

THE MICAH 6 AUSTIN MESSENGER

A PUBLICATION OF MICAH 6 OF AUSTIN, TEXAS
2203 SAN ANTONIO ST./ AUSTIN, TEXAS 78705

VOLUME 8

FALL/WINTER 2011

NUMBER 2



COMBINED WORSHIP ON JANUARY 15

The Annual Combined Worship for Micah 6 Austin and its member congregations will be **January 15, 2012 at 3:00 p.m.** at **St. Austin Church** at 2026 Guadalupe St. Light refreshments will follow the service.

Free parking is available at these locations:

- church parking behind the church and between the alley and San Antonio street - we encourage you to leave these spots available for guests with limited mobility
- parking under the gym at the corner of 20th and San Antonio streets and
- the parking facility at the corner of MLK and San Antonio streets, and
- parking spots on the surrounding streets.

See the St. Austin website at <http://staustin.org> for more parking details. Please mark this event on your calendars and help celebrate another year of good work and the fellowship of faith communities working together to help those in need!



CONSIDER A YEAR-END TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATION TO MICAH 6 AUSTIN

The end of the year is upon us! If you would like to make a tax deductible donation in 2011, this is the time. Checks dated prior to January 1, 2012 can count toward this year's tax deduction. Your donation to Micah 6 Austin means even more this year. For much of this year, it has been difficult to obtain low-cost food through the food bank. As a result, Micah 6 has had to spend substantially more funds at retail stores to feed our ever-growing clientele. Your contributions help Micah 6 Austin meet this need and are very much appreciated!

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Please note: The pantry will be closed on December 22 and 24 for Christmas and on December 29 and 31 for New Year's Day. It will re-open on January 5, 2012.



MICAH 6 REACHES OUT TO STREET YOUTH

Drop-in Center for Street Youth Opening January 2012

Micah 6 extends an invitation to our coalition of churches to participate in an exciting new project which will begin to fill the gaps in services for our street youth in the university area. On Sunday, January 22, 2012, a new drop in center will open its doors at **University Baptist Church**. This center will be open every Sunday from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. and will include a place of fellowship (out of the weather), a healthy meal, a computer lab and special educational and self-care programs for youth around the age of 30 and under.

As always, much is needed to help with this new project:

* **Volunteers**

- to staff the center once/month (Sundays 1:30-6:00 pm)
- to provide tutoring
- to provide food

* **Gently used items** such as:

- Desktop computers & flat screen monitors
- Two printers; bulletin board
- Two (large) microwaves
- Big, commercial blender for a smoothie ministry
- Book cases & books
- Dog crates

If you have a donation, are interested in helping out, or just have a creative idea or question, please contact your Micah 6 representative or email **Jane Leifeste** at leifeste.jane@gmail.com.

A volunteer training will be held on **Sunday, January 8**. For more information, please contact **Mac McKaskle** at rwmckaskle@yahoo.com.

FIG LEAF STORE OPENS FOR STREET YOUTH



This year, Micah 6 assisted the **Fig Leaf Store at University United Methodist Church** in service to young adults living on the street in Austin. The Fig Leaf provides free clothing as well as a safe place to gather socially and interact with community volunteers. This service has become very popular with as many as 25

youth arriving on each Thursday afternoon. The Fig Leaf is also open to the general public on Saturday mornings.

Micah 6 and several Fig Leaf volunteers have funded the purchase of snacks and drinks for the youth. If you would like to **volunteer** at the Fig Leaf on Thursday afternoons to chat with the youth while they shop for their clothes, contact **Jane Leifeste** at leifeste.jane@gmail.com.

Donations of **gently-used clothing** are greatly appreciated. The items most needed for men are all sizes of dark-colored shirts, shorts, jeans, socks, shoes, and backpacks. For women, plus sizes and maternity clothes are in demand. Please bring your items to University United Methodist Church at 2409 Guadalupe Street between 8:30 AM and 5:00 PM Monday through Thursday or 8:30 AM to noon on Friday or Sunday. Place the items in the collection bin located inside the door facing the 25th street parking lot. Thank you!



