

DMARC E-BULLETIN

FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 1, 2008

Here are this week's announcements. Please help publicize these events in your congregation's bulletin, newsletter or bulletin board or pass the information to someone who can benefit from it.

DMARC ANNOUNCEMENTS

DMARC PREFERRED PERSONAL PRODUCTS DONATION SITES:

Needed items include: *diapers, baby wipes, baby powder, deodorant, toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoo, bars of soap, razors and feminine hygiene products.*

BIDWELL RIVERSIDE CENTER, 1203 Hartford Ave., DM 50315 244-6251 Contact: Josh/Cassie

CITY OF WEST D.M. HUMAN SERVICES, 318 5th St., WDM 50265 222-3660
Contact: Tammy Lage

DOWNTOWN FOOD PANTRY SITE, 701 Grand Ave., DM 50309 243-1381 Contact: Sherry Kepner

FOREST AVENUE COMM. CENTER, 2011 Forest Ave., DM 50311 248-6241
Contact: Danita Parker

IOWA HOMELESS YOUTH CENTERS, 1219 Buchanan St., DM 503126 or 265-1222 Contact: Nikki Dempsey

RED ROCK COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAM, Neveln Resource Center, # 305, 406 SW School St., Ankeny, 50023 965-0433 Contact: Sharon Brooks

ST. MARY FAMILY CENTER, 1815 Hubbell Ave., D.M. 50316 262-7290 Contact: Susie Paloma

SALVATION ARMY SOCIAL SERVICES, 1300 6th Ave or 1216 E 25th Ct., DM 50314/ 50317- 282-3422/ 266-3156 Contact: Shireen Braman/Joanne Norelius

All preferred sites report collections to DMARC which allows us to track distribution and to better serve those in need.

DMARC Emergency Food Pantry Needs Paper Grocery Bags

DMARC's nine food pantries are in need of paper grocery bags in good condition. The pantries reuse paper sacks for packing food items to be given out to those in need. Large quantities of these paper sacks are consumed in the process, and the need is ongoing. Purchasing paper grocery sacks is not possible due to cost, and therefore, recycling paper sacks for this purpose is our only option. If you have extra paper sacks, you can drop them off at DMARC or any of our nine pantry locations.

Sack Saturday Opportunities

Are you looking for a way to get more involved in the community? Each month the Des Moines Area Religious Council seeks volunteers to participate in Sack Saturdays.

Participants are asked to commit two hours to greeting shoppers at local grocery stores and encouraging either their purchase of sacks of food items costing \$5.00, individual items of food (such as peanut butter, cereal, pasta, soups) or cash. The food items collected are used to supply local food pantries in the Des Moines area. Money collected is used to purchase additional food items. This is an ideal opportunity for church, business or civic groups to work together to help meet a need in our community.

Please contact Cindy Morton, DMARC Red Barrel Coordinator at 277-6969 or 238-4593 to sign up for a sack Saturday.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Next Deadline December 12

The Des Moines Area Religious Council makes every effort to provide accurate and useful general information in its E-bulletin but accepts no liability for the use of the material by individuals or organizations. We gladly distribute information from individuals, congregations and other agencies but our inclusion of such material should not be construed as sponsorship or endorsement by DMARC.

DECEMBER

December 5-7

NO ROOM AT THE INN

Valley United Methodist Church in West Des Moines is hosting this event which showcases more than 200 different nativity sets. The nativity sets on display range from those collected during people's travels throughout the world to some made by children in their Sunday school classes, and are arranged in a breathtaking setting. This year, No Room at the Inn will be open Friday, December 5 from noon to 7 p.m.; Saturday, December 6, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Sunday, December 7, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. It is located on the main floor of Valley UMC at 4201 Ashworth Road.

For more information, contact office@valleyumc.org or (515) 225-8128.

Sunday, December 7

GRAND VIEW UNIVERSITY'S JULEFEST 2008

The Julefest Reception and Danish Christmas Festivities will start at 2:30 p.m. at the Rasmussen Center at 1200 Grandview Avenue. The concert entitled "God's Song: For a Gift Has Been Sent You This Night" will be held at Luther Memorial church at 1201 Grandview Avenue from 4:00 – 7:00 p.m.

For free reserved tickets, call 263-2991 or email jjensen@gvc.edu.

Sunday, December 7

FAIR TRADE FOR THE HOLIDAYS

From Noon – 4:00 p.m., purchase fair trade products by paying workers the amount the good is worth. Join AFSC (American Friends Service Committee) as they sponsor these local Fair Trade Events. The fair will be held at Friends House at 4211 Grand Avenue.

