



**Manna House Alcohol/Drug  
 Recovery Program Rehabs  
 Lives and House  
 \$10,000 match needed for renovation of  
 residential treatment resident**

Perhaps no program that Mission Waco does has more impact on lives than the Christian-based substance abuse residential program. Men who have often "lost everything," find the holistic approach to be life-changing. After 14 years in the older two-story house, called "Manna House," critical renovations are needed. Three local business men who lead weekly Bible studies there for the participants have committed to raise \$10,000 if we can raise the same matching amount. If you are interested in helping, let us know. If you want to know more about the program, give us a call.

**Year-End Donations  
 Are Critical Part of  
 Serving Local Poor  
 Will you consider giving?**

Like most organizations that serve those in need, we know that end of year donations can "make or break" non-profit budgets. Our culture tends to "remember the poor" (Gal 2:10) in the six week around Thanksgiving and Christmas and many businesses and individuals give only year-end donations. So as much as 25% of our budget needs come this month.

Three-fourths of Mission Waco's annual funds come through individual donors. Many donors give \$1/day or \$30/month all year long. Others prefer one-time gifts. All donations are important, but year-end sacrifices are critical.

We work hard to assure you our spending is ethical! Charity Navigator, an independent group that evaluates over 5300 non-profit organizations for fiscal management so donors can determine more intelligently to donate to them or not, gave Mission Waco its highest 4-star award for the second time. Only 1/4 of all their evaluations receive it.

Donations can be made online <www.missionwaco.org> or by mail at: 1315 N. 15th Street, Waco, TX, 76707.

# Mission Waco

NOV/DEC 2009-Newsletter <www.missionwaco.org>



New,  
 unwrapped  
 toys  
 needed  
 now....

**Christmas Toy  
 Store Opens  
 Soon for  
 Low-Income  
 Parents**

**Biker Toy Run to Local  
 Churches and Businesses  
 Kicks off Drive**

In just a few days, hundreds of struggling parents will fill The ROCK, Mission Waco's children center, shopping for their own children's toys. The cost...80% off retail! For years we have found that even those struggling in poverty still have dignity and want to keep it! So instead of giving free toys away on their doorsteps, parents get to shop for new toys donated by folks like you and then have the joy of putting those toys that they bought under their own tree. Even the money they give (20%) goes to buy more toys.

Want to help? Either pick up some toys while you are out shopping, or donate funds that allow us to purchase them. You are also welcome to volunteer at the Christmas Toy Store! Thanks for caring and helping bring joy and dignity to others!

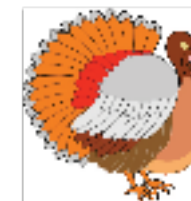
**Christmas Gifts  
 That Really Make  
 a Difference!  
 Tired of gifts for those that  
 have too much already?  
 We can help!**

For only \$16.25/month, a child can go to school and eat one meal a day. For \$2500, you can purchase a water well that will provide clean drinking water instead of river water. And you can give your designated gift to Mission Waco and we'll send a Christmas card to your family member or friend recognizing your donation in their name. Long after the wrapping paper is in the garbage, you can know that this year's gifts keep on changing lives. There are opportunities both locally and internationally, and other possibilities besides these listed. So why not make this Christmas your most generous ever?



Former Baylor quarterback, Jay Jeffrey assists digging of a new water well in Haiti, purchased by Mission Waco supporters

1. Buy a brick- \$2 each to expand church-based health clinic in Haiti
2. Water Well-\$2500
3. Orphan's Gift (Mx)-\$5
4. School Sponsorship- \$195/yr or \$16.25/mo
5. Winter Coat- \$14 new (Waco) homeless men/women
6. Bus pass>work-\$40/mo



**Thanksgiving Day Volunteers  
 Serve 100 Homeless  
 Day filled with activities and worship  
 service of thanksgiving**

**Baylor Students  
 Invite 50 Homeless  
 from MBK Shelter**

For the second year, Emily Saultz, Baylor Student Gov't. VP for Outreach, brought Mission Waco's MBK shelter residents to join Baylor's annual campus Thanksgiving Meal.



Over 50 volunteers donated, cooked and served the traditional Thanksgiving meal in Mission Waco's Meyer Center. Beginning with early morning arts and crafts with Continental breakfast, followed by a thanksgiving worship service, everyone celebrated a full morning before the turkey and dressing! Several volunteers noted the deep thankfulness of those who have so little, yet seem to be so thankful.

