

THE LENA WILLIS MISSION FUND 2009

In 1994 Central Presbyterian Church received a special gift from one of its longtime members, **Lena Willis**. In her will, Lena left instructions that the funds should be used to support the church's mission activities, and in particular to aid the homeless. To honor her directive the Session created a special fund derived from the proceeds of the bequest. This Mission Fund is a separate fund that is part of a group of mission activities supported by our congregation. Each September organizations are invited to submit requests for funding that are then evaluated by the Lena Willis Committee (a subcommittee of CPC's Mission Commission). In 2009 the Fund provided \$132,500 to support the following 9 agencies:



Lena and Edward Willis (in 1978)

Central Presbyterian Church
70 Maple Street
Summit New Jersey 07901

Agencies Supported in 2008

1. Christ Church Community Development



CCCD's mission is to rebuild lives by providing a safe haven for those in need and the support essential to fostering dignity, achievement and independence. CCCD has operated Peter's Place in Hackensack that provides a 41-bed shelter for the homeless (predominantly adults) during the winter months. It also offers a life improvement program that helps the homeless and those at risk of becoming homeless to move from dependency to independence. Peter's Place also provides support services such as counseling, coaching, mentoring, case management, advocacy, and psychological and emotional support. During a winter season they typically provide over 7200 bed-nights. In 2007 Peter's Place completed a major remodeling project that included a unisex restroom with shower facilities. The grant will be used to maintain and increase services to the homeless in Hackensack. CPC members can volunteer as sleepover supervisors and as a clerical aide to help with record keeping and mailings.

Christ Church Community Dev. Corp.
251 State St.
Hackensack, NJ 07601
Mary E. Sunden, Exec. Director
(201) 488-3850

Email: cccdexdir@gmail.com;

Website: www.petersplc.org

2. CONTACT We Care

CONTACT We Care provides hope, offers compassion, and saves lives through its caring and crisis line and community outreach program. It devotes its efforts to prevent suicide and



24-hour Crisis Hotline
(908) 232-2880

When You Need Someone to Listen,
Someone to Care...



other self-destructive behavior by listening actively and empathetically to people in distress, offering them emotional support without judgment. Its “hot line” provides trained volunteers to work with callers at a time when they are emotionally fragile. The grant will go to supporting a part time development person.

CONTACT We Care

P.O. Box 2376

Westfield, NJ 07091

David Owens, Exec. Director

908-301-1899

Email: info@contactwecare.org;

Website: www.contactwecare.org

3. Elizabethport Presbyterian Center, Inc.

The Elizabethport Presbyterian Center is an agency of the Presbytery of Elizabeth that has served the residents of the Port section of



Elizabeth since 1965. Over this time it has been a constant beacon of hope for the disadvantaged. While its programs have served the entire population of the Port, it has emphasized programs that serve the youth and the elderly. Over the past few years the Port has changed dramatically and the construction of new housing, driven by Federal housing funds and private developers, has increased dramatically. Low and moderate-income families are moving into this new housing. To meet this new demand, the Center must expand its physical plant and programs. Funds donated by the Lena Willis Mission Fund over a five-year period will help to construct a new day care/social service building in Elizabeth. Ground breaking was held in November 2007 and the building is expected to be completed in 2009. CPC members already participate in the Elizabethport Tutoring program and serve as members of the Center’s

Board of Directors. The Elizabethport Center welcomes participation by CPC members as advisors and participants to serve on the Board of Directors and on the Center’s committees.

Elizabethport Presbyterian Center, Inc.

184 First St., P.O. Box 248

Elizabeth, NJ 07206

Roderick Spearman, Exec. Director

(908) 351-4850

Email: rodspearman05@yahoo.com,

Website: www.eportprescenter.com

CPC contact: Bill Reed, w-reed@comcast.net

4. First Choice Women’s Resource Centers



First Choice Women’s Resource Centers serves adults and teens experiencing, or at risk for, an unplanned pregnancy. It provides support, educational resources and medical services to women of childbearing age in northern NJ by providing intervention, prevention and restorative services. The grant provided by the Lena Willis Mission Fund will be used to support the expansion and continuation of their programs which include pregnancy support services, parenting support groups, Bible studies, medical services and counseling, and Straight Talk abstinence presentations.

