



LOWER LIGHTS MINISTRIES

2007 Annual Report



From the Executive Director

"What's wrong with charity?" At first glance, the answer may seem quite simple – "Nothing... charity is the heart of God." However, as I continue to serve with Lower Lights Ministries and learn from my neighbors, I discover that what we call "charity" often does little, if any good. Too frequently, our response to the issues of poverty, despair and dependence reinforces the very ills we wish to fight. One need not look far to find support, discovering that in the United States, decades of "charity" have not alleviated poverty, but rather energized it to the point of becoming cyclical.

I am thrilled to be part of an organization that seeks new solutions and approaches to create lasting change. Lower Lights Ministries maintains guiding principles that shape all that we do, and results in increased impact and effectiveness. These guiding principles are:

Is it spiritual? More than ever, we recognize that there is no true lasting change without heart change; and therefore, we contend that spiritual awakening and maturation are necessary for personal, as well as communal transformation.

Is it relational? One of the greatest barriers facing families and individuals desiring change is isolation and a lack of healthy community. Recognizing that God has designed us for meaningful relationships, we endeavor to do everything in a manner that respects the dignity of all, and foster a healthy interdependence where we give as we receive. Most notable in 2007, the majority of Lower Lights Ministries' staff relocated to the Franklinton community to embrace Jesus' admonition to "love our neighbors."

Is it holistic? We look for ways to serve in a holistic manner – engaging body, mind and spirit. Complex issues are never solved with quick-fix, simple solutions.

Does it move people from "get" to "give?" Finally, we are compelled that true community development and neighborhood transformation occurs when recipients of charity are encouraged to develop their God-given

capacity, enabled to eliminate unhealthy dependencies, and empowered to become contributors to the success of the community. Lower Lights Ministries equips others with necessary tools to live... and serve abundantly.

Thank you for being a part of the amazing work God is doing in the Franklinton neighborhood, and investing your time, talents and resources to achieve our vision for a transformed and thriving community.

-David Gay, Executive Director

THANK YOU TO THE MEMBERS OF THE 2007 BEACON OF HOPE SOCIETY!

Our *Beacon of Hope Society* consists of donors who give \$1,000 or more yearly. We trust that you will consider lighting the way for us by sending in your 2008-09 pledge today!



Compassion —————> *Development* —————> *Partnership*

After following the lifestyle of drug addiction & crime, Shelley joined *Rachel's House* in 2007. "Life at *Rachel's House* has not always been fun and easy; however, when times get crazy, I can say I have a very awesome positive support group. Through *Rachel's House*, I was given a mentor who has turned out to be my best friend. We talk about everything."

"Shelley is very creative and smart," says Jan Ruark, *Rachel's House* Director. "She has undergone tremendous personal and spiritual growth over the past year. She has boundless potential talent and we are excited to see how God will use her in the future."

Shelley notes, "The Community Support Teams here are very willing to help you succeed also. My favorite thing about *Rachel's House* is the Lower Lights' staff, my mentor, the pastors and all of the community. Without them, I would not still be here!"



Volunteering at Lower Lights Ministries

With a heart for those who are hurting or lost, Michelle heard about Lower Lights Ministries' work in Franklinton. "Last August 2007, I came to *Rachel's House* after sharing my heart with a friend concerning [inner city] women. I did not know what exactly I would do there, but I knew this was the place of ministry for me. I was immediately embraced with much appreciation and opportunities," Michelle states.

Michelle has been a great support in many different areas, including serving at Franklin Pre-Release Center, mentoring, and assisting with several administrative tasks. "Volunteering as a mentor at *Rachel's House* is invaluable time spent invested in a life. Mentoring gives the privilege to walk alongside someone who is at a crucial time in their life and needs a friend to love and accept them for who they are, directing them to God... My life has been eternally impacted in seeing barriers... [from] outward circumstances overcome through the love of God, bridging the gap to a greater purpose..." She continues, "Lives are changed and hearts softened knowing there is someone willing to walk alongside you no matter what and who believes in you when no one ever has before."

