



Strong Families Make A Strong America

(Changing Lives One Mom At A Time)



January 2010 Front Door News

REFLECTIONS OF THE PREVIOUS YEAR AND EXCITEMENT ABOUT THE "NEW YEAR"

By Lynda K. Powell

When I stop to reflect about the Wondrous God that we serve and all that he has done thru a little agency such as Bethel Foundation, I remember the words from a sermon that I heard about how He roams the earth looking for willing vessels to do His work here on earth and to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ our Lord.

As we were going back through our records and doing a count of people that have benefited from our programs and the services that we offer, it shocked me to realize how much God had used us to bless so many women and children:

- ◆ The number of people that came for food which included our Thanksgiving food baskets as well as Christmas food baskets, and receiving food throughout all of 2009 was 1,500. That alone shocked me.
- ◆ 120 children received gifts from the Birthday Club
- ◆ The Kids Rock Summer Camps served 60
- ◆ The Spring Educational Conference along with the Prison Conference reached 125
- ◆ Furniture and Appliances given out benefited 60
- ◆ Clothes given out to moms and children totaled 2,000 instances
- ◆ The Christmas Angel Program included 195 families with 585 children

**WOW! That's over 5000 mothers and their children!
And how amazing that all of it was done in FAITH!**

The New Year brings great excitement into my spirit with us moving into a new office and having so much more room. I am anxiously waiting to see what God is going to bring with these 5 acres of land.

In addition to all that we are already doing, we are looking to have on-site basic cooking classes for our younger mothers that do not know how to cook and have a desire to learn, a community garden project where the mothers and their children can learn a self survival skill and reap the fruits of their labor, a support group for children that suffer with PTSD, resume building classes, as well as how to search and find money for college. It sounds like we are going to busy this year and it has only begun!

If you want to be a part of any of these fun things that we have going give me a call and let's see where we can place you with our team of volunteers. Because we are a volunteer driven organization, 90% of all funds received go towards our programs of helping single mothers and their children. **Thank you supporters** as none of this could happen without each of you believing in the Mission of Bethel Foundation and making a way through your gifts of time and finances. **We appreciate you all!**

ENCOURAGEMENT FOR MOMS

At 10:00am on Wednesday, January 20, 2010, Britton Christian Church will host a **Morning of Encouragement** for all moms. The special guest speaker will be Dr. Joe White, President of Kanakuk Kamps and the founder of Kids Across America. Dr. White is the author of 22 books including "Faith Training" and "What Kids Wish Parents Knew About Parenting." All moms are invited to bring their friends to this special event. Britton Christian Church is located at 922 NW 91st Street, Oklahoma City.



THANK YOU SUPPORTERS!!!!

In our December Newsletter there was an article about a mother that has terminal cancer and was in need of a **Christmas Miracle**. You all responded, and when our mother came in to get a Christmas food basket I gave her an envelope and said, "**DO NOT OPEN TILL CHRISTMAS!**" Needless to say she sent me a text on Christmas Day asking if this was FOR REAL that people care and donated so she could get her car repaired. I told her God had touched people's hearts and because of that He has shown to her how much He cares and loves her.

On a cold snowy day after Christmas Brian at Metric Motors called and said the PT Cruiser was ready to go with a one year warranty on everything that had been done. Metric Motors gave Bethel Foundation a 10% discount to keep the cost at \$900.00.

As we were at Metric Motors, Lana was in shock and kept saying, "It is so amazing how nice people have been to me. I want to be able to give back someday and help others." I told her to get HEALED so she can come help us out at Bethel Foundation.

THANK YOU SUPPORTERS SOOOO MUCH FOR MAKING THIS CHRISTMAS MIRACLE HAPPEN!!!!!!



Brian with Metric Motors giving keys to Lana Baker.



Lana Baker getting her car back with Excitement and Joy in her Heart.

HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW YOUR CHILDREN

By Linda Ranson Jacobs (www.hlp4.com)

God has a plan for all of our children. As parents we cannot discount what the Lord has in store for our kids. Or what he can do and what He is going to do with our children. All of our children are precious in the eyes of the Lord for each child is made in the image of our creator. As parents it is up to us to watch our children, to study our children and to really get to know them individually. Only then can you direct them to find the path God has for them. God's design for your child is so much more than any parent can begin to fathom.

