



A Publication of
Trinity Community Ministries

Putting Team into T.E.A.M.

Christine Ford

The Wildcats of The Westminster Schools stepped out of the classroom, off the hardwood and through the doors at 21 Bell Street January 5, 2007. Led by Coach Johnny Graham, Westminster's varsity boys basketball team came to Trinity House-Big Bethel to serve dinner through Trinity Community Ministries' T.E.A.M. (Together Everyone Achieves More) dinner program.

The 36 men of Trinity House-Big Bethel warmly welcomed 15 Wildcat varsity basketball players as well as a number of parents and coaches. While all present bonded over a shared love of basketball and good food, each man eagerly revealed his

“The influence the men of the Trinity House-Big Bethel have on our students is inspiring.”

-Stan Moor

own story of strength and survival.

Student volunteers from The Westminster Schools serve T.E.A.M. dinners the second Tuesday of each month. Pace Academy, Marist

School, The Lovett School, and Wesleyan School, also volunteer at Trinity House-Big Bethel regularly.

During T.E.A.M. dinners, students' lives are greatly impacted as the men of Trinity House-Big Bethel share stories of the journey that led each of them to this point in his life.

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Message from the Board of Directors

Daris McCullough, Chairman

I want to take this opportunity to say a special “THANK YOU” to everyone that enables Trinity Community Ministries to transform the lives of so many people each and every day. We are so blessed to have such wonderful volunteers, staff, donors, and board members. Without your

commitment and service to TCM, our ministry would not be able to reach out to our community and help the hungry, homeless, and the addicted.

I want to formally welcome Denise Norris as our new Executive Director of TCM. She has already made a huge impact on

our organization and she is helping lead the next chapter of our ministry. If you have not had a chance to meet our new leader, please do so as her passion and commitment to the ministry are very contagious!

Feel free to reach out to me at any time. I am always here for your feedback, ideas, and suggestions. Thanks again for all that you do for TCM.

Sincerely,
Daris McCullough
404-846-4042
Daris@worldnetconsulting.com

TRINITY COMMUNITY MINISTRIES' 5 WAYS TO GIVE

1. Donate Stock
2. Use Your Employer's Gift Matching Program
3. Volunteer with Trinity House-Big Bethel or Trinity Table
4. Leave a Legacy through Planned Giving
5. Give Online at www.tcmatlanta.org

In the words of the famous Sonny & Cher song, "and the beat goes on!" And Trinity Table has not "missed a beat" in serving our hungry and homeless guests, in spite of relocating twice in four months! Not a meal was missed as Trinity Table was graciously hosted by Central Presbyterian during the summer months of 2006. This fall, Trinity Table was welcomed home to Trinity United Methodist Church (TUMC). While construction delays keep Trinity Table from moving back into our space downstairs at TUMC, the church has graciously agreed to let us serve from their Fellowship Hall after Sunday services. However, Trinity Table anticipates moving "back home" soon. We will be hosting a "Grand Re-Opening" open house to celebrate. We know you will want to come see and share our beautiful renovations! Keep checking your emails and our website for details.

And serve we did! In 2006, the

number of meals served to Trinity Table guests increased 10%. In hard numbers, that means we served 20,789 hot, delicious meals to Atlanta's hungry (up from 18,954 in 2005). Additionally, Trinity Table distributed toiletry items in the summer and coats, gloves, blankets, and winter clothes this winter. Christmas gift bags, which included gloves, socks & toiletry items, were distributed to our guests along with over 2,000 pairs of blue jeans.

Zach Sudler, the driving force behind this tremendous "jeans drive" was interviewed two weeks running on Channel 46's Special Spotlight. Not only is Zach a remarkable young man who has volunteered with us for several years (along with his mother and sister), but he even managed to get the reporter to include our correct and complete agency name! Great P.R. but even greater compassion!

TRINITY COMMUNITY MINISTRIES' STAFF

Daris McCullough
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Board of Directors

Denise Elizabeth Norris
Executive Director

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Full staff, board of directors, and committee listings available on the web

T.E.A.M. (continued from page 1)

The richness of the student experience is amplified in seeing and hearing firsthand the fruits of the service they provide the men of Trinity House-Big Bethel.

Stan Moor, The Westminster Schools' Faculty Coordinator for Community Outreach, recognizes the value the T.E.A.M. experience for students of The Westminster Schools. "Our partnership with Trinity Community Ministries is one of our best. The influence the men of Trinity House-Big Bethel have on our students is inspiring."

Parents present for the January 5th

T.E.A.M. dinner took notice of the instant bond between student volunteers and the men of Trinity House-Big Bethel. After the event, Pixie Bentley, mother of senior Matt Bentley, exclaimed, "Wow, that was awesome! We had a great time. I venture to say that tonight may have been the most meaningful experience I have had during all of my days at Westminster. How wonderful to see God glorified at Trinity. The smiles were contagious."

The support and camaraderie realized through the January 5th T.E.A.M. dinner inspired the men of

dinner and new relationships forged with the varsity boys basketball team, the men of Trinity House-Big Bethel attended the boys' basketball game January 20, 2007 in Turner Gymnasium on The Westminster Schools' campus. The men cheered as Coach Johnny Graham led the Wildcats to a 61-48 victory over Avondale High School. Surprised by the thoughtful support offered by the men of Trinity House-Big Bethel, Graham said "Trinity House-Big Bethel exemplifies agape love that we should have for one another. Our student-athletes were inspired by their stories of triumph and struggle." Graham was recently sponsored for membership on Trinity Community Ministries' Honorary Board in recognition of his leadership and focus on community service.

