

Crossroads

News for our Partners

Mission

RESCUE

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Merry Christmas!

The season for sharing, caring and giving is here and Crossroads Mission is ready to share, care and give to the homeless and needy of Yuma. Roy (above) is just one of the many people that is benefiting from the great programs available to individuals who want to change their homeless lifestyles. He's in the Renewed Life Program and helps out in the kitchen as dishwasher. Roy says that he likes the peace and tranquility found at Crossroads Mission. Since he got here, he has been an inspiration and a role model to others. Thank you Roy, keep up the great job!



Azucena S.
Visual
Communications
(928) 783-9362,
ext. 18

Thank you for taking the time to read our Winter Newsletter. We are very excited about being able to give you an inside look at what goes on at Crossroads Mission.

In this issue you will find information about our special activities, about what has happened in the last three months, and interesting testimonials from our clients and guests. We have also featured some of our new staff in the side columns of each page. We hope that you enjoy reading and knowing about us.

If you have any comments about this newsletter or suggestions for future issues, please call Azucena. She'll be happy to talk to you and make improvements as necessary to better inform our partners. Also, we invite you to visit our website. Some pages are still under construction, but you can still browse through it and find lots of information. This newsletter is available online for your convenience, or if you want to send it to a friend. Our address is: www.crossroadsmission.org

We want this time of the year to be special for all of our guests and clients. We simply could not do this without your support. With our most sincere appreciation, we wish you a

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Too Much To Give Thanks For This Holiday Season



Manny R.
Food Service
Director
(928) 783-
9362, ext. 15

During this time of the year, most of us start thinking about the many blessings that we have. As a result, we realize that there are many who are not as fortunate as we are. Crossroads Mission is particularly aware of the need in our community, not just during the holidays, but all year round.

This year, our theme for our celebrations is "Too much to give thanks for". One day of thanksgiving was just not enough and we extended the Thanksgiving Holiday over three days of celebration. It was a huge success with all of the guests that joined us. That is why we have planned the same thing for our Christmas Celebration.

Just as with our Thanksgiving Festival, a small army of volunteers is ready to make the Christmas Festivities extra special for the homeless and those who have no family to spend the holidays with.

The celebration will begin with a Fiesta Day on December 23rd, with traditional Mexican food extravaganza. On December 24th, we will serve a succulent, traditional ham dinner. Finally, on Christmas Day we will conclude with a traditional turkey dinner galore!

We expect great results, delicious food and lots of happy people. If you are interested in helping, you still have time to sign up to volunteer. We'd love to share the rewarding experience of creating a very special event for the less fortunate.



Please help make this event possible by donating food items such as fresh produce for salads and fruits for desserts, potatoes, hams, turkeys, etc.

Visit Santa At The Mall

Everyday from 10am to 5 pm
All proceeds to benefit Crossroads Mission



A Good Bake Sale

The AAL Branch 9337, also known as Thrivent, and Faith Lutheran Church recently delivered a check for \$200 dollars to Crossroads Mission. The donation was the result of a *delicious* bake sale that produced *sweet* results.

Thank you AAL!
Right: Mike Elg receives the check from AAL representative Gene Tinseth.



A special thanks to the Weyerhaeuser Company Foundation.

They gave Crossroads a \$1,000 grant to replace some of the pallet racks that we lost during our recent Recycling Center Fire. In their award letter, they write:

"We applaud the work you are doing for your community, and it is a pleasure to be among your current supporters."

Kids Showing Compassion



Kids from the Ambassadors Group, a leadership club at Gwyneth Ham Elementary School, recently collected almost 1,200 items of non perishable food for Crossroads Mission. The Ambassadors put out a challenge to all of the homerooms of the school to do a 2 week food drive. The two classrooms with the most items were awarded a root beer float party. Mrs. Shrope, director of the Ambassadors, said that the group does a couple of big community projects, and helping Crossroads was one of the things that the group chose to do.



We'd love to have you join us on the upcoming special events planned for the month of February, 2003. All proceeds benefit Crossroads Mission. For more information, or to obtain tickets, please call **Mildred (left)** at (928) 783-9362, ext. 35.

Valentine's Day Hawaiian Luau



Saturday February 8, 2003
Starting at 4:00 pm
At Britain Farms

Tickets: Adults \$10, children \$5 (8-15 years).
Children 7 and under free.