When our children do something cute or they make all A's on their report card, we are so honored. But how about those times when they appear to be deaf and you have told them for the umpteenth time to put a coat away and the next morning it is still crumpled up on the floor? I discovered a long time ago that for any parent the only way you are going to survive this parenting journey is to trust God.

Trusting God is what life is all about. Keep your eyes focused on Him. There is nothing the Lord can't handle. He is the perfect Father image for your children. But he is also the perfect parent imagine for you as a parent. He is there waiting for you to talk to him. He knows you and He knows your child even better than you do. After all He created your children.

Try substituting your child's name in verses 13-17 of the 139th Psalm. It is a powerful image and it will help you keep your eyes focused on our Father and His divine path for you to parent the children He has given you.

"For you created my child in his inmost being; you knitted him together in his mother's womb.

I praise you because my child is fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.

My child's frame was not hidden from you when he was made in the secret place. When he was woven together in the depths of the earth your eyes saw his unformed body.

All the days ordained for him were written in your book before one of them came to be.

How precious to him are your thoughts, O God...."

Parenting our children is much easier when we rely on our Heavenly Father to guide and direct us in all of His ways.



Bethel Foundation is a Host Site for *Food Share America*. They offer incredible savings through the power of group buying and the support of volunteers. Food is purchased through the same manufacturers as grocery stores without the overhead cost. Place your order at the beginning of

the month and pay then pick up your order at the end of the month from Bethel Foundation. You can even use your food stamps with this program. Please call Heather at the office should you have any additional questions or need more information.

Don't Lower Your Standards... Elevate Your Faith!

YOU'RE INVITED!

"What Not to Wear"

4 p.m. Sunday, February 7, 2010

**FREE FOOD, GIVEAWAYS,
Girlfriend FUN**

Church of the Harvest

6800 N. Bryant Ave., Oklahoma City
(I-35 & Wilshire)

RSVP by 5 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 4th

RSVP to 478-7840 or

Allison.Morris@harvestokc.com

*Free childcare and transportation is available
To ensure transportation, **RSVP by 5pm Thursday, Feb. 4**

"What Not to Wear" event is sponsored by *Rescue the Girls* at Church of the Harvest. *Rescue the Girls* offers a life-changing *Living Life Gracefully* program designed for women who may be in a transitional place in life needing a support system, teaching and resources to fulfill her God-given potential. Women in the *Living Life Gracefully* program meet two times a month, have a variety of resources available to them, attend special events, have a family-like support system and are truly transformed. Our mission is to bring Hope, Value and Purpose to Every Woman's Life - please join us!

MEET OUR NEWEST VOLUNTEERS



Kathy L. Walker came to us just before the Christmas Holidays and said that she wanted to volunteer as a way to give back and she loved what Bethel Foundation was doing in the community with Single Mothers. Kathy works with the Edmond Public School System as a Nurse on Staff working particularly with Title One children's first aid care. Kathy is here most days from 4pm to 6pm and always comes with a Big Smile on her face ready to serve with anything that we have for her to do. **THANK YOU KATHY!!!!**

Maria Wisner was driving on Western and saw our sign, and was curious what we were all about. She started doing some research and realized that we work with single mothers and children. Maria has been an at-home mother for 16 years, raising her children and home schooling them. When Maria came to see our agency she said, "I want to help clean your offices and Community Center." She has already started working and does a wonderful job in a much needed area. Maria will be coming in twice a week to help us keep everything sparkling.



NEW YEAR WITH NEW BEGINNINGS

Heather Bebout is our new Administrative Assistant, replacing Connie Veley who left us after a year in order to take care of her family. *We will dearly miss Connie as she was a HUGE BLESSING to us all.* Heather came to us this past year as one of our mothers in need of help and loved what we were doing, so she started volunteering her time in transforming our offices. Heather has a wonderful background in customer relations and administration along with her creative gifts of artwork. Heather always has a smile on her face and is quick to want to help out in any area that we need help. If you are in the area please stop by to **Welcome Heather on board** with Bethel Foundation.



Gail Wilbourn-Hadley is our new Community Center Coordinator. Gail is also one of our mothers that contacted us in need of help and prayer. She walked away from a situation in her life with the clothes on her back which meant she had to start over. We would pray with Gail about the things she was in need of and God answered our prayers for Gail. Gail decided she wanted to help Bethel Foundation and has been giving back by volunteering with us for the past 1½ years. Gail is a very special person to the Lord and to Bethel Foundation as we have watched her blossom over this past 1½ years.

