

# the Well Community

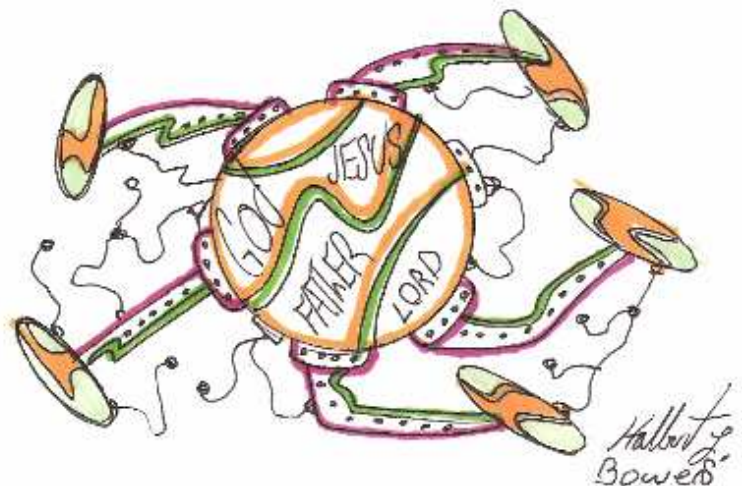
# COMMUNITY UPDATE

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

## COMMUNITY NEWS + EVENTS

- **THANKS:** Thanks to all those who prayed, served, or gave in 2007! Your support is crucial to our community! *¡Mucho gracias!*
- **NORMA'S CAFÉ / CURVES:** To date, we have not received, nor solicited, much support from the business community. However, a special thanks goes out to Norma's Café for sponsoring our Thanksgiving dinner on Saturday, November 24. Also, thanks to the local Curves franchise for their support in collecting Christmas presents for the "Adopt-a-Community-Member" gift drive!
- **"EVERYTHING MUST CHANGE":** Awarded to the Well Community on February 23, 2008, as part of the Deep-Shift sponsored, "Everything Must Change" Tour 2008 with Brian McLaren and friends.
- **COMMUNITY FRIEND CELEBRATION:** On February 28, we hosted our annual Community Friend Celebration. Approximately 100 were in attendance! If you were unable to make it this year, mark your calendars now for next February!
- **BAYLOR LINE:** With several former students on staff and the Board, the Well was featured in the Spring edition of *The Baylor Line*, the alumni magazine of Baylor University. Steve Blow of the Dallas Morning News wrote the article, "You Are Welcome Here." All you Bears out there, be sure to point out the story to your friends and contacts!
- **INCLUDING THE EXCLUDED:** On May 2 & 3, Joel and Josh will be presenting at a Mission Waco sponsored workshop on mental illness. If you would like to participate, see <http://www.missionwaco.org/workshop08.html>.
- **SPRING RETREAT:** On May 7 & 8, the Community Members will be retreating to the Riverbend Retreat Center in Glen Rose. This biannual get-away provides the opportunity for significant relationships and vital life-lessons to be formed and learned. Therefore, please keep us in your prayers during this important time.
- **FREQUENCY:** Wishing you and yours a Happy New Year, Valentine's Day, Saint Patrick's Day, Easter, and other any other major, or minor holidays we might have missed! Our goal is to send out a **COMMUNITY UPDATE** on a bi-monthly rhythm. However, you might have noticed that we missed the mark this spring. Here's to more regular communications in the days ahead!

[www.wellcommunity.net/documents/BaylorLine-YouAreWelcomeHere.pdf](http://www.wellcommunity.net/documents/BaylorLine-YouAreWelcomeHere.pdf)



"Creation #3" by Halburt Bowens, Community Member

# PROGRAM NOTES

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## COMMUNITY LIFE CENTER DEVELOPMENT & EXPANSION

In July 2005, the Community Life Center opened for business and for more than 2½ years we have been offering a place of sanctuary and opportunity for those living with severe mental illness. As 2008 began, we entered into a concentrated season of intentional development and expansion. Through a collaborative process involving staff, Community Members, volunteers, and the Board, our simple desire was to **serve more people better**.

Specifically, our goals are as follows: To enlarge our service capacity through staffing, volunteer recruitment, facility, systems and protocols; to increase our weekdays hours of operation over the next six months from 18 hours to 35 hours (M-F, 8am-3.00pm); to double our average daily attendance during 2008 (from 35 per day to 70); to empower Community Members to care for other Community Members; to measurably improve the lives of our Community Members (better health, better relationships, better homes).

To that end, over the first three months of this year, we have accomplished the following:

- Formalized intake procedures (eligibility / responsibilities)
- Organized or revived several work teams (connections, transportation, janitorial, lunch)
- Added staff (Activities, Connections, and Food Service Coordinators)
- Adjusting and formalizing daily schedule
- Training 12 Community Members to lead LifeGroups (i.e., peer-to-peer support teams)



**Arthur Cyrus**

**JACOB'S HOUSE:** In December, the home we lease for Jacob's House, our supportive housing program, went for sale. One of our Community Friends currently has the home under contract, seeking to secure the house for our continued use. In the next few months, we'll be sharing how you can help us raise the funds to purchase the house!