Entertainment by David Givens

"Share The Love"

Daytime Rail & BBQ Lunch

Friday February 14, 2003

Train leaves from Joe Henry Park at 11 am
& Returns to park for BBQ & Entertainment

Tickets: \$15 per person

Sponsored by the Arizona State Employees
Charitable Campaign &
Yuma Valley Railway



Featuring the "Yuma Wild West Bunch"
Music by the "Slice of Life Band"



Susan R.
CWU Site
Supervisor
(928) 783-9362,
ext. 22

With 20 years of experience working in and around the medical field, Susan is right at home at the Crossroads' Chemical Withdrawal Unit.

She has been working at Crossroads since October of 2001. Recently, Susan was promoted from tech to Site Supervisor. She supervises the overall operation of the C.W.U.

When describing her job, Susan says that she plays the roles of encourager, empathizer, and comforter. She feels that she understands the people that she works with. To her, the best thing about working at the Mission is: "helping those whose lives will be improved and blessed by recovery."

Susan is a Yuma native. She invites people from our community to keep providing the "resources and funds to help anyone and everyone who walks through our doors." She understands the disease of alcoholism and drug addiction and can see first hand what effects it has on people's bodies, spirits and minds.

Her view on recovery is the same as Hillary Clinton's view on children that "it takes a village" to make a difference.

We are happy to have Susan aboard as our new Site Supervisor. Congratulations!

Are you interested in ways to help your community?



Join Crossroads Mission's very own Barbara Rochester and Judy Tripp,

Barbara

from the Area Agency on Aging, on a monthly luncheon that concentrates on finding more ways to help out the community.

"Yuma Community Networking With Barbara & Judy"
December 11 at 12 noon. At Chretien's Mexican Food

For information or to RSVP, call Mildred at (928) 783-9362, ext. 35



Karen M.
Recovery Program
Counselor
(928) 783-9362,
ext. 24

With three and a half years of experience as a therapist, Karen comes well prepared to Crossroads Mission. She is one of the new Drug & Alcohol Recovery Program Counselors.

Karen is originally from Somerton, Arizona, so she knows the community well. She feels that being a counselor is much like "helping others help themselves." She counsels her clients to help them process their problems, and to recover from their addictions.

Karen adds that the work here at Crossroads Mission is very rewarding. She invites everyone to recite our Mission Statement (The purpose of Crossroads Mission is to help disabled, disadvantaged and disenfranchised individuals and families achieve a better quality of life.) and consider volunteering their time and or talents.

In conclusion, when asked to say something to the community she says, "donations are also accepted and are tax deductible!"

We welcome Karen to the Life Skills Program staff.



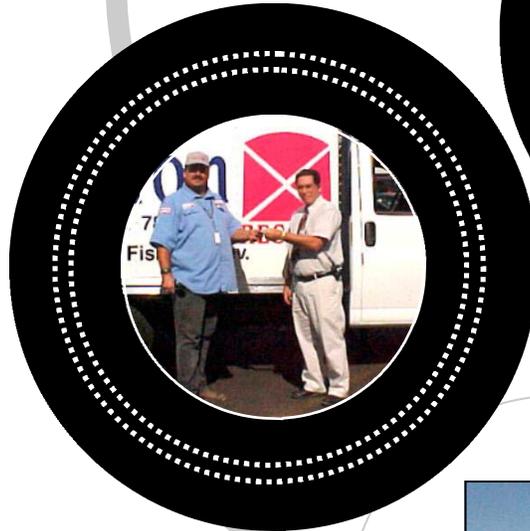
Come shop our newest store and give things a...

2ND

2291 E. Palo Verde
Open Monday-Saturday
8 am-8pm
314-0684



New Wheels!



TOP: Bill Moore; Mike Elg; Tom Williams, Truck Manager for Fisher Chevrolet; and Ken Stanhope of Wee Bee Signs & Graphics.
LEFT: Mike gives Bill the keys to the new truck.

Crossroads Mission

has a new "set of wheels!" It's the new truck that is used for donation pick ups and Bill is sure glad we got it. Bill's job had been hectic recently because of all of the mechanical problems that the old truck suffered. Now, thanks to God and some generous discounts, the big Crossroads Mission sign, on both sides of the truck, can be seen throughout the city. Fisher Chevrolet of Yuma made our new truck possible through their discount and monthly pledge, and affordable signage services from Wee Bee Signs & Graphics gave it the finishing touch.



Free Pick-Up of Your Donations!



Bill will be happy to help you!

