

# DAMASCUS ROAD JUSTICE LEAGUE

Volume 1, Issue 2

January 2010

*to loose the chains of injustice  
and untie the cords of the yoke,  
to set the oppressed free  
and break every yoke*

*to share your food with the hungry  
and to provide the poor wanderer with  
shelter—  
when you see the naked, to clothe him,  
and not to turn away from your own flesh and  
blood ...*

*Then your light will break forth like the dawn,  
and your healing will quickly appear;  
then your righteousness will go before you,  
and the glory of the LORD will be your rear  
guard.*

(From Isaiah 58:6-8)

## What is the DR Justice League?

- We are a team of people seeking to fill the gap between provision and need among the people in our church, our neighborhood, our city, our world.
- We are missional: We make a tangible and eternal difference in the lives of real people.
- We are relational: We build relationships on a foundation of trust. We offer dignity, respect, humility, good humor and love.
- Our core values are summarized by Isaiah 58 (justice and compassion), Matthew 28:18-20 (disciple making), 1 Corinthians 13 and Matthew 22:36-38 (love).

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## Haiti Updates

111,481 are now confirmed dead in Haiti (CNN), making the January 12th, 7.0 magnitude earthquake one of the most devastating natural disasters in recorded history. While the loss is staggering, we at DR can make a difference. Here's how:

**Pray:** Pray for physical and emotional healing, for families to be reunited, for children now orphaned to find refuge in safe, loving families. Pray for God to bring order in the midst of chaos, and for wise leadership so that aid quickly reaches those who need it. Pray for the long term healing, restoration and development of this needy nation. Pray that Christian leaders in every discipline (government, business, health, education, church etc.) will guide the people of Haiti into a better tomorrow.

**Give:** Money is needed now. Never make the mistake of thinking, "the need is so great what can my \$10 (\$50, \$100, whatever) do?" Every prayer, every gift, every sacrifice makes a difference. As a church we partner with GLBC/Converge. The Converge World Relief team is providing housing, medical care, and relocation assistance for families. Checks made out to Damascus Road Church with "Haiti" in the memo line or on the envelope will support these efforts. See [www.scene3.org/content/view/8364/28/](http://www.scene3.org/content/view/8364/28/)

**Supplies are also needed.** Several local churches and Youth With A Mission Madison plan to ship a container of relief supplies to Haiti. (The needed supplies list is on page 4.) The container will be sent mid-February. Bring your donations to DRC Thursdays 9am-9pm or Sundays. Let's help fill this container and contribute to existing local efforts.

**Go:** Michael Leeson [michael@ywammadison.org](mailto:michael@ywammadison.org) plans a trip during Spring Break (March 27 – April 4). Cost is expected to be about \$1,000. John Henry may be spearheading another follow up group in about a year. We have the opportunity to respond now, but keep in mind that a disaster of this magnitude is not resolved overnight. Haiti may fade from the headlines, but the people of Haiti will remain precious in God's heart. For more information contact John Henry at [jthenry43@mac.com](mailto:jthenry43@mac.com) or search Facebook for the group "Haiti Relief Train"

## In House

We are working hard to update DRC's website with helpful links in accomplishing our DRJL goals. There will be links to websites like 211 which is a United Way site where you can search for help with everything from legal services and health care to education to basic needs. We will also be starting a "**Shane's list**" similar to Craigslist but specifically for the DRC body to advertise things you may want to donate or have available to help others as well as if you have a specific need you want to get out there to see if anyone is able to help fulfill it. Ideas or more info contact: Bridget at [BBradley@glhec.org](mailto:BBradley@glhec.org)

After-school Program development is underway  
Hello, my name is Marvel and I am a parent of a school age daughter in our neighborhood. I have prayed for her safety everyday as I know I can not be along side her to keep her safe. I know that God walks beside her when I am there and when I am away from her. *Thank you Jesus.*

I am very happy to be back in the neighborhood where I grew up as a school age student. Now, as a parent I have discovered that there is a need for an after school program. Many of our community children are going home to an empty house after school because parents are still at work. When home, they struggle to find a positive, healthy, and productive activity beyond the regular school day. As I research this need at Elvehjem, Frank Allis and Kennedy elementary and Whitehouse middle school it appears that other parents have the same concerns. So, what do we do???

