



Staying ahead of the *Tide*



Annual Report

March 1, 2014 to
February 28, 2015

2014-2015 Annual Report



We have so many things to be grateful for at Good News Project. First and foremost this is the second fiscal year in a row that we ended in the black. We were able to put extra money in an operating reserve fund in anticipation of any slim years in the future.

Our board of directors also tweaked our mission statement. After many years of a three-fold, difficult to memorize mission statement, we spent many days and hours discussing what our greatest successes have been in the last 32 years. We agreed that Good News Project is excellent at facilitating service projects for others and, as a result, often peoples' lives are changed. It is my pleasure to introduce the new statement to our supporters and volunteers.

We are already well into our new fiscal year with many exciting projects and challenges ahead. There are still a few openings in 2016 trips and there is a lot to do with our HELP closet right here in Wausau. We welcome you to volunteer with us. Check out our website, Facebook page or call our office for more details.

Christine Daniels
Executive Director



Mission Statement

To facilitate meaningful service opportunities
at home and abroad

Highlights



GAP Groups

After more than a year of discussions and planning, the first GAP group from St. Norbert College spent 6 weeks in St. Lucia in November and December, 2014. This was the final 6 weeks of an unusual first semester in College, that

included an outdoor adventure leadership experience, and visits to multiple parts of the United States to study poverty under different circumstances. Led by Dr. Laura Fredrickson, a faculty member, eight students arrived in St. Lucia ready to study in a classroom, and to do hands on work with people living in poverty. They spent time in many of the schools and other institutions that Good News Project volunteers return to year after year, and they built two houses for poor families. Eight veteran Good News volunteers rotated to accompany the students and provided transportation and construction assistance. We're sure that future GAP groups will benefit from the experience gained in this first effort, and the lessons learned by all who were involved in it.



Island News

Winnebago Project

A team of 7 volunteers traveled to Winnebago, Nebraska in mid-August 2014 for Good News Project's first ever nation-based service trip. Initial seeds of friendship were started and grown while replacing worn kneelers in St. Augustine's Church on the Augustine Mission School site. Medical items were passed on from our warehouse to a small health clinic and nursing home complex in Macy.



Volunteers learned about a new culture throughout the three day trip via interactions with locals and by listening to talks in the evening. It was a great first year on which we can build. Stay tuned for future 5-day trip announcements.



Thanks to the Denton Humanitarian Program for facilitating Good News Project airlifts to St. Lucia in 2014 and Dominica in 2015. Many thanks also to our St. Lucian and Dominican volunteers for their hard work in receiving and distributing these shipments. Because of increasing expense associated with these shipments, we are limiting the number of future shipments to make the best use of our resources.

96 North American volunteers traveled to the West Indies to participate in seven GNP teams: one in July, 2014 and six in January / February 2015. They were joined by a large group of local volunteers from St. Lucia, St. Vincent and Dominica.



Save the Date!

Mark your calendars for our annual "An Evening in the Caribbean" on October 10, 2015 at the Plaza Hotel & Suites. Join us for a night of great food, music, dancing and auction.




Caribbean
An Evening in the
October 10, 2015



Good News Project volunteers built 13 new houses for needy families and a building at the Archdiocesan Pastoral Centre in St. Lucia, which will serve as office and storage space.



In addition, volunteers renovated the dormitory built for Upton Gardens in 2013 to make it usable as a Counseling Center and built several wardrobes at the Guadalupe Home for adolescent girls in St. Vincent. Teams on all three islands visited schools, nursing homes and other institutions.



Our friends in the Rotary Club of Gros Islet assisted us in building foundations in the Soufriere area of St. Lucia and provided site preparation and electrical services for a home built for an elderly couple.

Congratulations to Gros Islet Rotary for celebrating their 21st anniversary!

GNP volunteers donated, designed, built and installed an automotive engine hoist for the vehicle maintenance program at the Boys' Training Centre in St. Lucia.



Good News Project's free Dental Clinic continues to serve the poorest of the poor in St. Lucia. In January, 2015, Dr. Tony Fornetti saw 62 patients and extracted 107 teeth in less than four days.



