry partners.

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## Volunteer opportunities



**Gift wrapping at Barnes & Noble** on Backus Avenue in Danbury: Saturday, Dec. 11 between 9 a.m. and 9 p.m. Gift shopping at the mall? Why not stop by the nearby Barnes & Noble for an hour to wrap gifts. 24 volunteers are needed – two per hour – to wrap customers' gifts with wrapping and ribbons supplied by the bookstore. Customers' free-will donations go to Jericho Partnership.



**Christmas dinner** for homeless and low-income families, Thursday, Dec. 23 between 5 and 7:30 p.m. at Jericho's 13 Rose St. building.

The free dinner for 200 will be provided by Elmer's Diner in Danbury. More than 50 volunteers are needed for set-up, greeting, mingling, serving, and cleanup for a Christmas meal our guests won't otherwise have.



**Homeless overflow shelter** at 13 Maple Ave. needs men to stay overnight – one man a night. The shelter is open seven nights a week from 9 p.m. to 6 a.m., including Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

Also needed are day volunteers to clean the shelter and wash and dry laundry, and early-morning devotional and fellowship leaders for the shelter's breakfast program.

**To volunteer or for more information**, e-mail us at [volunteer@jerichopartnership.org](mailto:volunteer@jerichopartnership.org).

## Volunteer orientation January 22

Are you a new Jericho Partnership volunteer? Or are you interested in becoming a volunteer? Then plan to attend our volunteer orientation meeting on Saturday, Jan. 22 at 9 a.m. at the Jericho Samaritan Center, 13 Rose St., Danbury.

You'll learn about our mission and partners, and our goal of having 3,000 Christ-centered active volunteers by 2012 (we already have more than 1,200). Come hear about how God is moving in the city and listen to where God may be calling you to serve.

Jericho Partnership serves the youth, homeless and other at-risk populations in Danbury.

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

For more information, e-mail [volunteer@jerichopartnership.org](mailto:volunteer@jerichopartnership.org).