TRINITY COMMUNITY MINISTRIES FAST FACTS FROM 2006

20,789 meals served to the homeless through Trinity Table

183 men benefited from Trinity House-Big Bethel

36 men currently reside at Trinity House-Big Bethel

Trinity House-Big Bethel. In response to the delightful

The Brothers of Trinity House-Big Bethel proudly participated in the 21st annual celebration of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day on the Reverend's 78th birthday. The Trinity Brothers stole the show as they marched with unparalleled fla-

vor at the head of the King Day Parade. Not to be outdone, the Alumni Brothers strutted their stuff behind the Trinity Brothers' formation down Peachtree and Auburn Avenues.



The Martin Luther King Day March and celebration followed a triumphant week of Kwanzaa celebrations, health fairs, and courtside tickets to several Georgia Tech games, including the thrilling victory over Duke. The Brothers of Trinity House-Big Bethel were also able to give their children Christmas presents,

Trinity House-Big Bethel
FISH FRY
21 Bell Street, N.E.
Every Friday
11:00 AM - 2:00 pm

A decorative banner with five fish hanging from a string.

thanks to Bill and Carol Arnold.

The day after the MLK celebration, four Trinity Brothers visited the Marist School to speak to four different high school classrooms. Each told his story and warned against the perils of drug experimentation, use, and addiction with hope that the young people of Marist School will learn from his tragic mistakes.

Hello! from Our New Executive Director

Denise Norris

I am both delighted and honored to be given the opportunity to serve TCM as your Executive Director and send heartfelt thanks to the Board of Directors, staff and residents of Trinity House-Big Bethel for making me so welcome. As you read our newsletter we hope that you will enjoy our uplifting stories and see the remarkable growth of TCM.

A Breakfast of Legends

Trinity Community Ministries is proud to have Vince Dooley as our keynote speaker at the semi-annual Honorary Board breakfast on April 18. This very special event will begin at 7:00 AM at Peachtree Road United Methodist Church in Atlanta. No one can dispute (especially Georgia fans) the legendary status of Vince Dooley. During his 25 year coaching career at UGA, Dooley compiled a 201-77-10 record. His teams won 6 Southeastern Conference titles and the 1980 National Championship. While Vince is a

hero to many, he'll be speaking to the legends and heroes of TCM.

Fifty-nine men and women, so far, have accepted the challenge to support Trinity Community Ministries at a greater level. Honorary Board Members commit to giving \$1,000 a year for three years to TCM, becoming heroes in their own right. Our Honorary Board breakfast is a way of saying thanks to them and welcoming new members to their ranks. RSVP by calling 404.577.6651 or online at www.tcmatlanta.org.

Food for Thought

Our newsletter reaches you during the time of Lent which provides us with the opportunity to reflect, grow, and deepen our commitment to service. Traditionally Lent is a time for fasting and abstinence. For those we serve at Trinity Table soup kitchen, fasting is not a choice. Every day they struggle with finding enough food and water to survive. The residents of Trinity House-Big Bethel daily learn the hard lesson

that anything less than 100% abstinence from their addictions will lead back to the streets and possibly to death.

Many of us may not choose to give something up but rather to add something to our daily lives during Lent. You may want to commit to extra work and volunteerism. If you have not visited in a while, please come back and volunteer at TCM. Your Lenten season may be defined by increased or renewed financial giving, perhaps in combination with something you choose not to do. For instance, you may choose not to go out to eat one night a week and give the money you saved to Trinity House-Big Bethel or Trinity Table.

We all look forward to seeing you again. In the meantime, I send blessings to you and your family.

Onward and Upward!

Denise

Finding a Promised Land

A Letter from a Trinity House-Big Bethel Resident

I've been here at Trinity House-Big Bethel for 40 days and I've been clean for 45 days. Before I came here, my life was unmanageable. I was lost in the world of street-life: hustling, robbing, and stealing. I had lost myself in a mirage of drug abuse, using and selling just to make it to another day. My nights were cold and my days were sad. Twice in 2006, I was locked up for a total of 8 months. When I got out on October 18, 2006, I had my

mind made up to leave Richmond, VA, and come to Atlanta, GA. While I came to Atlanta searching for change, I never thought of treatment or Trinity House. Upon my arrival here, I saw the conditions of people wandering around the streets, hopeless and lost because of drug and alcohol abuse. I decided, or rather was spiritually motivated, to call Trinity House-Big Bethel.

OUR MISSION:

Trinity Community Ministries exists to provide faith-based, transformational opportunities for people who are homeless and hungry and for volunteers.

April 18, 2007 Honorary Board Breakfast
June 8, 2007 Trinity House-Big Bethel Graduation

UPCOMING EVENTS

To volunteer, call
(404) 577-6651

ONGOING EVENTS

- Sundays Trinity Table
- Fridays Trinity House-Big Bethel Fish Fry
- Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, and Sundays Trinity House-Big Bethel T.E.A.M Dinners

Four days after arriving in Atlanta, I joined the Trinity House-Big Bethel program.

Since I've been at Trin-

ity House-Big Bethel, my attitude has changed and I am seeking the truth about myself and my disease. My self esteem has grown ten-fold all because of the program and volunteer work. It has changed my way of thinking to ultra-positive. I am also thankful for our guests who take time to come by to dine with us and share stories with me of hope and determination.



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