

# partnership

Jericho  
Partnership  
Inc.  
MOBILIZING MINISTRY ...  
TRANSFORMING A CITY

winter 2009-2010



Wayne Galbo of Danbury chooses his cot at the Jericho overflow shelter on Maple Avenue. The shelter provides nightly accommodations for up to 15 men from November through April each year.

## Shelter opens for winter

The Jericho Partnership overflow homeless shelter opened Nov. 15 with a call for more volunteers to spend the night with the shelter's 15 homeless men, and for other volunteers to clean the shelter and bedding each morning.

"We have about 10 or 15 overnight volunteers, but we would love to have about 40," said Alex Lacy, who coordinates the shelter's logistics. An overnight volunteer stays at the shelter from 8:45 p.m. to 6 a.m. the next morning. "It's perfectly all right if a volunteer can only spend one night, but we're looking for men who can spend two nights a month," he said.

The shelter is on Maple Avenue

in downtown Danbury. The nightly routine begins at 8:30 p.m. when a coordinator unlocks the shelter and turns on the heat. Overnight volunteers arrive at 8:45, and ticketed guests arrive when the doors open at 9 p.m. The volunteer prepares hot chocolate and snacks, with lights out at 10 p.m.

The volunteer awakes at about 5:30 a.m., awakens the overnight guests, who leave by 6. "The volunteer is normally on his way home by 6," Lacy said.

Breakfast will be served across the street at Christian Community Outreach Ministries three mornings a week. Jericho needs volunteers to serve breakfast

(Continued on page 5)

## YoungMOMS offers support, friendship

Ever wonder what happens to young single moms after they decide to keep their babies?

Lisa DelVecchio didn't have to wonder. As director of Danbury's Hopeline Pregnancy Resource Center, she knew they needed support, friendship and help with mothering skills that many weren't receiving from family and friends.

When she was a young married mom with strong family support, Lisa attended a program called MOPS (Mothers of Pre-Schoolers) at a local church, and still recalls her enthusiasm for it. "There was a circle on my calendar, and nothing could stand in my way" of attending the support group, she said.

"The whole experience was great." It was a place to meet other young moms, be part of a Bible study, share a free meal, take home a craft project and hear wise advice from older moms. She began planning a similar group for teenage moms or those in their early 20's.

### Love and hope

Early in October, Hopeline launched YoungMOMS, a safe place for young moms to go for the support, love and help they may not have in their lives. At the first meeting "we encouraged the girls to remember the dreams they had, and to continue to discover who they were created to be," Lisa said.

The young moms attending the

(Continued on page 6)



# From the Chairman



Bill Beattie

## REDUCING THE HIGH SCHOOL DROPOUT RATE

In the last Partnership, I outlined the first of four Jericho Partnership strategic outcomes for spiritual transformation and the city's common good (See box). Now I'll focus on the second – cutting the high school dropout rate of at-risk kids in half to about 25 percent.

A Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation study, "The Silent Epidemic," describing the nation's urban school dropout epidemic, said dropouts are more likely to live in poverty and have poor health; are dependent on government assistance; are eight times more likely to be incarcerated; and cost society \$2 million each over a lifetime of social support.

But for the Christian community, the national tragedy is a highly-visible opportunity for Christ-centered intervention to change lives spiritually and materially. And Jericho Partnership has a plan to do just that.

### Impacting young lives

In 1997, Jericho partner Pathways Danbury began linking Christian men with sixth-grade boys who were dropout risks. Now, 80 percent of the boys who enter the mentoring program graduate from high school, and 90 percent of its high school graduates go on to vocational school or college. Plans call for adding another 10 boys to this year's 40 mentees by 2012.

In 2004, the Young Life youth organization was encouraged to become a Jericho partner to broaden our outreach to Danbury boys and girls. Young Life now

each week impacts the lives of 200 city kids through club meetings, basketball evenings and hanging out at schools, playgrounds and the Jericho Youth Center on Rose Street.

And last year, Pathways Academy opened to provide a Christ-centered, 'whatever-it-takes' middle school education for at-risk boys to improve their prospects for high school graduation. This year 25 boys are in the low student/teacher ratio sixth- and seventh-grade classes, with a capacity of 60 to 70 boys by 2012.