In July 2014 we supported a summer trip to St. Lucia. The group headed by Brooke Hoffman built a counseling center for Camille Henry Elementary School, held a group yoga session at the local prison, made bracelets for the homeless at Missionaries of Charity, and

started a soccer tournament at the boys training center. Good News would like to continue coordinating future off-season trips. Are you in a group who may not have a chance to attend one of the various winter service trips? Perhaps you would like to lead one of these trips yourself for you and your group? Are you looking to join a group, but busy in the winter months? Contact Good News Project today and tell us your pitch! All are welcome!

Noella Sankar, St. Lucia GNP Coordinator, represented Good News at the retirement ceremony for Caroline Archibald, administrator of Dunnottar School – a school for children and young adults with disabilities. Caroline was an inspirational leader that Good News has worked with for well over two decades. Noella also represented GNP at an Anniversary Ceremony with Prisca St. Paul at Upton Garden's Girls' Centre. GNP has been "partnering" with Upton Gardens for almost 30 years.



Since mid-2012 you could see Mike Husnick at the Good News Project headquarters coordinating trucks and supplies for e-cycling, helping pack and move shipments, giving our office spaces a much-needed paint job, assisting HELP closet clients or jumping in to help at our fundraising events. Although we miss his calm demeanor, critical thinking and sense of humor around the office we wish him the best of luck in the next chapter of his life.

Local News

Caribbean Market

We held our first Caribbean Market on the 400 Block in downtown Wausau on June 14, 2014. Our goal was to create a greater local awareness of Good News Project, and offer a venue for past travelers to re-connect. We estimated that 700 people joined us that day for Caribbean music, family crafts, and booths selling fruit, flowers and items from the Islands. We offered games and food presented in a tropical atmosphere. In other words, we brought the Caribbean to Wausau for the afternoon. Were you there? We hope so! A good time was had by all.



H.E.L.P. Closet

Our Health Equipment Lending Program is growing. The demand for low-cost loans of durable medical goods (wheelchairs, commodes, hospital beds, etc) in our community has continued to increase. What was our response? We reinvented the enclosed space in our warehouse. We painted floors and walls, erected shelving units and created a showroom atmosphere to display the sanitized equipment that we have available. The space allows for privacy, too. Please consider a tour of our new facility.



The E-cycling program has demonstrated another successful year for generating revenue to fund various Good News Project service trips. Over 120 tons of electronics, from microwaves to computers to TV's, were recycled in the last year. That's the size of a small blue whale or 22 African elephants! The biggest change of the E-cycling Program is the price increase to .40 per pound for electronics to meet the demands of the market. Another great year is anticipated as Good News continues to pave the way for responsible recycling.



Good News' first ever garlic garden was put in by Thrivent Action Team volunteers in October. Proceeds from the sale of garlic will go into our general fundraising account.

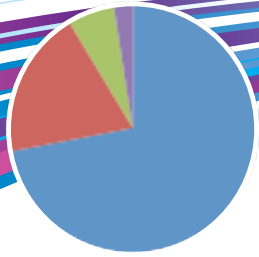
We now offer electronic giving to our donors! Electronic giving is a direct payment program whereby your contribution is debited automatically from your checking or savings account. It is a safer, more secure and reliable way to give! Contact Christine at our office to set up recurring electronic donations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

ELECTRONIC GIVING

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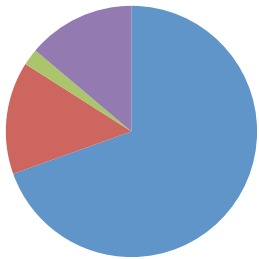
Now available!

Finances



Income

■ Fundraising.....	\$266,031.58
■ House Sponsorships.....	\$71,884.00
■ Restricted Fund.....	\$22,747.61
■ Other Income.....	\$9,051.47
Total	\$369,714.66



Expenses

■ Project.....	\$235,251.26
■ Development.....	\$49,017.28
■ Admin.....	\$7,229.63
■ Other	\$46,849.29
Total	\$338,347.46

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 Project Manger: Toni Schmitt

Board of Director Notes:

Thank you to Mehrdad Nazari, Randy Gabriel and Sam Scaffidi for serving on our board. We will miss your compassion, your expertise on international business and finance as well as your perspective on what it means to be of service. We welcome Maria Bruggink, Marie Kieffer and George Nugent to our Board. We look forward to working with you!

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 GNP 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.

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Did you know?

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Thank you!



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