

Barnabas Notes

December 2009

Barnabas Ministries Locations:

- 10500 Chicago Dr. #40, Zeeland, MI 49464
616-748-8435
- Serving Barry Co. from Hastings Baptist Church
- Serving Allegan Co. from Allegan Bible Church

Barnabas Ministries' Mission

Barnabas Ministries is passionately committed to reaching high risk youth and families with the message of freedom, hope, and healing in Jesus Christ.

Vision

Creating an environment where hurting youth and families can discover their value in Christ, grow in that knowledge, and pass

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How Low Can We Go?

A rather odd title... hopefully it got your attention!

I have some excellent news to report: the list of youth waiting for a mentor is at an all-time low. Down to 45 youth waiting for a Christian mentor in ALL 3 counties. You may be thinking, "45 seems high, NOT low!?" Our waiting list in the past has neared 100. Being under 50 is on the right track. But HOW LOW CAN WE GO?

It is still TOO MANY: 45 hurting youth and their hurting parents receive this message every month. "I am calling to let you know we're still looking for a mentor for you. I'm sorry it's taking so long to find someone ..."

Some of the youth grow disheartened or even give up on waiting for a Christ-following adult to care for them. The result: the youth asks to be removed from the waiting list. This is not OK.

We currently have many dedicated Christian adults investing 2 hours a week with a youth. They shoot hoops, golf, take walks, shop, eat, fish, play card games, drink coffee, play Guitar Hero, do Bible studies, plan budgets, and take bike rides. The list could go on...They live life together teaching each other about the other's world.

I recently had a mentor share the following,

"I have learned a ton about his (my youth's) culture. Even though we live only a few blocks apart; they are two different worlds. I have learned about rap, about what it is like for a teen to have a single parent and how that causes a kid to grow up faster in street smarts while some other areas of life in general have yet to make sense in his mind. I have learned that most things I take for granted

are things that a lot of teens never get the chance to do. [My youth] had never ...done so many firsts that I took for granted with my dad,... before we did them together."

The mentor added, *"I have seen changes in his grades as they have drastically improved and he's come into a newfound confidence in his own ability to accomplish whatever he sets out to do. I love to see my youth making good choices and seeing growth in his life. We always have a good time hanging out making memories."*

You may be asking, "What can I do?"

- Commit to pray once a week for God to bring mentors for youth waiting. Let us know! Call or email.
- Be a mentor, "live life" with a young person in your community! Contact Rachel for more information. 616.748.8435 or email Rachel@barnabasmin.org
- Help us present the need at your Church. Contact us for more info.

