

Isaiah 61 Ministries
December 2011-January 2012 Newsletter

The letter below is from Janice Mixell, an Isaiah 61 volunteer who wanted to share her story with our group.

Sept. 14th, 2011 my husband and I along with Mary Lou Maxwell and her husband, Don, had our first meeting with Isaiah 61 Ministries. We had come on Wednesday evening to bring 20 sleeping mats to folks who needed them. What a surprise we had seeing so many people lined up for a meal. I don't really know what we were expecting, but I was in awe of how orderly everything was and how many people were there waiting to be fed. And then comes this handful of people with tables, containers of food, drinks, napkins, forks, the works. Everyone knew exactly what to do and in minutes, after announcements and prayer, the food was served.

We talked with Angel and April as we had a chance to. They were running in so many directions. People knew them and wanted and needed to talk with them. It was decided that we would hand mats out only to people that April and Angel sent to us. They knew who was sleeping on the street. We did as they ask us to and in the course of doing this we met a lady named, Linda Lou.

While talking with Linda she said something to me and Mary Lou that at first we did not understand. She said we were like gramms. We said gramms? She said, "Ya, you know, Gramms, when you are a kid, everyone has one". Then she gave us each a hug. It touched our hearts that she felt that in bringing the mats we were giving a gift to her that a grandmother would think of.

Before leaving that evening Linda asked us if we could pray together and of course we said yes. Our group got into a circle with Linda Lou and she led us with the most heartfelt prayer, it touched all of our hearts and opened my eyes. Here is a street person with nothing to call her own but a few things she has with her and she knows the Lord. She had to; she opened her prayer with Father God as so many of us do. That led me to who are these people living on the street and know our Lord so well. I discovered they are you and me. The ones, who for some reason did not make it over that poverty line, who may have illness that caused their decline, loss of loved ones, chemical abuse, and so many other things. Things that many of us have gone through, but because of financial ability, love of family and church we have been able to hang on to a life "off the streets".

Upon leaving that area that September night I knew positively that the Lord had put this ministry on my heart. There was no way that I could walk away and leave my sisters and brothers behind.....they need us as much as we need them. We need them to keep us grounded in our Savior's words and not to ever think that "it will never be me on that cold street". Blessings to you, Janice Mixell

- Friends, please feel free to share your own personal experiences with us, and we'll be happy to publish your story/thoughts/comments in a future newsletter! Letters of experience can be sent to Trish at carlefamily@comcast.net.
- 20 people from the Bethesda Women's Shelter were able to use donated tickets to see "**The Gospel According to Scrooge**" at **Christian Life Assembly** in late November, and Isaiah 61 Ministries volunteers were able to transport 35 more clients. "An incredible production" said one volunteer, and "lives will be changed" said another. Thank you to Lori Keim and CLA Productions for making this opportunity available to us. This was such a blessing to many.
- About 12 **Professions of Faith** have been made over the past 3 months that Isaiah 61 Ministries has been transporting friends of the ministry to Exponentialchurch.tv. Thank you to Exponentialchurch.tv for being the church and making our guests feel welcome. We are praying for a bus so transportation would be easier. Again, lives are being changed as a direct result of this ministry!
- **New volunteers** will now be trained prior to serving with Isaiah 61 Ministries.
- We now have a **website - "Isaiah61Ministries.us" and a facebook page - "[facebook.com/Isaiah 61 Ministries](https://www.facebook.com/Isaiah61Ministries)"**..... Check them out often for updates, pictures, etc..
- Each time you use **GoodSearch** they will donate one cent to Isaiah 61 Ministries. Imagine how quickly those pennies will add up if we all begin to use GoodSearch! This is an easy way for us to fund-raise. We can earn money in support of Isaiah 61 Ministries of Harrisburg through the simple everyday actions of searching and shopping on the internet. **Go to "GoodSearch.com" for more information, and enter "[Isaiah 61 Ministries of Harrisburg](http://Isaiah61Ministries.us)" to set up your account.**
- **New ministries beginning with the New Year:**
 - **Life Groups:** This new ministry of Isaiah 61 will begin early in 2012. We will be forming "Life Groups" whereby the Ministry will begin to form small groups of people along with their families and some of our clients. These small groups will gather regularly to pray, share, worship, work together on projects, and for any other reason they feel like meeting.
 - **Adopt a Block:** This new ministry will begin in the first quarter of 2012. Once a quarter, this ministry will find out the needs of a Harrisburg city block and try to fill them - whether it be furniture, painting, cleaning, outdoor work, etc. If you are interested in helping with Adopt-A-Block, stay tuned for more information! Our first Adopt a block will be Howard Street in Harrisburg.
- Just a note, **Winterjam** will be held at the Sovereign Center in Reading on Thursday, January 26. Tickets are \$10 per person. Lots of great Christian music and opportunity for fellowship and worship! Tickets are sold at the door, arrive early early to guarantee entrance. If anyone is interested in going with the group please contact us.
- **Thank you** to HACC for taking a Tuesday night service and for Capital Area Christian Church committing to serving the 3rd Wednesdays meal each month.
- We are looking for **clothing racks** to be used for our Clothing Room. If anyone has access to new or used clothing racks, please contact Mike Sellers at mtsellers5@verizon.net. If anyone is interested in donating clothing in Harrisburg area they should contact Mike. Thank you to Mike and Teresa Sellers for taking charge of the Clothing Ministry.
- Contact April at crgirl@rocketmail.com if you are interested in further **volunteer opportunities**.
- **Monetary donations** can be sent to Isaiah 61 Ministries at 53 Union Church Rd Halifax, PA17032.

- Here are some pictures from the **Isaiah 61 Ministries luncheon** served at **Howard Tire Company** in late November:



- About 60 volunteers helped to make our **Christmas Dinner** possible at the **Swatara Church of God** on Thursday, December 29. We served approximately 140 clients with awesome praise music from the ExponentialTV.com, an encouraging word from Pastor Gilbert Thurston, Christmas decorations, and delicious food prepared by many hands. Gifts were distributed, smiles were shared, and 8 souls were saved to God's glory! Many thanks to all the volunteers who made this event happen, including - volunteers from Howard Tire Company, ExponentialChurch.TV, Swatara Church of God, Bible

Baptist Church, Halifax United Methodist Church, Newberrytown Church of God, Capital Area Christian Church, Christian Life Assembly, Camp Hebron, Trinity Church of God, Holy Name of Jesus, DayBreak, Eberly Mill Church of God, Drayer Physical Therapy and Millersburg Assembly of God. Also special thanks to donated use of vans from Swatara Church of God, Millersburg Assembly and The Sellers Family.

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