

Well Endeavors

- **Dallas Morning News** - In August, the *Dallas Morning News* carried two stories related to *the Well*. Lee Hancock wrote about boarding homes in stories entitled "Harrowing Housing", and Steve Blow wrote a column highlighting our work. See dallasnews.com for the stories!
See http://www.dallasnews.com/investigativereports/harrowing_housing/
Steve Blow's article - **A ray of hope for those who are lost in the fog**
- **5th Anniversary Celebration** - On Sunday, August 19, almost 300 "boot scooters" came out for a memorable evening at Eddie Deen's Ranch! Thanks to all who sponsored Community Members to this special event!
- **Baptisms** - On Saturday, September 15, we had the privilege of baptizing four people - Becky, Kajuana, Nancy, and Paul - into the "Family". Their decisions have encouraged others to consider making this step of faith.
- **Mental Health Worship Service** - On Tuesday, October 9, *the Well Community* hosted a worship service sponsored by the Dallas Chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI). Approximately, 100 people were in attendance for this special time of worship.



Engaging people with mental illness in a life-giving community!

...the water I give takes away thirst altogether...

the Well

Fall
2007

In Dallas County, no other faith-based organization focuses exclusively on low-income people living with mental illness.

2008 Annual Campaign

Dear Friends of *the Well*,

This year has been a good one for *the Well Community*! Lives have been transformed! Our programming has expanded! Critical staff has been added, significant grants have been received, and our efforts have garnered attention across the nation.

While we are grateful for what has been accomplished, God has given us vision and opportunities to do so much more. Even now we are building up our leadership development and peer-to-peer programming. In 2008, we plan to extend our Community Life Center programming to 5 days per week. In addition, we are working on strategies to advance our supportive housing programs, believing that everyone should have a clean & decent place to live!

To achieve this work our 2008 budget will grow by more than \$150,000, an increase of over 50%. Therefore, as we enter this final quarter of the year, we seek your help. Throughout this newsletter you will find ways that you can assist in the work - giving, pledging, volunteering. Partner with us to sustain and expand life-giving programming to some of the most vulnerable in our city!

Can you take a minute to PLEDGE your support by filling out and returning the enclosed form?

Thank you for your prayers and gifts,

Joel Pulis, Executive Director & Community Pastor



Jesus said to her, "People soon become thirsty again after drinking water. But the water I give them takes away thirst altogether. It becomes a well of water within them, giving them life." — John 4:13-14



Leadership Team

Staff:

Rev. Joel Pulis
Community Pastor &
Executive Director

Barbara Evetts
Financial Administrator

James Pulis
Grant Development

Joshua Pulis, LMSW
Director of Programming

Bob Skinner
Director of Case Management

William Tell
Community Center assistant

Timothy Wood
Volunteer Coordination

Board of Directors:

Scott Coleman, President

Rev. Tim Ahlen

Joseph Borsh

Leslie Vasquez

Dr. Catherine Wood

Current \$\$\$

2007 Budget: \$245,215

Monthly Budget
Requirements: \$20,435

Recent Gifts Received:

- The Communities Foundation
of Texas

- Covenant 08

- The Hawn Foundation

- Highland Park Presbyterian

- The Morningstar Family
Foundation

- The Ruth C. & Charles S.
Sharp Foundation

- Women of Saint Michael's

Their Words

the Well...a joyful family and a community of hope for those living with mental illness. - Steve Blow (Dallas Morning News, Aug 19)

the Well Community is now in its 6th year of confronting one of the most persistent and troubling problems facing our nation - **mental illness**. Our innovative programs are bearing results with affirmations and recognition coming from the professional mental health community in Dallas and beyond.

In recent months, these efforts have been receiving support and garnering attention in *People magazine* and *The Dallas Morning News*.