Saturday, December 13

CFUM ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

Join Children and Family Urban Ministries for their annual Christmas celebration from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. including: a pageant, carols, a party, holiday crafts, pictures with Santa and Christmas goodies. Donations and volunteers are needed for the celebration for cookies, set up of the pageant, crafts, service and clean up.

To offer help, contact Linda at Linda@cfum.org or 282-3242.

Sunday, December 14

COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS CANDLE LIGHTING

The central Iowa chapter of Compassionate friends and Mercy Medical Center present the seventh annual candle lighting for parents, grandparents and siblings to remember the children in our families who have died at all ages, from all causes. The service is held at Mercy Medical Center East Tower Auditorium from 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. Enter the front door on University, take elevator to A level and follow the signs.

Sunday, December 14

DEBBIE FRIEDMAN IN CONCERT

For more than three decades, the legendary Debbie Friedman, composer, singer and recording artist, has given the world music that is transformative. Synagogues, churches, schools and camps find Debbie's extensive variety of songs to be valuable additions for their teaching and worship. Tickets are available at the Jewish Federation Office, 910 Polk Boulevard. General Admission \$25.00 each, reserved seating \$36.00 each. The concert begins at 4:30 p.m.

To purchase tickets by phone or for more information, call Dorothea at 277-6321 x 218.

Sunday, December 21

CHRISTMAS CANTATA

St. Mark Lutheran Church presents *The Incarnation* by K. Lee Scott. The concert includes choir, brass, organ and timpani, and begins at 9:00 a.m. at St. Mark Lutheran Church at 1115 Grand Avenue in West Des Moines.

For more information, visit www.stmarkwldm.org or call 223 -4208.

Sunday, December 28

PRAYER SERVICE FOR PEACE

December 28 is the Feast of the Holy Innocents. The prayer service will be held at St. Catherine of Sienna Catholic Church beginning at 7:00 p.m.

JANUARY

Saturday, January 10

POVERTY SIMULATION

The Catholic Pastoral Center is offering a poverty simulation led by the Iowa State University Extension Office. The simulation is designed to help participants begin to understand what it might be like to live in a typical low-income family trying to survive from month to month. Participants assume the roles of different families facing poverty. The task of all “families” is to provide for basic necessities and shelter during the course of four 15 minute weeks.

For info visit www.CatholicCharitiesDM.org or call Susie Paloma at 262-7290.

FEBRUARY

Sunday, February 22

DES MOINES AREA RELIGIOUS COUNCIL SOUP SUPPER

Join the Des Moines Area Religious Council’s Emergency Food Pantry for our third annual soup supper at St. John’s Lutheran Church at 600 6th Avenue from 4:30 – 7:00 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SCAN AWAY HUNGER : Friday, Nov. 28th through December.

Scan away hunger plates are available at your Hy-Vee store. Each time your checker scans the code on your **Scan Away Hunger** plate, \$2.05 is added to your bill to feed and care for homeless and hungry people at Hope Ministries.

All funds received through **SCAN AWAY HUNGER** will be used to help feed and care for homeless and hungry men, women and children in central Iowa throughout the year.

Stop in to participating Hy-Vee stores before Christmas, Dec. 25 to support those in need throughout the holiday season.

FORT DES MOINES MUSEUM & EDUCATION CENTER PRESENTS:
Tuesday, Dec. 2 at 7:00 p.m. – Residents, vets and others from Ft. D.M. past reminisce.

**Dec 5 – Dec 7 Home for the Holidays Theatrical Tribute – Fri 7:00 p.m.,
Saturday at 2:00 and 7:00 p.m., Sunday at 2:00 p.m.**

**Sunday, Dec 7 – Pearl Harbor Day – WW II vets free admission from noon- 3:00
Video re: Naval medicine at that time.**

**Dec 12- Dec 14 – Home for the Holidays Theatrical Tribute – Friday 7:00 p.m.
Saturday at 2:00 and 7:00 p.m., Sunday 2:00 p.m.**

**Dec 13 – 11:00 a.m. Fort Des Moines Christmas Party =- for kids of all ages
Make cards to send to soldiers from Iowa serving overseas.**

**Santa will be there to hand out presents, decorate cookies.
Saturday, Dec 20 – 7:00 p.m. Gospel Christmas Celebration Multi church choir
presents a night of Christmas music in Ft. D.M. chapel.**

*For more information call 282-8060
www.fortdesmoines.org*

SHARE IOWA DECEMBER PACKAGES AVAILABLE
SHARE CAN OFFER YOU UP TO A 50% SAVINGS ON NUTRITIOUS FOOD FOR
JUST 2 HOURS OF VOLUNTEER SERVICE EACH MONTH.

