



Church Women United in Madison, Wisconsin

C.W.U. Newsletter September, 2010 No. 2

**October Forum
Friday, October 8, 2010**

**Human Trafficking
JoAnn Gruber,
Chair of SlaveFree Madison**

9:00 a.m. Gathering
9:30 a.m. Welcome, Announcements
10:00 Program

**Glenwood Moravian Church
725 Gilmore Street
[www.churchwomenunited-
madison.net](http://www.churchwomenunited-madison.net)**

October Forum

We will meet at Glenwood Moravian Church [site of our CWU/MEC office] for our second forum on Friday, October 8, at 9 a.m. Our topic: *Human Trafficking*. Our speaker, JoAnn Gruber, who is chair of the organization, SlaveFree Madison. We often think of human trafficking as a distant problem, especially a third world problem, but it is closer to home than most of us care to imagine. Join together for coffee and conversation at 9 a.m. followed by announcements. Program will begin at 10 a.m.

September Forum

We began our program year a second time in a green facility. The Lussier Community Education Center is an architectural green building, with expansive windows for natural light, lights that turn themselves off when no one is present, and geothermal heating and air conditioning which should save them \$5000 a year in bills to Madison Gas and Electric.

Stan Woodard, Program Director, gave us an overview of the scope and importance of the programs that find a home there. Programs to help students with schoolwork, provide nurture and encouragement for building a successful educational foundation, provide computer access for the public, meeting space for community groups ranging from scouts to the Optimists to *Cookies with Heart* of United Cerebral Palsy, child care, early childhood education, arts programs, clubs, meal sites, food pantries. The list is impressive and the building of community on a wide level is a major result of the Center's dedicated work.

Volunteers are welcome to join in their programs and work. Hours open to the public are Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m.-7 p.m. Telephone is 608-833-4979. www.LCECmadison.org

Special thanks to the CWU board members who provided breakfast and an opportunity to reconnect after our active summers. The Center has a licensed commercial kitchen which is available, and used. *Cookies with Heart* bake there.

Ecumenical Choir

All singing women are invited to join the Ecumenical Choir. We practice at Bethany United Methodist Church, 3910 Mineral Point Road. Practices are

from noon to 1:30 p.m. in the third floor choir room. Practice dates for the season are September 24, October 8, October 22, November 12, November 19, 2010. Please join in this opportunity to make beautiful music together.

Directory Corrections

Forums and Celebrations

World Day of Prayer in on Sunday, March 6.

May Friendship Day is on Friday, May 6.

Address Corrections:

Shirley Stennis-Williams' e-mail address ends in com, not net. Shirley Alexander's e-mail address is vernier818@sbcglobal.net

The Gift of Life

This summer the 10th U.S. Transplant Games were held in Madison. Patterned after the Olympics, several thousand people who have received organ transplants, and living donors, competed in a variety of sports. Competitors ranged in age from young children to an 86 year old man who had received a heart several years ago! Along with the gold, silver and bronze medals, friendships were forged and renewed, and the zest for life shared. Perhaps the most moving of the many stories told were the meeting of organ recipients and their donor families, who had made the decision upon the death—always tragic--of their loved one to give the organs of their loved one so others could live. I particularly remember the man who had received the heart of a young man who had died in a traffic accident. When the heart recipient met the mother, she had to listen to his heart, knowing that her son's heart had made life possible for this most grateful individual. Her son continued to live!

The Games opened and closed with the lighting of the Torch and a prayer by a priest who is a missionary in The Philippines and, who some years ago, had signed up to be an organ donor for someone who needed a kidney transplant. His prayers for all competitors, living donors, donor families, volunteers and for all those who made the Games possible, as well as for the over 110,000 people in the U.S. who are awaiting transplants set the tone for the Games and for the lives of all as they went home.

You may be thinking, "Why is there an article about the Transplant Games in CWU newsletter?" Almost 29 years ago my sister, Janet, gave me one of her

kidneys. The Type 1 diabetes that I had for 25 years took its toll on my kidneys. When faced with the options of living on dialysis or trying for a transplant, there seemed little choice! My family was my first possibility. Writing letters to Janet and my brother, Jim, asking if they would be willing to give me one of their kidneys was perhaps the most difficult thing I have ever done. How blessed I felt when both of them said, "Of course! What do I need to do?" After the initial testing, Janet had the right blood type. And the rest is history! I would not be alive today without Janet's love, generosity and willingness to give me part of herself. So when the Transplant Games came to Madison, I wanted to be involved.

I walked in the 5K walk/run with 2000 others to raise awareness of the need for organ, tissue and eye donations. In Wisconsin 1500 people are on the waiting list for transplants. The Wisconsin Donor Registry provides people the opportunity to sign up to be a donor. People of all ages and with pre-existing medical conditions can sign up to be organ donors. Organ donation does not disfigure the donor's body. And one donor can make it possible for eight people to live! So that bumper sticker that you may have seen, "Don't take your organs to heaven. We need them here," is a plea for signing up to be an organ donor.

