

THE Waysider

Be ye doers of the Word, and not hearers only. (James 1:22)

URGENT: SEE PG. 2 FOR COVID NEWS!

SHARING GOD'S LOVE WITH THE HOMELESS OF LOUISVILLE



We are very grateful to the Louisville community for the many ways they've joined hands with the Mission during the holiday season, reaching out to show love and compassion to the hundreds of homeless we serve. This time of year we work extra hard to ensure those staying at the Mission have some good memories of the holiday to take with them when they leave us for housing. We especially want to make sure the children in the shelter feel loved, have some normalcy, and experience the magic of the season. It takes a lot of helping hands to achieve this goal. In this holiday edition of *The Waysider*, we hope you enjoy seeing some of the many highlights of the season (pg. 3). Thanks to the Kiwanis Club of Louisville's help, along with Ardi's Bears, the families enjoyed a wonderful Breakfast with Santa event at the Hotel.

Mom introduced her 2-month old baby to Santa at Breakfast with Santa in December

"If one of your country men becomes poor and is unable to support himself among you, help him..."

Leviticus 25:35

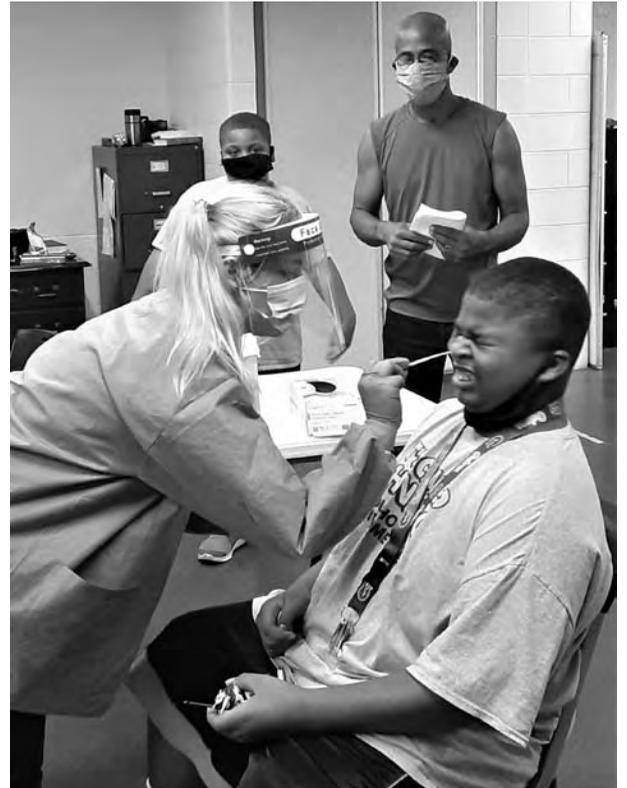
YOU CAN HELP!

- ✓ Pray
 - ✓ Volunteer
 - ✓ Be In-
- volved
- Cash
 - Used Autos
 - In-Kind Gifts (food and supplies)
 - Gifts of Appreciated Assets (stock, real estate, etc.)
- For further information call the Mission (502) 584-3711

DIRECTOR'S CORNER: COVID STRIKES!

Throughout the pandemic, Wayside Christian Mission has worked diligently to keep all our clients as safe and protected as possible. To this end, we have had to adjust our operations in the shelters to incorporate necessary precautions. Even so, as the Omicron variant of COVID continues to strike our community, many of the homeless are experiencing the virus.

Since Feb. 29, 2021, Wayside Christian Mission has partnered with Metro Louisville and the Health Department to provide housing at Hotel Louisville for any COVID-positive person in Jefferson County who needs a safe place to isolate. At the time of this writing, the COVID positivity rate for Jefferson County has soared to 27 percent. Most of those persons isolating at Hotel Louisville are homeless individuals. Current news reports indicate that the Omicron variant of the virus will continue to soar over the next few weeks. Usage of the Hotel COVID housing has recently exploded from one full floor to three, and is headed toward opening yet a fourth floor. These are very trying times for our community, and scary times as we try to keep our clients and staff safe.



