

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

W

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.



Recent Photos

Homework Center continues to be a highlight of the fall.



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



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!



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The Malkemes Family Update

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Learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed.

Take up the cause of the fatherless; plead the case of the widow. – Isaiah 1:17

If you have been around our home anytime since early October, you know we are in a fierce battle to save our daughters' school. As part of the Boston Public School's redesign plan, the school superintendent wants to merge Cady and Grace's school (Lee Academy Pilot School) with a traditional school in the same building. The process has been painful. Families are not sleeping at night. There is much to be lost.

Early on, Glenna and I had to decide if we would stand up for this cause; we don't know what the final outcome will be or whether it will benefit our daughters. We took our cues from Scripture, and again sensed God's passion for defending what is right and fair, rather than moving on to what may be easy. Our plea is for traumatized children who have found shelter in this school; for the struggling parents, ourselves included, who come together at a weekly Parent Coffee Hour for encouragement; and to preserve the intentional focus by staff on caring for the whole child (social-emotional, academic, and physical needs). These reasons and many others are things we believe God cares about.

What initially was a 3-week campaign has now turned into 10-weeks. As you can imagine the fall months feel like a blur, but let us share two blessings that have come so far:

- **New Relationships with Families.** Fighting for a cause can galvanize people, and because of this we have had opportunities to share our ministry and faith with others.
- **Understanding Strongholds.** Throughout this whole process we have been asking God for guidance. Issues of injustice are often complex. We have been learning how to pray and campaign with God's perspective.

In the midst of this school battle, we are beginning to enjoy the significance of the Christmas/Advent season. Scripture indicates that when Jesus came into the world, things were also a little chaotic. We are helping our daughters focus more on the blessing of giving over receiving (Acts 20:35), and together experiencing again **the joy and simplicity of this season.**

Merry Christmas! - Paul & Glenna



Grace in the autumn sun.



Cady and friend Tahnai.



Glenna at Museum of Fine Arts



Building a lean-to in the NH woods.



Paul volunteering at school garden cleanup.

2010 Missionary Support

100% Raised to Date. Thanks!

We are **so grateful** for your help in reaching our 2010 goal of \$48,000. Additional gifts will help us respond to the immediate crisis below.

Prayer Requests

- **God's Peace and Strength** in the midst of this school campaign.
- **Family Ministry.** Pray as we begin to care more for whole families. This month we have a special event just for parents and later a neighborhood Christmas party open house.
- **Neighborhood Ministry Houses.** Pray for our new programs/outreaches, our fine-tuning of daily operations, and as we wait upon God for a second neighborhood ministry house.



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