

THE MICAH 6 AUSTIN MESSENGER

A PUBLICATION OF MICAH 6 OF AUSTIN, TEXAS
2130 GUADALUPE ST./ AUSTIN, TEXAS 78705

VOLUME 5

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2008

NUMBER 4



RENOVATION CONTINUES. PANTRY COMMISSIONING SET FOR **DECEMBER 7**



Renovation of the eventual pantry space is proceeding well at University Presbyterian Church (UPC) and relocation of the pantry to that space is growing near. The date of the relocation will be set once renovation is complete, in November. Regardless of the date when the pantry first operates from UPC, please plan to attend the Open House and Pantry Commissioning on December 7, at

12:30 p.m. at University Presbyterian Church, 2203 San Antonio Street. Thanks to everyone at University Baptist Church who continues to graciously host the pantry and to everyone at UPC who is working to making a new home for Micah 6.

IN THIS ISSUE...

- p. 1 New Pantry Commissioning; Capital Campaign; Paper Drive
- p. 2 Sunshine Gardens; Good Neighbor Program
- p. 3 Micah 6 Network News; Pantry Needs; Laura Tanier
- p. 4 Pantry Numbers; Pantry Survey

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN IS A SUCCESS!

Thank you, thank you to all who responded so generously to the Capital Campaign. Your contributions substantially exceeded the \$60,000 goal for individual and congregational donations, totaling over \$75,000 by mid-October. Those resources will fund a portion of the renovation of the new pantry space at University Presbyterian Church, as well as new energy efficient appliances, other equipment and relocation expenses. Thanks to our campaign committee, chaired by **Harriett Choffel** and to all who contributed time and money to the campaign. Please join us in giving thanks for the bountiful support of the pantry's continued service to those in need.



We Reached Our Goal!

PAPER DRIVE EARNS MICAH 6 A \$250 BONUS

Our paper drive was a success this summer resulting in Micah 6 getting a \$250 bonus over our regular earnings per ton. In fact we are collecting so much paper the recycling company has asked if it can place a second bin for Micah 6. We are seeking a second location for this additional bin. If your congregation or another property owner would be willing to accommodate a collection bin, please contact **Charles Locklin** at chocklin5@austin.rr.com.



THE MICAH 6 AUSTIN MESSENGER

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2008

PAGE 2

SUNSHINE COMMUNITY GARDENS EXPANDS ITS MICAH 6 GARDEN



Crew Picture: (Back Left to Right) Brad Zachary, Jay Willmann, Leonard Spence, Jim Willmann, (Front L to R) Nancy Seibert, Jerry Bordelon, and John Braziel. Not pictured (Steve Barrett and Justin Talentino)

a result of the interest of John Braziel, their friend and mentor who aided them in organizing and incorporating their business. Ongoing thanks go also to **Nancy Seibert** and to **Steve Barrett**, who harvest, package and deliver food to Micah 6 each week, to **Kathleen Cobb** who helps with harvesting and to **Beth Kelley** and **Harry Swinney** for their continued help picking up and delivering produce as well. Mark your calendars for March 7, 2009 when you can further support the Gardens by attending its Spring Plant Sale.”

Since 2006, **Sunshine Community Gardens** has made generous weekly donations of fresh organic produce to the Micah 6 food pantry. The greens, fruits and vegetables are donated by individual gardeners from their own plots, but are also harvested from a large plot dedicated exclusively to growing food for the pantry. Over the past two months, a group of gardeners, spearheaded by Jim Willmann, have been working hard to more than double that “Micah 6 garden” from its original 480 square feet to over 1,100 square feet. It’s now been divided into nine plots, each tended by an individual gardener. Special thanks to **Jerry Bordelon, John Braziel, Nancy Seibert, Justin Talentino, Jay Willmann, Jim Willmann, and Brad Zachary** for all their work to make the expansion a reality. Thanks also to **Leonard Spence and Jackie McClellan**, president and vice-president of **Good Earth Partners**, respectively. Good Earth (which specializes in lawn maintenance, landscape design and hardscapes) donated their time and equipment hauling the material for the new paths bordering the garden, creating the paths and grading the adjacent lawn. Though Leonard and Jackie are not gardeners at Sunshine, they volunteered as



Cabbage, broccoli, cauliflower, chard, collards, carrots, spinach, and turnips growing for the Micah 6 pantry

GOOD NEIGHBOR PROGRAM

Micah 6 is now a registered charity in the **Randall's Good Neighbor Program**. You can now link your Randall's Remarkable Card to the Micah 6 account number and have the amount of your purchases credited to Micah 6. Randall's will then direct its community donation dollars based on the amount credited to each charity.

To link your card to Micah 6 of Austin, either complete the form at the link below or stop by a Randall's Courtesy Booth to fill out a Remarkable Application Form. Use the form to get a Remarkable Card, if you don't already have one, or to change the charities linked to your existing Remarkable Card. (You may have up to 3 charities assigned to your Remarkable Card.) In the Good Neighbor section of the form, you can list **Micah 6 of Austin** as one of your designated charities with its account number: **11964**.