Consider contacting the Wisconsin Donor Registry at HYPERLINK <http://www.YesIWillWisconsin.com> or call 608.261.6854. for information.. And if your family and friends live in other states, encourage them to contact HYPERLINK <http://www.donatelife.net>. Be sure to talk to your family after you enroll as a donor.

God gives us life and wants us to live it to the fullest. Every time I sing the hymn, *For the Beauty of the Earth*, the words ring loud and clear, a reminder of God's gifts.

"For the gift of human life,
Brother, sister, parent child,
Friends on earth and friends above,
For all gentle thoughts and mild,
Lord of all to you we pray,
This our hymn of grateful praise."
God has so richly blessed me. I am grateful for

each day, for family and friends, for God's love and care, for excellent medical care. Thanks be to God!

--*Susan Becker*

See What We Can Do!

Kudos to Ellie Metzloff, Cord Builder for Dale Heights Presbyterian Church! She collected 37 signatures on the petition for the Convention on the Rights of the Child which have been sent to President Obama. And her church put together 16 Health Kits and collected \$60 for shipping for Church World Service, as part of the challenge our CWU State President, Dorothy Wetterlin, LaCrosse, gave us last spring. Please let us know what your church has accomplished!!

CROP Hunger Walk

It's that time of year for the CROP HUNGER WALK. Many churches in CWU have recruiters and participate as walkers rockers in rocking chairs or as sponsors. The WALK will be on October 17, beginning at First Congregational United Church of Christ. Please support someone as you can or WALK OR ROCK and get sponsors yourself! No amount is too small nor too large. And people can sponsor online at www.cropwalkonline.org! That makes it possible to ask sponsors from far away to help! This community, ecumenical activity usually draws at least 400 walkers and rockers so participants feel part of a huge effort to help hungry people and provide development and disaster assistance through Church World Service or through another agency that is listed on the sponsor envelope. Of the money raised in the Madison Area Walk--It was \$65,000 last year!--25% will go to Dane County Food Pantries and to the Meals on Wheels program.

Action for Others

In late August Patricia Burkhardt from the CWU Legislative Office sent out the following email action alert. It urges us to call our Representative in Congress (For most of us that is Tammy Baldwin.) and the White House as soon as possible regarding The Child Nutrition bill which must be reauthorized this year or it will expire. Currently the proposed legislation would significantly cut money for the food stamp program which helps families in poverty extend their food budgets.

You may also write a letter and urge the continuation of Earned Income Tax Credits for families in poverty. The tax credits make a significant difference to families who live in poverty. The money exempted from their income taxes will allow some to go to school and others to assist their families in additional ways.

Representative Tammy Baldwin
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

President Barak Obama
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

If you would like additional information about both of these issues, contact Susan Becker at 231-1817 or email sbecker4@tda.net. She will send you some handouts on these issues. If you have access to a computer, you can contact Bread for the World at www.bread.org or the organization cited in the email from Patricia.

As we remember the Quadrennial Priority of Church Women United, *BUILDING A WORLD FIT FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN*, we know that we need to do something to help that happen. Contacting our members of Congress is a start. Thank you for your action. Email 082410a CHURCH WOMEN UNITED ACTION ALERT "*BUILDING A WORLD FIT FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN*"

(CWU Quadrennial Priority 2008-2012)

CWU FIGHT HUNGER IN THE U.S.!

Take Action:

Make Phone Calls to Your Representative and the President!

Toll free number 1-877-425-4810 for your Representative's office. White House: 202 456 1414

The message is:

"Please support passage of the House Bill HR 5504 for Child Nutrition Reauthorization Without Harming SNAP (FOOD STAMPS) Benefits" (be sure to tell them who you are and where you live)

It's critical that you weigh in with your Member of Congress about the recent SNAP (food stamps) cuts

and the need to move the House's bill for child nutrition reauthorization, H.R. 5504, forward without any SNAP cuts. To learn more, visit FRAC's (Food Research & Action Center) website: www.frac.org and click on legislative action center.

The August recess is not really over until September 13 and it provides a number of opportunities, these are only two—go to: www.frac.org and to their legislative action center for more activities to get this message across.

Use Facebook? Update your status with this message: Wants you to call your Members and ask them to pass HR 5504 without cutting SNAP benefits."

Information for this Action Alert was provided by the Food Research and Action Center and the Coalition on Human Needs.

Patricia Burkhardt
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Washington DC 20002
202 481 6933, fax 202 543 1927

Madison Area Religious & Human Sources Directory

This directory is at the printers and will soon be available for \$10 each. The directory has a wealth of information about area churches, food pantries, meal sites, food programs, shelter, clothing and more. To obtain a copy, you may pick one up at a forum or e-mail Contact@ChurchWomenUnited-Madison.net or call the Madison Ecumenical Center at 608-663-8450.

Next Board Meeting

September 24, 9:30 [a.m.at](#) Bethany Methodist Church, 3910 Mineral Point Road