Furniture, Appliances, Clothes, Miscellaneous, Garage Sale Leftovers

To schedule an appointment for your donations to be picked up

CALL 783-9362

Monday - Saturday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Our pick-up dates are:

Tuesday - Saturday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

YOUR GIFT IS TAX DEDUCTIBLE, ALL PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT THE HOMELESS!

Before The Year Is Over...



Bill Esmeier
Director of
Development
(928) 314-0684

As the end of the year approaches, many of us reflect on the many things that have happened in our lives. Many of us have suffered losses, and many of us have been richly blessed. Some of us will use this time to consider what we might do with the gifts our Lord has granted us.

Our ministry here at Crossroads Mission is dependent upon your individual gifts and support. A year-end gift to us demonstrates your belief and value of our overall mission. We invite you to consider the following ways of charitable support.

Gifts of Stocks, Bonds or Mutual Funds



Your stocks, bonds or mutual funds may have grown in value in recent years. A gift of stocks, bonds or mutual funds can offer you tax benefits. By providing a gift of stocks, bonds or mutual funds you receive a charitable deduction for the donation of these assets based on their fair market value on the date of the gift. Making a gift like this avoids all federal capital gains tax that would otherwise be due on the sale of the assets.

Gifts of Real Estate



Fast becoming a popular choice in giving, providing a gift of your real estate can be accomplished in several ways. Donating your real estate outright, placing it in a trust, or retaining its use for your life are all possible options. Consider donating real estate held for more than one year and you will avoid the tax and realize the full charitable deduction for the fair-market value of the real estate.

Gifts of Cash



Many of you have provided a gift of cash to directly benefit our mission. We will use your gift of cash to address our greatest current need.

Your cash gifts can be for:

1. Working Poor Tax Credit of up to \$200. This credit is effective in full on Arizona State taxes and a standard deduction on federal taxes, for anyone who itemizes. This is under Arizona Charitable Tax Credit Law, ARS-43-1088, and will be used in any area of the Mission.
2. You can designate your gift for use in the following areas:
 - Drug & Alcohol Recovery Program
 - Education Center
 - Family Shelter –women & children
 - Men’s Shelter
 - Kitchen

For more information on how to donate stocks, bonds, mutual funds, real estate and other gifts such as vehicles and gifts of life insurance, please contact Bill. He'd be happy to provide assistance to you and discuss various gift options in confidence and without obligation.



Joyce W.
Substance Abuse
Counselor II
(928) 783-9362,
ext. 24

Joyce has not yet seen a summer in Yuma and she is in for a surprise. She came to the city when she was hired here at Crossroads in September of 2002. She drove all the way from Bourbonnais, Illinois and has made this community her home.

Counseling people who are suffering from an addiction is nothing new to Joyce. Not only does she have experience in the work field of substance abuse counseling, but Joyce has also lived the disease herself. She says, "I am a recovering alcoholic and addict for over twelve years and sponsored and worked with many women and men and recovery programs."

When asked what she enjoys best about working here she answers, "By far working with the clients and that CRM offers so many services to them and the community." She hopes to "become an asset and remain a part of a treatment facility that continues to offer a well rounded service to the community and clients."

Joyce finishes with a message of her own: "I knew I wanted more than anything to work with alcoholics and addicts on a professional level, and to continue working with them on a recovery level (twelve step meetings). I also know that this disease gets people to other levels of suffering, such as domestic violence, child abuse, sexual abuse, lack of higher learning and the need for long term residential treatment. I thank God he chose Yuma, and Crossroads Mission, for me."

Welcome Joyce!

TAX CREDIT DONATION CARD

Crossroads Mission * P.O. Box 1161 * Yuma, AZ 85366

Participants Name: _____ Social Security # _____
Last Name First Name MI (For Tax Records Only)

Address: _____ City, State, Zip: _____ Phone # _____

Participating donations will be used for covering general expenses of Crossroads mission, a 501 C(3) organization. The maximum Arizona State tax credit is \$200 per year, which is determined on the base you established previously, in donating to charitable nonprofit organizations. These donations are pursuant to A.R.S. Section 43-1088. Donations must be postmarked or delivered to Crossroads Mission by December 31, 2002 to be claimed as a credit for this year.

Amount: _____ Check Number: _____

Guess Who?

Read the following profile and guess who it is about. Call (928) 783-9362, ext. 34 and see if you are right!

This flirtatious man calls himself “extraordinaire”. He has been working at Crossroads for more than four years. In his everyday duties, he gets to drive around town a lot, and meet lots of people.