### Five-year strategy

The very essence of Jericho's word-and-deed ministry is to lead at-risk boys to a high school diploma and a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Our five-year strategy for this is to:

**1. Expand** Pathways Danbury mentor recruiting to a broader base of congregations in order to grow our mentor resources to serve at least 50 boys.

**2. Improve** holistic programs of homework tutoring, life skills and faith training at the new S.A.Y. Yes after-school facility on Rose Street.

**3. Expand** Young Life's relationship-building and leadership-development programs and grow it to 250 kids.

**4. Form** a core of 350 at-risk Danbury kids impacted in a spiritually-transforming way by including Pathways Academy students in Pathways Danbury and Young Life activities.

**5. Provide** nutritional and health support for Jericho kids via the Samaritan Health Center free pediatrics clinic on Rose Street.

**6. Invest** \$40,000 in each Jericho young person over a seven-year, middle-school-to-high-school period by channeling funds to our Jericho Partner ministries to support the above programs and ensure that our kids have an "unfair advantage" in graduating from high school while drawing closer to the Lord.

Please pray for our youth and ministry leaders and their investment of love, time and spirit for at-risk kids in Danbury.

We serve an awesome God! •

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

## Key Jericho strategic outcomes

1. Significantly increase the number of Danbury youth embracing a Biblical worldview.
2. Significantly reduce the high school dropout rate and achievement gap of at-risk youth in Danbury.
3. Foster sanctity of life and personal responsibility within the Danbury community.
4. Offer hope to at-risk adults in Danbury as they battle substance abuse and homelessness.

Partnership is published four times a year in Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter, for the members and friends of Jericho Partnership, Inc. Reprinting is permitted if Jericho Partnership is credited. Jericho Partnership is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) charitable organization, supported by tax-deductible private donations. Donations by check are electronically debited from the donor's checking account in the amount specified, and funds may be withdrawn as early as the same day. Donors will not have checks returned by their financial institution. Checks are kept in our files for up to 60 days and then destroyed.

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Winter 2009-2010 • Volume 2, Number 4





# Serving Together



Carrie Amos

## FAMILY SERVICE PROJECTS

Jericho Partnership's five-year strategy (see Bill's article, opposite) serves as a roadmap as we seek to impact the youth in our community in a Spirit-filled, transformational way.

One way we'll do this is by investing more deeply in our partners who are actively building and developing positive relationships with at-risk youth. We've often heard statements from our ministry partners such as, "If only we could involve the families more," or, "I wish there was something the family could do together."

Numerous studies show that young people do better academically, socially and spiritually

when they have positive family situations as well as opportunities for service, leadership and community participation. Jericho is pleased to support our partners in this area and will begin coordinating community service activities for the youth we serve – and their families – to participate in together.

These service projects will be community-based, practical projects that are flexible and fun. We will be working closely with our ministry partners to create the most effective and meaningful service opportunities possible. Our initial family service activity is being planned for the Christmas season.

Our prayer is that family volunteering will help strengthen families of the youth we serve, provide even greater support to the youth in our community, aid in the reduction of the dropout rate, and bring glory to God. •

*Carrie Amos is executive director of Jericho Partnership.*

### How to help

Want to be involved in helping reduce the dropout rate among Danbury's youth? Consider volunteering as a mentor, club leader, after-school tutor or family volunteer coordinator.

For information and volunteer opportunities, contact Jericho Partnership's volunteer office at 203.791.1180 ext.257 or e-mail [volunteer@jerichopartnership.org](mailto:volunteer@jerichopartnership.org).



# Growing Together



Michael Ronan

## FUNDING THE BATTLE

Turning the tide by increasing the high school graduation rate in our at-risk community is hard work. Jericho Partnership's ministry partner teachers, tutors, mentors, and volunteers engage students, parents and guardians daily. Students learn how to succeed academically, understand how to make better choices in their lives, and gain confidence in their abilities.

If you are as serious as we are about supporting these young people and their families in transforming their lives toward success, then we need you to come alongside us in this battle.

