

**Toronto Southeast Pastoral Charges  
OUTREACH !**

*Here are some of your Outreach projects to inform and inspire each other !*

**ST. MARK'S, SCARBOROUGH**

In conjunction with Scarborough Centre for Healthy Communities, St. Mark's United Church currently sponsors **Holiday Hampers** for 50 local families in need, during the Christmas Season. Each hamper contains non-perishable food for one week, a \$50 gift card for fresh food, plus gifts for the whole family. The recipients of the hampers are clients of the local food bank. Members of our congregation deliver the hampers the week before Christmas.

**BIRCHCLIFF BLUFFS, SCARBOROUGH**

Birchcliff Bluffs United Church **hosts the Churches By the Bluffs Community Services food bank** in our building and is one of its founding churches along with two Baptist, a Presbyterian and an Anglican church in our neighbourhood. Several other United Churches in the area provide support with food and financial donations. Three congregation members serve on the Board of Directors and as officers of the food bank corporation and many members of the congregation volunteer at the food bank. We provide the food bank with a large area of our basement as dedicated space for food storage and accommodation of its fridges and freezers and exclusive use of our church basement on Wednesdays for receiving and sorting of the food donations and on Thursdays for service of clients.

The food bank is an agency of Daily Bread, serving southwest Scarborough between Victoria Park Avenue to the east, St. Clair Avenue to the north, Midland Avenue to the east and Lake Ontario to the south. It offers a grocery program, a meal program (a meal of soup and sandwiches is served to clients when they attend the food bank), a free income tax service to assist clients in obtaining their child tax credits, HST and income tax refunds, access to computers to obtain government forms, prepare resumes etc., assistance with job applications, referral to social service agencies and other supports. Shower facilities are also available to those needing them.

The church holds two major fundraising events during the year to support the food bank. Several men from the Seaton House Birchmount Residence (slated to be closed in 2012 by the City) work as highly valued volunteers at the food bank and volunteer opportunities are also provided for Ontario Works qualification purposes.

The church operates the **Bluffs Boutique - a thrift shop** offering gently used clothing and household items at very low prices - during food bank service hours, the proceeds of which support a foster child in Colombia, with the balance divided between the church and the Mission and Service Fund. The Boutique occupies a room in the church basement.

Gail Barkic is President of the food bank corporation and chair of the church's Outreach Ministry Team. Her contact information is: Phone: 416 436-8464; [gailbarkic@rogers.com](mailto:gailbarkic@rogers.com).

## **SCARBOROUGH BLUFFS UNITED, SCARBOROUGH**

**Local food bank** - we try to have a monthly suggested donation theme i.e.: soups & stews, canned meat etc. to help keep the need to donate fresh in the minds of the congregation. We also encourage donations of \$10 grocery store cards in lieu of non perishable food items.

### **Family residence/local motels, sheltering the homeless**

### **United Church Mission and Service**

**Caring Alliance**, a local multi faith group working to end poverty and homelessness, and to support those in need

**Habitat for Humanity**, both financially and by providing meals for site workers

**There are several groups who operate in our church building**, and a few of them come under the Outreach umbrella. Members of our committee liaise with these groups...**Adult Literacy & Basic Skills**, a **concert committee**, and **Scarborough Bluffs Music Programme**, an affordable opportunity for local children to have music lessons...piano, guitar, vocal & rhythm.

**Have sent funds to such groups as ...Global Medic; a local banquet hall** which provides a full Christmas dinner for the needy in our community; **Ryan's Well**, We decide on an annual basis where our Lenten & Advent/White Gift offerings will be sent. We try to send one to support a local charity, and one to a global charity each year.

### **Projects we organize/participate in:**

- an annual **giant book sale**, where the proceeds are used for Outreach projects;
- a **mitten tree**, where hats and mitts are donated by the congregation and distributed to those in need of warm winter wear;
- **Undie Sunday**, where NEW underwear and socks are donated and distributed to those in need;
- a **Christmas 'Giving Tree'**, on which gift tags with the first name and age of a youth currently living in a shelter situation are placed, along with a Christmas gift wish from the child;
- we **sponsored dinners** at our church for the families living in sheltered housing in the Kingston Road motels. We provided TTC tickets, and hot meals with entertainment for the child

## **NORTHEA UNITED, NORTH YORK**

### **Sleeping Children Around the World**

The Outreach Committee will once again hold our Advent appeal for the '*Sleeping Children Around the World*' bedkits. Please see the photos and information posted on the Outreach board. More information can be found on their website [www.scaw.org](http://www.scaw.org). *Each bedkit costs \$35.00.* Thank you again for your wonderful support of this Charity.