Recently, Gaylord, our House Manager, was out for a few days. Normally, he prepares the majority of the meals for the house. Therefore, it was very encouraging to see the other residents step up; the house didn't miss a beat (or a meal)! One resident was unable to make a peanut butter sandwich when he moved in; now, he is cooking a meal for six other guys!

**WELL COMPUTERS:** Our computer rehab program is going well. Thanks to your donations, we have received a good supply of PCs and parts (see Current Needs List for present requirements). To date, the team has repaired three computers – two have been sold (netting \$125) and one is now used our office. One member of the team was unable to turn on a computer at the beginning of the program; now he is rebuilding and rebooting computers on his own! (Note: We are loading the computers with the free, Linux operating system. Therefore, some Windows-based programs are not compatible.)

**ART PROGRAM:** Our art program continues to develop with Ann Tabony providing able coaching to our up-and-coming artists. The art group meets on Thursdays at 10am in the Community Life Center. At recent Well events, we have been putting the pieces up for sale. Proceeds are split between the artist, the art program, and the Well. To take a look at some of the works, check out [www.WellCommunity.net/ArtforSale.htm](http://www.WellCommunity.net/ArtforSale.htm)

**FACILITY:** We are still in negotiations on a building to house our weekday programming. The low-cost space would triple our square footage, providing plenty of room for our expanding programming. By early summer, we hope to be able to invite you to an open house!

# STAFFING UPDATE

## PROGRAM STAFF

- Joel Pulis - Executive Director
- Josh Pulis - Program Director
- **Arthur Cyrus - Facility Coordinator** <sup>1</sup>
- Bob Skinner - Case Management Coordinator <sup>o</sup>
- Lee Gibson - Transportation Coordinator <sup>1</sup>
- **Pat Barnes - Food Service Coordinator** <sup>o</sup>
- **Susanna Von Drashek - Connections Coordinator** <sup>o</sup>
- **Wes Keyes - Activities Coordinator** <sup>o</sup>
- William Tell - IT Coordinator / Well Computers <sup>1</sup>

## OPERATIONS STAFF

- Barbara Evetts - Financial Coordinator <sup>1</sup>
- James Pulis - Development Coordinator <sup>1</sup>
- **Timothy Wood - Volunteer Coordinator** <sup>1</sup>
- Anne White - Volunteer Coordinator <sup>1</sup>

<sup>o</sup> Half-time (20hr/wk) <sup>1</sup> Part-time (approx 10hr/wk)  
New employee (bold)



Anne, Arthur, Timothy, Bob, Lee, Barbara (l to r, back row),  
Pat, Marie, Susanna (middle), Joel, Wes, Josh (front)  
Missing: William Tell & James Pulis

My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When can I go and meet with God? ...Why, my soul, are you downcast?

Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God...

By day the LORD directs his love, at night his song is with me - a prayer to the God of my life.

- Psalm 42.2, 5, 8

## MEMBER UPDATES:

- **BAPTISMS:** Lee & Carolyn Gibson, Steve Johnson, Johnny Rios, & Susanna Von Drashek, + 12.15.07  
James Johnson + 03.22.08, Gaylord Guajardo + 04.02.08
- **WEDDINGS:** Celebrating with Paul "PT" & Cristin Taylor and Steve & Lucy Johnson on their recent marriages!
- **DEATHS:** Remembering Gaylord Guajardo and his family in the death of their brother and friend, Angel Guajardo, and Stephanie Cook and her family in the death of her newborn son, Christian Anderson Cook.

## MENTAL HEALTH STATISTICS:

- Statistically, 21% of adults and 19.8% of those older than 55 have a diagnosable mental disorder. That's 1 in 5!!!
- An estimated **159,000 North Texas residents** were affected by a serious mental illness in 2005. Prevalence rates suggest that 5.4% of adults, and 4% of those 55 and older are affected by serious mental illness in North Texas.
- Therefore, every community and every congregation is affected by mental illness.

Source: United Way of Metropolitan Dallas, Community Needs Assessment 2007 Key Themes and Trends

## COMMUNITY UPDATE

### the Well Community

- **THE WELL COMMUNITY** is both a church, a worshipping and witnessing community, and a community development organization, providing resources to our neighbors in need. We believe strongly in *the kingdom and the cup of cold water* (Matthew 10:7-8, 42)!
- **OUR MISSION:** the Well is a community of people working to bring love and health to those experiencing severe mental illness.
- **OUR STRATEGY:** We focus on the core issues related to mental illness – *isolation, hopelessness, poverty* – by providing our Community Members with a healthy environment and access to needed resources.
- **OUR PHILOSOPHY:** We do not have clients or consumers of our services – we have *Community Members*. We believe that *together* we can become more of whom God made us to be, both individually & collectively.



