

The Sharing Org

Ministry to the Nursing Care Community

November, 2009

Dear Prayer,

Hi there, may the grace and peace of our Lord be upon you and all of your family, I pray that God's hand of mercy finds you well this month.



I want to say "thank you" to everyone who was able to join us this past month at Stevi B's Ultimate Pizza Buffet. It turned out to be a very successful event as we raised around \$550.00, and about 60% of the people who came were people who had not had any previous involvement with The Sharing Org before. At one point during the dinner hours it appeared that the whole restaurant was filled with people who were there for the fund-raiser. It was a fun time as people were able to visit together and enjoy a variety of great pizza types and flavors. We plan to schedule another fund-raiser after the first of the year, so keep watch for that announcement.

During October I had the blessing of being invited to share details about the Sharing Org ministry with the Richmond United Methodist Women's group. It was nice to be there as I knew some of the ladies from years gone past but I was most excited to inform them about the need that exists in the care homes and the way that God has been using the Sharing Org to touch the lives of people who live there. *I love women's groups because when the women take notice, then things begin to happen. :-)*

Also in October, I packed shoeboxes with many of the residents in as part of Samaritan's Purse's *Operation Christmas Child*. Thanks to all of you who donated money and materials to make this event happen this year for the residents. This is a cornerstone event for the residents as it is the one thing that they are able to do each year that not only provides great gifts to poor children around the world someplace but allows us as a church (albeit small) to reach out into our world with the love and gospel of God.



On the 29th of November the Advent season begins when we as a church begin the spiritual preparation for the coming of Christ. During these five weeks the residents are treated to the sequential lighting of the Advent wreath and the singing of traditional Christmas hymns. **Please pray** for the residents as during this time they are ushered into a very nostalgic time of their pasts and led into anticipation for the coming of our Lord.

Thank you again for your many prayers and the many other ways that you support me, the residents, and this most important work of God. I am encouraged and am able to share this encouragement with the residents that you are together with us through your many prayers and generous financial support.

Blessings,
John

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It is the MISSION of the Sharing Org to share the love of God and to build relationships with residents of care facilities by providing them with weekly interdenominational Christian worship services.

Ministry Moment

“Could you stop and visit with Darren? He’s not doing so well.” That was the note that was passed to me the other morning during one of the services.

Of course I would visit with Darren, he was present at our very first service (in 2003) and has played a big part of the weekly worship over the years. He regularly invited people to the services, he lead our congregates in a regular congregational prayer, and he also called me out when my language was inappropriate - “Women are not ‘guys’ John, they are ‘gals’.” And so it was with a real history that I visited Darren’s room that morning—a person with whom I could actually say that I had a real relationship.

Darren was sleeping when I got to the room, and when I woke him he started crying out with the feeble strength of the dying. It was evident to me that he was in pain and I had just interrupted his peace – I felt terrible. I held his hand and prayed for him while he continued to cry out. I assured him that Jesus would gracefully welcome him into His glory if he was leaving us. As I spoke, the cries grew less and less and eventually Darren was again asleep – Peaceful and not crying out in pain.

When I first began this ministry I did so with the goal of developing real relationships with the residents – just as I am convinced that Jesus would have done as He walked this earth. I wondered how I would know if I was successful in my goal, and I figured I would “just know.” As I sat with Darren, and wept for a friend I would miss when he departed this world, I know that my regular meetings with the residents has met the goal of forming true relationships with them. I knew this, that day, by the tears that I shed for my friend.

~ John