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## Neighborhood NEWS

June 2009

Staff:

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Outreach Coordinator  
Terri Durst  
Outreach & Administrative Assistant  
Sr. Marilyn Wittenauer, RSM  
Volunteer  
Lauren Gulley  
Gateway Vincentian Volunteer

- **Mercy/United Way Food Drive**
- **St. Louis Continuum of Care**
- **Lauren Gulley Leaving**
- **SMHS at NSEC**
- **Breast Health Screenings for Uninsured**
- **June Resident**
- **May Activity**
- **Upcoming Ministry Volunteer Opportunities**

*Mission:*  
St. John's Mercy Neighborhood Ministry, a department of St. John's Mercy Health Care, connects the economically underserved with appropriate health and social service resources. In partnership with community organizations, we improve access to care and quality of life for those in need.

### Food for Thought...and Survival



In response to the growing need for food in our community, the "Mercy Gives Back" team is partnering with the United Way and the St. Louis Area FoodBank to conduct an employer-based community-wide food drive for families in need. The collection of non-perishable food items will take place June 15-17. The Mission/Volunteer office will serve as the collection point at St. John's Mercy Medical Center.



The St. Louis Area FoodBank reports that food requests have increased 15 to 20 percent, with seven out of 10 clients indicating they have never used a food pantry before. People who have been food donors now find themselves needing help, and the trend is expected to continue this summer as children get out of school and no longer have breakfast and lunch programs available. This is a special challenge, because summer normally is a slow donation time for food pantries.



Read the St. John's Mercy INSIDE publication for more details and information on other Mercy collection locations.

If your organization is interested in participating, call Kate Kromann at the United Way, 314-539-4028.

## **St. Louis Continuum of Care Meeting**



The City of St. Louis Continuum of Care (CoC) for Ending Homelessness is a broad based partnership to prevent people within the community from becoming homeless and to find ways to end homelessness. Through interagency coordination and collaboration, the St. Louis City CoC provides homeless people with effective services, and helps them obtain affordable housing. The St. Louis City CoC serves in an advisory capacity to the Division of Homeless Services of the Department of Human Services of the City of St. Louis.

Executive directors, senior level staff and board members of community agencies that are working daily to eradicate homelessness and moving toward permanent housing solutions for all of our citizens are invited to attend the upcoming meeting presented by the St. Louis CoC.



**The meeting will be held Thursday, June 18, 2009, 7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. at the Catholic Charities Conference Center located in The Partnership Center, 800 N. Tucker, 63101. Cost is \$25 per person. To read the full agenda and register, visit the website: <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/66790>.**

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## **Goodbye Lauren Gulley – We'll Miss You!**

Please join us in thanking Lauren Gulley for all her hard work as part of our Neighborhood Ministry team. Her last day with us will be June 23. Lauren has been instrumental in coordinating many programs and projects for us since last August.

Lauren is originally from Connecticut, and upon her graduation from Notre Dame, she joined the Gateway Vincentian Volunteers. This was a 10-month commitment to live a simple life, in community with other volunteers, and work with the underserved in the St. Louis community.

Lauren will be heading to Gainesville, TX, to serve as a head counselor and Assistant Program Director at Camp Sweeney which is a summer camp for children with juvenile diabetes. She is also applying for research assistant positions in psychology labs.

We wish Lauren great success in her future!

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## **Making a Difference**

With the connection made by the Ministry, coworkers from the Human Resources Department at Sisters of Mercy Health System (SMHS) began giving monthly workshops at Near Southside Employment Coalition (NSEC). Acknowledging these difficult times of finding jobs, the coworkers felt their experience and expertise could benefit those entering the work force.



*NSEC was formed by several churches and agencies serving the population of low income housing developments and surrounding areas on the near south side of the City of St. Louis. It is a nonprofit employment and training organization and has provided free employment and training services to Southside residents for 25 years.*

Thank you, SMHS coworkers, for truly “Making a Difference” in our community.

## **BREAST HEALTH SCREENINGS**



ATTENTION WOMEN BETWEEN AGES 40-64: Have you had your annual mammogram AND clinical breast examination by your health care professional?

The St. John's Mercy Mammography Van is in the community helping uninsured women access breast cancer screenings and will soon be visiting the following sites:

### **June 24**

St. John the Baptist Church  
4170 Delor  
St. Louis, MO 63116

### **September 16**

Isaiah 58 Ministries  
2149 S. Grand  
St. Louis, MO 63104

### **November 4**

Pilgrim Congregational UCC  
826 N. Union  
St. Louis, MO 63108

Call St. John's Mercy David C. Pratt Cancer Center, 314-251-6400, for more information or to make an appointment.