THANK YOU! Mentors serving in 2009

Mentor in 2009	Church Affiliation
James Dickerson	Allegan Assembly of God
Jane Schutter	Bentheim Reformed
Scott Bartleson	Bible Doctrine Church
John Dickhans	Borculo CRC
Teresa Gilbert	Burnips Wesleyan
Patrick Van Tuinen	Calvary Baptist
Lori Fenske	Calvary CRC
Richard Fenske	Calvary CRC
Bill VanBruggen	Central Park Reformed
Chris Hofland	Central Wesleyan
Jen Patmos	Central Wesleyan
Joy Renzema	Central Wesleyan
Kim Laaksonen	Central Wesleyan
Lance Young	Central Wesleyan
Mark Bajema	Central Wesleyan
Michelle Bechler	Central Wesleyan
Rod Tindall	Central Wesleyan
Steve Wilkins	Central Wesleyan
Matt McPherson	Christ Community
Patty Butcher	Christ Community
Ann Henriksen	Christ Memorial
Chris Nyhuis	Christ Memorial
Gary England	Church of God Allegan
Angela Kaminski	Conklin Reformed
Diane Robinson	Coopersville Reformed
CJ Bender	Engedi
Nathan Bender	Engedi
Sarah Leep	Engedi
Dave Brower	Faith Reformed
Don Alferink	Faith Reformed
Jessica Diemer	Faith United Ref.
Bob Ellis	Fellowship Reformed
Don Carra	First Baptist, Allegan
John Mayhew	First Baptist, Allegan
Eldon Grubb	First Baptist, Hastings
Patti Wright	First Baptist, Hastings
Sondra McIntyre	First Baptist, Zeeland
Cal Palmbo	First CRC, Hudsonville
Dirk Koorstra	First Ref., Zeeland
John Maat	GH Resurrection Life
Joan Wallace	Gun Lake Community
Mark Kopenski	Gun Lake Community
Danny Gardner	Harvest Chr Fellowship
Jack Oostveen	Harvestime Fellowship
Frank Hoogland	Haven CRC
Ron Brookens	Haven CRC
Rick Van Dyke	Hillcrest CRC
Adam Rodriguez	Holland First Assembly
Eddie Solis	Holland Res. Life
Rachel Patmos	Iglesia Alas de Aguilas
Curtis Mulder	Immanuel Baptist
Mary Poortenga	Jenison Bible
Eric Colter	Lakeshore Vineyard
Jim Harkes	Lighthouse Community
Bob Taffee	Living Waters
Jason Pranger	Living Waters
Marybeth Garcia	Manna
Kasey Wondergem	Mayflower Congreg.
Cliff Tucker	New Richmond Baptist
Tami Klinger	North Blendon CRC
Vicky Gruppen	North Blendon CRC
Mary Faber	Ottawa Reformed
Matt Amundsen	Parkside Bible
Rich Valk	Parkside Bible
Ronnie Ewing	Res Life, Grandville
Andrea Fantin	Ridge Point Community
Evie Slagh	Ridge Point Community
Greg Edmunds	Ridge Point Community
Jack Payne	Ridge Point Community
Julie Linn	Ridge Point Community
Krista Seabolt	Ridge Point Community
Lee Eilers	Ridge Point Community
Mimi Rose	Ridge Point Community
Rachel Kalajainen	Ridge Point Community
Steve Van Loo	Ridge Point Community
Todd Leva	Ridge Point Community
Edwin Lopez	Sinai Assembly of God
Joe Worpel	Spring Lake Wesleyan
Margie Veldheer	Third CRC, Zeeland
Alan Lust	Third Ref, Kalamazoo
Rebekah Schafer	Trinity Church
Tom Stout	Victory Point
Lee Belden	
Candi Dykstra	
Don Vander Woude	
Don Westhouse	

Horseplay Equestrian

Barnabas includes Horseplay Equestrian as our partner ministry specializing in using horsemanship and relationships with the horses to bring hope.

Horseplay Equestrian is a Christ-centered horsemanship program focused on bringing healing to hearts that are ravaged by abuse, distrust, anger, piercing hurts, and the gaping holes of abandonment.

Curt and Tami Klinger lead this ministry with the help of many unbelievable volunteers.

Programs are designed for individuals, small groups and one time events.

Contact Tami or CJ for more information about the programs or for information about volunteering at 616-748-8435.

Join our PRAYER TEAM

Prayer is the foundation of our ministry and the foundation for change in young people's lives.

Email prayer@barnabasmin.org or call LoriJo to begin praying specifically for the youth and staff of Barnabas Ministries.

James 5:16b "The prayer of a person living right with God is something powerful to be reckoned with."

HORSEPLAY EQUESTRIAN NEEDS

Volunteer Mentors to work with youth & horses in groups and/or individually
Riding equipment, helmets, etc
Volunteers to help care for the horses

Join the Centurion Challenge!

1,000 gift of \$100 by 12/31/09

Solidify the financial base of Barnabas, Eliminate operating debt, Support the key leaders of services to youth, including: Mentoring, Juvenile Justice, Pen Pal, Family Mediation, Crisis Intervention, Homeless Youth Services, Basketball League, Horse Program, etc.

Please stand with us to meet our goal!

Gifts can be mailed or given online: www.barnabasmin.org, click on the "donate now" button.

From a Youth with a Mentor

A beautiful note we received from one of our valuable youth...

Hello, my name is Melissa and my mentor is Mary! We met through the Barnabas Horse Program and she has been my mentor for almost a year! :) Mary and I get together as frequently as possible. A few fun things that we've done together include... Cross country skiing, horse back riding, kayaking, and going out to dinner! I love having a mentor.

Mary is always there to be a listening ear and give helpful advice. She's someone that's a good influence and is fun to hang out with. She can relate to many of my problems (after all she was a teenager once). The nice thing

about that is there is someone who understands relatively what you're going through or feeling they can share their mistakes and/or how they handled them. Someday I hope to become a mentor myself.

I've personally experienced what [mentors] can do to improve someone's life. While I'm writing I would like to thank Barnabas Ministries for everything they do... All four of the people I look up to I've met through Barnabas.

Thank you so very much Mary, LoriJo, Tami, and Rachel.

God Bless

GIFTS OF HOPE

Every Christmas we bless hundreds of incarcerated youth with a gift....A gift of true hope.