Damascus Road Church may be a central location for a program to begin. I am continuing to gather information, funding resources, program development and organizational support to bring this mission to life. One of our next steps is reaching out to you. So I ask for your feedback and action today.

1. **Do you have children who attend one of our neighborhood schools?**
2. **Are you interested in serving in an after-school program?**

**If you said "yes" to either of these questions, please visit the welcome desk to fill out a brief survey. Your feedback will be very important in how we move forward.**

You may also reply to Marvel Kelliher-Olstad via email to: [DRafterschool@gmail.com](mailto:DRafterschool@gmail.com) or contact [amy@damascusroadchurch.com](mailto:amy@damascusroadchurch.com) with any comments or questions.

## D.A.I.S.

Domestic Abuse Intervention Services (DAIS) intends to give our clients the strength to move forward and to heal. *DAIS operates the only shelter serving victims of domestic violence in Dane Co.* in its' 25-bed 2-bathroom facility. Recently, DAIS has seen a 145% increase in the number of people seeking shelter without an increase in financial support, in fact some local funding has been cut for next year.

The agency is currently in a crisis situation, last year many victims seeking shelter were placed on a waitlist for services. One woman and her 4 kids were on our waitlist for 22 days; **she stayed with her abuser** until space was available.

DAIS is in the process of seeking a new facility, and is currently in need of many professional level services, such as, but not limited to, accounting, legal, and realty specialists. If you are able to offer services, or are willing to finance a specialist, please contact Sally at [freedom4us@yahoo.com](mailto:freedom4us@yahoo.com).

If you'd like to **volunteer for direct service** with clients, there is a new training beginning February 6<sup>th</sup>. We need volunteers for Crisis Line, Shelter, possibly support group and Children's Program (this includes guys too!). More info on training is on the website <http://abuseintervention.org/>.

In Feb/March if you would like to help with **construction projects** within the shelter please contact Tony Tucci at [tony@damascusroadchurch.com](mailto:tony@damascusroadchurch.com)

DAIS offers 24-hour Crisis Line, Crisis Response, Legal Advocacy, Support Groups, and Shelter. If you are in need of any of these services, please call the crisis line at 251-4445.

## The River

The River Food Pantry is the busiest pantry in Dane County, consistently serving 500 families with 20,000 pounds of food each week. More and more, The River is fulfilling a role as a significant part of the social safety net in our city. We help families who are jobless, disabled or on insufficient, fixed incomes stay in their homes during stressful times.

Our Tuesday evening pantry session, from 4:30 to 6:30, is busy with the working poor. What a treat for tired moms to serve a hot meal on Tuesdays during the pantry session.

**Damascus Road Church is committed to serving a hot meal the 2nd Tuesday each month.** Please consider helping out! You can serve food, bus dishes, help with dishes and clean up from 4:30 - 6:30 please sign up [NOW](#) at the welcome table. Anyone wanting to help cook that day should contact us directly at [river@theriver-madison.org](mailto:river@theriver-madison.org) Cooking would start mid-afternoon on sight. Food provided by the River. **The first meal will be on Tuesday, March 9th.** There are lots of other volunteer opportunities at The River! Check out our website at [www.theriver-madison.org](http://www.theriver-madison.org)

## The Road Home

The Road Home serves homeless families with children in collaboration with local faith communities and organizations. They are committed to the empowerment and long-term success of children and families, to serving each family with dignity and respect and to achieving results in helping families improve their lives. In its simplest form, The Road Home helps homeless families get back on track, providing assistance with low-income housing, obtaining employment, childcare, basic life skills, etc.

### Being a Buddy

While waiting to be placed into temporary housing, local churches provide meals and shelter for the families. Damascus Road has taken on the role of a Buddy Church in collaboration with Immanuel Lutheran as the Host within the Road Home program. (cont.)

### The Road Home (continued from previous column)

DRC's next opportunity to be a Buddy with Immanuel Lutheran Church and support families currently in The Road Home program will be April 11 - 17<sup>th</sup>.

### Ways To Help The Road Home

This is part of an e-mail from the Road Home we received on Wed. Jan 20th.