First Choice Women’s Resource Centers

82 Speedwell Avenue,

Morristown, NJ 07960

Aimee Huber, Exec. Director

(973) 538-1426

Email: aimee@1stchoice.org;

Website: www.1stchoice.org

5. Grace Initiatives

Grace Initiatives is a Christ-centered organization that endeavors to empower expectant, single mothers to prepare for their future and their child’s future by providing shelter, counseling and life-skills enrichment. Grace Initiatives provides housing through a unique

network of host family homes, known as Titus Homes, located in Ocean County, NJ. Pregnant young women, through age 21, are eligible to enter the program and stay free of charge. Since November 2005, 18 young women have received housing and counseling. Lena Willis funds will be used to continue and expand the community-housing program. CPC members can volunteer to be screened and trained to counsel and work with the expectant mothers.

Grace Initiatives
308 S. Main Street, Suite 2
Forked River, NJ 08731
Rhonda Tomko, Exec. Director
(609)242-0131

Email: Rhonda@graceinitiatives.org;
Website: www.graceinitiatives.org



6. Habitat for Humanity – Newark

Habitat for Humanity builds low-income housing in Newark using volunteers under the supervision of contractors. Members of CPC are actively participating in building these housing. Funds will be used to support the Abraham House Project #2. The mission of this Project is to gather a diverse group of faithful and values-focused people – Jews, Christians, Muslims, Buddhists, Hindu, Ethical Culture and others – to extend the legacy of faith and universal blessing of Abraham of the Old Testament and to build an affordable house for a family currently living in sub-standard housing.

Habitat for Humanity – Newark Inc.
P.O. Box 3246
Newark, NJ 07103
David R. Zurheide, Exec. Director
(973) 624-3330

Email: executivedirector@habitatnewark.org;
Website: www.habitatnewark.org
CPC contact, Bill Anderson, anderson-family908@comcast.net



7. Homefirst (formerly Interfaith Council for the Homeless, Union County)

Homefirst is dedicated to improving the quality of life for the homeless and those at risk of homelessness. It provides emergency shelter through the Interfaith Hospitality Network, transitional and supportive housing, educational and other supportive services. Homefirst promotes personal development, independence and self-sufficiency, as well as community building for safe and stable neighborhoods. Funds will be used for repairs on Homefirst-owned affordable housing units serving low-income disabled people in the community. CPC members can volunteer by acting as hosts during the week (4 times a year) that CPC houses the homeless.

Homefirst Interfaith Housing and Family Services
908 Watchung Avenue
P.O. Box 569
Plainfield, NJ 07061-0569

Scott Cotenoff, Interim Exec. Director (908) 753-4001 ext 13

Email: scott@homefirstinc.org;
Website: www.homefirstinc.org

CPC Contact: Dorothy Berger, (908) 522-9475



8. Restore Ministries

Restore Ministries works with inner city youth in Elizabeth, NJ. Over the past 15 years it has provided a safe haven for teenagers in areas subject to gang violence. Restore Ministries programs include an after school program, one-on-one mentoring, recreation, Bible study, a homework center, communal meals and weekend trips to see plays and visit colleges and explore nature. The

Lena Willis funds will be used to provide additional staff and offset some administrative costs. CPC members can volunteer by sponsoring a community meal, chaperoning a field trip or mentoring a young person.

Restore Ministries
551 Clubhouse Court Unit #8
Union, NJ 07083-8777
Linwood Bagby, Exec. Director
(908)352-5522

Email: Lbagby@Restorekids.com;

Website: www.Restorekids.com

CPC Contact: Jack Anderson, (908)273-5829

9. Salvation Army – New Jersey Division

The mission of the Salvation Army is to be an evangelical part of the universal Christian church. Its message is based on the Bible. Its ministry is motivated by the love of God. It preaches the gospel of Jesus Christ and meets human needs in His name without discrimination. The NJ Division sponsors *Care House* that provides shelter and food to over 125 homeless men per year in Perth Amboy. Funds will be used to operate *Care House*, the Learning Center where clients learn basic computer skills, ESL (if needed), and how to prepare a resume and fill out a job application. Volunteers are needed to teach basic life and computer skills. CPC members can con volunteer as instructors for one of the training classes.

Salvation Army – Newark Division
433 State Street
Perth Amboy, NJ 08862
Captain Ismael Correa, Head of Staff
(732) 826-7040

Email: Ismael.Correa@salvationarmy.org;

Website: www.newjerseysalvationarmy.org



"Expect great things from God; attempt great things for God"
William Carey, who is called *the father of modern missions*



Drawing of New Elizabethport Building

"Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and fed you, or thirsty and gave you drink, a stranger and took you home, or naked and clothed you? When did we see you ill or in prison, and come to visit you?" And the King will answer, "I tell you this: Anything you did for one of my brothers here, however humble, you did for me."

Mathew 25:37-40

"Missions is not the 'ministry of choice' for a few hyperactive Christians in the church. Missions is the purpose of the church."

Author Unknown