The gift includes a Bible, a book that points them to the Gospel, and a personal message from Barnabas Ministries.

For many this may be their **ONLY** gift. Please help us get these gifts into the hands of hurting youth in our communities and all over our state.

\$25 purchases and sends one gift

Sports

Lakeshore Honors Basketball League

The second season as a league has begun. Season 1 was smooth and successful. Season 2 has given an increase in the number of teams to 9 which include ministries, youth centers and local alternative schools.

This season over 100 high-risk young men have joined one of 9 teams in Ottawa County.

They will learn life skills, build character traits, learn sportsmanship, and find hope.

A "thank you" is in order for all of the volunteer

coaches from all the teams.

AND a very special "thank you" to our Barnabas Jaguar coaches Bob Ellis, Matt Smith and Devon Mack, to Dean Transportation for transporting the Jaguars to away games, to our awesome volunteer drivers who take young men to and from practice, AND to Rich Valk who is assisting with leadership of the league.

If you have the gift of "cheer" call or email for a schedule of games.

If you love basketball and all it can

teach a young man, consider a financial gift to help secure high quality referees.

Softball

This summer/fall 5 youth had the opportunity to play softball (something they had never done before). One youth was gained job experience.

Finding success through encouraging and supportive adults in a Christ-centered environment.

Pray with us as we seek to expand this ministry.

Pen Pal Outreach

Lives are touched and changed through our pen pal writing ministry!

Getting mail in a detention or placement facility is a big deal for youth who are often at their lowest point in life!

In Bible times, the apostles wrote letters as their main source of communication. Today, we are still blessed and edified by those letters. Imagine the great things God says to the youth through the letters adult pen pals write.

Barnabas Ministries wishes to thank those who have volunteered once a week to write and encourage our youth in 2009!

2009 Pen Pals

Carla Springer
Sue Schryber
Jessica VanBeek
Linda Schaap
Aileen Mullen
Brandi Hafler
Ann Henriksen
Raya Rubino
Melissa Marquez
Lisa Wooning
Judy Voss
Erika Griswold
Kendra Short

Church Affiliation

Bella Vista Church
Central Wesleyan
Central Wesleyan
Central Wesleyan
Central Wesleyan
Central Wesleyan
Christ Memorial
Cornerstone University
Cornerstone University
Cornerstone University
Fellowship Reformed
Grace Immanuel Ref Bapt.
Hope College

2009 Pen Pals

Katie Wandell
Jessica Wagoner
Norma Vasquez
Lori Sterk
GodPatti Wolters
Kelly DeFrell
Rebecca Klein
Rick Thomas
Marge Murphy
Carrie Bode
Jennifer Elkins
Amy Fathman
Don Hiedema
Sally Lambert
Katie Sawyer
Sharon Sikkema
Gretchen Taylor
Amy Tol

Church Affiliation

Hope College
Hope College
Iglesia Alas de Agiula
Living Word Assembly of
Parkside Bible Church
Parkside Bible Church
Wellspring Community
Wesley Park UM Church
Westhore Christian Church

Barry County

We have moved our offices in Barry County in to Hastings Baptist Church.

We are still providing a high quality mentoring program for youth 11 to 18 years old. As well as family mediation and crisis intervention.

Youth asking for mentors in Barry County need Christ-centered adults. 80% of the youth in Barry Co. have exited our waiting list because of disappointment caused by waiting over a year for a mentor. This is UNACCEPTABLE. Please reach out the 8 youth on our waiting list in Barry Co.

We are seeking

—A part-time missionary to assist us with the growth of the mentoring program. Please contact Rachel for more info. 616-748-8435

—Volunteer Mentors. Please contact Rachel for more info. 616-748-8435

Holland Girls Home Update

The desire of any ministry worker is to see life change in the people they are working with. We think of life change in terms of radical 180 degree turns like a break from addiction, a restored marriage, or a successful pursuit of education and a career.

I've learned, especially in the last 14 months of being a house parent, that I need to redefine my concept of life change. In almost every situation that occurs there is some evidence of life change within it.

A changed life is

—when a young lady who trusts no one and whose independent streak is a mile wide says, "I wish my mom was like you; pushed me and helps me like you do."

—when a young lady who used to only think about how miserable she was admits, "I used to take my anger out on my siblings. Now I know how that feels. I'll never do

that again."

—When a lonely young person says, "I don't need a friend, Jesus is my friend."

