



## I Drive the Truck ... by Bill Boone

**T**his article is written in honor of two of our faithful supporters who went home to be with Jesus this year.

The first of these two ladies is Ms. Janice Wetzler. I was in Ms. Wetzler's fifth-grade class that fateful day on November 22, 1963. Every one of us probably remembers where he or she was the day JFK was assassinated. Forty years later when Ms. Wetzler heard that one of her students was involved in starting a food pantry ministry in Beech Grove, she wanted to help. She faithfully supported the ministry financially up to the day God called her home.

The second lady is my mother-in-law, Darlene Gossage. Darlene loved to come to our fundraiser events and spread the word about the ministry her daughter and son-in-law were doing. She loved to send copies of the newsletter to family and friends. Both ladies enjoyed reading the stories of the way God has used us to touch lives. So, this story is dedicated to their memory.

### When Paths Cross

In some of my recent reading, God revealed this special verse to me — 1 John 3:17: **"But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him?" (ESV).**

Once I read that verse, God gave me immediate application of it. God brought a former employee back into my life. I had lost track of Earl after we had moved our company to Franklin in 2003. Come to find out he had moved to Florida. He had fallen on hard times and wanted to start over somewhere.

He was at the bus station in Tampa, debating where to take the bus — Indiana, Arizona, or California. Earl ended up in downtown Franklin looking for our shop for a job. A local police officer brought him to our doorstep. Earl's first couple of weeks in Franklin were tough. He had no idea about the ministry, so I took him with me to keep him occupied in the evenings.

Earl was helping us one Thursday evening. A young mom came to the pantry for the first time.

One of our teenager volunteers, Lindsey Brashear, assisted Jennifer with her shopping. Jennifer shared her story with Lindsey and it really touched Lindsey. A single mom with five kids booted out from her common law husband of twenty years with just basically the clothes on their backs. She said that her friend told her that we might have some furniture to help her start over. Lindsey introduced me to Jennifer and explained the situation.

Earl and I took Jennifer to the furniture warehouse to let her pick out some things. We were able to help with several things to help her start over: a couch, table and chairs, and a refrigerator. Earl and I made several trips delivering things to Jennifer over the course of a month. As God would supply, we took it to her. Before we knew it, God had supplied almost her entire house with just what she needed.

Every trip we made with furniture really impacted Earl's life. I told him how God was using him to help this young mom. He was homeless and living in the woods in Florida just weeks earlier, and Jennifer was a young mom homeless after being kicked out of her relationship. After we delivered the last load of furniture, Jennifer gave both of us a hug and said we had given her hope again.

As we climbed in the truck, getting ready to leave, Earl asked me if he could give Jennifer some gas money. I said sure. Here Earl really didn't have money to spare, but yet God laid it on his heart to give.

**Will you let God apply this verse in your life? Will you give when you see someone in need? He has divine appointments for all of us who will cross paths with strangers. Will you go? That is why I love to drive the truck and help God meet the needs of folks around me.**



## January –August Stats

First-timers	310
Return Visits	2,033
Out of Area	71
Lives Touched	7,164
Food Donations	24,463.5 lbs.

## 2014 Prayer Requests

*God's guidance of the ministry*

*Share the Gospel with clients*

*Expand financial support*

*Volunteer Base Needs:*

- Daily Operations
  - Pantry Workers
  - Team Leaders

*Additional Opportunities:*

- Office
- Warehouse
- Grocery
- Procurement
- Special Events

*New Board Members*

- Members-at-Large
- Volunteer Coordinator
- Grant Writer
- Fundraiser Coordinator
- Communications Director

*Wishes:*

- A building of our own
- Walk-in cooler
- Develop Sunday evening service

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Inspirational Page today!

## Scripture of the Quarter

**B**ut if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him?

—1 John 3:17 (ESV)



