

# Damascus Road Justice League

Volume 1, Issue 1

December 2009

*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).

## In House Development

We currently have a team brainstorming and researching other churches that are missional at heart. We are creating forms, structures, web data bases, - what do you think of a Shane's List? Our goal is to create ease around being able to resource needs and provision without creating a stigma. WE ARE ALL NEEDY PEOPLE AND WE ARE ALL PEOPLE OF PROVISION. We will have more for you in January. Currently we have two office photocopy machines available if anyone is in need.

### Neighborhood connects....

Amy Agnew is working with Kennedy Elementary and KAN- Kennedy Alliance Network to address the needs of Kennedy kids/families who are our back yard neighbors. They are in process of proposing using our space to host before/after school programs/social workers/health care/parenting classes/community classes. We are problem solving transportation needs as well. They have Kindergartners walking 1.3 miles to and from school. Through these connections we are starting to develop a team that has a heart for kids of all ages focusing mostly on Middle School- Elementary: Whitehorse, Kennedy, LVM, and Allis - If you have any interest in teaming in this area, please contact Amy Agnew at [amy@damascusroadchurch.com](mailto:amy@damascusroadchurch.com)

Continued on pg. 2

## 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 Church as the Host within the Road Home program.

That process is going to take a commitment of approximately 18 people a few times a year for cooking, childcare, and more for 3 days. Our first opportunity to serve will be the week of January 10, 2010. If God is putting it on your heart to help or if you just want more info. Please let me know. Contact Jamie Cayo at [jamiecayo@yahoo.com](mailto:jamiecayo@yahoo.com) or 608-444-7419.

### More Ways To Help Road Home

There are also material needs for families that are within the program and getting their first apartment.

### Mattresses, Tables, Couches and More....

Five families have an immediate need for mattresses and furniture. They finally have a place to call home, but could use our help in furnishing their apartment. The greatest need right now is for single mattresses. General furnishings always accepted. Contact Jamie Cayo at [jamiecayo@yahoo.com](mailto:jamiecayo@yahoo.com) or 608-444-7419 with any questions or to schedule a donation time.

Personal Road Home Testimony on pg. 3

From In House Development, pg 1

### Other ways to meet our neighbors.....

#### Roadside Coffee Company....

We've been given 10K to help start a coffee house right here in our DR strip mall. Are you interested? Come hear about the vision Wed night, Dec 16<sup>th</sup> - 6:30pm at the DR church office- 4642 Cottage Grove Rd or contact Shane. It will take another 25-40 K to make this a reality.

#### In House

We are committed to helping provide meals for the Volker family. Please contact Jamie Farkas at: [jmefarkas@yahoo.com](mailto:jmefarkas@yahoo.com) for info.

## D.A.I.S.

My name is Sally, and I'm an advocate at Domestic Abuse Intervention Services (DAIS), who serves victims of domestic violence in Dane Co. DAIS operates the only DV shelter in the county in it's 25-bed 2-bathroom facility. Recently, DAIS has seen a 145% increase in the number of people seeking shelter with no corresponding increase in financial support.

You'll likely hear from me in coming months with drives for specific needs, but right now we need things for young boys. Toys for the shelter play area and (new) clothing, any size. Please keep in mind that we have very limited storage space. If you have donations, please call the business line 251-1237.

New living furniture has been generously donated, but I'd really like some new curtains. I have sewing machine and am willing to make some, does anyone have old curtains or fabric? Let me know, [freedom4us@yahoo.com](mailto:freedom4us@yahoo.com).

If you'd like to volunteer, there is a new training beginning in February, with more info on the website [www.abuseintervention.org](http://www.abuseintervention.org).

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.

Each week we receive calls from individuals who could use assistance with transportation to and from the pantry. There are probably several families close by Damascus Road that could also benefit from an occasional ride to the pantry.

Our Tuesday evening pantry session is busy with the working poor. What a treat it would be for tired moms if we served a hot meal on Tuesdays during the 5 PM pantry session. There is a continued need for regular volunteers. Currently we have 4 pantry sessions a week, along with a hot meal on Friday. It takes a minimum of 15 - 20 volunteers to operate each pantry session when we serve 120 - 160 families. The Friday meal requires 8 - 12 servers, along with 4 dishwashers, to serve 280 - 350 meals.

For more information please check our website at [www.theriver-madison.org](http://www.theriver-madison.org), or email us at [river@theriver-madison.org](mailto:river@theriver-madison.org).

### Current Needs:

- Volunteer to register guests for Food Share on Friday nights
- Be a driver or provide transportation for patrons of The River
- Provide support by making a monetary donation
- Volunteer your time (especially on times when the UW is out of session)

## Personal Road Home Testimony

Dear Road Home,

Our family became clients of The Road Home last year. We were part of the economic turndown because Marcus's job closed their doors and left him jobless resulting in no way for us to pay for housing. This left our family homeless. We stayed at the Salvation Army while we were on the waiting list at The Road Home. We were pleased on October 19th, 2008 that The Road Home had a spot for us.

During our stay we were very at ease and happy. They provided our family with a warm, safe environment and the volunteers provided us with meals and snacks. This was a blessing because our children never went hungry. In addition, they provided diapers and wipes. With our income being less, we couldn't always afford these things at first.

After being in the shelter program for a few weeks, we entered one of their programs, The Second Chance Apartment Project. I believe these programs are very helpful for families who are trying to provide again for themselves. Without The Road Home case managers and staff, I believe we wouldn't have been able to acquire housing before the winter hit. We love The Road Home and thank God this program is in Madison.

Thank you Road Home!  
Mr. & Mrs. Green



**From: [www.trhome.org](http://www.trhome.org)**

### East High School Nehemiah Project – Light

Joe Steinke will be leading the mentor /tutor program at the Winnebago House starting in January.

### Global Connects

Shane will be traveling to Uganda, Africa with a small team of folks to partner with David Livingstone for a crusade. There is talk of taking a short term trip at another point- no details at this time....

### National Connects.....

The Youth Group is talking about their potential outreach to a Native American Reservation in Montana this summer Wed Dec 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 contact Tony Tucci.