—When a youth with a record of running away stays in the home for 6 days instead of 3 days.

—When an apology comes an hour after a teenage temper tantrum rather than three days.

And every once in awhile, God knocks your socks off with something big, like when an independent spirit surrenders to Christ, inviting Him into her life and yielding her broken heart to the master physician.

Life change is rarely a fireworks event - a few big bangs, lots of oohs and aahs, a grand finale and its all over. Life change is the slow, over-time accumulation of "wins" or movement in a positive direction.

For me, life change is learning the ability to focus on and be encouraged by the many "wins" in every difficult and changing life that comes through the door of the Barnabas Girls Home.

Without the power of God that is able to immeasurably more than all we could ask or imagine no change would ever happen. I give Him all the glory, and honor, and praise.

CJ Bender, House Mom of our Girls Home in Holland

Thanks to the many people who have helped us at the house in MANY ways!

Quote from LoriJo

"Build up the stuff that nobody can see, so you can become someone nobody can shake."

Allegan County

In an effort to be good stewards of our resources, Barnabas Ministries' office has moved into Allegan Bible Church.

We are still providing a high quality mentoring program, family mediation, Allegan Youth Home weekly Bible study, crisis intervention (especially with homeless youth) and coordination of Sunday church services at the Allegan Youth Home.

We are seeking a part time missionary to assist us with growth in Allegan County. And seeking Mentors!!

We are seeking

—Part time missionary to assist us with growing our Allegan County Mentoring Program Contact Rachel at 616-748-8435 for more information

—Volunteer Mentors. Contact Rachel at 616-748-8435 for more information

—Churches to host church services at Allegan County Youth Home quarterly. Please contact Michelle at 616-748-8435 for more information. Training is provided.

BARNABAS HOUSE PROJECT: 2009 Year-end Partnership Drive

The paperwork is being completed for the transfer of ownership & donation for the land - 24 acres - on which we will build the Barnabas House.

The initial site plan has been drawn up of the Full-campus project, which will serve to bring Christ to young people for decades to come.

Leadership teams are assembling. Volunteers are falling into place. County-wide networks of service providers and other agencies are stepping closer to the sidelines, watching.

God is about to break open the Heavens to complete His plan to build a House of hope, healing, and

life transformation.

You, our partners and friends, are key to launching this project forward.

First, pray for us - that every decision, every step, is fully what God intends.

Then, join with us in this initial drive to lay a solid financial foundation for the Barnabas House. More importantly, join with us to be a tangible example of the Body of Christ working together to reach youth.

We're asking each of our mailing list partners to consider contributing at least \$25 to the Barnabas House Project before the end of the year.

For some of you, we know that will be a difficult sacrifice. For others of you, the cash is in your own wallet as you read this. Whatever your situation, prayerfully consider joining us in this significant project for our kids.

They are waiting; the community is watching.

Thank you, in advance, for considering standing with us in this way.

Serving them, for Him, together with you!

LoriJo

Girls Group

In 2009 approximately 30 young ladies in Ottawa County have been through a group focused on issues girls face.

Barnabas has partnered with the court system to provide this opportunity for the girls.

They hear speakers, experience new things, and build relationships with positive adult women.

We have had volunteers help us with: *hair and makeup, *ropes course, *paint on horses, *cooking (This is most popular! THANKS Marissa!), *college visits, *shopping on a budget, *sharing their personal stories, *providing food, *throwing a Christmas party, and much more.

Thank you so much to all the Christfollowing ladies who commit to being there every week in order to build relationships with the girls:

Becky, Hannah, BettyJo, Brenda, Sonnie, Tami, and Marie!

LoriJo came recently and shared her story. She taught the young ladies to hold on past the emotions. That is the only way to make it to the HOPE Christ can provide.

H_{old}

O_n

P_{ast the}

E_{motion}

Teen Recovery Groups

Youth in our community struggle with the using drugs and alcohol.

Many first used between the ages of 8 and 10 years old.

Many use first with family.

Our fantastic Teen Recovery Group volunteers meet with youth weekly

to ask how their week was, teach life skills, share in their struggles, and support them as they choose to stay clean of drugs and see what life can really be like.

The Grand Haven area group meets Mondays. The Holland area group meets Thursdays.

Thank you so much to Brian Vliem,

Jim Terpstra, Ron Hassell, Joy Hemmes, Sophia Davis and Bob and Janine Snyder for the many dedicated hours, pizza, snacks and listening ears.