You can make a difference imme-

diately. Sponsor a student. Make it your family's project to provide monthly or annual support. Give as you are led and are able. Provide or donate toward school materials, supplies for family service projects, computers, lunches, or after-school snacks.

Creating and staffing a safe, secure learning environment that is self-sustaining requires a community-wide effort. Here are some options for giving:

\$65 feeds 12 students breakfast, lunch and an after-school snack per day.

\$100 provides gasoline for the van for one week.

\$250 sponsors one boy for a

month in the mentoring program.

\$300 sends an at-risk youth to one week of summer camp.

Please pray about your level of support. Visit us at 13 Rose St. Let's talk it over. Be our partners in transformation; join us as the hands and feet of Jesus Christ serving here in Danbury

To donate online, visit Jericho at [www.jerichopartnership.org](http://www.jerichopartnership.org), then "Give" in the upper right hand corner — or contact me personally at 203.791.1180 x229 or [michael@jerichopartnership.org](mailto:michael@jerichopartnership.org). •

*Michael Ronan is treasurer and director of development at Jericho Partnership.*

# Mentees learn TV production ropes at Comcast video training

If all goes according to plan, by this time next year more than a dozen Pathways Danbury mentees will be producing their own cable television program on the local community access station.

"We're in the initial stages of brainstorming," said Troy Grant, executive director of the Christ-centered mentoring program's potential TV show. "The sky's the limit," he said. "Some of the kids are talking about a reality show,

others about a talk show, or something to do with youth in the city."

This past fall, Grant and six mentees took a video production training course at the Comcast community access facilities in Danbury. "It was really fun," said Jaquan Smith, 14, of the classes that met one night a week for six weeks. "I learned how to use a camera, how to be a director, how to use the character generator."

All those skills can be put to use once the details of a cable television production are worked out – probably sometime next fall. "We'll schedule studio time for them to produce and tape a couple of shows," said Candy Roswell, Comcast's community access coordinator. "We'll get a couple of shows in the can, and if everything is OK, we'll do all the paperwork and sign off on a contract for air time."

"We'll set up a date and Comcast will design the class just for our guys," probably sometime in the spring or summer.

A few of the graduates aren't waiting that long to put their training to work. Jaquan has already done some volunteer camera work for other community access programs at Comcast, and Chris Echevarria, 16, is being trained for the audio-visual team at New Hope Baptist Church's new sanctuary in Danbury.

Terrel Little, 18, sees the experience fitting in with his plans for his future. "I want to get into the film industry – acting, producing, writing scripts," said Terrel, a freshman at Naugatuck Valley Community College in Danbury and a recent graduate of the Pathways Danbury mentoring program.

"I learned a lot of things from that course, got to know a lot of new people and had fun, too," he said.

## New experiences

"We're just in the planning stages now," Grant said of the television show, which can also be shown on the Charter community access channel. "We want some more kids to go through the class because we need more people to put the show together.

"We're just looking forward to the show they're going to produce," he said. "It will be something new for the kids to do. We're always looking for out-of-the-box experiences for the Pathways Danbury kids." •



**Above:** Terrell Little gives a thumbs-up to TV camera work.

**Below (left to right):** Terrel Little, Jaquan Smith, and Jesse Coachman take charge of the control desk as part of Comcast TV's video production course.



## Fits future plans

The half-dozen mentees' enthusiasm about the course spread to the rest of the boys in the mentoring program. "We have about 15 of them who want to take it now," Grant said.

# Homeless Shelter opens

(Continued from page 1)

from 5:45 to 7:30 a.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

## Clean-up crews needed

The shelter is one of four in the city that are open each winter. Homeless individuals first go to the city shelter on New Street, and when that is filled, they receive tickets for one of the overflow shelters, until all are filled.

After guests leave the Jericho shelter, volunteers are needed each day to wash, dry and fold bed linens and towels, clean and mop the bathroom, and generally tidy up the facility. In addition to on-site volunteers, the shelter is looking for donations of warm clothing and snacks.