DECEMBER PACKAGES:

- A: Best Value Package:** \$22.00 Pork Chops, Chicken Drumsticks, Smoked Sausages, Sliced Roast Beef Deli, Breaded Cod, Del Monte Peach Chunks, Banana Quick Bread Mix, assorted fresh fruits and veggies.
- B: Fruit & Veggie Package:** \$12.00- Assorted Fresh Fruits and Vegetables, Del Monte Peach Chunks, Banana Quick Bread Mix.
- C: Meat Only Package** \$12.00 – Pork Chops, Chicken Drumsticks, Smoked Sausages, Sliced Roast Beef Deli, Breaded Cod portions
- D: Holiday Package:** \$25.00 – Pre-baked Whole Turkey, Potatoes, Gravy Mix, Stuffing Mix, Brown-n-serve Rolls, Cranberry Sauce, Egg Noodles, Sweet Potatoes, Green Beans, Pre=baked Pumpkin Pie, thaw and serve.
- E: Spiral Ham** - \$22.00 – 9 lbs Honey Cured Spiral Ham, netted and gold foil wrapped..
- F: Shrimp Cocktail** - \$5.50 - Two containers of Shrimp Rings with Cocktail sauce. Must purchase package A,B,C,D, or E to qualify for this item.

- Share your time and talents with others without being paid. Ideas include: help a neighbor, visit shut-ins, activities with your church or other local civic organizations, Scouts, Volunteer Fire Dept., etc.

*For more information visit www.shareiowa.org or e-mail
shareiowa@mahaska.org.*

LEGISLATION EXTENDS TAX-FREE IRA DISTRIBUTIONS TO CHURCHES

Due to new legislation you may continue to make tax-free gifts directly to your church from your IRA. If you are over the age of 70 ½ and you own a traditional or Roth IRA you may roll over up to \$100,000 per year to the church. This new tax law is set to expire at the end of 2009.

This charitable IRA rollover provision makes it easy for you to give generously with no tax consequences to you, the donor. The transfer of funds to the church will not be included in your taxable income, nor will you claim the gift as an income tax deduction. An additional benefit is that the transfer of funds to the church counts towards your annual required minimum distribution from your IRA.

Consult your IRA custodian for details on how to transfer the amount of your choosing to your church.

RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Opening for two business weeks only Dec 1, at 8:00 a.m. through Dec. 12, 2008 at 5:00 p.m. Weekdays only.

Applicants will be placed on a waiting list for a Random Lottery Drawing. This program provides rental assistance for participants who want to rent from a private landlord. The program provides rental assistance for low-income families, single persons, elderly persons and disabled persons. Eligibility determined by family composition, income, arrest history, past participation in Federally subsidized programs. Max annual income per household are: 1 person \$23,800 to 8 persons \$44,900 etc.

Applications can be picked up at Park Fair Mall, 100 E. Euclid St., D.M. , Monday, Dec 1 through Friday, Dec 5 and Monday, Dec. 8 through Friday, Dec 12 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. only.

MESSAGE FROM FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST

While we are grateful for the utility our present church building has brought to our community and members, the members of our church are offering the present Christian Science Church and grounds on Grand Avenue for sale.

If your church is looking for a different location with room to expand, please contact Whitten Park Jones, Board Chairman for a tour and further information at 991-5119.

With the sale of this present location, the Christian Science Church will be moving to a new location. If you know of a location (land or building) that is available for a church that should be considered, please call Whitten and let her know.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

HOUSING AND FINANCIAL EDUCATION ORGANIZER with Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement (Iowa CCI).

The mission of Iowa CCI is to empower and unite grassroots people of all ethnic backgrounds to take control of their communities.

Organizer Responsibilities: Conduct and coordinate financial education workshops/classes, Do one-on-one financial education counseling, conduct and coordinate home education tours and fundraising.

Qualifications: Excellent communication skills, computer skills, attention to details, creative and strategic skills, ability to work as team, motivated, housing and financial education a plus. Need a car.

Salary & Benefits: Starting \$24,000 (higher with experience), health & dental insurance, Vacation, 401(k) and health insurance package.

*Send resume and 3 references by Dec. 10 to
Sharon Zanders-Ackiss, Iowa Citizens for Community Improvements
2001 Forest Ave., D.M. IA 50311 or e-mail Sharon@iowacci.org*