

NEIGHBORHOOD COMPASSION MINISTRY

Members: Steve Slagel, Merle Hostetler and Crystal Troyer

In 2008...

Our **Food Pantry** is open Tuesday & Thursday mornings from 9:00 to 11:00a.m.

- We assisted about 260 households with our food pantry (up from 150 in 2007).
- We maintained the “East Goshen Clothes Line” where each week current items needed for the food pantry are hung.
- A variety of groups continue to donate food to our pantry.

From within our congregation:

- 3rd-5th grade Sunday school class
- The EG children’s Sunday school offerings (Sept. – Dec.)
- The Bridge Builders Sunday school class
- The Maranatha Sunday school class
- Nurture Commission’s Christmas Tree Project

From our community:

- North Goshen Mennonite Church
- Walnut Hill Mennonite Church
- Over \$800.00 was given to the food pantry this year through designated giving. Using these funds, Junior & Mary Ann Schrock regularly shopped for and delivered food to the pantry. Thank you!!
- Several persons from our congregation have become involved on Tuesday and Thursday mornings – Joe Yoder, Barb Eiler, Weldon Berkey, Elizabeth Snyder and Karen Powell.

Family Crisis Ministry

Merle and Steve met with a number of people who were in significant financial crisis in order to extend the compassionate heart of the congregation.

- We assisted 4 households (down from 15 in 2007) by referring them to GMA Emergency Funds to help with housing and/or utilities. This decrease in assistance was due largely to a lack of available funds.
- Many households were referred to other sources of assistance (*Township Trustee, Salvation Army, Center for Healing and Hope, Church Community Services, etc.*)

This ministry connects with our EGMC mission...

Jesus, chose from the Scroll of Isaiah to announce his mission. He read, “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, for he has appointed me to preach Good News to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim that the captives will be released, that the blind will see, that the downtrodden will be freed from their oppressors, and that the day of the Lord’s favor has come.” –Luke 4.18

The vision for ministry in the coming year...

Because of our current social and political, economic environment the needs of people of lower income are rising and less funding is available for community assistance agencies. Therefore:

- We expect to see a growing need for compassion ministry.
- We hope to continue to develop relationships with people acknowledging that unconditional care is a most precious resource.

Questions and concerns...

- As the awareness of our food pantry broadens, and the number of households assisted almost doubled this year, we find ourselves stretched (understaffed) as we strive to provide a warm smile and helping hand to those coming through our doors during pantry hours. We would like to see others become involved, and grow our food pantry “staff”.