“We definitely need donations of hot chocolate and gift cards from Dunkin Donuts or supermarkets,” Lacy said. Other needs include warm socks, gloves and hats. Donations can be left at the Jericho facility at 13 Rose St. during normal weekday business hours.

For more information on volunteering at the shelter or making donations, e-mail [volunteer@jerichopartnership.org](mailto:volunteer@jerichopartnership.org).



Neil Tan, center, Walnut Hill Community Church Pastor of Men’s Ministries, presents a check to Ced Rice, principal of Pathways Academy. The donation was raised through Walnut Hill’s men’s ministries’ annual Golf Classic, which hosted 95 golfers at Oxford Greens, Oxford, Ct., on Oct. 5. Also in the photo are Dante Hodge, left, an Academy seventh grade student; Rev. Ivan Pitts, second from left, Pathways Academy board chairman; and Ivan Peña, right, an Academy sixth grader.

## Grants help build God’s Kingdom

Jericho Partnership received \$23,800 in grants and gifts this fall for Pathways Academy from Union Savings Bank, the Newtown Savings Bank and the Men’s Ministries at Walnut Community Church in Bethel.

The funds are for the technology needs and food budget at the middle-school-boys academy.

Union Savings Bank also provided grants to Jericho partner ministries Christian Community

Outreach Ministries for workforce development training for men who reside at CCOM’s Discipleship House, and to Amos House, which offers transitional living for homeless mothers and their children.

“We praise God for these funding sources and opportunities to build the Kingdom throughout the city,” said Michael Ronan, Jericho’s treasurer and director of development.

## Volunteer opportunities

Here are some current volunteer needs at Jericho Partnership and its ministry partners. For more information or to volunteer, contact the volunteer department at 203.791.1180, ext. 257, or [volunteer@jerichopartnership.org](mailto:volunteer@jerichopartnership.org).

**Mentors.** Pathways Danbury mentoring program needs Christian men willing to make a long-term commitment to mentor an at-risk boy from middle school through high school graduation.

**Drivers** for Pathways Danbury on Thursday evenings from Jericho Partnership’s 13 Rose St. facilities to the boys’ homes in Danbury following Bible study, which ends around 7:30 p.m. About an hour is needed to bring the boys home in Jericho’s van. No special license is needed, and drivers will be on Pathways’ insurance.

**Meal and snack preparers** for Pathways Academy, our middle-school-aged boys learning academy; Pathways Danbury mentoring program; S.A.Y. Yes! after-school tutoring center; and Young Life teen outreach.

# YoungMOMS a place for support, friends

(Continued from page 1)

program range in age from 15 to 22, their children from infants to a 2-year-old. Some mothers had decided to keep their babies through Hopeline's pro-life counseling. Others come from the Danbury school system's EvenStart program for pregnant teens and teen moms pursuing their high school diploma.

"Now that they're moms, there are very few voices in their life that tell them they can do this, that they can be good moms and still have the hopes and dreams they had for their lives before they found themselves pregnant," Lisa said.

The experimental six-week program was so successful that it will be able to continue indefinitely with more volunteer help. At the program's first meeting, two girls talked about what it's like to be single moms. "I was amazed at their willingness to share their feelings and experiences," Lisa said. "It was as if they had been waiting for an outlet and a place to share their feelings, frustrations and fears. There was laughter, tears and the start of some really good conversations."

And during each week's craft project, "most of the talking and bonding takes place," she said. "That's where they share their tips on mothering, places to go to shop, places to find things at a decent price" – the conversations all moms have.

"Yes, they got pregnant, and some not under great circumstances, some with not very much family support," Lisa said. "But they still have hopes and dreams, just like any other mom."

"We want to gear up for it to grow," she said. "We'd like to see it double in size" to reach even more young moms with love and hope. •

## Volunteer needs for YoungMOMS

The weekly YoungMOMS needs volunteers to lead crafts projects, look after the babies and toddlers, and drive the moms to the program and back home in an insured van.

Volunteers are also needed to contact local restaurants to donate free meals once a month or so. Two Steps on Ives Street in Danbury donated the meals one week, and for more than five weeks, Elmer's Diner on Padanaram Road in Danbury has supplied them, providing enough for the teen moms to take food home with them, "which they loved," said Lisa DelVecchio, the program's director.

