

Isaiah 58 Ministries
 2149 S. Grand Blvd.
 St. Louis, MO 63104

Return Service Requested

Happy Thanksgiving!



**Celebrating 20 years of providing Holiday meals
 to the people in our community!**

Through your generous donations and the wonderful support of churches and individuals throughout Saint Louis, for the past 20 years we have been able to offer Thanksgiving baskets to 400 families filled with everything they may need to provide their family with a sumptuous feast on Thanksgiving Day. Five years ago we expanded this ministry to include Christmas meals, thus “When Pigs Fly” Buy-A-Bird was born.

In the past we have asked individuals to make a contribution of \$15 to cover the cost of a turkey or ham or \$25 to cover the cost of an entire meal for a family in need. Even as food prices have risen over the years, we have maintained the \$15 requested donation amount.

In celebration of 20 years of Buy-A-Bird, we invite you to make a donation of **\$20** to cover the cost of a turkey or ham or **\$30** for an entire meal.

Help make this a bountiful holiday season for a family in need.

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Buy-A-Bird (continued on page 3)

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S CHAIR

Wow, it is already mid-November and I keep asking myself, "Where has the time gone?" It seems like only yesterday we were making plans for last Thanksgiving, and suddenly, it is here again, with Christmas right on its heels.



As we rapidly approach the end of the year, I thought I would take just a moment to reflect on what 2013 has brought to Isaiah 58 Ministries.

The first of the year brought with it uncertainty as, due to budget cuts, we had to say goodbye to our Family Crisis Counselor, Alberta Moore, and our parish nurse, Barbara O'Connell. Our grant from the Missouri Foundation for Health came to a close and with this loss of income we were concerned with how we would be able to continue with our Healthy Lifestyles Program—a program crucial to the overall well-being of our clients.

By the grace of God and the selfless heart of an incredible individual, in June we were blessed to welcome Dr. Valeria Cestari to our ministry as a volunteer health educator. Dr. Cestari volunteers her time on Tuesdays and Thursdays every week in order to serve our clients and assist at the ministry.

In addition, we received a Helping Hands Grant through the Shaw Neighborhood Improvement Association to aid us in continuing the Healthy Lifestyles Program.

August brought more changes as we welcomed a new Hunger Program Director to the staff, Darryl Luckett. Darryl is working very hard to ensure that our clients are served in a professional and timely manner.

Unfortunately, as with many food pantries across the region, Isaiah 58 Ministries continues to struggle financially as we seek to meet the ever-increasing needs of the people in our community. Many of our supporting partners are reducing their contributions as they watch their own budgets diminish. We hope that you will take a moment during this season of thanksgiving, to remember those less fortunate, and make a contribution to Isaiah 58 Ministries.

God's blessings to you,

FOUNDING PASTOR OF ISAIAH 58 MINISTRIES WILL BE MISSED



My heart is heavy as I learned of the very recent death of a wonderful man who was an inspiration to others and devoted his life to working towards social change in the St. Louis community.

The Rev. Ben Martin, a retired Presbyterian minister, passed away on Sunday, November 17, 2013 at the age of 82 after suffering a stroke the previous day.

Rev. Martin served Peters Memorial Presbyterian Church for many years and, together with four other area churches, created Isaiah 58 Ministries (then Five Church Association). He was committed to the ministry for over 40 years.

Rev. Martin had a passion for social justice and worked throughout his ministry to ensure the rights of every human being. He sought to improve race relations in the St. Louis area and also strove to guarantee quality health care for all people.

Two years ago Rev. Ben Martin received Isaiah 58 Ministries annual Mildred Slack award for his demonstration of having the heart of servant. He will be dearly missed.

**W.O.W. Worship
On
Wednesday**

Beginning January 8, 2014 Isaiah 58 Ministries will provide a service of worship every Wednesday for individuals in our community. As we seek to provide holistic care for the people we serve, we hope that you will join with us and lift us in prayer.

WOMEN'S HEALTH FAIR SERVES WOMEN IN NEED

On October 9, 2013 Isaiah 58 Ministries once again hosted a Women's Health Fair for the women in our community. Mammograms were offered free of charge for women who are uninsured or under-insured through Mercy Breast



Mercy Breast Center van offered screenings for women in our community.



Gift bags were shared with all participants.

Center and their mobile mammography van. Many vendors were also available to provide information and other health screenings. These vendors included: The American Lung Association, Connections to Success, Mary Kay Cosmetics, Lydia's House, The Kilo Foundation, and CHIPS. Thank you to everyone who helped make this event a success.