### **White Gift Sunday**

This year, the Outreach Committee has asked specifically for donations to New Circles Community Services and to the Food Bank. Both of these organizations service the Flemington/ Thorncliffe Park area.

- warm socks (for 4-7 year olds)
- undershirts (4-10 year olds)
- dry food goods (couscous, rice, beans, lentils, etc).

### **UCW Mitten Tree**

Warm winter clothing will also be given to our neighbours at Flemington Park and Thorncliffe Park! Your contributions will be very welcomed.

## **KNOX, AGINCOURT**

- Many projects on the Knox website:  
<http://wec.knoxunited-agincourt.org/ministries/community-outreach/>
- **Scarborough Interfaith Affordable Housing Association** : Some members of the Outreach Committee have been involved as they look at ways to provide/advocate for more affordable housing in Scarborough.
- **Habitat for Humanity** (aluminum can project)
- **Agincourt Community Services Association** (collection of food for their food bank year round, school supplies in August, toy collections at year end, etc.)  
<http://www.agincourtcommunityservices.com/>
- **Out-of-the-Cold** program - runs out of Knox United each Friday night and includes a hot dinner.
- We also make contributions to many other charitable organizations each year using money donated by the congregation to the **Benevolent Fund**.
- At year end, the Christian Education committee selects a charity to support (for example: in 2011 Water Ambassadors and in 2010 World Vision).

## **TORONTO CHINESE UNITED CHURCH, SCARBOROUGH**

### **Ongoing outreach projects:**

- **World Vision Child Sponsorship Program** - our Sunday school children support a sponsored child.
- Participated in **National Stem Cell Drive** organized by OtherHalf ( non profit organization for One Match of Canadian Blood Services) for leukemia patients in Canada.
- Support Knox United church **Out of the Cold** program.
- Support **Agincourt Community Services Association** food bank.
- **Big Christmas Card** -- our church members greet each other by putting their names on a big Christmas card with a donation. Proceeds uses to support a charitable organization. This year we support the "Animals in Action" program of **World Vision**.
- **White Christmas Gift** -- special Christmas donations to a specific charitable organization each year. This year, we sponsor the **Woodgreen Red Door Family Christmas Hamper Program**.
- Winter clothing drive for **New Circles Community Services** which provides assistance and support to enhance the lives of those in need in the Flemingdon Park, Thorncliffe & Victoria Village areas of Toronto

### **Other outreach activities:**

- **Chi Heng Fondation Canada** - fund raising for HIV/AIDS-impacted children in China providing support for basic needs, opportunity for education and skills-training.
- Planned to do **sandwich run for down town homeless people** in Jan/Feb 2012

## **PARKWOODS UNITED CHURCH, NORTH YORK**

- **Mitten tree:** mittens, scarves and hats are knitted throughout the year, and then placed decoratively on a Christmas tree in the foyer of the Church. The knitted goods are delivered in January to highly receptive school principals in neighbouring schools for distribution to children as needed. Our usual annual total of pairs of mittens for children is approximately 65.
- **Christmas Food Drive for Rayoak Food Bank.** Throughout the year, baking gifts surplus to a major supermarket are delivered by congregants on a weekly basis to the local food bank. As well, food donations for the Foodbank are collected weekly. Special food needs are emphasized at Christmas, and a financial donation accompanies the food donations.
- **Christmas Cheer Bags:** Gifts that include some home baking, fruit and a Christmas plant are delivered to those members of the congregation who are prevented from attending Church or who have suffered bereavement or illness through the year. Sunday School students prepare personalized cards for the recipients. The gifts are hand-delivered close to December 25<sup>th</sup>.
- **Special Shelters** are targeted in the neighbourhood and inner city for money and material supplies relevant to their needs. The year-long drive is given added profile at Christmas. In recent years, we have been targeting three shelters: Out-of-the-Cold, and South Presbytery-designated-Massey Centre, Eva's Place.
- **Economic Distress:** A variety of monitoring and responding methods have been developed for high-need families that have come to our attention, especially over the Christmas season. Special supplements to the Benevolent Fund have been designed and orchestrated to support the outreach by our Minister.
- **A Major Overseas Project—Gift of Caring**—has brought new life to a tiny village in Kenya. Aid ranges from the nutritional (goats, rabbits, chickens) to handwork (knitting needles and wool) to schooling (full school uniforms for orphan children) to facilitating clean and plentiful water supply by replacing a dysfunctional water pump—campaign under way for the latter. Self-sustenance is the goal of the Project.