When the diner's owner, Elmer Palma, "was told the girls were blown away that someone would donate food like that, he said, 'You tell them that this is how God works. It may not be through me, but God will always provide something for them,'" Lisa said.

For more information, contact Lisa DelVecchio at 203.207.4673, ext. 248, or [volunteer@jerichopartnership.org](mailto:volunteer@jerichopartnership.org)



Elijahwon Harris, left, a Pathways mentee and S.A.Y. Yes student, has a question for Randall Jones, right, a first-year student ("plebe class") at the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy in King's Point, N.Y. Randall, a tutor for the S.A.Y. Yes after-school program in his high school years, spoke to S.A.Y. Yes students earlier this month about what it takes to become enrolled at a U.S. service academy and the academic and physical requirements faced by those who win an appointment.

## More volunteer opportunities

Here are some additional volunteer needs at Jericho Partnership and its ministry partners. For more information, contact Jericho's volunteer department at 203.791.1180, ext. 257, or [volunteer@jerichopartnership.org](mailto:volunteer@jerichopartnership.org).

**Facilitators** for Christ-centered 12-step groups. Full training provided.

**After-school tutors** for boys and teens at the S.A.Y. Yes after-school tutoring center at 13 Rose St., Danbury.

**Cooking** meals at the homeless breakfast program on Maple Avenue, the Dorothy Day soup kitchen on weekends, and food preparation for after-school and youth club meetings at 13 Rose St.

**Cleaning and laundry aides** for the Jericho homeless shelter.

**Intercessors** for prayer walks and prayer teams in downtown Danbury.

# Laurissa's story: "Hopeline was there for me"

**W**hen Laurissa was 17, she was pregnant and seriously thinking about an abortion. "It was something I was probably going to do," she said, even though the father wanted her to keep their baby. "I was going to tell him I had a miscarriage."

Laurissa's mother was in favor of an abortion "because she didn't know how I was going to do it" – support a baby at her age. She had dropped out of school in the ninth grade, had been in trouble with the law, was about to serve jail time, and was unemployed. "My mom wasn't as supportive as I thought she was going to be," she said.

"It was pretty deep, definitely a lot," she said of her life at the time, and she confided in a cousin that "I don't know how I'm going to do this." Her cousin suggested she visit Hopeline Pregnancy Resource Center because "they had people I could talk to," Laurissa said. "But I was nervous because people who want to help want something in return, and I didn't have anything to give."

## 'You could see it moving . . .'

Laurissa decided to check out Hopeline anyway, and knew at once, "just by their presence and the vibes, that they were going to be a help." She began visiting regularly – "They were like big sisters" – and began to see her life from a different perspective. "They explained they've had a lot of girls in my situation come in, and that there are ways of doing this," she said. "They were there for me."

"When I was a month or two along, I had an ultrasound," she said. She wasn't impressed. "At that point it was like a little dot. It didn't look like anything to me." She still wasn't convinced to keep her baby.

## Hopeline Annual Fundraiser

**H**opeline Pregnancy Resource Center's annual fundraising dinner will be Thursday, March 18 at the Amber Room in Danbury, and Friday, March 19 at the Trumbull Marriott in Trumbull.

Keynote speaker will be Alejandro Monteverde, director of *Bella*, a Christian film about adoption that has received several international awards.

"If you would like to help cover the cost of the banquets or would like to host a table of 10, please let us know," said Linda Cochrane, Hopeline's executive director. Contact her at 203.207.4673, ext. 247, or [Hopeline@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Hopeline@sbcglobal.net).



Above, Laurissa and Alexander attend Hopeline's YoungMOMS group.

"It was, like, three months when it finally hit me." Laurissa said. The ultrasound "still didn't look like a baby, but you could see it was moving, and everything in my mind started changing."

## Changed relationships

Alexander was born in June 2008, after Laurissa decided to keep her baby as a single mom, even though "I wasn't sure how I'd do it or where I was going to live." And two things in her relationships changed. The baby's father "realized, I guess, that this wasn't just a game," she said. "We're no longer together."

