

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



### Groceries, Girl Scouts, and the Basics of Life ...

It was a hot summer in the truck. We logged lots of miles gathering groceries. We are blessed to be ministry partners with

**Midwest Food Bank** and **Sara Lee Bakery**. All the food we get from Midwest is at no cost to us. We go there several times a month for perishable items and once a month for the regular load out. Sara Lee has given us access to their bread truck distribution center on the west side of Indianapolis. It's like going into the Bat Cave. We press in the code word and just like in the movies, the door opens. Sara Lee gives us as much bread as we want.

The pantry staples we purchase come from our favorite store, **Aldi's**. Several times we have filled the truck with seven, eight, and even nine grocery carts full of staple items. Every time we go through the line, customers ask, "What are you doing?" It gives us another opportunity to share about Servant's Heart. How God continues to supply our needs.

On two occasions, customers standing in line have given us money for the groceries. One week, we met an older fellow who had served for decades in a soup kitchen on Shelby Street. He looked like Santa, with beautiful white hair and beard. He had served thousands of meals to others; now *he* needed a helping hand. He came several weeks ago to get that assistance.

I was so thankful that I had talked with him and given him my card. You just never know how or where God is going to use your divine appointments for His glory. It could even be in the parking lot of a grocery store.

Several weeks ago, we got an e-mail from Girl Scout Troop 139. They had wanted to do a

food drive for us and bring the food to the pantry. They asked what items were needed most, so we sent them a flyer. It has been our experience in the past that usually these drives don't yield much food. Boy, were we pleasantly surprised!

It turns out the troop had organized the food drive for South Creek Elementary school. Those young ladies brought us more than 2,300 pounds of food from the school. It stocked our shelves for 2 weeks. God continues to go before us.

We also got a call from a young couple asking if we had any beds. Linda (Pea) told them that we had some beds and other furniture. I arranged to meet them at our furniture warehouse, suite 112, to see if what we had would meet their needs. As they looked through our used furniture, it was like they were at Ashley's. They were so appreciative to get the items they picked out, afraid to ask for too much.

I told them that God had supplied it for their need. When we got the items outside, there was no way to fit everything into this couple's vehicle. So, I offered to load their things in the truck and take the items to their home. When I arrived, I discovered that the mom and dad had been sleeping on the floor and their little boy was sleeping in a bed that he had outgrown. That is why we collect furniture to give away.

It is such a joy to be able to share the things God's people have given us, to bless families with the most basics of life.

It is such a joy to *drive the truck!*

### Scripture of the Quarter

*He who is generous will be blessed,  
For he gives some of his food to the poor.*

—Prov. 22:9 (NAS)

# Scott Peper: Volunteer of the Year



Scott Peper (left) and Bill Boone

**C**ongratulations to Scott Peper, our 2011 Volunteer of the Year. Scott began serving in November 2009, at the annual Thanksgiving Turkey Drive-Thru event. Scott focuses on helping manage and sort the inventory of goods, prepare lists of items needed for purchase each week, and ensure that the shelves are kept neatly stocked for clients as they shop. He works at the pantry on Thursday evenings and Saturdays, donating an average of 10 to 12 hours a week.

"The most rewarding thing is all of us together working as a team, helping people we don't know and who are in need," he says. "Most of the clients we help are very appreciative of our help. That makes it all worthwhile."

Scott, an agent for a major insurance company, does additional volunteer work at Midwest Food Bank, from which Servant's Heart gets some of its supplies. He also finds time to enjoy hobbies that include Indy Car racing and genealogy. Scott attends Irvington Presbyterian Church. One of his favorite Bible verses is Isaiah 40:31, "But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and now grow weary, they will walk and not be faint" (NIV).

"It was a great honor to be named Volunteer of the Year. It shows that people respect what we are doing here, helping other people. We just want to make sure the operation runs smoothly and our clients are taken care of."

## Pantry Happenings in Review

- **July 8:** American Legion presented a \$1,000 check to Servant's Heart; ADM (Archer Daniels Midland) presents \$1,000 grant as part of "ADM Cares."
- **July 9:** Lost and Found Central
- **August:** Firestone Foundation presents \$1,500 grant to Servant's Heart.
- **Aug. 12:** Grace Mission presentation
- **Summer/Fall:** Servant's Heart Garden
- **September:** Diaper drive nets 5,000 diapers for southeastern Marion county families' babies.
- **Sept. 14-17:** Beech Grove Fall Festival. Servant's Heart hosts booth; volunteers participate in 9-17 parade.
- **Sept. 29:** Girl Scout Troop 139 delivers 2,361 lb. of food from a South Creek Elem. School Food Drive.
- **Oct. 8:** Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser at South Emerson Church of God. Proceeds to be used for the 2011 Thanksgiving Day hot meal service.