Michelle is a married mother of one daughter and regularly takes short term mission trips in addition to her volunteer work with Lower Lights Ministries and church involvement. We are so thankful to have Michelle working beside us!

Families Growing Together

Jim & Christine are an excellent example of a hard working Franklinton family. Contact with this family was initiated primarily through the children's outreach department of Lower Lights Ministries, and today they remain engaged in various areas.

After being laid off from an 8-year position, Lower Lights Ministries' leadership helped Jim obtain an apprenticeship through a local electrical contractor. The position pays for all of Jim's training and gives him *on-the-job* experience, while providing a living wage for his family.

Through *Project AIM* family mentoring, their family continues to increase life skills and enhance their family life. Christine comments, "We enjoy having our [mentors] help us with expenses and teach us how to budget."

Jim & Christine are generously dedicated to their immediate and extended family. They love having their children involved in the various children's programs Lower Lights Ministries sponsors. "The kids love day camp. It gets them out of the house and interacting with other people."

Kyle Meyers, Director of *Project AIM*, says "Jim is positive and gives extraordinarily, and exhibits many leadership qualities. Christine is an excellent stay-at-home mother to their two children. They have developed a very healthy perspective on life. We are grateful to have Jim, Christine, and their family as a part of our community."

Many Serve to Provide Nearly \$500,000 in Service Hours!!

In 2007, over 500 committed and dedicated volunteers partnered with Lower Lights Ministries to impact the Franklinton community. There was approximately 25,000 hours of volunteer time invested to the well-being of families and friends in our neighborhood. We desire that our many committed and talented volunteers realize their value to our organization and community. By partnering together, volunteers change lives holistically and permanently, while accomplishing goals, tasks and projects. According to experts, the value of an hour of volunteer work is \$19.51, therefore, making the investment by those who serve worth hundreds of thousands! *Thank you!!*



**Statement of Financial Position
Year Ending December 31, 2007**

Assets

Current Assets

Cash & Cash Equivalents-Note D	\$13,828
Accounts Receivable	30,272
Total Current Assets	44,100

Property & Equipment- Note E

Land, Buildings & Equipment	293,871
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	(26,455)
Net Property & Equipment	267,416

Total Assets \$311,516

Liabilities

Current Liabilities

Accounts Payable	\$23,496
Current Portion of Long Term Debt	67,466
Tenant Deposits	805
Total Current Liabilities	91,767

Long Term Liabilities

Notes Payable-Note F	80,164
Total Liabilities	171,931

Net Assets

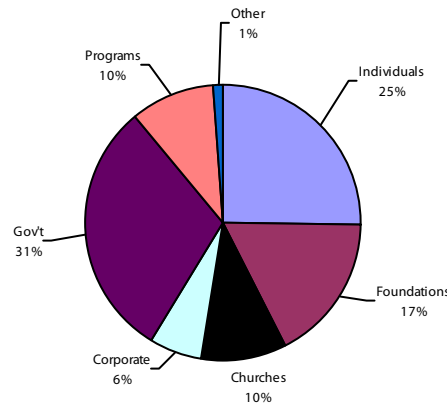
Temporarily Restricted	29,555
Unrestricted	110,030
Total Net Assets	139,585

Total Liabilities & Net Assets \$311,516

Complete copies of the annual audit and IRS Form 990 available upon request.