Freeze Night Shelter Opens Again

For the second year, Micah 6 is partnering with LifeWorks to operate an overnight shelter for street youth in the university area on very cold nights. It is located at the LifeWorks Street Outreach Drop-In Center in the basement of the Congregational Church of Austin at 23rd Street and San Antonio.

The participants are clients of LifeWorks, which provides housing, counseling, education, life skills training, and various other services to homeless and at-risk youth age 23 or younger in order to help them achieve self-sufficiency.

Volunteers from Micah 6 Coalition churches prepare and serve hot meals to the youth, and Micah 6 pays for LifeWorks staff to stay overnight at the shelter. If you would like to prepare or serve a meal at the shelter, please contact your congregational coordinator listed on the Micah 6 website at <http://www.micah6austin.org/contacts.html> or send an email to info@micah6.org.

Valentine Concert – University Presbyterian Church will once again be organizing a fundraising concert for Micah 6. Look for details through your church or on the Micah 6 Facebook page. Last year's concert was one of our biggest fundraisers ever and was so popular that it was standing room only!

WHAT THE PANTRY NEEDS NOW

Food donations

Micah 6 has an ongoing need for canned meat & fruit products (no glass) and plastic grocery bags. The **Capital Area Food Bank** has not been able to fulfill the pantry's order for these items on a regular basis, and the pantry has been purchasing them at retail prices. Donate through one of the member or supporting churches, or place your items in the food barrels at one of the following **Randalls** locations for your convenience:

- 715 Exposition Blvd. at Lake Austin Blvd.
- 2727 Exposition Blvd. at Westover Rd.
- 5311 Balcones Dr.

Consider organizing a food drive

Consider organizing a food drive for Micah 6 at your church or in another organization. One way to make it fun is to build sculptures with the donated items. A church in Oklahoma constructed a grand piano with non-perishables! Please send an email to info@micah6.org if you have any questions.

Volunteers

Volunteers are also needed for pantry openings on certain **Thursday evenings at 5:30 PM**. Contact **Pantry Director Linda Williams** at lindahop@lindahop.com or 826-3015 to sign up.

Did you know?

- Micah 6 of Austin has a Facebook page. Please "like" Micah 6 and be the first to learn about upcoming events, special needs, and other pantry news.
- Randalls shoppers, please remember to designate your Good Neighbor contributions for Micah 6 (ID **11964**). Randalls will donate a percentage of your purchase to Micah 6 each time you use your Remarkable card.

THANK YOU CORNER

Donation Drive Organizers

Many groups have organized donations of goods this year. **The Liturgical Dance Ministry** from **Holy Cross Catholic Church** donated blankets. The **First English Lutheran Church Prime Timers Club** organized a coat drive for recipients of the Fig Leaf clothing store and also donated new socks and underwear. **Diana Leal** donated stuffed animals for the children of Micah 6 recipients. Several other groups have donated canned foods from Christmas parties. Thank you to all of these folks for their time and effort on behalf of hungry families in Austin.

University of Texas Student Organizations

The Micah 6 Food Pantry is fortunate to be located near a university with so many enthusiastic student volunteers who are eager to help. The pantry never lacks for volunteers on Saturdays. Some of the student organizations that regularly volunteer at the pantry include **H2O Hunger and Homelessness Outreach**, the **Longhorn League of United Latin American Citizens**, the **Liberal Arts Honors Society**, the **Asian Business Students Association**, the **Honors Business Association**, and **Longhorns for Christ**. Thank you for joining Micah 6 to serve neighbors in our university-area community.

Fundraisers

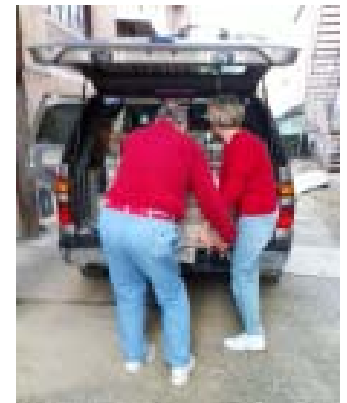
Micah 6 Austin greatly appreciates all those who organized and contributed to fundraisers this past summer and fall. They are listed below and on the back page. Our thanks also go to the congregational groups who raise funds and contribute to Micah 6 Austin through their churches.

