

OUTREACH COMMITTEE REPORT 2010

*“Whatever you do for the least of these brothers of mine you do for me”
Matthew 25:40*

A REVIEW OF THE YEAR

Our Church Community

- **Seniors Lunches.** On February 11th a Valentine themed lunch was held. It was attended by 30 seniors who brought along pictures and stories of their pets to share. In the Fall a Harvest Festival lunch was held. Although not so well attended with only 20 people, it did give Outreach members the opportunity to sit and chat with our wonderful seniors at St. Mikes.
- **Twice a year we provided baking for the Alcoholics Anonymous Group** that meet in Kohner Hall every Wednesday and Sunday evening. We do this as a gesture of support.

Our International Community

- **In April we held a fundraising brunch for the Primate’s World Relief and Development Fund.** Over 80 people attended. Our guest speakers this year were a few members of St. Mary’s Youth Group along with their youth coordinator. They gave us a presentation about a family they were sponsoring through the Diocese’s “50 Refugee Sponsorship Programme”. We were pleased to be able to present them with a cheque for \$500.00 from Outreach Funds towards this cause. We hope to meet and welcome the family at St. Mikes at a future date.
- **In January and November special collections were taken up for the victims of the earthquake and flooding disasters in Haiti and Pakistan.**
- **We continue to sponsor Heidi Caballero in Honduras.** She is now 11 years old and her birthday is coming up on June 13th. We receive an annual progress report each Spring as to how she is doing. If there is anybody in the congregation who would like to take on the responsibility of corresponding with Heidi please let me know.

Our Local Community

- **“Moms, Dads and Tots” was unfortunately suspended this year due to a lack of children.** Many thanks to Henriette and her faithful group of volunteers for all their hard work.

- **In January blankets were collected for The Native Friendship Centre of Montreal. These blankets were distributed to the homeless along with coffee and sandwiches by the centre's Kawahase Night Street Patrol. The NFC is a very sad place to visit. We would like to do more to help the people that visit this place and to let them know that they are not forgotten. One idea is to hold a spaghetti lunch for them in the future. This will of course require volunteers during the day. Please let me know if you are interested. We have started to take any food left over from Church functions to the NFC where it is always gratefully received.**
- **In Spring Easter Baskets were taken to Auberge Madeline, a shelter for women in distress downtown. Many thanks to Kelly and her neighbours who contributed L'Oreal products for the baskets. We have formed quite a bond with the ladies at Auberge who are always so appreciative of their baskets and refer to us as their "angels".**
- **"Tin or Tooney Sunday" has now been changed to "Tooney Sunday". We did this because the Outreach Committee noticed that people would much rather give a tooney than bring a tin to church. The money collected on the first Sunday of every month is used to buy food vouchers should anyone come to the church asking for assistance. Any money left over at the end of the year is put towards the Christmas Basket Project. We also now support The West Island Mission. This organization is addressing the issue of poverty on the West Island. They take requests for emergency food baskets from Monday up until 5pm on Thursday. The food is then delivered on the Saturday morning.**
- **White Gift Sunday was a success this year. Approximately 40 bags were taken to St. Michael's Mission and what a joyous trip that was! Many thanks to Anne and Chi for all their help and for driving Henriette and myself downtown. The van was laden with bags of clothes from the Nearly New Sale along with over a 100 cupcakes and cookies mostly baked by Joan Macdonald and Henriette! The men at the Mission were very pleased to see us especially George Green, the new Co-Director, who took us into his office to express his heartfelt thanks to the parishioners of St. Mikes.**
- **The Christmas Basket Project went well this year. 25 baskets were delivered to families living on the West Island. That is to say you made Christmas a little brighter for 67 adults and children combined! You showered them with food, gifts, hand knitted hats, scarves, mitts and thanks to Kelly and her daughter Faith, each family and child received a beautiful handmade Christmas card. I believe that in doing this project we are giving these families a message of hope, a message that God loves and cares for each one of them. We also need to remember these families during the year. A pamphlet about St. Mikes was also**

included with each basket inviting them to worship with us. The Outreach Committee cannot thank you the parishioners enough for all your hard work that made this Project possible. It is a wonderful example of what St. Mikes can do when we all pull together. It is clear that you all have a special place in your heart for Outreach and for that we thank you and ask for your continued support as we start a new year. May God bless all of you.

We are starting to change our thinking a little bit on the Outreach Committee. As much as we appreciate being able to send cheques to support the works of various organizations, we would like to also have a more “hands on” approach. We have thought of having a St. Mikes Coffee Morning once a week from 9-11.30am which would be open to anyone who would like to attend. We would like to serve a meal to The Native Friendship Centre as well as St. Michael’s Mission downtown. These of course all need volunteers during the day. Not an easy group of people to find! If this “hands on” approach is something that appeals to you or if you have any suggestions please get in touch with me.

On a final note, as you know Jackie, Steve and their family moved to Ontario in the Summer. I especially miss Jackie not only as a dear friend but as a co-chair. I extend my heartfelt thanks to the following Outreach Committee members for all their hard work, support and encouragement that they have given me this year: Henriette Cann, Jacqui Hoitz, Theresa Hull, Julie Hum, Glenna Kantel and Suzanne Merle.

**Respectfully Submitted,
Elizabeth Ho-Wo-Cheong.**