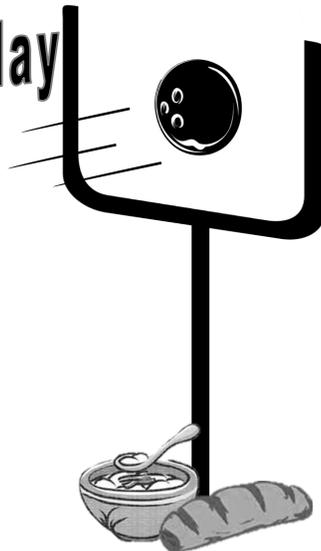
Souper Bowl-ing Saturday

An "Empty Bowl" Event
To benefit

Isaiah 58 Ministries

**Mark your calendars for this
soup and bowling event on
February 1, 2014**

More Details to Follow

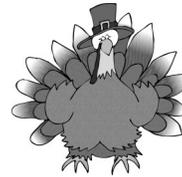


Buy-A-Bird (continued)

Be a part of this wonderful tradition!

Your generous donation of \$20 will buy a good size turkey or ham for someone in need and a donation of \$30 will cover the cost of the entire meal.

Isaiah 58 Ministries is depending on you to make the holidays meaningful for families who are less fortunate. Make a donation today! This fundraiser will continue through December 31, 2013.



**Checks should be made out to:
Isaiah 58 Ministries
2149 South Grand Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63104**



In the memo line please note "Buy-A-Bird XX"

A BEAUTIFUL MESSAGE

Hi Brenda:

This is the Music Director at St. Lucas UCC. I'm buying 5 turkeys because:

- * I have never gone hungry
- * I have never not had the means to buy me something to eat
- * I have always had a roof over my head
- * I have always had clothes on my back and shoes on my feet
- * I have always had family and friends to turn to
- * I have not only had what I needed but also what I wanted

I recognize throughout my life that God has seen me through hard times, healed my soul and body, guided me, protected me, loved me, said "No" to me for my own good, and has blessed me far more than I deserve to be. May our Triune God bless you double for all of your trouble as you continue to do His work.

Lana Richard

Thank you, Lana, for your beautiful words and kind donation!
You are truly a blessing!

TRIVIA NIGHT WAS ONE GROOVY TIME



Leslie Latham works the wig.

On September 14, 2013 Isaiah 58 Ministries hosted a 70's themed Trivia night at Hope United Church of Christ. It was a wonderful success with people arriving in all sorts of 70's outfits and struggling to remember people, events and pop culture from that crazy decade.



Our Ex. Dir., Rev. Brenda Booth, in full 70's dress.

Attendance prizes of lava lamps, 70's music CD's and other items were given and everyone had an opportunity to purchase chances to win either a 38" flat screen t.v., a gift certificate for 6 months of unlimited car washes, or a 17" inch flat screen t.v.

Congratulations to the Webster Groves Christian Church table for winning the event!

Special thanks go to Kathy Mead, Madeline Haraway, Chris St. Clair, Wade Howell and Bryan and Sarah Richardson for all their hard work on creating the 100 questions for the event.

GIVE BACK ON GIVING TUESDAY



On Tuesday, December 3, 2013 the collective power of charities, families, businesses and individuals will transform how people think about, talk about and participate in the giving season. #GivingTuesday is creating a national movement among the holidays dedicated to giving.

The retail sector has benefited for years from coordinating national shopping days around the holidays. Everyone knows "Black Friday" and "Cyber Monday". GivingTuesday is taking its place in the calendar, and will help put giving back into the holiday season.

Isaiah 58 Ministries is participating in this national movement. Go to www.givingtuesday.org for more information.

MUSIC FILLED THE AIR AT THE "SING FOR JOY" CHORAL CONCERT



Isaiah 58 Ministries held a "Sing for Joy" Choral Concert on October 6, 2013 at St. Lucas United Church of Christ. It was a wonderful time of beautiful music shared by four very talented area church choirs. During the concert, we also held a hymn sing, allowing everyone to sing some of their favorite hymns from days gone by.

After the concert people enjoyed refreshments while they perused the Plowshares' fair trade items for sale.

A big thank you to the four choirs and their directors for sharing their incredible talent: Lynne Packwood and Bonhomme Presbyterian Church choir, David French and Compton Heights Christian Church choir, Robert Fletcher and St. Johns Evangelical United Church of Christ choir, and Lana Robert and St. Lucas United Church of Christ. Also, a special thank you to John Gross for his incredible gift at the organ during the hymn sing and to Rev. Mark Roberts for all of his help in organizing the event.

CHRISTMAS IS FAST APPROACHING!

This year we will once again be hosting a gift sale for our clients during the first two weeks of December. Donations of new and gently used toys and gifts are **greatly needed** in order to make this event a success. These donated gifts will then be offered at greatly reduced prices at a Christmas Sale for our clients.



Providing this service allows our clients to purchase gifts for their family without worrying about cost. Those who cannot afford the gifts receive vouchers so they too can get items for their children. All money collected goes directly into programming for the ministry.

As you shop for friends and loved ones, please remember those in our community who are less fortunate and need your help to make this a joyful holiday season.