

Urban Ministries Update

Volume: 6, Issue: 2 - May, 2009

WHAT'S GOING ON AT PUM?



FROM THE DIRECTOR

Since the last newsletter PUM has been extremely busy. Later in this issue I will be telling you all of the numbers, but in a nutshell, we have seen an increase in clients of over 30% as compared to the 1st quarter of 2008 and have seen an increase of 18% since the 4th quarter 2008. These economic times appear to be taking a real toll on the less fortunate that we minister to.

The largest percentage increase has been of first time clients (those that haven't ever been to us for help), and most of these had been very productive in their lives until they found themselves without employment. PUM has helped many of these clients with the job searching capabilities we have, and our tool and boot program, which has been taxed to a breaking point - more on this later. Needless to say, our very committed volunteers and small staff have stepped up to the plate and we have been able to handle these larger numbers of "The Least of These" who are in crisis.

As I mentioned earlier, everything is "Hopping" at PUM. We just finished our spring fundraiser called the "Fiesta" and it appeared all that attended had a wonderful time and hopefully were as blessed as we were for being there. If you missed this event you really missed out on a lot of fun, really good food and entertainment. We also had our annual Post Office (Letter Carrier) sponsored food drive and PUM was blessed to have received around 7,200 pounds of food items from those in the neighborhoods served by the Post Office that we had been selected for. This 3 plus tons of food will help us to serve those less fortunate for another couple of months.

What else is new? We have a new full time resource coordinator that we are extremely blessed to have with us. Rene brings excitement, knowledge and his Christ centeredness to us at a level far surpassing most that I have had the pleasure of working with in the past. Rene will introduce himself later in this issue.

Blessings,

Roger

Your Staff at PUM:

Roger Christiansen - Director	director@pumsd.org
Gladys McMillan - Office Manager	officemgr@pumsd.org
Rene Gonzalez - Case Manager	counselor@pumsd.org
Felipe Huguet - Resource Coordinator	resource@pumsd.org

Find us on-line at: www.pumsd.org

Welcome to the Urban Ministries Update!

Exciting Items in this issue:

1. From the Director
2. Now for the Numbers!
3. PUM's Doorstep Ministry
4. A Salute to our Volunteers
5. New Blessings
(A new resource coordinator)
6. The "Brick" Thrown in PUM
7. Client-Tell
8. Upcoming Events
9. Thanksgivings and Praises

NOW FOR THE NUMBERS

New Clients: 920	ID's: 137	Tools/Boots: 65
Food Bags: 335	Bus Pass: 15	Blankets: 47
Clothing: 1,029	Snack bags: 796	Prescription: 6
Hygiene Kit: 394	Job Search: 24	Mail/CVM: 77
Total Clients Seen: 1,597	Total Services: 3,877	

The numbers above represent a 31.8% increase in new clients compared to Q1, 2008 and an 18.3% increase compared to Q4, 2008



“DOOR-STEPPING”

Did you know that PUM has an on-going “Door-Step Ministry”? Every morning before we start offering our “services”, we go out on our doorstep and offer coffee, sweet rolls or muffins along with comfort and prayer to all that desire it.

Yes, it’s true. Our Door-step Ministry is one of the most valued and appreciated ministries we offer at PUM. We provide fresh coffee and pastries every morning at 8:30 to all of our waiting clients (who deserve it for having the will-power to get here that early!). Their faces light up and many of them practically jump for joy at the sight of that steaming cup of Joe.

But it doesn’t stop at the cup of coffee. Often, taking this extra step to show them we care opens the door for us to converse with them on a deeper level, and hopefully offer words of encouragement and truth. Our Door-Step Ministry is so valuable to all of us on staff and all of the volunteers at PUM because it adds a personal touch to the message we are trying to get across to our clients, which is that they matter to us and to God.

If you would like to be a part of our Door-Step Ministry, and are interested in showing up early in the mornings to serve coffee and pastries to our clients, or if you would like to volunteer on a regular basis, please contact us at 619-232-2753 x-105. Or email us at info@pumsd.org. We would love to hear from you!