The **Gift of Caring** is structured to provide alternative Christmas giving, by printing attractive Christmas Cards signaling that a gift has been made 'in your name' and specifying the nature of the gift.

Now completing its 2<sup>nd</sup> year, about \$7500 has been raised for **Gift of Caring** thus far. The Project for the village orphan children and HIV Positive adults has yielded dramatic gains in physical and mental health. Two Parkwoods' parishioners donate their time and talent to facilitate the project on-site; they provide 1<sup>st</sup> hand feedback on its results. 100% of donated money goes directly to the cause.

- **Operation Christmas Child** has operated for many years at Parkwoods, with an average of 85 boxes filled annually.

Further information on any of the above projects is available by contacting [johnhorton@rogers.com](mailto:johnhorton@rogers.com); 416-449-1142.

## **WEST HILL UNITED CHURCH, SCARBOROUGH**

The major project of **Christmas Outreach** into the local community is our annual provision of **Christmas Hampers**. We co-ordinate with West Hill Community Services (Scarborough Centre for Healthy Communities) who provide the Outreach Committee with a list of families who are in need of assistance. The number of families varies slightly from year to year; this year we had 12 families.

- We ask for the support of the congregation to donate specific **food items**, from a list provided by Community Services, and/or financial donations.
- In addition, every child in these families receives 2 age & gender-appropriate **toys**, which are also donated by members of the congregation.
- The financial donations are used to purchase \$100 **gift cards** for 1 of the large grocery stores in the area, and each family receives a card.
- If there are teenaged children we provide \$75 gift cards for a local mall in lieu of toys.
- The food & toys are received at the church on White Gift Sunday.
- Food donations are sorted and packed in hampers by Outreach committee members & **delivered** by volunteers from the congregation, along with the toys & gift cards, at least a week before Christmas.
- This has proved to be a popular project for the congregation & the committee, & is usually over-subscribed, so that we are able to donate additional funding directly to Community Services or our Church Benevolent Fund.

In the past couple of years in October &/or November we have focused on holding a food drive to replenish the **local Food Bank**. We inquire into their specific needs & target the foods that are in short supply on several successive Sundays.

## **EGLINTON ST. GEORGE'S UNITED CHURCH**

**Out of the Cold.** We work with a number of other local churches to support an OOTC program that is run out of Blythwood Baptist Church. We usually provide dinner for 100-140 people four or five times between Nov. and the end of March. Contact: Marjorie Hiley [m.l.hiley@sympatico.ca](mailto:m.l.hiley@sympatico.ca)

**Rummage Sale.** The congregation has a massive rummage sale twice a year, in Oct. and April. As part of our outreach work, we invite agencies and organizations to come towards the end of the event and take away, at no cost, any clothing, household goods or other items that they could use in their work. Members of the congregation also collect and take things to some agencies that are not able to send someone to the sale.

**We would be glad to talk to any groups that might like to get items from the sale.** Contact: Ann Barrett [amb40@sympatico.ca](mailto:amb40@sympatico.ca)

**Good Food Box.** Once a month we get fresh fruit and vegetable boxes from Food Share. We organize and distribute the food to people who order a box. We are usually able to provide free boxes to a number of families who can not afford to buy fresh produce. Contact: Janet Whitney [whitneygandj@yahoo.ca](mailto:whitneygandj@yahoo.ca)

**Fair Trade Fair.** This event allows people to buy goods created by artisans from developing countries under fair trade practices. Contact: Dana Clemens [dana.clemens@sympatico.ca](mailto:dana.clemens@sympatico.ca)

**Compassionate Justice work.** In 2010 we ran a series of three educational sessions about the criminal justice system. We are continuing this series in 2011-12. Members of the congregation are involved with Friends of Dismas. Plans are underway to bring interested people together to do more advocacy to make a difference in the Canadian Justice System. Contact: Jean Bruce [ejeanbruce@gmail.com](mailto:ejeanbruce@gmail.com)

**Support for Outreach Ministries and related agencies.** We support the work of organizations such as AURA, Massey Centre for Women, Toronto Christian Resource Centre, Camp Scugog, Urban Native Ministry and Ecumenical Chaplaincy at U. of T. This is done by donations from our Outreach budget, funds given at Advent Gifts service, rummage sale material and the time and effort of people from the congregation.