James Johnson & Diann Warnock,  
a weekday volunteer

# FINANCES + ADMINISTRATION

**2008 BUDGET:** Last year, in order to meet the opportunities and challenges before us, we increased our budget by approximately 28%. You, our Community Friends, helped meet that challenge! In 2007, we received \$237,008 and spent \$233,490 (approx \$11,000 under budget). Over 230 donors gave approximately 70% of our budget, with the additional coming from foundations and congregations.

This year our budget totals \$342,000 (a **40% increase** over 2007). Once again the Board felt led to stretch our limits, believing that the vision God has given us and the need of those we serve warranted another increase. Therefore, once again we call upon your faithful support to supply this growth. As an organization, we are committed to people and are proud of our lean budget. Strong governance, proficient management, committed volunteers, and modest facility expenditures keep our budget low.

**FINANCIAL UPDATE - THROUGH MARCH 2008:** During the first three months of 2008, we received approximately \$51,000 of contributions and incurred expenses of approximately \$55,000 resulting in a \$4000 deficit. Going forward, our budgeted monthly income requirement is approximately \$32,000. For more detailed information about our finances, contact Barbara Evetts, our Financial Coordinator, at [Barbara@WellCommunity.net](mailto:Barbara@WellCommunity.net).

**2008 GRANTS (TO DATE):** We are grateful to **The Rees-Jones Foundation** and **The Unrestricted Fund of the Dallas Foundation** for their generous financial support for our Community Life Foundation Expansion Project. Already these grants represent an increase over the total amount received from foundations in 2007! Currently, we are actively pursuing leads and partnerships with numerous other foundations.

**NEW BOARD MEMBERS:** Welcome to **Jeff Alsup** and **Al Curry**, two new board members. Jeff is an Oak Cliff resident & businessman, currently working as CFO for Fusion Design. He has a heart for the poor, previously serving at Mission Waco, and is a member at Oak Cliff Presbyterian Church. Al and his wife Joyce have been weekday volunteers since the opening of the Community Life Center. He is the former mayor of Oak Leaf, Texas, recently moved back to Oak Cliff, and is a member at First Methodist Church of Dallas.

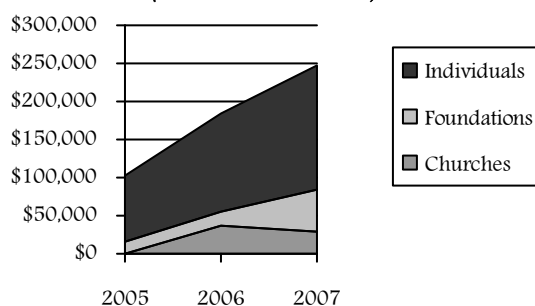
## SERVING OPPORTUNITIES:

- **Afternoon Volunteers.** Wes Keyes has recently joined the staff as Activities Coordinator. He is looking for afternoon volunteers to help with recreation, field trips, games, and other activities.
- **Saturday Teams.** We still have some openings for Saturday Night Life teams during May and summer months. Let us know if you would like to recruit a team.
- **Newsletter Editor.** We need a person gifted in managing content and reviewing documents to be *the Well's* newsletter editor. Responsibilities will include format, layout, and editing, both paper and email versions. The editor will coordinate the work of authors, in consultation with Joel Pulis, to develop an effective newsletter. The ability to establish and consistently meet publishing deadlines is an important component of this position.

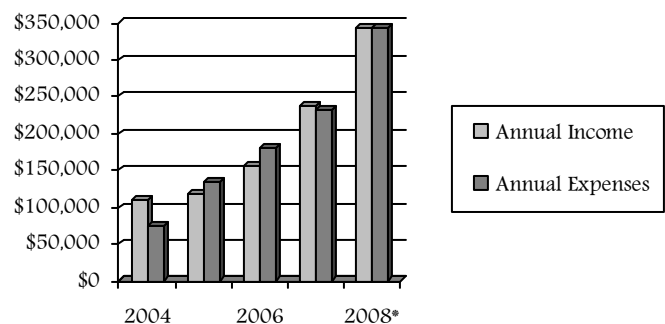
Contact Timothy Wood, Volunteer Coordinator, for more information regarding any of these opportunities (214/942-8601 x306 or [Timothy@WellCommunity.net](mailto:Timothy@WellCommunity.net)).

## Giving Breakdown

(3-Year Comparison)



## Budget Growth (2004-2008)



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## WAYS TO GIVE



Becky Wilson & Pat Beggato

- **TO MAIL A TAX-DEDUCTIBLE DONATION:**  
the Well Community, 125 Sunset Ave, 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](http://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.

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## CURRENT NEEDS LIST

### COMPUTER TEAM:

A small team of Community Members is training in computer repair. Thanks to your donations, the team has, to date, re-built and/or **sold (5) computers!** 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. We especially need motherboards, CPUs, hard drives, and memory. 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:

Thanks to all who donated in the fall—we received several video game systems, exercise equipment, and a basketball goal! Current needs include:  Coffee pot(s)  Lawnmower  Basketball  Fishing poles

### SPECIAL NEEDS:

- Van  Digital camera (>8 megapixel)  Fish tank  First Aid kit

### ONGOING NEEDS:

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