A SALUTE TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

“This is our special duty, that if anyone specially needs our help, we should give him such help to the utmost of our power.” - Cicero

Volunteers are an integral part of making this ministry to the less fortunate happen. Over 40 wonderful people volunteer thousands of hours each year as receptionists, caseworkers, food packers, grounds keepers and clothes distributors. Many have volunteered since Presbyterian Urban Ministries first opened its doors in 1968.

Our volunteers are very much the foundation of this ministry. Without them, we would not be able to accomplish what God has commanded us to do. It’s because of their love and passion for the hurting, that we have been able to meet the needs of our community for over 40 years!

Our volunteers are committed, compassionate and unselfish in every way. They love without expecting love back. They give with nothing in return. They care when others don’t. They invite to pray for our clients’ needs. Their smiles warm the hearts of everyone that come through our doors.

Presbyterian Urban Ministries’ staff salutes all our wonderful volunteers for countless years of service to the community of San Diego!

We appreciate you!

A NEW BLESSING AT PUM

Allow me to introduce myself to my new family. My name is Rene Gonzalez, the new resource coordinator/case manager at Presbyterian Urban Ministries. It has been my pleasure to meet and work with the wonderful volunteers and staff; they have made me feel very welcome. I have been married for 23 years to my beautiful wife Debbie. I am the proud father of 2 adult children. Michael is a senior at SDSU and Chelsea is a sophomore at UC Berkeley. I am looking forward to many years of service with all of you! God Bless.

Rene Gonzalez

Rene has been a real blessing to us and has truly stepped up to the plate at PUM. When you have the chance to meet him please welcome him aboard and see all that he has accomplished so far. 619-232-2753 x-101 counselor@pumsd.org

THE BRICK GETS “THROWN INTO” PUM

On April 9, 2009, just a few days before Easter, PUM was extremely blessed and reminded of just how much today’s youth really do have to offer. The youth group “Brick”—Pt. Loma Community Presbyterian Church – came in to help our ministry. The youth group, headed up by Eric Holmstrom, was participating in a three day long missionary adventure, right here in San Diego. After spending the night at the church, the youth group with their fearless leaders headed to PUM to help anyway they could. After they finished here they went downtown for a first-hand encounter with the homeless population that we serve.

Upon arriving at PUM and after a quick helping of bagels and juice, the youth were put to work writing down some of their favorite inspirational or bible verses on slips of paper, which were then placed inside of candy filled plastic Easter eggs and given to our clients. Shannon led a short devotion, and then we divided the youth group up and designated tasks. Several of the youth were assigned to our door step ministry, serving pastries and coffee to clients waiting out on the porch; others volunteered to stuff hygiene kits, while still more were put in charge of bagging the snack packs we give out each day, several even wanted to work in the clothing room so they were able to interact directly with the clients they came to serve. Including the leaders of the group, there were about thirty people in all.

Although they were only here for a few hours, the kindness and the dedication shown by these young adults throughout their visit was a reminder to all of us that what these youth lacked in experience, was clearly made up by their energy, enthusiasm and a willingness to serve. On behalf of our clients, the staff and volunteers want to thank Brick for stepping out of their comfort zone and serving “the least of these” in San Diego.

Is your group interested in participating at PUM for a service project? Feel free to contact us either by phone at (619) 232-2753 ext. 105, or email us at info@pumsd.org

CLIENT-TELL

Recently at PUM we had a client share a very wonderful story about his visit with us.

“I have been schooled in financial matters and have worked in this area for most of my career life. Last summer I was laid off due to the economic climate. Although I had been looking for work since just prior to being laid off, there were just too many people looking for the very limited number of “those” kinds of jobs available. I was one of the less fortunate that wasn’t able to find work. In order to allow a decent environment for my family, we downsized to a smaller apartment, cut costs in every place we could, but in the end, unemployment ran out, savings

