



# Church Women United in Madison, Wisconsin

C.W.U. Newsletter April, 2014 No. 9

## May Celebration May Friendship Day Luncheon Friday, May 2, 2014

### Through God Our Hands Can Serve

10:30 am Annual Meeting  
11:30 am Lunch (catered) \$7.50  
12:15 pm Celebration

Lake Edge United Church of Christ  
4220 Buckeye Road, Madison 53716

Luncheon: Please RSVP by April 30 to  
Marlene Lippert, 838-3563, and send check  
made out to CWU to Marleen,  
6329 Scandia Lane, McFarland 53558

### May Friendship Day Celebration

We will gather at Lake Edge United Church of Christ, 4220 Buckeye Road, Madison, on May 2, 2014, for our May Friendship Day Celebration. Our annual meeting will lead off, with reports of the past year and election of officers. We shall then enjoy a time of fellowship over a delicious luncheon of baked chicken, waldorf salad, mixed vegetables, and a variety of desert bars prepared by caterer Steve Nelson. Cost: \$7.50

At 12:15, our worship service will focus on *Through God Our Hands Can Serve*, a fitting finale to our program year and a promising beginning to our continuing life as Church Women United. This is also an excellent time to invite friends to come and find out what we are about.

To get to Lake Edge Church, go to Monona Drive and

turn east at the beginning of Buckeye Road or take South Stoughton Road west on Buckeye.

Please RSVP by May 30 to Marlene Lippert, 838-3563, and send check made out to CWU to Marleen, 6329 Scandia Lane, McFarland 53558.

### Middleton Outreach Ministry

Gateway Community Church welcomed us with a time of fellowship before we adjourned to the sanctuary, where Patty Fannon gave us a warm welcome. Roy Unger, church member, gave us a brief history of Gateway, which began as Middleton Baptist Church. They have a new pastor, the Rev. Paul Lundgren, and an active youth ministry.

Our speaker, Al Ripp, is the head of MOM, Middleton Outreach Ministry. He came to MOM after working the area of technical services and has brought his organizational and executive skills to this work. He gave us a thorough review of this important work of preventing homelessness, ending hunger in West Madison, Middleton and Cross Plains. MOM has been active since 1980. The federal poverty line for a family of four is approximately \$24,000. Research suggests that, on average, families need an income of about twice the federal poverty line to meet their most basic needs. Children living in poverty in Dane County, 14.3%. Children living below 50% of poverty line in Dance County, 7%.

The term "affordable housing" is defined as a rental unit where the total cost of rent and utilities does not exceed 30% of a renter's income. According to the National Low Income Housing Coalition, the fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Wisconsin is \$740. For that unit to be defined as "affordable," the renter's wage must be greater than \$14 an hour. The wage for Wisconsin's average renter is just more than \$11 an hour. (*Wisconsin State Journal*) To receive a reduced lunch, a family of four must have an annual income of less than \$43,568 (which is 185% above the Federal Poverty level) to meet their most basic

needs. In 2012, Middleton/Cross Plains area schools had 18% of their students receiving reduced lunch. That was 1,125 students; 99 students were homeless.

MOM aims to provide hope. Hunger and homelessness can affect all aspects of a child's life. Studies show that living in poverty can cause emotional problems and developmental delays for children, including poor self esteem, trouble in school, and anxiety. The effects of an unstable home and hunger will follow them into adulthood.

MOM serves all of the Middleton-Cross Plains Area School District and much of the west side of Madison. In fact they reach all the way to Midvale Boulevard. Their clients by age are 39% 0-17, 48% 18-64, and 8% 65+. By gender they are 42% male, 58% female. Ethnicity: Caucasian, 32%; African American, 27%; Latino, 22%; multi-race, 8%; other, 4%; unreported, 7%. Health status of their clients: 23% of households have at least one member in poor health; 19% of households have no health insurance; 54% of households have unpaid medical or hospital bills.

MOM works with Second Harvest Foodbank, DAIS, Salvation Army, and other service organizations. They are working out of a new location, located near a bus route, that allows them more space for programs, staff and volunteers to work, with additional parking, and their food pantry and clothing center on the same campus. Their food pantry is one of the largest in Dane Co., open 6 days a week, and people can come as often as they need to come. Fresh produce and bakery, no limits. Volunteers help selection of canned or frozen items, with reasonable limits. Their pantry at 14,500 visits in 2013. They provided 82,500 tons of food last year. They also have a Mobile Food Pantry that serves homebound people who are food insecure. Children account for 45% of the people served. They now have a walk-in refrigerator, a walk-freezer, and regularly pick up food from HyVee, Metcalf's, Copp's, Second Harvest. Gifts of money stretch much farther than canned goods from individuals. They did a cost comparison. Twenty-five dollars spent at a store gets 40 pounds of food; the same dollar amount gets 130 pounds at Second Harvest.

MOM also has a pantry garden. They provide 25 garden plots to clients, with advice and help so that they may grow their own food. MOM has 3 garden plots that go direct to the food pantry. And they glean at UW.