Funding for this program is provided by: Missouri Show Me Healthy Women, Susan G. Komen for the Cure St. Louis Affiliate, and St. John's Mercy David C. Pratt Cancer Center

**REMINDER:** Do your breast self-exam once a month.

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St. John's Mercy Family Medicine Resident for June:  
*Jennifer Hayes, MD*

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## **WEBSITE FEATURE**

Post flyers and educate your clients and coworkers on topics such as "Hot Weather Tips" and "H1N1/Swine Flu" by visiting the "Bulletin Boards" section of the Neighborhood Ministry website today.

[www.stjohnsmercy.org/services/neighborhoodministry](http://www.stjohnsmercy.org/services/neighborhoodministry)

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## **GET CONNECTED!**

Area resources are just a click away!

Visit the Neighborhood Ministry's website:

[www.stjohnsmercy.org/services/neighborhoodministry](http://www.stjohnsmercy.org/services/neighborhoodministry)

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## May Activities:

May was a busy month at the Ministry!

### Collections & Drives



- We put the call out for used **Sports Equipment** and coworkers, families and friends responded. We collected many bats, balls, tennis rackets, etc., that will be donated to the kids in the Clinton-Peabody neighborhood and the Boys Club of St. Louis. Thank you Mercy coworkers, International Institute and the DEA St. Louis Division for your generosity!!

- Thank you to all Mercy coworkers who participated in the recent collection of **diapers and baby items** in celebration of Nurse's Week. THOUSANDS of items were collected and were shared with Nurses for Newborns, JFK Health Center and Family Care Health Center for moms/babies most in need in our community.

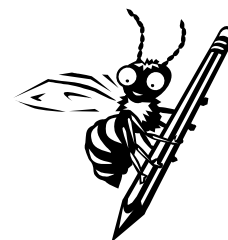


*If you are interested in holding a collection drive, volunteering or would like to learn more about “Mercy Gives Back”, call the Ministry office at 314-865-0927. See the back page of this newsletter for some upcoming community service volunteer activities.*

### Community Outreach



- The Ministry staff visited Pilgrim Congregational United Church of Christ and Centenary CARES meal programs, and Peter & Paul Men's Emergency Shelter to offer homeless and low-income clients the opportunity to send a **Mother's Day** card to someone special. We provided 265 cards, 120 photos and mailed 77 cards.
- The Ministry staff hit the road for “**Ministry On Tour.**” We visited multiple Mercy offices to thank our coworkers who have provided volunteer community service with us. We also took the opportunity to promote the St. John's Mercy volunteer community service initiative, “*Mercy Gives Back.*” Coworkers can find additional opportunities on the *MGB* webpage found on the St. John's Intranet, and sign up to receive “blast” emails when new opportunities arise or an event is in need of additional help.
- Cheryl Persons and coworkers from the Healing Environment “*Mercy Gives Back*” team visited **Peter & Paul Men's Emergency Shelter** May 13. They brought dinner and chatted with the 65 men who were staying there overnight.
- Sr. Marilyn Wittenauer took a group of coworkers to **Food Outreach** May 16. They filled food orders at their on-site “grocery store” for clients with HIV/AIDS or cancer.
- Five coworkers from Mercy Health Plans went to **Centenary CARES** May 8 and helped prepare, serve and clean up lunch at CARES free lunch program for the homeless and low-income guests.
- In partnership with Mental Health America, the Ministry scheduled **free depression screenings** at five area food pantries and meal programs. Nearly 35 clients were screened and many of them were then scheduled for follow-up care.



## **UPCOMING MINISTRY VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**



Coworkers may visit the "Mercy Gives Back" website on the St. John's Mercy intranet for complete details of these events plus view additional community volunteer opportunities.

### **St. Vincent's Church**

4:15 – 6:30 p.m.

*10 – 15 co-workers needed to serve dinner*

June 1

June 29

July 22

August 24

### **Peter & Paul Community Services**

6:15 – 8:30 p.m.

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

June 23

July 29

August 18

### **Centenary Cares Outreach**

Centenary United Methodist Church

10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

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

June 12

July 10

August 14

### **Food Outreach, Inc.**

Cook & Pack

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.*

June 20

August 8

Food Distribution

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.*

July 18

### **Catherine's Residence – Mercy Center**

Catherine's Residence is home to retired Sisters of Mercy and they are always looking for volunteers.

- Share your skills, knowledge, talent, hobby, music, dance, travel slides, etc.
- Take a Sister or two to attend cultural events, go out to lunch or shopping.
- Help a Sister write letters, read aloud her mail, the Bible or a book.
- Spend time with a Sister who has dementia symptoms by holding her hand, combing her hair, playing catch, telling her a story.
- The possibilities are endless!

**CALL THE NEIGHBORHOOD MINISTRY TO SIGN-UP  
FOR ANY OF THESE OPPORTUNITIES, 314-865-0927.**