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THE “BRICK” @ WORK



Client-Tell Continued:

dwindled and I knew I had to look in other places for work. I found a job in a very unlikely place – the shipyards – however, this was both a blessing and in one way a real disaster. You see, working in a “labor” market like the shipyards required that I have steel-toed boots before I could actually start. I had a job, knew when I was starting, the only thing I lacked was the proper protective shoes to start. I checked with the shoe stores I knew of and all of them quoted me over \$100 for a pair. I struggled with this dilemma, trying to decide if we should lose the apartment we had moved into, or put the family on an almost starvation diet until I got paid. Luckily, somebody I was talking to about this situation told me about Presbyterian Urban Ministries. I called and a very nice person answered the phone and told me what I needed in the way of paperwork in order to be helped. I brought all the paperwork that I was told I needed, and a bunch that wasn’t asked for just in case, and when I arrived I was truly amazed at how friendly, and professional everyone was. I was introduced to the director (sorry I can’t remember his name) and after a very few minutes he informed me that I did qualify for a new pair of boots. He also asked if I had any other spiritual needs, which we prayed about at length – some of these needs have been realized since then. I know that if it wasn’t for the generosity and true caring that Presbyterian Urban Ministries has, I probably would have missed this window of opportunity and would probably still be looking for another job. I’ve been working at this job now for about 6 weeks, and although it really isn’t in my field, it does pay the bills and keeps food on our table. Thank you Presbyterian Urban Ministries – Keep up the prayers and good work.” *Unsigned*

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Boot Drive

During the month of May you have the opportunity to help us help persons just like the one who shared his story in our "Client-Tell". As his story tells us, many that normally would not be looking for work in the labor field are being guided there so they can work. As this anonymous client told us, he was totally unprepared to have to procure protective work boots. PUM has seen a drastic increase in stories just like his, requiring us to try every way possible to help. Now we are asking for your help, would you consider "kicking in" \$1 or more a week for a year. PUM has negotiated with a local shoe store to purchase new steel toed boots for around \$30/pair this year, but the need is so much greater than last year we are already over budget. Our goal is to raise \$6,000 so that we can meet this need throughout the rest of the year. Please prayerfully consider "Giving Unemployment the Boot" by Kicking in a buck a week!

200/500 Club

Have you participated in the 200/500 program in the past? Beginning soon you will see this core program being resurrected. Simply put this program was aimed at getting 200 individuals or families to donate \$500 over a period of 1 year. PUM understands that the current economic atmosphere is such that this amount from an individual may cause some personal hardship. Therefore, we are going to have two additional "clubs/tiers" to go along with the 200/500.

The first tier of this club will consist of monetary donations of around \$150 per year. The second tier we are considering would be donations of \$250/year. PUM's goal would be for

all three tiers combined to have commitments for \$100,000. Many might ask "What would all of this money be used for?" Quite simply, PUM even with its' small staff of 4, spends around \$130,000 per year in wages, payroll taxes, utilities and insurance. Our entire budget for 2009 is only \$189,000. Because of the economic times and decreasing donations, PUM has had to cutback or eliminate some programs that have been done in the past. Our biggest cutbacks have been in some of the most needed services such as our tool, ID and supplemental food programs. We are currently working on creative ways to supplement our budget but so far we still haven't been able to come up with \$40,000 that was trimmed from our 2008 budget. This has been compounded with a 30% plus increase during the first quarter of 2009 of first time clients as compared to the 1st quarter 2008 and an 18% increase as compared to the 4th quarter 2008. PUM's need is greater with fewer dollars to meet the demand of the needs of our clients. Please prayerfully consider joining one of these wonderful clubs. If you would like additional information, please feel free to call us at 619-232-2753 x-103 or call me personally on my cell phone 619-817-7841. I would love to speak with you about this exciting opportunity. - Roger


Golf 4 Good

This years annual golf tournament is really exciting. The tournament will be held at the Sea 'n' Air golf course, NAS, North Island on September 11, 2009. We are still looking for some Ambassadors to help raise interest at the local churches. If you feel "driven" or are just "putting" around and would like to help, please contact Rick Moore - rickmoore@golf4good.org - please take a chance and visit our website that is specifically designed for this event - www.golf4good.org

Thanksgivings and Praises

PUM has been so very blessed this year with all that God has granted us. Not the least of which is one of our extremely dedicated volunteers: Can you believe that she just turned 90 years young and has been faithful at PUM for 40 years! Thank you Marge for all that you do for us.

Would you like to find out how God can touch your life by volunteering at PUM. Please call or visit us to see how God touches all of those that work for the betterment of "the least of these" in San Diego. 619-232-2753 x-105 - info@pumsd.org

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