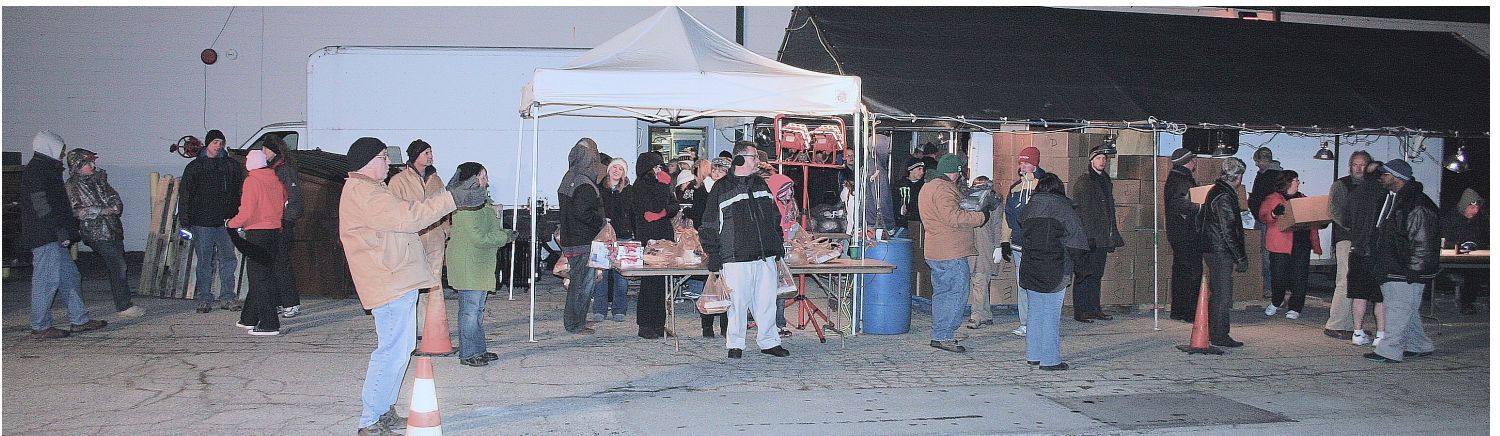
## Pantry Happenings

Mark your calendar for these Servant's Heart events, and contact us if you'd like to volunteer!

Call the office number at **317-788-9433**, or go to our website at **www.servantsheartofindy.org**. Click on the Volunteers tab on the Home page, complete our Volunteer Form, and submit it to us.

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|--|--------------------|
| • Uno's Fundraiser   | September 15-21    |
| • Servant's Heart Fall Golf Outing (Eagle Pines Golf Course) | September 27       |
| • Thanksgiving Staging                                       | November 21        |
| • Thanksgiving Packing                                       | November 22        |
| • Thanksgiving Turkey Drive-Thru                             | November 24        |
| • Spaghetti dinner and White Elephant auction                | December 6         |
| • Christmas Shopping   | December 6, 13, 17 |
| • Wrapping Party   | December 19        |
| • Gift Distribution  | December 20        |





**Servant's Heart Volunteers  
in Acts of Love**



# Hearing God's Call ... by Debbye Butler

Soon after the Sutton family moved to Indianapolis, their new church, Life Point, hosted the Thanksgiving dinner box packing event for the Servant's Heart 2012 Turkey Drive-Thru. Derek, Holly, and their children, Zach and Paige, joined in. It set the proverbial stage for a commitment the faith-based food pantry.

"As we learned more about the organization, we wanted to work in the pantry, Holly comments. "Our life group went on a Saturday to help, and we decided right then that we wanted to serve on a regular basis. We were placed on a monthly Saturday team, and after a few months, were asked to lead our own team."

A year later, the family was among 100-plus volunteers who endured bone-chilling temperatures for the 2013 Turkey Drive-Thru, helping to load full Thanksgiving meals into cars filled with 520 families in need. In total, including the home-delivered meals and the hot meals served to other families, the program served 2,100 people.

"This was my first complete holiday season cycle," Holly explains. "I had the privilege of greeting every car, and what an amazing opportunity it was! People want to be known and know that they matter. I feel like I had that opportunity with the Drive-Thru."

Eighth-grader Zach was particularly humbled by the experience. "It really warmed my heart to see others get meals for Thanksgiving. It gave me many more reasons to be thankful for what I have."

It takes lots of volunteers to orchestrate such events. Holly serves as the board of directors' volunteer coordinator for both regular and special events; Derek is an at-large board member who helps train volunteers in various pantry procedures. The duo also leads the "First Thursday" team of volunteers. Holly runs the pantry side where clients shop for food, clothing, and small household wares, and Derek registers incoming clients. Eleven-year-old Paige goes "all over the place," with an emphasize on helping

clients as they shop, and 14-year-old Zach helps restock shelves after clients select their items.

Volunteerism is nothing new to Derek or Holly. Holly served as a summer camp director in her hometown of Chesterton, Indiana, for 11 years, and also served on the women's ministries at her church. She also worked as an IA and room parent at her children's school when the family lived in LaPorte — Derek's hometown and where the Suttons lived until moving to Indianapolis. Today, Holly works as a substitute teacher at South Creek Elementary. At their church in LaPorte, Derek concentrated on ministries focused on junior high, fifth- and sixth-grade boys' ministries. He earned an MBA from Grantham University and currently is a captain in the Indiana Army National Guard.

"He's my smarty guy," Holly chuckles with pride about her husband of 17 years. The former wedding coordinator describes herself as someone who loves organization — a perfect trait for someone charged with organizing a large pool of volunteers. She and Derek are trying to visit each team and are identifying and refining routine procedures to ensure they are conducted in a consistent manner. That way, if a volunteer can't show up on his or her designated day, a substitute volunteer can more easily step in.

"We want to encourage our volunteers to connect with our clients, open up a dialogue with them, really get to know them, and if opportunity should arise, to pray with or for them."

She is also encouraging the pantry's regular volunteer staff to wear their Servant's Heart t-shirts and name tags.

"It sounds so simple, but I believe it's a great way to start. We are a team, a family of people who are here for the same purpose. By doing something as simple as wearing our red shirts, we are identifying with the mission of Servant's Heart — 'To share God's abundance and demonstrate Christ's love by serving the needs of families.'"

