

[CDC] NEWS

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Pride for Parents Christmas Store Hits a Home Run

It was a cold December day—really no different than any other day in December except over 100 Christmas angels were busily serving over 202 families from the central Detroit community at our annual Pride for Parents Christmas store! Would donors who have blessed us so abundantly in past years be able to provide the toys and clothing and household items that we had previous years? Would volunteers show up to run the store as they had promised? Did parents have money to shop or was their budget too tight and they were going to skip out? What if...? All our concerns were wiped away in one glorious day with enough of everything—gifts and volunteers to serve and satisfy the parents. Thank you, God. The Pride for Parents Christmas store, now six years old, is a different twist on Christmas for our community. Central Detroit Christian CDC solicits non monetary and monetary donations from our ministry partners to stock a mock store that parents can shop at for Christmas gifts for their family. It's not free, but close. Parents pay only 10-20% of the actual cost of the item which makes shopping affordable. More important than that, the store gives parents dignity because it empowers them to be able to provide gifts for their children instead of hoping for a handout (that may or may not come). On that second Saturday in December 2009 we saw a lot of happy parents who were hopeful for a very Merry Christmas. And it was! Thanks to all who made the day a great reality—too many to mention here.



At a Glance...

Pride for parents - Christmas store hits a home run

Peaches and Greens - Gets national news coverage with major networks

Foreclosures - Dealing with the Tsunami

Intern House - If you build it they will come - See how YOU can help!

Faithful Volunteers - Meet just a few of the many volunteers that make CDC a successful Kingdom building tool

Calendar

Youth programs began
January 22nd

Spring Break College Groups arrive
February 21st

Central TUMI classes start
March 22nd

Time to plant the Gardens!
Beginning in April

CDC Banquet
Coming Soon! TBA

Peaches & Greens

Goes National, and all we wanted to do was offer fresh affordable produce to our community!

From August to November, Peaches & Greens, our produce market and truck, has been barraged by media attention that provided a picture of hope to our country as we simply demonstrated an easy way to address the food desert issue that impacts so many urban centers across America. It all started with an Associated Press article that ran in the Washington Post; next thing you know, NBC Nightly News shows up to do a story, the Governor of Michigan does a press conference at our store to announce her launching of additional produce trucks for other entrepreneurs based upon our model, the Mayor of Detroit tags along, CBS Nightly News stops by, Dateline NBC wants in on the story as do dozens of other print and radio outlets. Our dream of providing access to produce for an underserved community (central Detroit) grew beyond our wildest dreams. The dream is now being replicated in three other areas of the city and visitors from ten other cities have stopped in to chat about replication in their communities. If you missed all the cool stuff that happened, please check out our website at www.detcdc.org. Click on Peaches & Greens and then the Produce truck tab and you can see the NBC and CBS pieces while also reading some of the news articles.



Governor Granholm & Mayor Bing standing in Peaches & Greens' produce truck at press conference

Thank you! From [CDC]

We realize the tough economic time that we are in and thank you so much for your sacrificial contributions so that we together can have a direct impact on furthering God's Kingdom together in the city of Detroit. Serving the least with you,

CDC's Board of Directors

- Harvey Carey, Chairman
- Denise Gray
- Lisa Johanon
- Larry Johnson
- Herman Shelton
- Rita Smith
- Kathy Tosoian
- Harry Richmond
- Marie Thompson

Outstanding Volunteers

Where would we be without our 2,857 volunteers? Nowhere near where we are now, that is for sure. Here's a glimpse of a handful of people who really help make things happen at CDC.



Chris Veltman volunteers to work a shift every Wednesday afternoon at Peaches & Greens Produce Market. Though busy being a newlywed and a student at Moody Theological Seminary, Chris has been committed to be a part of the vision of access to fresh produce for the community. Thanks Chris. You are a peach.



Renee Richards, a committed member of our community and an avid Christ follower, works (though she wouldn't call it work) with our teen age girls. Now that is no easy task with all their hormones, drama, boys and other fun stuff, but Renee, rarely without a smile, greets it all with enthusiasm and love. Thanks Renee. You are a star.



Dave Satterthwaite is the guy we call on when we need an extra hand, or something fixed or work done downtown, or... who knows! He too, offers a weekly commitment to serve at CDC in whatever way we need to use him. The newsletter cannot contain the variety of tasks that Dave has accomplished with his fearless attitude yet humble heart. Thanks Dave. You are a gem.



Jeannie Robinson had a dream of teaching young women to sew, so she started a sewing class with our middle school students. Later she had a desire to teach the girls etiquette; after all, what good does it do to sew a new dress if you don't know how to behave in it. Hence, Fashion & Grace was born and the girls can't get enough of it. This stuff counts for life. Thanks Jeannie. You are the bomb.



Vinny Baker, who has been involved in CDC since he was 5, was employed through a City program and placed to work with us. The four week training program paid Vinny for 20 hours a week—he usually worked 30-40 hours. The program ended and Vinny kept showing up for work just because he wanted to serve. We all love Vinny and miss him when he isn't there to keep juggling all the balls we throw at him. Thanks Vinny. You are the man!

If You Build It, They Will Come



CDC gets an Intern House

The youth ministry staff dreamed of a house that could serve as a place to stay for local young adults involved in our leadership development program (some just need to get out of the negative environment they are faced with on a day to day basis so they can grow spiritually, mentally and emotionally). They also thought that perhaps some out of town interns might come to serve with us if we had housing available. So, God blessed us with a duplex—one floor for men and one floor for women. It is in pretty decent shape, just needing new plumbing fixtures, toilets, sinks and tubs, and we have raised most of the money for that. Okay, some broken windows and some drywall needed too.

Our goal is to have this beacon of light ready in the next couple of months for occupancy. Here's our wish list of what we need:

- Dressers
- Carpeting
- 2 Dining tables
- Couches & chairs for living rooms
- Up to 8 twin beds
- Linens: sheets and towels
- Dishes and pots & pans

Call our office (313) 873-0064 and talk to Dottie if you are able to help us with any of the above items. Thank you!

Dealing with the Tsunami Foreclosure Counseling



The Mighty Counselors

Some of the homeownership counselors from left to right: Rob, Bruce, and Antoinette

They say that purchasing a home is one of the most stressful things a person does. Well, we think that losing a home to foreclosure is even worse.

Our region has been hit by a tsunami and holding the title for the highest foreclosure rate in the nation is not a title we covet. Yet this is the reality for so many families as secondary mortgages, adjustable rate mortgages,

We have added three more homeownership counselors thereby doubling our counseling staff

a high unemployment rate, and the devaluation of homes have flooded our community. We have added three more homeownership counselors thereby doubling our counseling staff to keep up with the demand for assistance in this area. Our counselors, Antoinette, Rob, Bruce, Kelvin, Eric, and Sarah, are all well trained either by H.U.D. on a federal level or by M.S.H.D.A. (Michigan State Housing Development Authority) on a state level. Our counseling services are free, so if you or someone you know is struggling with foreclosure, or perhaps needs a loan modification, please call our office or go to our website to fill out the pertinent information. Everything is dealt with in the most discreet and professional manner. Please pray for our counselors that they are able to keep fresh despite the constant state of crisis they experience with the families in foreclosure.

I want to help CDC make eternal differences in people!

Amount of gift: \$

Make checks payable to: **Central Detroit Christian CDC**
(Please do not send cash or merchandise)

Please cut along dotted line and send the gold form with check to:
Central Detroit Christian CDC
PO Box 44706
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I want to help Central Detroit Christian

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