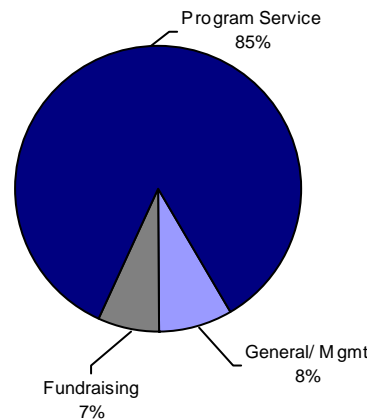
Revenues

\$258,360



Expenses

\$243,376



The Difference a Year Makes

- 265 children were clothed through the free children's clothing pantry.
- Through *Rachel's House*, 12 women began a new path toward responsibility and opportunity following incarceration, including our 59th program participant.
- Approximately 150 volunteers renovated the property at 1057 Bellows Avenue for our *Light the Way Home* initiative, including 75 *Home Depot* associates that committed to take time off to work on the property. Dublin Lifepoint Nazarene Church, McKnight Development and Columbus Equipment Company all played critical roles in the success of project.
- Our Summer Day Camp experienced its biggest year ever, serving 60 children, thanks to the support of approximately 100 volunteers.
- An average of 17 volunteers committed every Saturday night to provide an annual total of 3,000+ meals to the homeless.
- 144 Families received emergency food through our food pantry - **that's over 3,800 meals!**
- Our *Neighbor-to-Neighbor* initiative began wherein we assist local homeowners with light repairs through volunteer teams.
- Approximately 60 middle school students participated in our *Urban Experience* program where they expanded their understanding of the plight of the poor while volunteering in the community.



Thank You 2007 Investors

\$10,000 and Up

Columbus Equipment Company
Harry C. Moores Foundation

\$2,500-\$9,999

American Electrical Power
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\$1,000-\$2,499

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Under \$500

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Mary Louise Baughn
Brian & Tami Bohn
Thelma Bowman
Sue Brown
Linda Burge
Sharon Carcone
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Donna Chapman
Coal Grove Church of the Nazarene
Rodney & Barbara Collier
Lower Lights Community Nazarene CH.
Columbus Crossroads Community
Columbus Korean Soh Mang
Concord Fabricators
Shelby Daniels
Defiance Church of the Nazarene
Glenna Deitsch
Viola DeVore
Paul & Mary Beth Dubuc

Charles & Lorraine Dudas
Florence Dudas
D'Vorah King
Tim & Twyla Eades
Russell & Mary Jane Edgell
Edward's Steel
Tron Emptage
Ruthann England
Nancy Falcon
Anna Feeney
Mark Fleming
Roxanna Foreman
Juanita Forgrave
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Gallipolis First Church of the Nazarene
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Kathleen Snyder
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Ralph & Carol Stewart
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Swanton Church of the Nazarene
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E.J. Thielen
Janet Todd
Kathy Triplett
Marilyn Vance
Sheila Vogtmann
Owen Walton
Wapakoneta Church of the Nazarene
Chad Warner
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Campaign
Westway Post 3441
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Robert & Sharon White
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Zanesville First Church of the Nazarene
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At their request, some donors are not published in this report.

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Director, *Project AIM*

Rev Jan Ruark
Director, *Rachel's House*

Rachel Swartz
Director, Volunteer Services

OTHER STAFF

Jennifer Ayers - Office Manager

Anna Feeney – Work Team Coordinator

Jamilyn Gay – Case Manager

Jeremy Pifer - Property Management

OUR MISSION

Motivated by the love of God, the mission of Lower Lights Ministries is to promote the development and well-being of individuals, families and the community of Franklinton by partnering together as loving neighbors.

OUR VISION

The Franklinton community holistically restored into a thriving neighborhood with Christians fully engaged in the process of that transformation.

PRIMARY GOALS

Provide comprehensive family mentoring that assists individuals in developing their potential within a healthy family context.

Revitalize housing stock that promotes homeownership and increases community pride.

Advocate for those who suffer injustice and are victimized by systemic evil by engaging policymakers.

Encourage reconciliation by increasing the interpersonal skills of individuals throughout the community.

Promote financial self-sufficiency through job placement/retention coaching, and economic literacy.

Organize community resources, making them accessible to neighbors, and engage local congregations in urban ministry through partnership opportunities.

Lower Lights Ministries
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www.lowerlights.org
(614) 228-3855

