



Annual Report



Hearts filled with gratitude

Wherever we go and in whatever we do, we always have a choice to make. We can choose to approach any situation with a grateful heart, or not. I would wager to say that those who do approach life's moments with a cheerful heart tend to be happier people. At Good News Project, I encounter people who are grateful every day. It may be a volunteer who is thankful to be serving and finds wholeness as a human being by giving of their time and talent. It may a person on the edge of poverty or despair who just experienced a kind helping hand.

Just this week my co-worker Toni completed a HELP closet transaction with a hug. When she relayed the story to me just minutes later, she told me the client she helped was completely stressed with the rapid decline of her mother. When the client entered our doors she anticipated one more stress to pile up on her shoulders. Toni gently helped her find the right wheelchair and told her to take it out the door and make sure it worked for her mom. No contract, no paperwork...just

go make sure it works. The woman was taken aback when Toni told the client she trusted her to come back and make sure the paperwork was complete if the wheelchair did meet the need. Toni sealed the offer with a hug. Now, we don't do HELP closet transactions like this every day but we do have a spoken rule in our office which says "there are always exceptions to the rule". The woman did come back that very afternoon and we completed the transaction. I couldn't help but be grateful for Toni at that moment following her heart instead of her head. I could see the relief spread across the client's face and it was rewarding to see her later that afternoon a little less frantic and a bit more whole.

In August 2015, Tropical Storm Erika hit Dominica and not only wiped out over 200 homes, but killed many people, washed away farms, roads and animals and made the airport inoperable for 3 months. In response Good News Project mobilized an additional team of volunteers in January to build four homes in the area (instead

of two) and locals were sincerely grateful that we responded in this way. We worked hand in hand with our local Dominican committee bring hope to our neighbors. Those who received a new home were grateful. Our volunteers were grateful to have had the opportunity.



We are presented daily with moments in which to be both great and grateful. The question is, will we embrace those moments?

> Christine Daniels Executive Director

A note from Peg and Chuck Mac Carthy

While helping to prepare this Annual Report, we recognized the names of friends, relatives and volunteers who have been involved with Good News Project for many years. We are very grateful for this support of a project that has meant so much to us. It is also very satisfying to us to realize that Good News Project has a highly capable staff – Christine, Toni and Bettina – supported and guided by an excellent Board of Directors. This dedicated group really cares about Good News Project. Even the finance report brings a smile, as we have once again had a successful year! Thank you to all who have been part of this good year. It is great working with you!

-Peg and Chuck



Dam grateful for...

...being able to help provide homes for those who don't have a decent roof over their heads, and to see all the friends we have made in Dominica over the years. -Charlene

the small group and all the neat people I have met. I loved the small town. - Joyce

...meeting the people who would own the house and working to accomplish such a tangible improvement for them. -*Pat*

...meeting St. Omar, Hillary & Bois. It was so enriching to work with & spend time with them. They are the people that have affected my perspective on my daily life now. Their willingness to help others has already impacted my life. -Kitty



Save the Pates!



Make plans to attend our Reunion/Volunteer and Donor Appreciation event in Kaukauna, Wisconsin on Saturday, June 11. Our goal is to rotate the location each year in order to gather friends far and wide and celebrate relationships with friends and service to others. Volunteers and donors are what make Good News Project great! Join us for a fun day between 10:30 am and 3:00 pm. Reservations are required. Check out our website or call our office for more details!



Dam grateful for...

...meeting complete strangers who become good friends by the end of the trip. -Bernett

...The Good News volunteer group that felt like one giant family. *-Luke*



An Evening in the Caribbean will take place October 8, 2016 at the Plaza Hotel & Suites Join us for a night of Caribbean food, live music, dancing and a great silent auction. Business sponsorships available now! Want to be a business sponsor? We would love your support. Contact our office for details.

RYAN NETTESHEIM AT HOME AND ABROAD AND ON TO A NEW FUTURE!