The clothing center is 100% free. They provide seasonal clothing, including coats, which frees up client resources for necessary expenses. Almost \$250,000 worth of donated clothing was distributed in 2012, doubling in 2013 (calculated at thrift store prices). Housing assistance helped over 1,200 people with evic-

tion prevention and utility assistance in 2013. Case managers provide housing counseling and financial mentoring. MOM is a part of United Way's Housing First. They have a Good Samaritan Fund that helps with things such as car repairs. They do ask families to have some skin in the game. MOM never pays 100%.

Their help for seniors reached 300 people last year with rides, chores, cleaning, seasonal programs. They provide loaded backpacks for school children, provide snack bags, and work with school personnel to help needy children.

Seasonal programs help families relieve stress and save resources for necessary expenses. They distributed 850 backpacks in 2013, Thanksgiving baskets provide a meal for nearly 1,500 people, and Sharing Christmas provides holiday gifts for over 1,500 adults and children.

MOM is grateful for the 300+ volunteers who help them regularly each and every month. They have more than 3,350 volunteers throughout the year. They donated more than 23,400 hours in 2013.

## Fellowship of the Least Coin

Churches and individuals--Bring your offerings to the May Friendship Celebration.

## Annual Reports

Send your year-end reports to Shirley Robbins by April 28 so that we can produce the annual report for distribution at the May meeting. Send by email to [robblast@sbcbglobal.net](mailto:robblast@sbcbglobal.net). If you haven't email access, send to her at 14 S. Roby Road, Madison 53726. Shirley's phone number is 608-233-3581 if you have questions.

## Ecumenical Action

After a long winter are you ready to get out of the house? Here are some events in April and May to consider.

Wednesdays in April at 7 pm—a special film series on immigration at the Marquee Theater, Union South (1308 W. Dayton St.), co-sponsored by the Workers Right Center, the Interfaith Coalition for Worker Justice, and the UW Latin American Caribbean and Iberian Studies Program. (CWU is a member of the Interfaith Coalition for Worker Justice.) Free & open to all.

**April 9—Harvest of Loneliness:**

**The Bracero Program**

**April 16—The State of Arizona**

The politics of immigration, seen through the turbulent battle over undocumented immigration in Arizona

that came to a head with Senate Bill 1070 and went all the way to the Supreme Court.

#### **April 23—Connected by Coffee**

In January of 2013, two North American coffee roasters set out with a small film crew on a 1000 mile journey across Central America. On the way they met with soldiers who had become growers, women who now own their own farms, and countless communities using fair trade coffee as a tool to create social change. Can building a thriving fair trade coffee movement and an economy based on dignity and respect offer a sustainable alternative for people living in poverty, so they can stay in their home countries with their families?

#### **April 30—Who is Dayani Cristal?**

An anonymous body in the Arizona desert sparks the beginning of a real-life human drama. The search for identity leads us back across a continent to seek out the people left behind.

**May 8**—benefit for Interfaith Coalition for Worker Justice Come celebrate spring at a benefit for the Interfaith Coalition for Worker Justice (ICWJ)

Multicultural Party for Worker Justice, Thursday, May 8, 5:00-8:00 p.m. Neighborhood House Community Center, 29 S. Mills Street (one block south of Regent St.) Food, music and dancing to the multicultural tunes of DJ Lasisi, \$20 suggested donation/\$10 for students

#### **Information about Neighborhood House Community Center:**

Established in 1916, Madison's only settlement house served the predominantly Italian immigrant population of the Greenbush neighborhood a few blocks south of the University of Wisconsin campus. Today Our community center is almost 100 years old and continues to serve our neighborhoods and the greater neighborhood of Madison. Neighborhood House is home to a very large number of multi-cultural groups that include the African Association, United Nigerians in Madison Association, Ghana Association, Muslim Women's Group, Caribbean Club, Boliviamanta Group, Oak Apple Morris Dancers, Liberian Group, Danza de Todos Los, Japanese TAIKO Drum, and many other cultural groups. Our diversity and commitment to community has been a constant at Neighborhood House for almost 100 years.

## **Human Trafficking**

The Faith Community's Response to Human Trafficking is an exciting opportunity to explore and discuss this area of oppression and our response to it. Prompted by the request of a church in Oostburg, Wisconsin, as to how Slave Free Madison is handling this social problem. Here is an invitation.

### **You Are Invited To...**

The Faith Community's Response to Human Trafficking, Sponsored by SlaveFree Madison, in association with Church Women United and First Baptist Church

What: Potluck Dinner and Discussion

Where: First Baptist Church, 518 North Franklin Ave., Madison

When: Tuesday, May 20, 2014, 6:00 to 8:30 pm

Please join us as we share information and ideas about what we, as people of faith, are doing and can do to address human trafficking.

Has your church engaged in raising awareness, promoting advocacy, or taken other actions related to human trafficking? We encourage you to bring information and resources to share about your work.

Whether your church is already involved in this issue or just wants to learn more, we welcome your participation in the dinner and discussion. Please bring food sufficient for the number in your group to be shared by all in our potluck. Beverages and table service will be provided.

Please RSVP to Mary Fiore by phone (256-4687) or email ( [fior@charter.net](mailto:fior@charter.net) ) by Thursday, May 15. Include the name of the church, a contact person with contact info, and the number expected to attend. Note: Please enter First Baptist Church at rear/parking lot entrance.

We hope to see you May 20 as we build connections with one another to end human trafficking.