With the growth of Bethel Foundation during this past quarter and the number of mothers that we serve through the Community Center, we needed someone that understands the needs of a struggling single mother. Gail is a *ray of sunshine* when you walk through the doors and is happy to help each mother out in need of clothes, food or prayer.

New Hours for the Community Center are as follows:

9am to 12 noon and 1pm to 5pm Monday thru Thursday

COMMUNITY CENTER

If you are cleaning out your closets and cleaning up your home and getting rid of things then **PLEASE** think about Bethel Foundation in that process. Listed below are some needs that our mothers have let us know they would appreciate having if they are available.

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
| ◆ Dishes | ◆ Stroller |
| ◆ Pots & Pans | ◆ Loveseat |
| ◆ Kitchen Table & Chairs | ◆ Bedroom Dresser |
| ◆ Baby Cribs | ◆ Full size Mattress |
| ◆ Toddler Beds | ◆ Queen Size Mattress |
| ◆ Baby Swing | ◆ Twin Size Mattress And Frame |

If you are in need of a tax exempt letter for items donated please let us know at the time you drop them off so we can take care of that for you.

KIDS ROCK SUMMER CAMPS COMING

**MARK THE DATES: JUNE 21ST – 25TH, 2010
JULY 26TH – 30TH, 2010**

Interested campers going into the 3rd, 4th and 5th grade can call the office at 286-3602 and ask for a summer camp registration form to be sent to you. Only 30 campers per camp. No Repeat Campers.



RAB'S RAB'S CHILDREN'S BIRTHDAY CLUB

HAPPY BIRTHDAY BOYS & GIRLS!

If you are a Single Mother and you would like to register your child for the Rab Rab's Children's Birthday Club, then please call the office at 286-3700 and we will send you a Membership Form to complete. We need advance notice regarding upcoming birthdays so please register and keep us updated when your phone number changes so your child won't miss out. The Birthday Club will have available for your child on their birthday: **Balloons ~ Cake ~ Gift**



Christopher Richardson celebrated his Birthday on January 4th by joining the Rab Rab's Birthday Club.



Tallen High joined the Birthday Club on December 24th.

SUPPORT GROUP CLASSES TO BEGIN



Does your child suffer from PTSD? Do you need support in this area? Bethel Foundation is forming classes starting February 2nd from 6pm to 7:30pm on site at our office. We can only take a limited number of people and the reference materials will be free. If you are interested in being a part of this six week class then please call Gail at the office to find out more information and to sign up.

15 NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS FOR 2010

- 1) To Appreciate my family, friends, and colleagues for who they are, what they mean to me and others.
- 2) To act upon wrongs that need to be made right.
- 3) To be a valuable teammate and to trust others to do their best.
- 4) To actively listen to the voices of children and elders.
- 5) To speak truth to power, but to be both polite and persistent.
- 6) To accept that I don't know everything.
- 7) To pleasantly surprise someone every day with a genuine smile and unexpected kindness in word and deed.
- 8) To respect and celebrate the diversity of faiths, feelings, and fashions.
- 9) To exercise artistic expression for its intrinsic value.
- 10) To invest a thoughtful minute before I speak or act.
- 11) To honor those who courageously sacrifice for us at home and abroad.
- 12) To share even if I think I don't have enough.
- 13) To protect, defend and advocate for people who rely on me.
- 14) To preserve natural environments for their beauty and bounty.
- 15) To never give up on a person or a cause, despite the challenges we face.



Bethel Foundation
13003 N. Western Ave.
Oklahoma City, OK 73114

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Character:

Punctuality vs Tardiness

Showing esteem for others by doing the right thing at the right time.

- 1) Begin Early
- 2) Keep Track of Time
- 3) Prioritize Your Day
- 4) Respect Other People's Time
- 5) Finish on Time

www.reachingforcharacter.com

Nonprofit Organization Helping Single Mothers
Temporary Housing • Spiritual Mentoring • Parenting Services

Bethel Foundation

Presents the

Front Door News

OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

Strong Families

Make A Strong America

(Changing Lives One Mom At A Time)

January 2010



www.bethelfoundationusa.com
Phone: (405) 286-3700
Toll Free: 1-866-442-1431