



Neighborhood Ministry NEWS February 2009



**Homeless During Winter
Tax Information for Low-Income
Parish Nursing
Family Medicine Residents
Have You Had Your Annual Mammogram
Upcoming Volunteer Events**

Homeless During Winter

During the winter months, when the night temperature falls to 22° or below, there is a group of volunteers who scour the streets of St. Louis looking for the homeless. The group's main objective is to prevent the homeless from freezing to death. They hand out food, drinks and blankets and offer to help the homeless get into a shelter for the night. Some will always choose to stay on the streets.

On January 14, 2009, FOX2NEWS and a reporter from the St. Louis Post-Dispatch joined the volunteers, which included Cheryl Persons of the Neighborhood Ministry, to gain a perspective of the homeless during the frigid nighttime temperatures and the services the volunteer group provides. The temp was near 0° that particular night. Click on the links below to see their stories.

http://www.myfoxstl.com/myfox/MyFox/pages/sidebar_video.jsp?contentId=8253130&version=1&locale=EN-US

<http://www.stltoday.com/stltoday/news/stories.nsf/stlouiscitycounty/story/6add36dc7ed695848625753f0041f673?OpenDocument>



Tax Information for Low-Income

Free programs are available throughout the area that will prepare your taxes via e-file and who are knowledgeable about the Earned Income Tax Credit benefits. Most returns are received in 15 days or less.

View the 2 flyers below for the sites and dates services are available.

Gateway EITC Community Coalition (see page 4)
St. Louis Tax Assistance Program (see page 5)

Parish Nursing

The St. Louis Area Catholic Parish Nurses have invited Sharon Neumeister, Director of the Neighborhood Ministry, to sit on a panel during their February 4 meeting. The topic of discussion will be "Sustaining Your Ministry – the Art of Selling Yourself and Your Program."

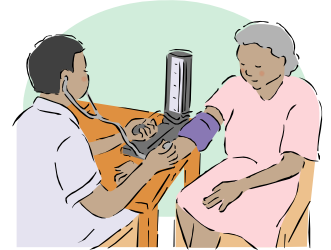
Sharon became certified as a Parish Nurse in 2004. This has led to an even stronger collaboration with the Neighborhood Ministry and area Parish Nurses who provide non-invasive health services out in the community. "Parish nurses serve as key navigators and connectors of our health and social service system," said Neumeister.

In January 2009, the Neighborhood Ministry helped make a connection between Carolyn Crowe, a Parish Nurse, and the Webster-Rock Hill Ministry. The nurse will be providing blood pressure screenings on a regular basis during the open hours of the food pantry. "It's more than a blood pressure screening. It's a first

step for the nurse to build a relationship with the food pantry clients and to see if there is more we can do to improve this person's overall health and quality of life," said Neumeister. The St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantries located at St. Anthony of Padua, St. Pius V and St. Agatha Churches, and St. Augustine Wellston Center and Guardian Angel @ Hosea House are other sites where the Ministry has collaborated to support monthly screenings and referrals.

Family Medicine Residents at Neighborhood Ministry

As part of their Community Medicine rotation, St. John's Mercy Family Medicine Residents spend time with the Neighborhood Ministry staff learning more about the low-income and homeless in the St. Louis area. The Residents' experiences may include special projects such as serving a meal to the homeless, but also include blood pressure screenings and "Ask the Doctor" sessions at food pantries and meal programs. They also assist with breast exams in partnership with the St. John's Mercy Cancer Center and Mobile Mammography Unit at Neighborhood Ministry outreach sites.



The January resident was Vera Lynskey, MD. Thank you, Vera! In March, Jared Wojnicki, MD will work with the Ministry.

Have You Had Your Annual Mammogram?



The American Cancer Society recommends women age 40 and older have a yearly mammogram to detect breast cancer. If you are between the ages of 40-64 and are uninsured and low-income, you may be eligible for a free mammogram. To see if you qualify for this special program, call St. John's Mercy Medical Center, 314-251-6400.

Funding for this program is from Missouri Show Me Healthy Women and Susan G. Komen for the Cure St. Louis Affiliate.

February 11

St. John's Mercy Medical Center
Breast Center
615 S. New Ballas Rd.
St. Louis, MO 63141

March 11

St. John's Mercy Medical Center
Breast Center
615 S. New Ballas Rd.
St. Louis, MO 63141

February 18

St. John's Mercy Hospital
200 Madison Ave.
Washington, MO 63090

March 17

St. Trinity Lutheran
517 W. Koeln
St. Louis, MO 63111

March 4

Saint Rose Philippine Duchesne
3500 St. Catherine St.
Florissant, MO 63033

March 25

Community Health-In-Partnership Services (CHIPS)
2431 N. Grand Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63106

UPCOMING VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Serve Dinner to the Homeless

ST. VINCENT'S CHURCH

1410 S. 10th St. (at Park)

St. Louis, MO 63104

www.stvstl.org

4:15 – 6:30 p.m.

10 – 15 co-workers needed to serve dinner

March 30

April 1

April 22

June 1

More dates to be announced



Serve Dinner and Spend Time with Homeless Men

PETER & PAUL COMMUNITY SERVICES

Emergency Men's Shelter

711 Allen

St. Louis, MO 63104

www.ppcsinc.org

6:15 – 8:30 p.m.

5-6 co-workers needed to talk and spend 1 on 1 time with the men and serve dinner.

February 24

March 24

More dates to be announced

Serve Lunch to the Homeless

CENTENARY CARES OUTREACH

Centenary United Methodist Church

1610 Olive

St. Louis, MO 63103

www.centenarystl.org

10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

2 – 3 co-workers needed to help prepare, serve and clean up lunch

2nd Friday of the month (except April)

July 10

February 13

August 14

March 13

September 11

May 8

October 9

June 12

November 13

December 11

NEW SITE

Prepare/Package Meals

FOOD OUTREACH, INC.

