

A word from our new Board Chair..

I'm Phil Ellis and employed as the Interim Executive Director at Community Action of Southern Indiana, Inc. I have 24 years of nonprofit experience with emphasis in Community Development. As Board Chairman, I feel my experience will help guide the Center for Lay Ministries and it's board into areas of change. In today's nonprofit world there are no scripts to follow, only good strategic planning and sound leadership. Upon receiving the helm from Virginia Klemens, the past Board Chairperson, her shoes "will be hard to fill". The Center for Lay Ministries has a great Board of Directors, volunteers and donors and I cherish the opportunity to work with such a great group of professionals.



A Note From Greg



Today, as we prepare for the upcoming holiday season, I hope that all of you will think about God's ministry here at the center and how much we need your continued support. Food has been scarce. Dare to Care allocation has been minimal over the past two months and our annual fall school food drive was very disappointing. Fortunately, our *Simply Give* gift cards from Meijer's have allowed us to keep our shelves adequately supplied with food.

There have been many exciting results over this past quarter. Renovation at the Bliss Houses is well underway. Many items that had been neglected are being addressed. Our Bliss residents have been very flexible with the disruption, knowing that the end result will be great.

We had our annual meeting in September at Faith Lutheran Church which was very positive. Many of our board members, volunteers and guests were present. We have four new board members to replace those who have rotated off. They are: Mr. Mike Lankert - Retired Floyd County school teacher
Mr. Travis Dorman, branch manager for First Savings Bank
Mrs. Michele Anderson, controller for the Louisville Bats Club
Rev. Dave Parkerson, Outreach Campus Pastor at Eastside Christian Church.

After one year of hard work, I am pleased to announce that our Strategic Planning committee has prepared a 5 year plan for the corporation. This plan has been presented to our Board of Directors for evaluation and approval. This plan will allow a vision and implementation to our greater success.

I want to thank all of our friends of CLM for their hard work over this past year. Without your help and support, we simply could not do what we do for the people of Clark County. We have an impressive and professional board, volunteers and paid staff that helps manage a first class operation with all of our ministries. I am very proud to be part of such a loving organization.

Greg Henderzahs, Executive Director

Thelma Mathews Social Service Committee

By Phyllis Croce

The Thelma Mathews Social Service Committee has been busy expanding the Volunteer Handbook, developing a client newsletter, as well as reviewing and updating a community resource list for our clients.

Frequently committee discussions center on how to better help and support the increasing number of clients coming to the food pantry. With government programs being cut, more than ever, we need donations for the food pantry. Non-perishable food or monetary donations, in any amount, are appreciated. Thanks to everyone who supports CLM. I'm thinking of going one step further by adding something that CLM needs to what I do now.

I invite YOU to think of one more thing you can do: Give any amount as a monetary donation.

- Come and observe a volunteer worker on a shift for an hour. The food pantry is open Monday-Friday 9:30 to 3.
- Attend a Bliss House Graduation.
- Do you know a child under the age of 14? Bring them to the food pantry and drop off some food.
- Put some children's books in the front lobby table.
- Initiate your own neighborhood food drive.
- Get the word out that you are collecting for the CLM Food Pantry. Target those foods we rarely receive; fresh eggs, milk, peanut butter.
- Collect plastic bags and drop them off at the pantry.
- Help unload the Dare to Care delivery the 2nd Thursday of the month. Call the Main Office for delivery times.

Is it possible to give a little more when we already give so much? I think it is. We all have talents that we might not think are useful but they are.

Bonnets & Blossoms for Bliss

The Bliss House Committee held a Bonnets and Blossoms for Bliss event on Sunday, September 28 at First Christian Church. Our purpose was to get the word out about Bliss House and it's ministry to women in recovery. This we did by expanding our outreach beyond our regular supporters and each committee member invited at least 10 friends to the event. We had a great response to the invitation and the event was very well attended!

We partnered with Tina from Tina's Boutique in Sellersburg to show off our Bliss House residents in a fashion show. Individuals were at the Bliss House Sunday morning to help the residents with hair and makeup before they were surprised with a limousine that Tiffany had arranged to transport them to the event.

