

Epiphany Outreach News

January 2009

Happy New Year!

Welcome back after a relaxing (we hope) holiday break. We accomplished many wonderful outreach missions this past fall which we have shared in photos and stories below. Starting in January we continue with our themes, "Help with Homelessness" for the cold, winter months and focus on organizations "Thinking Internationally, beyond Winchester" in the Spring. We invite you to join us in any or all of these missions. We have outlined some dates below of upcoming events this Winter/Spring and as always, we welcome your support in any way you can participate.

Save These Dates*

Jan 15	Focus on Homeless Projects Begin
Jan 18	Soup and Bread for El Hogar 12:15
Jan 25	Soup and Bread for El Hogar 12:15
Feb 1	1 st Delivery of Collected items for homeless
Feb 8	Last Soup and Bread for El Hogar @ 12:15
March 1- April 5 Palm Sunday	Lenten Program focused on education about and helping El Hogar children
April/May	Focus on International Outreach Projects Continue

- [Read more about these programs on p. 2 – 4](#)

Apple Picking at Honey Pot Hill Orchard with Brookview House



Epiphany families enjoy a sunny Fall day picking apples with Brookview House @ Honey Pot Hill



Epiphany families join Brookview house families on a hay ride out to the apple orchard.

This year's apple picking was enjoyed by 5 Epiphany families and over 80 members of Brookview House. Though the apples were not as abundant as other years, Honey Pot Hill set aside special rows of empire and delicious apples for the entire group which we arrived at via hayride guaranteeing everyone a bag full of apples. This year was a particularly friendly gathering as both Epiphany and Brookview families could join together on the hayride providing a better opportunity to enjoy each other's company.

Four Full Car Loads of Food Donated to the Woburn Council of Social Concern in time for Thanksgiving



Nearly \$3,000 worth of food was donated to the Woburn Council of Social Concern this past November to help families in need celebrate this special holiday. We thank everyone at Epiphany who donated food, money and help to make the project happen. The Woburn Council was truly grateful.

175 people shared in a Thanksgiving Day feast at the Turkey Wahoo at St. Stephen's Church



To all of you who helped us pull off this year's Wahoo-THANK YOU!

We played games, made crafts and fed close to 175 people in a tiny space! Betsy received the following email from Tim Crellin, the priest at St. Stephen's, after the event:

"To entertain all those kids and then feed all those people is a daunting task. You all pulled it off with grace and patience. I really appreciate it so much, and I know the kids and their families did as well. Please extend my thanks to everyone who helped to make it such a special day. I'm very grateful for all you do for our kids."

Liz Steinhauser, director of Youth Programs, told her that this is their favorite celebration from a staff, kid and family viewpoint. 31 Epiphany families helped make this happen and 35 parishioners (16 adults, 9 teens and 10 younger kids) helped on site. An impressive effort. Thank you!

During the fall season of giving thanks, we are truly thankful for everything our volunteers do!

Quilts Delivered to Brookview House Families

4 large and 2 small quilts made by creative parishioners were donated to Brookview House in November along with sweaters, hats, and flannel pillow cases.

Tags Taken from 3 Advent Giving Trees Offered Holiday Cheer to Many on Christmas Day



We had 3 giving trees this year, one in Hadley Hall, one in the front of the church and another in the Sunday School hallway downstairs. We provided 96 gifts (for 48 children)

to Woburn Council, gifts for 18 families (80 people total) to Brookview House, 75 giftcards for children at St. Stephen's given out on Christmas Eve, gifts for 24 girls at Germaine Lawrence, supplies for a feeding program at Mount Calvary Church in Dorchester (spices, dishtowels, tin foil etc), many hammers, utility knives and tape measures for Merrimack Valley Habitat for Humanity and 10 Stop and Shop gift cards to be given to people asking for food assistance from POE. Check donations totaled \$1,620 with El Hogar receiving \$675 for amounts specifically allocated to food, clothing, medical supplies and teaching support. Other donations included \$195 for picture books for S. African children, \$355 for food parcels for AIDS patients in S. Africa, \$250 for the Anglican Diocese of Jerusalem and \$145 in gifts for children on the Gulf Coast.

Books Sent to Children at an Orphanage in Galle, Sri Lanka



Students receiving books in Sri Lanka on Dec 16, 2008

Above is a photo from Judy Coltman's contact, Nirukshi, taken in Sri Lanka this past December. The books were received by children at an orphanage in the city of Galle, Sri Lanka. Galle is on the southern coast of Sri Lanka and it was devastated by the tsunami in 2004. Nirukshi and the woman in the photo distributed books to at least 4 different homes for children all over Sri Lanka.