But her mom supported her decision, and even babysits Alex when Laurissa, who is living on her own, is working. "I don't think she had been unsupportive because I was pregnant, but because she didn't know how I was going to do it."

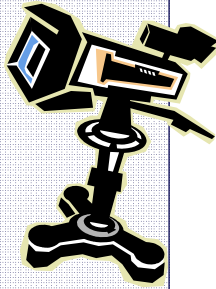
Life isn't easy for Laurissa, especially in this economy. "I'm struggling," she said. She works as a waitress and is looking for another job, her car needs work and "I don't even have time to try to go to church."

But she and Alexander are fine otherwise, and she credits Hopeline with saving her baby's life. "When I first started talking to them, I really didn't have anybody to talk to. Just having that support from the beginning helped me change my mind." •

# Jericho on cable TV program

The **Pathways Danbury** annual "Call to Action" breakfast will be featured on the Christians Alive! cable television program on both Charter and Comcast cablevision channels. Part 1 will be on Monday, Dec 7 at 7:30 p.m. on Comcast Channel 23; and Tuesday, Dec 8 at 12:30 p.m. and Thursday, Dec. 10 at 7:30 p.m. on Charter Channel 21.

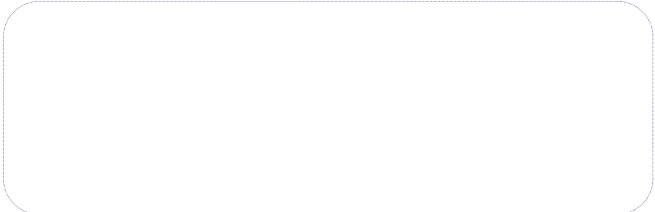
Part 2 will also include **Bill Beattie**, founder and chairman of Pathways and Jericho Partnership, and will be on Monday, Dec. 14 at 7:30 p.m. on Comcast; and Tuesday, Dec. 15. at 12:30 p.m. and Thursday, Dec. 17, at 7:30 p.m. on Charter.



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*Crystal Perkins*

## Staffing changes at Jericho

Crystal Perkins has been named to the newly-created position of operations manager for Jericho Partnership.

She joined Jericho in September 2008 as manager of accounting and finances. She'll leave that position and assume her new duties in January. Her primary responsibilities will be supporting the Jericho volunteer department, overseeing the compassionate care events, and supporting the executive director.

"Crystal is a committed Christ-follower who takes the call seriously to put faith into practice," said Carrie Amos, executive director. "She is an active volunteer in many aspects of the Jericho ministry as well as in the community at large."

In other staff changes, Ruth Chuvala has been named to the newly-created position of communications manager for Jericho. She joined Jericho in February 2007 as executive assistant.

Ruth's responsibilities include overseeing Jericho's print and electronic communications and publications, supervising the Jericho facility at 13 Rose Street, and several office-management tasks.

"Ruth's shift to the communications manager position allows her to spend more time using her gifts to develop a model system that communicates through multiple avenues how the Lord is using Jericho to advance His kingdom," said Carrie. "Ruth's passion for communicating effectively and her standard of excellence are incredible, and we are fortunate to have Ruth as our communications manager." •



*Ruth Chuvala*

## Holiday Bazaar

Christian Community Outreach Ministries will conduct a Holiday Bazaar Saturday, Dec. 5, between 9 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. at 22 Maple Ave., Danbury.

Vendors will offer hand-crafted jewelry, African baskets, floral art, wreaths and other crafts. For more information, call C.C.O.M. at 203.794.9672.

## New church partner

Wilton Baptist Church has joined Jericho Partnership as the eleventh congregation partner. Pastor Jason Coker is encouraging Wilton Baptist members to find areas of service at Jericho and its partner ministries.

Other congregation partners are All Nations Baptist Church, Cambodian New Life Evangelical Church, Christ the Shepherd Presbyterian Church, Immanuel Lutheran Church, Lighthouse Ministries International, New Hope Baptist Church and Victory Christian Center, all in Danbury; First Assembly of God, Brookfield; New Life Community Church, New Fairfield; and Walnut Hill Community Church, Bethel.