COVID testing is done weekly at the shelter until the current uptick comes under control.



MOTHER'S DAY PROJECT NEEDS HELP

If you have handbags you no longer use, please consider donating them for our homeless ladies to receive as Mother's Day Gifts. For more info, call 502-345-9030.

HOTEL OPERATIONS CEASE

Temporarily, we have decided to cease normal hotel operations at Hotel Louisville until the COVID crisis eases. For the next few weeks, we will no longer rent hotel rooms to the general public, and the Cardinal Crossings Cafe in the Hotel lobby will close. This will allow us to expand the COVID housing to a fourth floor. Persons in isolation must stay in their hotel room until isolation is complete. We deliver three hot meals plus snacks to their room daily, and we provide laundry service at their door. If you would like to help, we can use donations of bottled water, canned soft drinks, snacks, and individual serving cans of soup to place in their rooms.

Volunteer Opportunities

As exploding COVID cases deplete our workforce, fully vaccinated volunteers are needed. 1) Our thrift store in J'town needs volunteers who will sort donations, hang clothes and stock shelves. 2) Our kitchen at the shelter needs volunteers to process fresh produce and prep it. Call 502-345-9030 to volunteer.

We Need Your Help!!!

www.waysidechristianmission.org

PEOPLE SHOW THEIR LOVE THROUGH ACTIONS



It takes a lot of love for volunteers to come at 5:30 in the morning to start deboning the turkeys.



The Jochin Family traveled 4,000 miles from London to volunteer at the Christmas Extravaganza.



Fleur's Dream showered love on our homeless men, women and children, bringing them toys, foods, linens, blankets, and even haircuts. Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus greeted everyone, passing out loving hugs and candy canes to all.



This beautiful baby spent every moment of her first Christmas amidst all the excitement of the holiday. Along with other families in the shelter, community sponsors provided gifts for Santa to present at the Christmas Eve party.



Thanks to Patty Payette and Bombas Socks company for providing new socks to hand out on Thanksgiving and Christmas Days. To a homeless person, a simple gift of socks can mean a lot.

Veteran Preparing to Help Other Veterans In Need

“AC” recently participated in our Adult Peer Support Specialist certification program at Wayside Christian Mission. AC is a combat veteran from Operation Iraqi Freedom and now suffers with severe PTSD. He explains, “A 107mm rocket hit my barracks room while I was sitting on my bunk and blew up right above my head.” AC was referred to Wayside by his vocational rehabilitation counselor at the VA. He is planning on becoming an Adult Peer Support Specialist (APSS) for the VA to help other veterans coming home with health issues. An APSS certification in Kentucky requires extensive training in many disciplines. APSS personnel use their experience of overcoming adverse circumstances, coupled with their extensive training, to offer assistance on a peer level to others coping with similar adversities. Wayside Christian Mission provides this training free of charge as a community service. “I would not have been able to afford this training if Wayside didn’t offer it for free. Some agencies wanted up to \$750 to certify me,” says AC. Wayside offers this program, among many others, in order to help our struggling neighbors to achieve long term success by lowering barriers to needed assistance. Wayside Christian Mission also operates both an emergency and transitional program specifically for homeless veterans and their families. We’re grateful for every vet’s service.



Operation Iraqi Freedom veteran “AC” recently earned his Adult Peer Support Specialist certification at Wayside.

NEWS FLASH: SEE INSIDE FOR IMPORTANT COVID UPDATE!

BECOME A LIFESAVER IN 2022

The Lifesavers Club makes supporting Wayside Christian Mission easy by providing a monthly reminder of the pledge size which fits your budget. To join, simply complete the form below and mail in the enclosed envelope.

Yes, I would like to give monthly \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Did I send that
check to the
Mission this
month?



Member
Citygate
Network

Urgent Needs

Meat & Vegetables

Pillows /Pillow Cases

Washers & Dryers

Bottled Water

Cars & Trucks

Toilet Paper

Twin-Sized Sheets/Blankets

Laundry Detergent

Furniture

Volunteers

Text/Call 345-9030