He considers growing up his main childhood accomplishment. And grow he did, since he stands tall at about 6’3”. Most of his growing happened in Rowland Heights, California. He’s been in Yuma for 12 years, and he’s already acquired a “wild” nickname from his friends. His favorite color is red and he has a dog named “Sassy”. His hobbies are fishing and playing guitar.

Do you know who this wild and extraordinary man is?



Harold
Van Driver



Martin
EMT-Tech



Bill
Truck Driver

The Fun Page!

Look for some of the words from the story of Christmas. Look from top to bottom and from side to side. Words can also be found diagonally and spelled backwards.

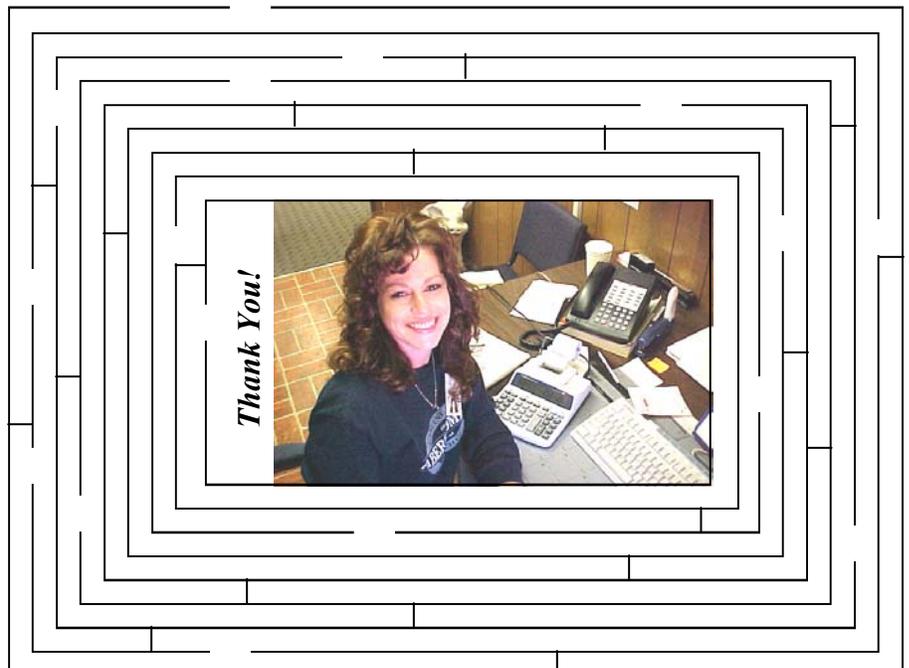
B	D	L	O	G	S	A	F	X
J	E	S	U	S	H	Y	J	K
O	S	T	A	B	E	R	Y	N
S	N	M	H	Q	P	A	E	R
E	E	S	Y	L	H	M	A	E
P	C	E	F	R	E	T	N	G
H	N	Z	A	S	R	H	G	N
R	I	T	I	Y	D	H	E	A
A	S	W	E	E	S	I	L	M



- Angel
- Bethlehem
- Gold
- Incense
- Jesus
- Joseph
- Manger
- Mary
- Myrrh
- Shepherds
- Star
- Wise Men



TAMMY has so much to do with all of the holidays upon us that she can hardly concentrate at her desk. Her switchboard phone keeps ringing, people keep asking her questions and she still hasn't been able to start on the day's work. Will you help her find a work space that will give her the peace and quiet that she needs to get her work caught up. She already has a volunteer helper answering the phones for her, so that is no problem.



A New Team For Volunteers...



Barbara Rochester

Volunteer & Special Events Coordinator
(928) 783-9362x36

Volunteers at Crossroads Mission can count on real V.I.P. service from the new Volunteer Coordinator and her team. As of November of 2002, Barbara Rochester has taken on the responsibilities of coordinating all of the volunteering efforts at Crossroads. She is no novice in the area of volunteers, since she has more than 23 years of experience in working and supervising volunteers. In fact, Barbara has her own faithful volunteers that work with her all the time. Three of those *super volunteers* will help her with her new job, as well as the rest of her many special events and duties. They are all excited about the changes and very eager to meet and recruit new volunteers.



Terry M.
LSP Case Manager
(928) 783-9362, ext. 24

One of Terry's goals as Case Manager for people in the Life Skills Program is to "show the new clients that sobriety does work." He can safely make that statement since he is living proof of that fact. His favorite phrase when trying to make his point is, "been there, done that!"

