

THE MICAH 6 AUSTIN MESSENGER

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

VOLUME 6

SUMMER (MAY-AUGUST) 2009

NUMBER 3



INTRODUCING LINDA WILLIAMS... OUR NEW PANTRY DIRECTOR

In June we welcomed **Linda Williams** as our new Pantry Director, but she is no stranger to Micah 6. Linda has been a volunteer at the Micah 6 Food Pantry in numerous positions (both behind-the-scenes and daily pantry operation) for the past four years.

Linda says, "I have been involved with volunteer activities all my adult life but the Micah 6 Food Pantry has by far been the most rewarding. I consider our recipients not to be just someone to receive special services but also my friends." She adds, "I am honored to work with the other church volunteers and our recipient volunteers in order to make the Pantry a shining example of God's work in our midst. Working at the pantry has allowed me to put hands and feet to my faith."





If you haven't already done so this summer, please welcome Linda in her new role at Micah 6!



Linda Williams

IT'S NEVER TOO WARM TO PLAY SANTA!

You don't have to don a red suit to enjoy giving gifts on someone's wish list. Just consider donating any of the following items on the Micah 6 wish list:

-  toner cartridges—TN-110BK for Brother copier
-  reams of white paper
-  black ink pens
-  canvas bags-new or used; plastic bags

Your gifts of these items help Micah 6 keep operating costs to a minimum and are very much appreciated!



SOMETHING NEW AT MICAH 6...A RESOURCE TABLE

Now that recipients wait indoors for their turn to shop in the pantry, we have set up a *resource table* offering outreach information for jobs, GED classes, medical care, food stamps, etc. Our resources are constantly growing as we address needs.

Volunteers are needed to staff the table! If you have experience with social services or want to learn, please join us. It's a great opportunity to reach out and help! We currently offer services on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays, 10-11:30am at Micah 6 Food Pantry, University Presbyterian Church, 2203 San Antonio Street. Contact: **Ana Salas-Porras** at 451-4442 or ana@practicewise5.com.

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VOLUNTEER OPENINGS

We have approximately 210 volunteers on the Micah 6 roster. The following are special volunteer positions we need to fill. If you are interested in taking a greater leadership role in the work of Micah 6, please consider taking on one of these roles:

Thursday, 2:45-5:00 p.m. - Team Leader (once/month)

Thursday, 5:00-8:00 p.m. Pantry Manager (third Thursday)

In addition, we need volunteers to work with children while the parents shop and volunteers for our new resource table. Bilingual skills are a plus.



Thanks to *Craig Moore* and *Elizabeth Schuster* for sharing these two poetic views of Micah 6.

Each trip is new Spring
Freshly bright sun's spurt and perk.
Micah Six flowering
Seeking and soaring
Each aids others to lift all.
Micah Six skyward
Life rejuvenate
Each awakening. Micah
Six hope - lives reborn
A new hope and start
Micah Six helping service
One sweeter step up

Craig Moore

Scattered seeds are blown by the wind
To the ground, where
They rest among fallen leaves and twigs.
Scattered seeds of kindness
Are sown by us and by others.
They sprout and grow and nourish
The hungry, the homeless,
And something deep inside ourselves.

Elizabeth Schuster

SUNSHINE GARDENS VIDEO

Sunshine Community Garden, which provides the Micah 6 Pantry with fresh produce, was the subject of a small documentary that is now posted on YouTube. The video, which was created by **Elephant Productions**, is a little over eight minutes long. The last minute or so is focused on the delivery of produce to Micah 6!

You can see the video by going to www.youtube.com and searching for Sunshine Community Garden. Our congratulations to Sunshine Garden for this special spotlight on its work, and our great thanks to **Nancy Seibert** and Sunshine Garden, as well as the team at Elephant Productions for including Micah 6 in the piece!



Backpacks

In August, Micah 6 gave out backpacks filled with school supplies.

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PANTRY NUMBERS

Micah 6 reports the number of households who shop at the pantry each month, how many individuals comprise those households, and how many of the shoppers are new registrants for the pantry. Each July, Micah 6 begins a fresh registration list. Last year Micah 6 registered 2,182 households between July and December. The chart below shows

how registrations grew in the first six months of 2009, adding 1,902 new registrants for a total of 4,084 for the year. That is an average of 317 households registering each month and an increase of more than 87% over the previous six months.

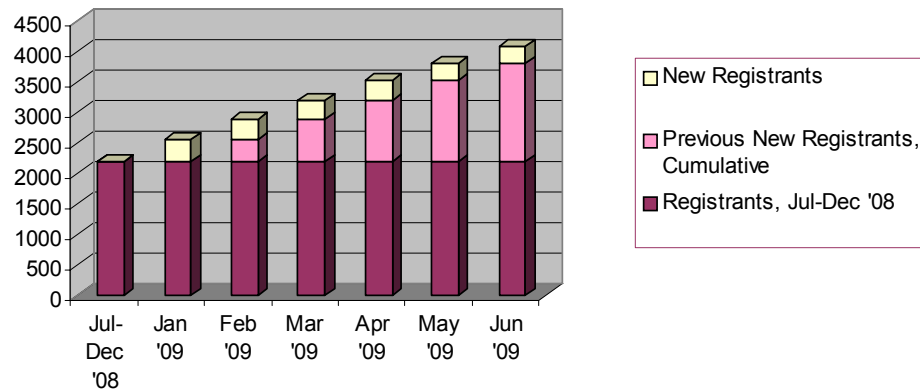
A household may represent an individual, a couple, or a family. The number of people served each month ranged from about 4,200 to about 5,200. From January to June of 2009, shoppers were getting food for an average of about 2.8 persons per household. In July 2009, the average number of persons per household jumped to 3.14. Each shopper

SPRING/SUMMER PANTRY NUMBERS

	Shopping Visits	Households	New Clients
April	4,715	1,670	323
May	5,236	1,844	280
June	4,670	1,644	288
July	5,602	1,783	1,172*

*The start of a new registration list

New Registrants



Micah 6 serves represents about three individuals receiving food assistance. Our thanks goes to all the donors and volunteers who help make this effort possible.

Member Churches

- All Saints' Episcopal Church
- Central Christian Church
- Congregational Church of Austin
- First English Lutheran 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

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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The Micah 6 Food Pantry is at
 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?