However, for those of us that serve at *the Well*, staff and volunteer, the real joy is hearing our Community Members testify to the difference the work is making in their lives. Beyond accolades, *the Well* is meeting the real needs of real people. Here is what they have to say:

- **Ramona Russum (President, Member Advisory Board)** - *No matter where you have been or where you are now, the Well can help you find a life of hope and purpose in Jesus and with a community of friends.*
- **Lee Gibson** - *the Well is a spiritual life-boat in a troubled sea of religious and Christian correctness.*
- **Darrell Deck** - *I was told I was a smart guy but was always going around in circles, and starting over, which is not too smart, [but] God promised He would one day bring me to a large place of His Own Making. As I focus in upon Jesus Christ, often it is like looking at the sun; not that I can see all of Him, but by Him, I can see everything else... Because of the Well, I can see everything else.*
- **Cristin Pongrac** - *the Well has been a true life-saver for me. The focus is on God's love and loving one another in deeds and action. Praise the Lord for the Well!*

Ways to Give

- **To mail a tax-deductible donation:**

the Well Community
125 Sunset Avenue
Dallas, TX 75208



- **To set-up automated giving via online banking:** Use your personal bank's online bill payment services. Many banks offer this free service which allows you to make a one-time gift or set-up automated recurring donations to the Well. You remain in complete control of when and how much is given. Based on your instructions, your bank will issue and mail a paper check to us. As an added bonus, the bank pays for the envelope and postage - not you or us!

- **To make a secure online donation:** Visit our website at www.wellcommunity.net and click on **DONATE** to be directed to a PayPal website. You can make a donation by way of your Visa, MasterCard, Discover, or American Express credit card. Your transaction is processed quickly, and you receive an email confirmation of your donation. Unlike the online banking option which is free to the Well, PayPal charges the Well a 3% processing fee.

“Adopt-a-Community Member” Christmas Gift Program

This Christmas season, we are planning once again to give each Community Member personalized gifts. During the month of November, they will have the chance to select from a list of items things that they need or want. We anticipate needing gifts for approximately (150) individuals; therefore, we need your help!

We are seeking groups of people (congregations, Sunday School classes, offices, etc.) that would adopt a certain number of Community Members (e.g., say between 3-25). Then it would be your responsibility to purchase and wrap the gifts before the **December 20th** Christmas party (more details to follow).

In early November, we will get out further details. However, if you feel you can help, please contact Vickie Albright and let her know how many gifts your group could be responsible for (valbright02@sbcglobal.net).



Current Needs List

Computer Wish List

A small team of Community Members are training in computer repair. They plan to build computers and market them to low-income residents of our community. Therefore, we need computers or parts that meet the following minimum requirements:

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 450 MHZ processor | <input type="checkbox"/> Keyboard / Mouse | <input type="checkbox"/> 256 MB of memory |
| <input type="checkbox"/> VGA Monitor | <input type="checkbox"/> 20 Gigabyte Hard Drive | <input type="checkbox"/> Ethernet card |
| <input type="checkbox"/> VGA card | <input type="checkbox"/> Modems or modem cards | <input type="checkbox"/> Sound Card |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ATX case /power supply | | |

Complete machines with the above specifications or better would be welcome. Since we are building machines the individual parts would also be useful. Naturally if you want to donate a more powerful machine, it would not go to waste. the Well's office and/or computer lab could use several such machines.

Jacob's House

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Video game system | <input type="checkbox"/> Weights / Exercise equipment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Basketball goal | <input type="checkbox"/> Lawnmower |

General Needs

- Toiletries* (soap, deodorant, shampoo, etc.)
- Twin beds (mattresses, box springs, frames)
- Dressers, couches, dining room tables & chairs
- Clothes & shoes (adult only!)

* We are looking for a couple of groups that would be willing to host "Toiletry Drives". Some items will be given out at Christmas, but we hope to stock our shelves for the coming year!

Christmas!!!

Save the Date

Thursday, December 20

5:00-8:00pm

Cliff Temple Baptist

• Games • Fellowship

• Karaoke • Dinner

• Gifts • Fun

Facts:

• The U.S. Surgeon General estimates that over 5.4% of adults suffer from severe mental illness, a rate that translates to over **138,000 adults** in the North Texas region (Source: United Way).

• According to the Austin-based Mental Health Association, our state ranks **49th nationally** in mental health spending per client.

• Front-page reports about the plight of the mentally ill and the troubles within the system are frequent in *The Dallas Morning News*.