Terry was recently hired for the position and has enjoyed his job since day one. He likes working with all the CRM staff, but he likes best his daily interaction with the recovery program clients.

His job consists of helping people in the program with everyday things such as doctor's appointments and calls to insurance companies. He is instrumental to people who have unresolved issues in the "world outside of the program." Sometimes, Terry has to retrain a person on how to take care of their own matters, after their addictions have separated them from reality for so long.

Terry has been in Yuma for the past 10 years. He has lived in Oregon and in Washington state. He likes the Yuma area and hopes that "the support from the community continues to grow" towards Crossroads Mission.

At 40 years old, Terry is living his sober life to the fullest. He has had his share of ups and downs and is glad to be where he is at. He says, "Thank you Crossroads Mission. If it wasn't for all the help I received from all of you, I wouldn't be where I am in life today!"

Terry is a positive influence to all of the clients and we are happy to have him as one of our team players. Welcome Terry!

Mildred McNeel (not pictured), **Margene Nutt and Larry "Whitey" Bryce**, make up the new Team for Volunteers at Crossroads Mission



YES! I Want To Be a CRM Volunteer!



Please rush me information on how to become a volunteer to:

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY, ZIP: _____

The type of volunteering that I would like to do is:

Every (circle one): DAY WEEK MONTH YEAR

Cut & Mail to: CRM Volunteer Coordinator, P.O. Box 1161, Yuma, AZ 85364

Memorial & Honorable Gifts

IN MEMORY OF:

Bob Whetton
Jim Miller
Jim Miller
Jim Miller
Our Mother

THE KIND GIFT OF:

Verna M. Downen
Donna L. Downing
Chas B. & Doris Godwin
Mary Lillian Wren
John L. & Mary E. Whitlock

IN CELEBRATION OF:

Birthdays of
Misty, Mandy & Steve Reynolds

Wedding Anniversary of
Steve & Judy Reynolds

THE KIND GIFT OF:

Kenneth & Gladys McClain

Kenneth & Gladys McClain

Every effort is done to assure that all the names in this Memorial & Honorable Gifts section are correct. We apologize for any errors that may have occurred in this or any previous newsletter.



Myra Garlit
Treatment Director
(928) 783-9362,
ext. 21

The Thanksgiving and Christmas season provide us with an opportunity to reflect and to share our gratitude with others. The Crossroads Mission Recovery Department has a long gratitude list this year.

As I pause to reflect on this year, I want to give thanks to God for the opportunity to serve this community by working at the Mission. I am reminded of our clients and am thankful that their life journey brought them to Crossroads Mission. I am thankful for the strong community support that we have received this past year from people who care.

I am specially thankful for the Recovery Department staff members who are dedicated to the needs of our clients. From the Recovery Department staff, volunteers, interns and clients—**Merry Christmas! and Happy New Year!**

Crossroads Mission Recovery Program



Do you, or someone you know, have an addiction and need help?

WE CAN HELP!

We offer a comprehensive drug and alcohol recovery program that includes safe, monitored detoxification and individual counseling. Call 783-9362, ext. 22 for more information, or come by our Chemical Withdrawal Unit anytime, 944 S. Arizona Avenue, Yuma.

**Open 24 hours a day,
7 days a week**

My Graduation Speech



I can't believe I stayed the whole four months. I thought for sure that I wasn't going to make it, but I did. I accomplished something for the first time in my life, and I feel so proud of myself.

I was so lost before I came into the program. I got caught up in my own addiction. I lost control of everything. I couldn't manage my own life. I really wanted to stop using. I was so ashamed of what I was doing to myself. I was weak. Why did I end up like this? I was disgusted with my life. I needed a change. So that's when I came to the program.

I didn't want to stay four months long. But thank God that I stayed, because I know if I didn't I would of probably still been using while I was pregnant. I'm very thankful for what this program has done for me. I got a lot of help and learned that there's more to life than drugs and partying. I learned that I am an important person and that I'm special.

"This is an actual speech from a recent LSP graduate. It has been edited for space."

An Acrostic Poem About Crossroads Mission

By Kenneth U.

C Coming to a place of utter dismay
R Realization of the truth, has shown me the way
O Oh what a blessing, for someone like me
S Suddenly opened, my eyes can now see
R Suppressing a life, I had lived for so long
O Repentance has come, now I sing a new song
A Only divine intervention, no more and no less
D Allows me to change, he gives only the best
S Desiring you is the most surely required
M Surrender my life and salvation acquired
I Make me dear Lord the man you'd have me to be
S In your shadow I stand teach me how to please thee
S Send down your angels, that I won't fail the test
H Savior of mine, bring me internal rest
O I have searched, heaven knows, so near and so far
N Only to find you, as I ponder a star
O No longer my Jesus, I pray, let you down, for because of your grace, I've got my feet on the ground.