**"Right now I'm looking for tables w/chairs (kitchen or dining, doesn't matter).** Other than that our storage unit is so full I can't take much more until Mid-end of February when we move all that furniture into apartments for our 4 new families who are moving.

The one big project I **desperately** need help with is finding volunteers to help me move all this furniture from our warehouse out in Middleton to the 4 units near Warner Park (mid Feb). At the same time we'll be moving 4 current families and their belongings/furniture from one building, to the newly renovated one nearby. I expect the renovations to be completed mid-February so we can move the families in sometime after that. Do you think a group from your church might want to help us out?

Then, after all that's said and done, I'll need to completely **restock** our warehouse (beds, sofas, tables w/chairs, etc.) in preparation for 7 more families who will move in to Vera Court mid-April. Once these big moves are done, we'll go back to having only a handful of moves each year.

Also, throughout the month of February the Holiday Inn on John Nolan is giving away 130 queen bed sets so I'm looking for some help to deliver those to families as well."

To make a donation or to volunteer to help with moving these families, contact Jamie Cayo at [jamicayo@yahoo.com](mailto:jamicayo@yahoo.com) or James Cayo at 608-444-3213.

# MADISON/HAITI CONTAINER #1 - NEEDS LIST - Updated 1/21/10

## Medical Supplies:

There is an extensive separate list of requested supplies. (Contact: Karen Klemp, medical supplies coordinator at [rklemp@charter.net](mailto:rklemp@charter.net))

## Refugee Camp Supplies:

Large canvas tents (Big scout tents not the nylon recreational camping tents.), Foam mattresses, Flat sheets, Plastic wash basins, 5 gallon buckets, lumber (2x4, 2x6), Tin roofing – 16' long waffle design, Porta Johns - preferably the full size outhouses (We do have a company that can service them.) Folding plastic tables (lightweight – 6', 8', and 10'. (Sam's Club tables are great.) Folding chairs, Tarps, Generator, Extension cords, Work lights

## Food Supplies:

Rice, Dried Beans, Tomato Paste, Cooking Oil, Spaghetti / pasta, Other canned or non perishable products, preferably meats.

## Clothing:

**\*\*Clean, presorted and bagged, labeled male/female and size\*\*.** Sandals and tennis shoes.

## Personal Care:

Soap, toothpaste, toothbrush, hand towels, diapers, feminine hygiene products.

**The container will be sent mid-February.**

**Bring your donations to DRC Thursdays 9am-9pm or Sundays.**

## Global Connects

### Uganda Missions

Damascus Road is partnering with David and Sarah Livingstone in their ministry Father's Divine Love Ministries (FDLM).FDLM is an independent, indigenous, church based non-governmental organization. Their *passion* is to *restore dignity* to rural African communities through:

- Parenting orphaned children in HIV/aids ravaged communities.
- Economic empowerment for improved household income and food security.
- Evangelism.
- Church planting and discipleship.

David and Sarah have been in the U.S. for the past 3 months raising funds and building relationships with future partners for their orphanage in Uganda. Damascus Road has been a part of this partnership and has joyfully given \$20,000 to these efforts. If you would like more information about their ministry, please go to their website at [www.dignityafrica.org](http://www.dignityafrica.org)

Pastor Shane and a small team are planning a mission trip to Father's Divine Love Ministry in April. He will be preaching at an Evangelism rally. The team will be building widow's houses during this trip as well. Another team may be going on a mission trip later this summer. Contact [sandywilliams@tds.net](mailto:sandywilliams@tds.net) for more information.

## National Connects

### Teens: Montana Outreach will be:

June 28th to July 4<sup>th</sup>. We will be partnering with Kings Kids of Denver (YWAM) for their annual outreach to a Native American reservation. The outreach will include running a basketball camp for the kids in the community work projects at the church, foster home, and possible nursing home visits. Contact: [tony@damascusroadchurch.com](mailto:tony@damascusroadchurch.com)

### Be a Friend to International Students

It's easy to reach people from around the world at the UW. Start by attending an event like the Dating & Marriage Seminar for International Students on Friday, February 19, 6:30 to 9:30pm. Even if you can't make it for this event, you can still get involved by joining a new DRJL International Friendship team. Call John Henry 239-1642 for details.