Tina supplied each girl with two outfits of their choosing and they "strutted their stuff" (as MC Senior Retired Judge Cile Blau said about the women and their outfits). We raised enough money through the efforts of Tina and her friends, as well as a mock auction with Judge Blau as the residents modeled, to allow the residents to keep both outfits they modeled! It was rewarding to see their confidence as they dressed up and walked through the room showing off the clothing they had chosen and even more fulfilling to see their faces while they dressed in their own clothing at the end of the show and were told the clothes they modeled was theirs to keep!

Bliss House is so much more than a 12-step recovery program, it is an all-encompassing program that reintegrates the women back into their community through events like this that encourage social interaction and boosts their confidence! The Bliss House Committee is extremely pleased to be a part of the process!

Michele Anderson

Bliss House Committee Chairperson

Needed for CLM: a storage shed.

There are a number of things at CLM that need storage space. They are currently crammed into corners and odd spaces. This would be a good project for a men's group or service club.

For specifics about the requirements for the shed talk with Greg Henderzahs at (812) 282-0063



Huge changes taking place at 211 and 213 East Maple

There are some huge changes taking place at 211 and 213 East Maple Street better known as Bliss House and Bliss Too which are making us better equipped to strengthen our community...one life at a time.

We have been renovating our facilities since May and have accomplished a lot. New roofs and gutters went on both buildings to handle the weather and our interiors are getting a much needed face lift. Bliss House now has a new kitchen, a laundry room, 2 baths, a former TV room has been modified to serve as our new office space and our residents will enjoy a refurbished office for a TV room including a new flat screen TV. Our exterior doors have been replaced and a beautifully ornate exterior door is being rejuvenated and restored by a volunteer. We have been dedicated to making sure the character of our 140 year old homes remain as intended for years to come.



Our apartments in Bliss Too are receiving some TLC with new drywall, paint, repairs, flooring and more. Because Bliss House has not had major work done since we opened our doors in 2001, all of this is extremely exciting. Over 500 women on their road to recovery have lived in our homes, which means considerable wear and tear year after year.

There have been many folks who have donated their time and expertise to making the renovations go smoothly. Our contractors have donated labor and our Bliss Committee made sure the residents had dinner every night for 3 weeks when we did not have a kitchen. The list of donors goes on and on.

Despite all of the changes, one thing remains constant and that is our community's support of our mission to foster long term recovery for women who are addicted to alcohol and other drugs and for that, we are extremely grateful.

Julie Schwerer

Bliss House Director



It is never too little...

From time to time we can get overwhelmed with the constant great needs that we become aware of, and when faced with our limited resources ask whether it is doing any good.

Over a year ago a man stopped by my office and dropped off a paper sack with two pair of socks and a winter hat. He apologized for not being able to do more. He had stopped at the dollar store and had seen them on sale and figured he could help someone else. I know the individual to whom the hat and the socks were given and they replaced threadbare ones that were not warm enough to stave off the cold. This gift that was given was a blessing to both. The donor on limited income knew he had helped someone and felt a pride in being able to help. The recipient was gifted with warmer clothing and the knowledge that others care about him and his situation. He was not an object of scorn or derision but a person to be helped.

The story goes that a couple and their children went for a walk on the beach at the ocean after the tide had gone out. They saw starfish caught in the tidal pools that were drying up in the sun. As they walked they would pick up a starfish and gently toss them back into the receding ocean. A man can behind them pointed out that there are hundreds of miles and beach and thousands of starfish and so what they were doing would not really matter. The young son ran ahead, picked up a starfish and threw it back into the surf. He smiled at the stranger and said simply "It matters to that one!"

Let is never forget the good that we can do even if it seems too little. Your too little when added to my too little and to other people's donation can provide significant help to others and be a blessing to us as well.

A reflection by the Rev Donald Hill, parish representative of St Paul's Episcopal Church

Your donations make it possible for The Center for Lay Ministries to address unmet needs of the people of Clark County with respect and compassion. You can make a donation through our website at www.centerforlayministries.org or send it to 213 E Maple St, Jeffersonville, IN 47130



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