Thanks so much for supporting Micah 6. The number of people seeking food at the pantry continues to increase as food prices, gas prices & foreclosures rise. Everything you do to help sustain the pantry brings a little bit of hope and help to those in need.

The website is http://www.randalls.com/GN_HOUSTON_AUSTIN.pdf.

THE MICAH 6 AUSTIN MESSENGER

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2008

PAGE 3

*Our thanks to Jim Stasswender of Stasswender Memorials for assisting in obtaining a granite marker for the gravesite of long-time Micah 6 volunteer **Laura Tanier**. The marker includes both of her names, the Indian motif cross, birth and death dates.*

If you haven't yet volunteered at the Pantry, please give it a try. If you are a volunteer, invite a friend or neighbor to join you. The work is great, and the return is even greater. Contact **Debbie Webb** at debbiewebb@aol.com for Thursday volunteer work and **Harriett Choffel** at hchoffel@austin.rr.com for Saturday.



- ✘ **The Fig Leaf** - the clothing closet at **University United Methodist Church** - is asking Micah 6 churches to consider sponsoring a men's clothing drive again. Last year, the clothes the Micah 6 churches brought in really helped provide the Fig Leaf guests with much-needed clothing during the cold winter months. For more information, please contact:
Emily Roe, Fig Leaf Sorting Coordinator
799-8866 or emilyroe@earthlink.net
- ✘ **Central Christian Church** will have its Christmas Bazaar, December 4-7. Daily hours are: Dec. 4-5 from 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Dec. 6 from 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., Dec. 7 from noon - 3:00 p.m. The Bazaar offers Arts and Crafts, Food, Silent Auction, a Pamper-me area with chair massage and skin care, and Free kid's activities on Saturday and Sunday, including a family magic show from award winning magician Chris Walden at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday and 1:00 p.m. on Sunday. Free face painting, arts and crafts all weekend! CCC has held this annual bazaar for over 25 years. All proceeds benefit CCC's Children and Youth Ministries! MC/Visa accepted.

TOTE/ PLASTIC BAGS STILL NEEDED

The pantry always needs cloth tote bags and plastic bags. The number of recipients visiting the pantry has increased dramatically over the past couple of months, creating an even greater demand for bags. Micah 6 tries to use as few plastic bags as possible, but plastic bags are still needed for vegetables, for the many first-time recipients, and for those whose groceries don't fit in their tote bags. So please keep the cloth and plastic bag donations coming!

THE MICAH 6 AUSTIN MESSENGER

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2008

PAGE 4

FOOD PANTRY SURVEY

About this time last year, Micah 6 participated in a survey of food pantry clients conducted by Travis County and the Basic Needs Coalition (BNC) Food Security Committee. The committee has published its findings in a report. We were only one of about nineteen food pantries who participated although we contributed a large number of the 345 surveys (conducted in both English and Spanish).

Some highlights from the report include the following:

- 95% of the clients surveyed rated overall pantry service as “excellent” or “good.”
- Transportation to/from pantries is a significant problem (and only those who could get to a pantry were surveyed).
- More than 3/4 of the clients visit a pantry only 1 or 2 times in a month.
- Most visited only one specific pantry in a month, and less than 10% visited more than 2 different pantries in a given month.
- The most common unmet need is food. (This may be biased by the fact that everyone surveyed was at a food pantry.)
- The most common way people learn about a pantry is by word of mouth from family or friends.
- The most preferred time of the week to visit a food pantry is on a weekday morning. The second most preferred time is a weekday afternoon. The third most preferred time is Saturday morning (and not many pantries are open on Saturday morning.) And the fourth most preferred time is on a weekday evening.



3RD QUARTER PANTRY NUMBERS

| | Individuals | Households |
|------|--------------|--------------|
| July | 3,057 | 1,215 |
| Aug | 3,079 | 1,217 |
| Sept | <u>2,842</u> | <u>1,136</u> |
| | 8,978 | 3,568 |

In October, the Pantry has been serving record numbers of shoppers every week, serving 387 shoppers in the third week of the month.

Some recommendations made in the report are consistent with Micah 6 current operations or things we are considering for the future. They include weekend access, increasing fresh foods and collaborating with programs that teach people how to grow their own food. Other recommendations suggest directing resources in the areas of transportation and expanded awareness in support of pantry efforts.

Member Churches

All Saints' Episcopal Church
Central Christian Church
Congregational Church of Austin
First English Lutheran Church
Hyde Park Presbyterian Church
Saint 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

Editor Sue Williams
sdesai_tx@yahoo.com
512-257-8699

Website micah6austin.org

The Micah 6 Food Pantry is at
University Baptist Church
2107 San Antonio St. (at 22nd street)
Thurs 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. &
Sat 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.

What does the Lord require of you?