- **All Saints' Episcopal Church** raised \$422.77 for Micah 6 at their Global Fair Trade market.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT - Mary Bowles, A Micah 6 Angel

Mary Bowles has a huge servant's heart and doesn't hesitate to help wherever she is needed. Mary is an active member of **University Avenue Church of Christ**. She has been involved with Micah 6 since its beginning. She has acted as interim director at the Pantry several times over the years. She was instrumental in training Pantry Director **Linda Williams** and fills in when Linda needs to be away. She also holds several volunteer jobs for the Pantry such as second Thursday manager and third Thursday Team Leader. Whenever a vacancy arises, Mary is there to fill the gap.

Each week, Mary helps with the Capital Area Food Bank ordering and communicates the final order to the Thursday "early bird" supervisors. When our delivery from the Capital Area Food Bank is too small to fill the Pantry shelves, Mary and her husband **Joe** are instrumental in supplying the Pantry with additional groceries. She places weekly food orders with HEB and then helps in the transportation process to get the groceries to the Pantry. This process has been critical for the past several months. She has also helped with the supplemental care of our recipient volunteer, **David Arthur**. She transports him to and from appointments and the Pantry where he regularly helps out. Mary is a true "Micah 6 Angel" and someone we could never survive without. Thank you, Mary!



Mary and Joe loading food for pantry

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FUNDRAISERS (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4)

- **Church World Service** distributed \$1,268.07 to Micah 6 from the last **Crop Walk**. Members of many Micah 6 Coalition churches helped raise funds through the walk.
- **The Formal Formal Committee**, a UT student group, donated \$150 of the proceeds from their dinner and dance held in September to Micah 6.
- **First English Lutheran Church** and **University Presbyterian Church** sold Texas oranges and grapefruit, in cooperation with the **Northwest Rotary Club**. The proceeds to Micah 6 included \$456 in cash as well as over 500 pounds of oranges and grapefruit for the pantry.

Many thanks to all who helped make these events successful!

OUTGOING BOARD MEMBERS/ NEW OFFICERS

Thank you to outgoing board members **Harriett Choffel**, Secretary, from All Saints Episcopal Church, **Jim Genevro**, Assistant Treasurer, from Saint Austin's Catholic Parish, **David Wofford**, Vice President, from University Presbyterian Church, and **April Kwon**, board member from Hyde Park Presbyterian Church. Thank you for your energy and commitment! Successors from these congregations will be recognized at the joint worship service in January.

We thank our incoming officers who will begin their roles in the new year. **Cheryl Kimble** from **Highland Park Baptist Church** will serve as President; **Liz Nash** from the **Congregational Church of Austin** will serve as Vice President; **Jackie Chuter** from **First English Lutheran Church** will serve as Secretary; and **Craig Bell** from **University Christian Church** will serve as Treasurer. We look forward to working together to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with our God.

RECENT PANTRY NUMBERS

	Shopping Visits	Persons Fed	New Client Households
June	1,653	4,805	263
July	1,760	5,376	1,170*
Aug	1,629	4,880	215
Sept	1,779	5,522	271
Oct	1,170	4,682	223
Nov	1,338	4,954	167

*Households are re-registered in July.

Member Churches

All Saints' Episcopal Church
Congregational Church of Austin
First English Lutheran Church
Highland Park Baptist Church
Hyde Park Presbyterian Church
St. Austin Catholic Parish
University Avenue Church of Christ
University Baptist Church
University Christian Church
University United Methodist Church
University Presbyterian Church

Supporting Churches

Central Christian Church
Southwest Family Fellowship

The mission of Micah 6 of Austin is to work together to identify and meet the needs of the homeless and the impoverished in the University of Texas campus area.

Micah 6 Messenger

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Website micah6austin.org

The Micah 6 Food Pantry location:
University Presbyterian Church
2203 San Antonio St.
Thurs 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. &
Sat 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.

What does the Lord require of you?