



## *The Grace & Peace Winter Shelter*

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Dear Friends of the Shelter:

Happy summer! It is my pleasure and privilege to greet you and send you an update on the Grace & Peace Winter Shelter. Even though we closed down March 15 for the season, a flurry of activity has gone behind the scenes in the past few weeks, preparing for our **25<sup>th</sup>** Winter Shelter season in 2010-2011!

Here are some highlights from the past year:

\*In 2009-2010 was the highest projected shelter cost so far at \$51,500. This was mainly because of the higher cost of bus tickets and because I was slated to use 60% of my time for the shelter and the shelter was thus paying for 60% of my salary. (Due to church general ministry needs, my shelter time will return to 50% now.)

\*Nonetheless, the Lord provided all of the funds needed, plus \$118!

\*Funds included a \$12,000 Anonymous donation, a \$4600 grant from the city, a \$5000 gift from a person known to the church but who wishes to remain anonymous, \$5009 from the Rummage Sale, money from a number of city and county churches including several PCA churches, and PCUSA, Catholic, Lutheran, United Church of Christ, and Evangelical Presbyterian Churches. Gifts also came from a local CPA who gave every two weeks, several congregation members who gave regularly, a handicapped woman who made art and gave the funds to the shelter, and another local church which got together and had a Trivia Night, all to benefit the shelter! I am amazed and so blessed at what God does!

\*Because of some people who declined to get paid who were budgeted to get wages, our costs came in a little lower than projected, so we had a bit left over for the next fiscal year. This will be used for future operations or repair/renovations. Praise the Lord, especially because this happened in a year with a very rough economy!

\*Our volunteers, workers, meals and guests were terrific!

\*We usually had 7 women in the Bible Study; many Christians were in the shelter and encouraged one another and lifted each other up. This was higher than past averages and a real answer to prayer. Our Bible Study Leader said the ladies were a great joy to her in the study.

\*We had a GREAT time interacting with the kids from Central Christian School, who gave rolling suitcases to all our guests as Christmas gifts!

\*Since we had received enough to operate, we were able to take the funds from the Trivia Night and replace some of our damaged mattresses--according to the wishes of that group. We are thankful--and we have some slightly worn, plastic covered, roughly twin-size mattresses available to give away if you need one.

\*We were delighted to assist several ladies in moving into non-shelter housing. Moving is fun when it's for this reason!

\*I could go on....the Lord greatly blessed. But I want to finish by saying it was a great joy to see how the team functioned strongly in my absence in the couple of weeks after my mom's death. My deep thanks to each one.

And some prayer requests:

\*Please pray that during the next season many who work and stay in the shelter will receive the "good news of great joy" that is the gospel.

\*We have been praying for a good plan for this year's Rummage Sale. Our usual practice of collecting items from early July through the middle of August is not possible this year, as our church building is getting major renovations! This is very exciting but the construction workers will need to use the shelter as access space for new plumbing above and other work. We still need to hold the sale because with it we invite our neighbors into the church, and the sale usually raises 10% of our shelter funds. So here's what we've come up with: **a much shorter collection period but two sale weekends instead of one—and we'll keep collecting items throughout the sale days. We'll start collecting items for our 2010 Rummage Sale on (Saturday, August 14) and have the sale the next two weekends, Fridays 5-8 p.m. & Saturdays, 8 a.m.-2 p.m. The dates are August 20, 21, 27, & 28. Please pray for the sale-and donate and shop!**

**Enclosed is a Rummage Sale flyer. If you need an electronic copy, please email me and I will send it. If you'd like to be a point person for your church or other group to help with the sale, just call Deb. (Her number is on the flyer.)**

\*Please pray that in the 25th Anniversary Season, we can successfully raise \$150,000 for renovation in addition to the operating funds for 2010-2011. (By the way, I just learned that in the current renovation, the shelter is slated to have a sprinkler system installed!)

\*That we will find a loving way to minister to our guests who are smokers. Due to new laws, we will be a non-smoking facility for the first time this season. This will create a hardship for some guests. We'll need to arrange for outdoor smoking breaks and the extra security risk they pose.

Dear Friends, thank you once again for all the love, care, prayers and support that you send our way! You are a huge blessing to us from God!

With Deep Gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Melody Burke Perkins". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Melody Perkins

Shelter Team Leader