

What I do have...

I Give You

"Then Peter said, "Silver or gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk."

-Acts 3:6

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What a gift! As the Apostle Peter and John approached the gate called Beautiful in Jerusalem, a man crippled from birth was begging there. The man called out to the Apostles expecting to receive money, but in turn, the apostles offered him something much greater. A gift that left him walking and jumping and praising God!

It is this same gift, the gift of Jesus Christ that we offer to our neighbors.

It is not unusual that after our youth Bible study, you may find a teenager in the office amongst a few tears asking deeper questions about Jesus. Or a staff person while doing their laundry responding to a young man's question about "what does it really take to get into Heaven?" or "what does being Christian look like when I'm at school?" When teenagers ask these types of questions, we see it is a sign of a growing faith.

On a recent Monday evening, David (our Youth Minister) was walking around the neighborhood talking to folks about our annual "Being Thankful Day" event. He was caught off guard when he stopped to speak to Ms. Angela* about cooking beans for the volunteer lunch. Angela burst into an account of the many ways God has been so good to her. This was a new side to see, particularly since we know some of the dramatic storms life has sent her way. But these days Angela is blasting her Christian music and telling us, "God has a purpose for me. There's a reason I'm on Elmhurst Street a couple houses down from your ministry house."

There are many times when God uses our neighbors to encourage us.

What a gift! In the midst of our up-and-down economy, and its many ripple effects, Jesus anchors us. This fall has been a challenging time for The Boston Project as we try to reckon with how to accomplish our ministry with fewer resources. What a puzzling paradox for us as we have experienced some of our greatest moments of neighborhood outreach! Further yet, God has given us a bold vision – to add a second Neighborhood Ministry House – and we wait expectantly upon Him to see the fulfillment.

Thank you for your faithful prayers and financial support during 2010. You have helped us share the TRUE GIFT of Christmas with our neighbors. We pray for God's favor upon you and your family. Like the Apostle Peter we declare, silver and gold we may not have, but Jesus is more. **He is the reason for our ministry in Boston.**

** Name has been changed.*

by Paul Malkemes, Executive Director



Miss Carol accepts the 2010 TNT "Neighbor of the Year" award



Volunteers donated, assembled, and delivered 80+ Thanksgiving Baskets.



Coming together to show how thankful we are for our community.



Neighbors share their hopes and concerns for the future of our community.

The Boston Project Staff Team

This fall has been an exciting and challenging season. Our outreach programs continue to grow in size and demand; high attendance at Homework Center, a 25% increase in Thanksgiving Baskets, and lots of willing volunteers to help. At the same time, we have hit our lowest point financially in recent years and are struggling to make ends meet. ***Please pray for our staff and the ministry.***



The Malkemes Family - Executive Director & Curriculum Director

If you have been around our home any time since early October, you know we are in a fierce battle to save our daughters' school which is slated to close in a redesign plan. The process has been painful. Early on, Glenna and I again sensed God's passion for defending what is right and fair, rather than moving on to what may be easy. There have been blessings in the battle: new friendships, opportunities to share our faith, and a deeper understanding of strongholds.



David & Mindy Rameau - Neighborhood Youth Ministries

Mindy and I are in a season where it is easy to focus on our circumstances and become discouraged about it, but we cannot help but trust and believe that God has a purpose for us. In fact, our circumstances do not hinder us - they are, believe it or not, part of helping us reach our purpose (James 1:4). As we face difficult times as a ministry and uncertainties in this upcoming year, we remain hopeful. We know that the good work God has started in us, He will see us out until completion (Phil. 1:6).



Dana Chepulis - Neighborhood Youth Ministries & Communications

God knew what He was doing when we brought me to Boston. He promised me the desires of my heart, and he kept that promise by giving me more than I could have imagined. I always wanted to work for an ministry that would allow me to pursue my creative passions as well as helping others. At The Boston Project, I am able to use my college degree in communications and work with children, all in same day. I can hear 7-year-old Sasha at the end of Homework Center, "I'll see you at 5:30, Dana! You better be ready to dance!"



Nyasha Smith - Neighborhood Youth Ministries

Many teens struggle with believing that our invisible God cares about their very real situations. "If He really cares, then why am I still dealing with this?" I am reminded of the disciple Thomas and his struggle with the resurrection of Christ. So I decided to share my testimony during our "Real Life" Bible study, hoping to paint a real portrait of my life, not to receive praise or evoke despair, but to encourage and give the youth hope. Please pray for the teens to begin to see God clearly in their situation.



The Riddle Family - Service-Learning Director & Hospitality

"Dad, do you work on cars?" The question from Joseph caught me off guard until I realized that I was wearing my free Mazda shirt. After answering no, of course the next question was "Dad, what do you do?" My mind raced as I tried to figure out how to summarize my ministry for a 5-year-old. In a God-inspired moment, I said, "I help people to help people." This is my new favorite job description, and I am so thankful for many amazing people that make it possible!



Liz Boyd - Executive Assistant and Community Development

My November tends to be dominated by one thing: Thanksgiving Baskets! This year, we provided over 80 baskets to families and seniors, and I spend weeks in preparation. I speak with families, shop (and shop and shop), fundraise, coordinate volunteers, schedule deliveries, and more. Despite the hectic feel, it's one of those blatantly clear moments where my gifts and talents collide with supplying the needs of the Lord's people. The result? I am overwhelmed with thankfulness that I get to spend my days serving God and loving others.



Could You Give a Special Year-End Gift?

The Boston Project faces an immediate challenge. Giving to missionary staff has remained strong, however charitable giving to the ministry has declined by 11%. This has created real financial pressure since missionaries only raise part of their support and the ministry covers all other expenses including the balance of payroll, health insurance, utilities for our ministry house, and outreach costs. **In December, The Boston Project needs to raise \$23,000 to meet basic needs.** Special gifts will help immensely. Thank you!



Recent Photos

Homework Center continues to be a highlight of the fall.



This fall, we hosted 9 Service Days with over 275 volunteers!



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