## Mission Waco Annual Banquet Moves to Baylor-Ferrell Center

**Buy your tables now!**

**February 9 Event Most Important Yet**

Every sector of the community which impacts Waco's poverty rate will be on-stage that night. With the theme penned in the book of Hebrews, "Looking for the city that is yet to come." (Hebrews 13:14), Mission Waco will bring together key players from workforce, education, social services, and the church to move toward that "city yet to come." From Waco's stimulating vision for downtown to the harsh realities of Waco's poverty rate, attendees will leave with a sense of the tapestry and challenges of our community to bring good news to the poor.

Underwriters and table sponsorships are already at record levels for the night. Tables of 10 are \$350 for non-profits and churches, \$500 for community partner levels and \$750 for global partners. Underwriters pay anywhere between \$1000-\$5000.

Mission Waco seeks to gather local churches, businesses and individuals each year to share the stories of how the poor and marginalized are being changed and the challenge ahead.

Call now (254.7543.4900) to reserve your table or sponsorship.



### Jazz it up!

#### Jubilee Theatre Hosting More Arts Entertainment

After a successful 12-band Jubilee Music Festival last month, "jazz man" Richard Thomas begins Friday night events on Dec 4. On January 18, a dramatic reading of the "Waco Horror" will be performed. And there's more to come....



### FAIR TRADE ITEMS POPULAR CHRISTMAS GIFTS

The World Cup Cafe, 1321 N. 15th, is Mission Waco's popular breakfast and lunch hangout because of the great food. But for any shopper who cares about the poor, it's a holiday haven. Hundreds of items handcrafted by the poor from all over the world are sold with the guarantee of "fair trade," meaning those who make and sell the items are treated with justice and fairness. Streetside bazaars and trunk shows continue to have great success. So why not come on over for a latte and get some unique and meaningful gifts?

### MEYER CENTER NAMESAKE LEAVES MORE THAN NAME

Paul J. Meyer died in November. But his memory and lessons of life will live on. As a generous donor to Mission Waco, Paul and his wife, Jane, were "hands-on" kind of folks. "What are we going to do for all these poor people in Waco?" he asked Jimmy Dorrell, executive director of Mission Waco. "We have to do something!" he said. And he did. When Central Presbyterian Church relocated to the suburbs, they offered Mission Waco a great deal on their old building. The Meyer Foundation donated the funds to both purchase and renovate the building, which is used today for a variety of services for the poor. Job training, G.E.D. classes, a computer lab, laundry and showers for the homeless, meals, benevolence and other social services are offered daily to hundreds of men and women in need. Due to his compassion, Mission Waco chose to name the center for him. Paul's generosity always included the poor and his encouragement and prayers always included Mission Waco.

*"The virgin will be with child and give birth to a son, and they will call him 'Immanuel,' which means 'God with us.'"*

Matthew 1:23

## Growing Involvement Brings Hope for Waco

-by Jimmy Dorrell

It wasn't too many years ago that dreams, volunteers and initiatives to help the poor in Waco were scarce. Yet today, there are several signs of hope that have brought new momentum addressing our biggest dilemma. Besides a growing vision for downtown supported by the City and Chamber of Commerce, there are equally good signs from the faith community. For example, Habitat for Humanity has built 120 "decent affordable homes" for the poor since 1986. The Waco CDC, created as a "sister organization" to Mission Waco's work in North Waco, has now built 30 new homes and just broke ground on five more. Both the Education Summit and Poverty Solutions Task Force are new initiatives in Waco that are addressing systemic issues of Waco's 27.6% poverty rate. Baylor University recently held its second annual Poverty Summit and now hosts the Poverty Initiative and Texas Hunger Coalition. The work of Dr. Walter Bradley and the new "Global Poverty Center" at Baylor has brought national attention for his unique work to harvest coconuts for job creation and sustainability for many of the poor in the Tropics. Individual church involvement has also grown. Local congregations are providing events, donations and involvement with the poor more than ever before. Even churches from the Metroplex are driving to Church Under the Bridge to offer food and assistance.

Mission Waco has seen huge increases in volunteers and training opportunities. More people are donating school supplies and Christmas toys for the ever-growing needs. Our annual conference doubled in both participants and sponsorships. The weekend Poverty Simulation reached a record number of participants with nearly one thousand attending from all over the nation and several of them were "sold out." Our homeless shelter evening "chapels" were filled throughout the fall with leaders from churches, student groups and individuals. Students are coming from several colleges and seminaries to get academic credit and volunteer experience through immersions we offer. And many of the "exposure trips" to Haiti, India and Mexico City have been sold out.