Kenneth is a current participant of the Life Skills Program. He says, "I have been truly blessed since my arrival at the Crossroads of my life. I have not had to pick up a drink or a drug in over 2 months. I pick up my cross and my Bible daily."



Sometimes Crossroads Mission is the only place left where people can get peace and hope in their lives. Please pray that we may be here for all who need us, and that when they do come here, they are able to find Jesus in their lives.

“Under Case Management”

“I’m under Case Management,” is what Robert would answer when asked what program he was in at Crossroads Mission.

The Case Management program is a program designed to provide guidance and a safe environment to individuals looking to find a positive direction in their lives. During their stay at Crossroads they work with a Case Manager to get services such as education and job skill training.

The bottom line of the program is to improve the participant’s quality of life. That is just what Robert was able to do. Because of the influence of drugs in his life, he had no where to go. Robert was able to get a job as a Wild Land Fire-fighter, a place to live and a car.



“I hope it is always here to help people like myself,” says Robert.



Bryan P.
Case Manager /
Facility
Supervisor
(928) 783-9362,
ext. 13

No doubt that one of the busiest places at Crossroads Mission is the men’s shelter. That is specially true during this time of the year, when the shelter goes into *winter hours* and guests may stay for an unlimited amount of nights while the weather is cold. These circumstances make Bryan’s job as Case Manager and Facility Supervisor very challenging.

At 28 years old, Bryan enjoys the challenge and likes meeting all the interesting people that come to the shelter. He started at Crossroads on July of 2001 and was recently promoted to Case Manager. He has worked with disabled individuals before and security jobs. His experience and personality give him the ability to help the disabled, disenfranchised and disabled men that visit the shelter daily.

Bryan works directly with men that want to change their homeless lifestyle through the Renewed Life Program and the Case Management Program. He has been instrumental in many people’s lives.

Bryan’s philosophy on his job is that he “helps people help themselves.” Which is why his personal wishes for Crossroads is that “it continues to be here and help those in need.” He invites all of the community to “come down and see what we are about for yourselves. We are a lot more than a place for the homeless people to eat and sleep.” Congratulations Bryan!

“Thank God For The Mission”



Kim has plenty to be thankful for. She has been able to get back on her feet against all odds. Because of legal issues, she was not able to move back to California and was forced to start from scratch here in Yuma.

Kim says that Crossroads helped her “emotionally and physically.” She is specially thankful to her Case Manager Rene for “making me feel like someone, giving me self encouragement, words of wisdom and motivation.”

Now, Kim has a job and an apartment and is well on her way to a better quality of life. Her wishes for Crossroads Mission are “that they may be blessed to be able to receive as well as they give.”

“Mission Possible”

A new mural is getting the finishing touches by a talented participant of one of the programs at Crossroads. The mural, which reflects the new motto that some clients and guests are adopting, will take its permanent placing at the chapel area in the Men’s Shelter.



We are in desperate need the following items to give to the needy this winter season:

- Sleeping Bags**
 - Blankets**
 - Jackets**
 - Warm Clothes**
 - Socks**
 - Work shoes/boots**
 - Gloves**
- Maybe you can help!*

It Takes a Community...

It is our human nature to want to feel accepted and that we belong. We try to belong to some group, club or organization... to something. Just as devoted Christians seek a church, we all seek places where we feel accepted. And, just like anyone else, the disabled, disadvantaged and disenfranchised individuals and families of our community have the need to feel accepted. But, who will accept the less fortunate? Where do they belong? It takes the whole community to make life worth living for some of them. If as a community we accept, and make room for the needy, then, and only then, can we really reach out to help. As a result, we will see God's grace and experience the kind of love that can only come from a loving God. We need to make an effort to communicate that we do care and accept each other in God's spirit of love. At Crossroads Mission we try to do our part in the community. Our goal is to provide that place where someone can feel accepted and that they belong, just as our mission statement says: "The purpose of Crossroads Mission is to help disabled, disadvantaged and disenfranchised individuals and families achieve a better quality of life." This holiday season, lets change our community one heart at a time!



Mike Elg
Executive Director
783-9362, ext. 11