In addition to the books sent to Sri Lanka, Judy's team has shipped books to many other organizations including the Cardinal Cushing Center in Hanover, MA, Church of the Redeemer in D'Iberville Michigan, New Orleans-Recovery School District and the local Reading food pantry and Winchester's Ambrose school.

Upcoming Events

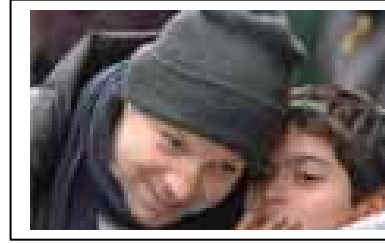
Focus on Homelessness and Affordable Housing in January/February



Ecclesia Ministries and City Reach Coat, Clothing, Blanket, Sock (new) and Underwear (new) and Backpack Collection for the Homeless.

Please bring in any gently used, warm clothing donations you have to the box in Hadley Hall. The first delivery will be made to Ecclesia ministries in Boston on February 1. Additional items collected will be distributed by our tennagers at City Reach in the Spring. We will also be collecting new socks, underwear and backpacks for Ecclesia ministries.

1. *Ecclesia Ministries* offers social services to homeless people in concert with spiritual companionship and community in order to provide dignity and continuity for lives that have little or none of either.
2. *CityReach*, Boston is an overnight urban outreach program begun in March 1996 for youth (with accompanying adults), young adults, and college students from churches of any denomination. The program gives these young people the opportunity to learn first hand about homelessness from people who have experienced it.



3. Coming soon on January 29th at 7:30 is the movie: **“Where God Left His Shoes”** at the Institute of Contemporary Art in Boston. The story is about homelessness. Starring John Leguizamo and Leonor Varela, the movie is about the story of a family that refuses to break apart during the darkest time of their lives and discovers that they will survive as long as they have each other. Presented by the Family-to-Family Project and the ICA.



Come Help Build a House with Habitat on Saturday January 24th and/or February 28th

4.Habitat for Humanity- Habitat creates/ builds affordable housing to prevent homelessness among its clients. It is a program that helps economically disadvantaged people build their own housing. Parishioners can participate in Habitat work parties. Contact John Cuzzo @ john.cuzzo@verizon.net, with questions.



5. *Brookview House*- Brookview ministers to families off the street and moves them to affordable housing. The agency provides transitional housing, education and services for homeless women and their children.
6. *Italian Home for Children* – will also receive new socks and underwear donations for children (sizes 4-12) through the Sunday school program.

Focus on International Outreach in March/April/May



1. **Lenten Project** focus on education and support of children at El Hogar orphanage in Tegucigalpa, Honduras.

Wk 1- Sunday, March 1 Presentation by Liz Kinchen. Mite box decorating. Classes choose cause/items they are raising money for. Devotional presented.

Wk 2- Sunday, March 8 in classrooms

Bible story about friendship, reaching out to others-Craft activity- Friendship bracelets for grades 1-8 (to be given to El Hogar kids)-

Wk 3- Sunday, March 15 in classrooms

What is Lent? What is a mite box? Why are we doing a Lenten project? Bible stories.

Wk 4- Sunday, March 22 in classrooms

An adult or teen who has been to El Hogar to Talk about A Day in the Life of a Child at El Hogar

Wk 5- Sunday, March 29 as a whole group

WE trip participants share short “slideshow” of trip. Each class presents poster of what they have been collecting money in their mite boxes for.

Wk 6- Palm Sunday

Short Presentation in Church on Lent program

El Hogar Mission Trip – March 14-21



Home Caregivers in Front of Ekuvukeni Primary Healthcare Center

2. Ekuvukeni HIV/AIDS Project
3. Friends of India



Unloading Books in Lower Molweni Kwazulu Natal

4. Books for South Africa
 5. Books for Sri Lanka
- Information about all these programs will be forthcoming.

Third Sunday Offerings '08/'09

Oct.	Brookview House	\$627
Nov.	Woburn Council	\$351
Dec.	Germaine Lawrence	
Jan.	Habitat	
Feb.	Ecclesia	
Mar.	El Hogar	
April	Ekuvukeni	

Looking Ahead to Summer

Two weeks of St. Stephens BSAFE camp in July and August, dates to be determined.