So what does all this mean? It's hard to say since busyness alone does not always produce fruit. My hope and prayer is that God is up to something here. With the right tools, vision, political will and resources in place, maybe, just maybe the poor of our community will begin to reap significant benefits that lift them out of the grinding poverty which haunts our community. "Bringing good news to the poor" has always been God's desire!

## Two Spring Haiti Trips Will Make Impact of Poorest

Going or giving makes a difference!

Five doctors have already signed on to spend their vacation days in the poorest country in the Western hemisphere. Two trips, March 5-13 (full) and May 18-27 are offered this year by Mission Waco as part of our mission/exposure trips to invest in the lives of the world's poor. Because of a generous match-challenge donation of \$10,000, Mission Waco needs to raise \$10,000 more to expand the existing inadequate church clinic in Ferrier, Haiti. If you are interested, please designate any gift as "Haiti Clinic." If you are interested in going, complete the application on the website with deposit. Space is limited so don't delay.

Baylor's Environmental Studies department, led by Dr. Larry Lehr, is currently researching how to access and install solar panels for the clinic. Janet Dorrell will be adding a water purification system to clean up polluted well water. Both groups of travelers (46 total) will take several thousand dollars of donation pharmaceuticals for the four-day community clinics that will serve over 500 patients each trip.



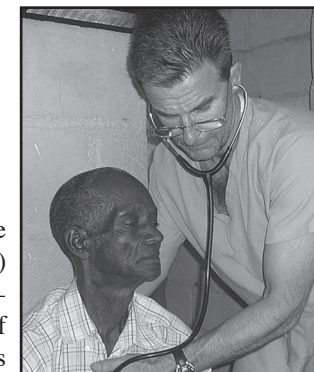
Mission Waco (legally called "Cross Culture Experiences") also offers school sponsorships and clean water wells in Haiti. This year, 142 extremely poor children are attending one of two Christian schools because of the generosity of local donors who pay \$195/year (\$16.25/mon) for a uniform, tuition, and one meal a day. And for \$2500, a new well (see front page) will bring life-saving clean water.

For over twenty years, the directors of Mission Waco have been taking groups to Haiti, India and Mexico City as part of the "mobilization" ministry to help middle-class Christians understand and engage in the lives of the world's poor. The Mexico City trip is July 13-20. We will return to India in May, 2011.

## Internships and Immersions Transform "Rich Young Ruler" Syndrome

Jesus' hardest words confront greediness

By American standards, the rich young ruler in Luke 19:16-25 was hardly rich. Yet, Jesus reminded him that eternal life cost more than following the law; it also meant selling possession and giving to the poor, then following the Lord. It is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God! How then do we, the richest nation in the world embedded in a culture of materialism, really hear and understand these piercing words? There are no easy ways. But one way some of our participants have found is through summer internships and immersion experiences, both available at Mission Waco. So if we can help you along that path of reflection and personal examination, let us know. We are here to help!



Dr. Steve Raley of Waco will return with Mission Waco again this Spring to offer critical healthcare to poorest of Western hemisphere. Drs. Keith Boles, Nick Schwedock, Crawford Allison and Steve Whitmarsh are also going to serve.

## Weekend Poverty Simulations Filling up

Dates for Spring/Summer Registration Available Online

Over 1000 participants came from all over the nation this year to immerse themselves in the challenging issues of poverty, not by just talking, but by being poor themselves. The Friday-Sunday experience has been transforming middle-class Christians for over 27 years. In a world where one half makes less than \$2/day and most of them are non-Christians, the training helps reshape presuppositions and provide new biblical call to make a difference for the poor and marginalized. Details available at <www.missionwaco.org>. Deposits required to hold reservations. Cost is \$50/each.



## Mexico City Trip-July 13-20

Come go with us and make a difference

When you enter La Divina orphanage on the outskirts of Mexico City, the world changes. Some 200+ children scream with ecstasy because they know the next few hours will be full of joy. Mission Waco's annual trip to serve the poor is now taking applications. Details on the website under "Training" and "Mission/Exposure Trips." We've got room for you this summer!

**\$10,000 match grant offered to expand small church-based charity clinic among Haiti's poorest**  
Will you help?