If you are interested in possibly volunteering with the Teen Recovery groups contact Michelle at 616-748-8435 or michelle@barnabasmin.org .

Juvenile Detention Bible Studies

Every week Michelle Bechler and Ronnie and Jen Ewing take the hope of Christ into the hurting and hopeless lives at juvenile detention by bringing the Word of God and His caring and attention.

Ron and Jen Ewing of Testify SK8 provide leadership to this ministry in Allegan County. We are blessed by their passion. Check out just one of Ronnie's updates.

"Intense! That is the only way to describe last night in juvy. We taught on how obedience to God in the small things allows us to see the big things. Jen got asked by 2 girls to talk and pray. Please take time to stand with us, one girl listed 2 confirmed sexually transmitted

diseases as well as being tested for HIV, the other was suicidal. We are believing for a full healing, that satan's weapons would be null and void, and the voices that speak to this young mind would be shut out by the words of scripture that Jen gave the suicidal girl.

Every week God moves, these kids are unlike I have ever seen in that facility! So hungry for the real truth. 2Samuel 14:14(NCV) "But God doesn't take away life. Instead, he plans ways that those who have been sent away will not have to stay away from him!"

Once again we thank you for the opportunity to go into a place of hopelessness and give real hope."

Lives are being touched weekly.

Just a few weeks ago 2 young men asked Michelle out of the blue, "So what's this thing about Jesus and the cross?" One other young man is struggling to memorize scripture but not giving up. Other's gave these prayer requests:

"for me to believe in God more than I do"

"would you please pray that I'll have the strength and courage to stay sober Thanks for the free Bible"

"God is working in my life"

Please pray for this ministry, and the precious hearts of the youth.

I would like to partner with Barnabas Ministries by....

I would like to join the Barnabas Ministries Prayer Team. My email address is _____

I would like to support the following area with my year-end giving.

Ministry Team Support: Supporting the salaries of our missionary ministry team

Gifts of Hope

Please send me volunteer information about...

Centurion Challenge

Mentoring

Family Mediation

Teen Recovery Groups

Softball

Girls Group

Horseplay Equestrian

Allegan Youth Home Church Rotation

Basketball League

Other: _____

Mentoring Program

Name: _____

Barnabas House Project

Address: _____

Allegan Youth Home/Testify SK8

Address: _____

Holland Girls Home

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Where Needed Most

Phone: _____

Thank you! Your financial support brings a life of hope, healing and freedom to hurting youth every day. It is essential.

BARNABAS MINISTRIES, INC

P.O. Box 1772
Holland, MI 49422
Return Service Requested

Phone: 616-748-8435
Fax: 616-748-8451
Email: barnabas@barnabasmin.org

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From Our Executive Director

Still the same, after 15 years

2010 marks the 15th anniversary of Barnabas Ministries. 15 years of walking alongside high-risk youth & families in our community, sharing the healing, hope, and freedom that can only be found in Jesus Christ. THANK YOU for your prayers, volunteer hours, physical and financial donations, and for cheering us on along the way.

One of the most beautiful things that I, and the rest of the Ministry Team, have the privilege of communicating is that the message we started with so many years ago is the same message we communicate today. The priority of sharing new life in Jesus was number one back then, and its number one today.

It has been a powerful testimony to the Lord's provision that we are "still here". Adjustments have been made,

strategic cuts & consolidation have happened, and still our Father continues to give us more and more opportunities to serve Him by loving His kids.

What is also powerful is to look at other agencies, ministries, and businesses around us. Very few have the same testimony. Most have changed significantly in vision, outreach, and personnel.

Too many times we have seen those changes take place as a result of financial decisions. It is all too common for people to "find money", then become whatever it is that the money is for. Their activities are dictated by 'what the money will allow'. Instead of following a mission & then finding the funds to support it, most are driven by finding the money, then adjusting to fit the funders' preferences.

Barnabas always has, and always will, follow the mission that God set out for us in the beginning: being passionately committed to reaching high risk youth and families with the message of freedom, hope, and healing in Jesus Christ. Sometimes this happens in a juvenile detention center. Other times it's on a ball field, or gymnasium floor. Still other times it is a Christ follower choosing to "do life" with a young person in a one-on-one mentoring relationship.

Wherever it happens, wherever God opens the door to ministry, our first question is "did God call us to this?" not "does our funding allow this?"

Always has been that way, always will.

Thank you, our partners and friends, for making it happen.

Louisa