

July 1, 2008

Dear Pastor, Mission Committee Members, Church members and Friends,

Greetings in the name of Jesus! We are coming to you with an urgent need for volunteers.

I was recently given an article on Interfaith Housing Coalition, which provides free room & board, job training, and emotional, spiritual and nutritional counseling. IHC serves 130 families a year. The Program Director, Sherri Ansley, emphasizes the importance of Interfaith's more than 350 active volunteers, "90% of them are from local churches and it is their talent and energy that fuel our entire organization". After reading this article, I found real encouragement for the current situation the staff and current volunteers are facing today at the Christian Caring Center.

All of us are hearing and reading the news everyday on the national current economic condition in our country and, I'm sure, in your own congregations. Our numbers are increasing and our resources sapped, so our greatest need right now is for volunteers. Our current volunteers are also having health and job problems that are taking some of them out of our volunteer pool. We currently do not have a daily receptionist, interviewers to do light paper work and pray with the clients, or a cashier for the Thrift Store. There are other volunteer positions that need filling, but these are the most pressing.

We are providing you another opportunity to fulfill the scriptures and to serve our Savior in a way that honors God by loving our neighbors. Many times a person in crisis asks the interviewer/prayer, "Where do you go to church?" Inquiries like this provide a great opportunity for discipleship and evangelism for your church and our community. Those whom we help are literally our neighbors and they need us all.

There are over 30 local churches in the Pemberton/Browns Mills area. If we could have just one volunteer from each church, it would make a dramatic impact on our community for Jesus! Most of our volunteers are coming from the Vincentown/Medford area, and for them we are very grateful. However, the clients are not being disciplined into the local churches or even more disheartening, they are not being incorporated into any church fellowship. Despite the fact that few of our volunteers are from Browns Mills/Pemberton churches, we are losing an opportunity to disciple and invite these neighbors into our churches.

If you would like to volunteer yourself, encourage another potential volunteer to come to us, or schedule a presentation at your church, please call or e-mail us at the above address or stop by for lunch to discuss our need with us. Thank you ahead of time for your prayerful response to our request.

Abiding in Him,

Madelyn C. Mears-Sheldon,
Executive Director