As a college student, repeat volunteer, group leader and staff member, Ryan has had a very positive impact on GNP and the people we serve. Now, he's back in the Milwaukee area with an exciting new job, trading in his "Project Manager" title at Good News Project for his new title of Assistant Executive Director at Capri Communities LLC - dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for residents in senior living communities. Thanks, Ryan. We hope to see you again, and again.













You may have encountered our staff and volunteers at various events in 2015. We had a festive booth at the Portage County Cultural Festival and at the Wausau Business Expo. We even hosted a Brat Fry on a sunny weekend! You would have found us sharing stories of our many volunteers at service at home and abroad. We enjoyed creating awareness through our Caribbean Market last June. We also use our Evening in the Caribbean event to promote awareness. Is your club or church group looking for a passionate speaker? If so, be sure to contact our office. We are always excited to share information about our programs.

Our HELP closet has a fresh new look and a broad selection of durable medical equipment. We have trained a few volunteers to help with filing, sanitizing and maintaining inventory. We also have the perfect person to help us with minor repairs on our equipment. In 2015 we assisted an average of 65 customers per month and handled 1032 pieces of equipment in one year! A bright new window and countertop were installed in the space to make the HELP closet more welcoming to clients.

If you know a neighbor, family member or friend in need of gently used durable medical equipment, send them over to Good News Project. Our staff and volunteers serve clients with compassion and knowledge. We are looking to recruit volunteers specifically for dropping off and picking up items.



Our e-cycling program continues to be an impressive weekly generator of income for Good News Project. All proceeds are undesignated and can go wherever we need them. Commodity prices were a bit lower in 2015 than in previous years but the program continues to provide revenue, good will in the community,

and the peace of mind that your electronics are responsibly recycled. Good News Project maintains certification with the state of Wisconsin and stays current on new trends and state policies that may affect our organization or our consumers.





We welcome Bettina Peters to our staff as of April 2016! Bettina brings with her a rich experience in community networking, social work and a passion for overseas mission work. Her primary tasks at Good News will be directing the HELP closet growth and Ecycling program. If you are a long term volunteer or donor, we encourage you to visit our office and introduce yourself. If you are new to our organization and would like a tour or more information, ask for Bettina!

I am grateful for...

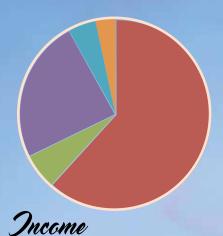
...my experience with Good News Project. It has been life changing. Since I moved into my new house, I got a new job and am now able to have both children living with me! *-Cherian* (2016 House recipient)

..the new house for my family. I was happy to help with building the house. *-Nadia* (2016 House recipient)

... having easy access to high quality mobility equipment that has made a long pre and post surgery go much more smoothly. The cost is "donations welcome", absolutely no pressure. -Larry



Financials



■ Fundraising......\$204,649.27

- HELP Income......\$20,039.54
- House Sponsorships.... \$79,990.20
- Restricted Fund......\$15,416.36
- Other Income......\$11,283.32

Total \$331,378.69



Other\$13,259.94

Total.....\$327,539.33

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Executive Director: Christine Daniels

Project Manger: Toni Schmitt

Local Project Manager: Bettina Peters

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Noella Sankar

Our finance committee, board of directors, auditor and accounting firm use the fully detailed version of this brief report. We are audited annually by Krause, Howard & Company accountants. Further detail is available upon request.

Contributions may be made directly to Good News Project, or through the Community Foundation of North Central Wisconsin. The foundation will assist donors in donating appreciated stock, or in planned giving through wills, insurance trusts, or other vehicles. Funds placed in the Foundations' Good News Fund will be available for current GN activities. The Foundation also maintains a Good News Project Endowment Fund to support our activities in the future. Please let us know when you include GNP in your estate plans and we will be honored to list you as one of our Legacy donors.

Consider electronic giving to Good News Project! Electronic giving is a direct payment program whereby your contribution is debited automatically from your checking or savings account. It is a safer, more secure and reliable way to give! Contact Christine at our office to set up recurring electronic donations today!



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