3117 Olive St.

St. Louis, MO 63103

www.foodoutreach.org



Cook & Pack

Saturday, March 21, 2009

8:00 – 11:00 a.m.

10 co-workers needed to assist with food preparation, cooking, and packaging home-cooked meals for persons living with HIV/AIDS or Cancer.



Food Distribution

Saturday, February 28, 2009

10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

5 co-workers needed to fill food orders at our on-site "grocery store" for persons living with HIV/AIDS or Cancer.

GATEWAY EITC COMMUNITY COALITION

Let the **Gateway EITC Community Coalition** help determine if you are eligible for the Earned Income Tax Credit and if so, we will prepare and file your tax return electronically for you.

The **Gateway EITC Community Coalition** provides help in obtaining this refundable tax credit when filing your federal tax return for free. The Coalition operates only e-file sites for tax preparation and can help you get your refund back in as little as two weeks or less.

In 2005, more than 20 million workers received earned income credits exceeding **\$30 BILLION**. Yet, as much as \$50 million still goes unclaimed each year in the St. Louis metropolitan area.

There is a catch - you must file your tax return to get the credit.

To claim the EITC, individuals must meet the following rules:

- Have earned income
- Have a valid Social Security Number
- Not have investment income that exceeds \$2,900
- Cannot have "married filing separately" status
- Must be a U.S. citizen or resident alien all year
- Cannot be a qualifying child of another person
- Cannot file Form 2555 or 2555-EZ (related to foreign earn income)

2009 (tax year 2008) Earned Income Tax Credit Benefits:

	No Children	One Child	Two + Children
Single	Earn Less Than \$12,880 Max Credit \$438	Earn Less Than \$33,995 Max Credit \$2,917	Earn Less Than \$38,646 Max Credit \$4,824
Married	Earn Less Than \$15,880 Max Credit \$438	Earn Less Than \$36,995 Max Credit \$2,917	Earn Less Than \$41,646 Max Credit \$4,824

For more information, please visit the website at www.gecc.us.

Free Tax Sites for 2009

MET Center, 6347 Plymouth Ave., St. Louis, MO 63133

- January 31, 2009 – 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
- February 7, 2009 – 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
- February 14, 2009 – 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
- February 21, 2009 – 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
- February 28, 2009 – 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Five Star Senior Center, 2832 Arsenal, St. Louis, MO 63118

- January 31, 2009 – 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
- February 7, 2009 – 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
- February 14, 2009 – 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
- February 21, 2009 – 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
- February 28, 2009 – 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

International Institute, 3654 South Grand, St. Louis, MO 63118

- Fridays beginning 2/6/09 – 4/10/09

Acorn, 4303 Manchester, St. Louis, MO 63110

- By appointment – call 314-537-7023 after 2/1/09

MERS Goodwill, 1727 Locust Street, St. Louis, MO 63103

- By appointment – call 314-241-3464 after 2/1/09

Julia Davis Public Library, 4415 Natural Bridge, St. Louis, MO 63115

- Not yet determined

University of Missouri – St. Louis, One University Blvd, Social Sciences Bldg, Room 102, St. Louis, MO 63121

- By appointment – call 314-516-6138 after 2/1/09

FREE Income Tax Services



st. louis tax assistance program

The St. Louis Tax Assistance Program offers **FREE ELECTRONIC INCOME TAX RETURN PREPARATION** and tax information for a family with income under \$41,000. You may get a refund, even if you had no taxes withheld!

HERE IS ALL YOU NEED TO BRING:

- All W-2's and 1099's (if any)
- Proof of child care expenses
- Copy of 2007 tax return
- A copy of your check for direct deposit of refund
- Social Security Cards or Individual Taxpayer Identification Numbers for all family members
- Valid picture identification for taxpayer and spouse – Driver's License or Passport
- If joint return, both spouses must attend to sign return

TAP does not prepare income tax returns for taxpayers who have:

- ◆ Incomes over \$41,000
- ◆ Rental Property
- ◆ Claim Itemized Deductions
- ◆ Sales of Stocks or Bonds
- ◆ Self-employment Income from a Trade or Business Requiring Schedule C

TAX SERVICE LOCATION DATES & TIMES

All five locations will be open every Saturday from 8:30 AM thru 11:30 AM on January 31, February 7, February 14, February 21, and February 28. All TAP Clients are seen on a first-come, first-served basis.

CENTRAL WEST END*

Youth Technology & Education Center (YTEC)
4471 Olive
St. Louis, MO 63108

***note NEW location for 2009**

DOWNTOWN

St. Patrick Partnership Center
800 North Tucker
St. Louis, MO 63101

SOUTH CITY

St. Mary's High School
4701 S. Grand Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63111

ST. CHARLES COUNTY

Lewis & Clark Career Center (Tech School)
2400 Zumbuhl Road
St. Charles, MO 63301

NORTH ST. LOUIS COUNTY

Believers Temple Word Fellowship Christian Church
2115 Chambers Road
St. Louis, MO 63136

See our website@ <http://www.stlouistap.org>

2009 TAX SEASON

ST. LOUIS TAX ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

SPONSORS: Conner Ash P.C., 2e Creative, Believers Temple Word Fellowship Christian Church, , Data Max Office Systems, US Bank, Enterprise Rent-A-Car Foundation, Falcon Technologies, Inc., The Partnership Center, St. Charles School District, Schnucks Markets, Inc., St. Louis Chapter MSCPA, St. Mary's High School, Youth Technology & Education Center (YTEC)