## Important Message from Volunteer Coordinator Jon Albright

The call to serve has arisen. The number of clients who seek help from Servant's Heart of Indy has risen in recent years, while the number of volunteers has remained the same, or even dropped. The current economic situation has caused a dramatic increase in the number of individuals who need assistance. All the while, many people who can help are watching those around them suffer. On behalf of all those in need in the Southeastern Indianapolis area, I urge you to join our cause and volunteer. Servant's Heart needs volunteers to lead operations such as food drives and capital projects and to generally help with the operation and maintenance of the pantry.

To those of you who currently volunteer, Servant's Heart extends the gratitude of our many clients. Without you, we cannot fulfill God's purpose for Servant's Heart. We appreciate your continued support and look forward to all the great things to come. To all volunteers and potential volunteers, please contact the office to check for ongoing volunteer opportunities.

# Hearing God's Call

Volunteering at Servant's Heart is a real family affair for attorneys Jess and Jon Albright. The couple, who met in Fall 2006 during their first year at Thomas M. Cooley Law School, shares a passion for helping people in need—and Servant's Heart proved to be the venue for them to follow that fervor. Both serve on the Board of Directors. Jess serves as secretary and grant administrator, searching for grant opportunities, completing the grant applications, and following up as necessary. Jon fills the vital role as volunteer coordinator. He creates the volunteer schedule, ensures volunteers complete necessary paperwork, resolves volunteer issues that arise, and trains new volunteers in the pantry's policies and procedures.

"In April 2009, I was hired by Beech Grove Mayor Joe Wright as the grant administrator," Jess notes. "After I was hired, the Mayor mentioned that one of the local organizations, Servant's Heart, needed someone to assist them with grant procurement. I met with Bill Boone in May. He explained the mission, background, and needs of the organization. We put together a grant calendar with a list of grantors we could approach."

Six months later, Jess helped with the first Thanksgiving Drive-Thru. Jon joined her to see first-hand how the organization was helping the community. Alongside the **Chick-Fil-A** mascot—that big, friendly black-and-white cow who encourages eating more fowl than beef—Jess and Jon loaded boxes and turkeys into clients' vehicles. It was during that hour-long experience that they heard God's call.

Jess became the family's first board member, in January 2010. By spring that year, she and Jon were co-leading the team of volunteers who help clients on the last Thursday of each month. Jon originally started volunteering because he thought it would be "a great opportunity to serve others while spending time with my wife." Within a year, it was clear that God was calling him to step up his service. Jon has been on the board of directors since March 2011.

A fun bit of trivia about them: Jess's maiden name was Albright. In 2006, the two



strangers were both enrolled in a required first-year law school course, Intro to Law. Although Jess and Jon had the same professor, they were in different classes.

Jon's class preceded Jess's. One night in October, at the end of his class, Jon asked the professor why he wasn't getting back any of his homework.

Jess explains, "The professor started going through my class's papers, thinking maybe she put Jon's homework with the wrong class. As it turned out, she had paper-clipped his work to mine, and told him, 'I guess I put it with your wife's.' Jon gave her a funny look and said, 'I'm not married.'"

The professor, who thought for more than a month that Jon and Jess were married, decided that they should meet. She told Jon he should wait after class to meet Jess—only Jess was sick that night and didn't come to class. Determined to meet her, Jon searched for Jess on Facebook and told her the story. They had their first date a week later. After dating for a few months, and after much prayer and Jess's father giving Jon his blessing to marry Jess, Jon proposed. They wed in Lansing, Mich., on Aug. 25, 2007.

The couple added a new generation of Albrights to Servant's Heart: Jonathan Lamoin Albright III was born on December 29, 2010. He is the pantry's "youngest volunteer": Baby Jonathan has missed only one board meeting since January 2011!

"Servant's Heart is a vital ministry in the community and fills a void in so many lives in southeastern Marion County," Jess notes. "We are honored to be board members."

—Debbie Butler

# Bicycle Hospital Up and Running

**W**e want to highlight one of the teens from Grace: **Jeremiah Rhodes**. Jeremiah came with his dad, Bert, to help us at the 2010 Christmas Santa Shop. An idea was sparked to start repairing bicycles for our clients and the men at Wheeler with whom Bert works in the Hebron program. They put together a work area in the pantry's furniture warehouse. This father-and-son team started repairing bicycles in March 2011 at the Servant's Heart Bicycle Hospital. They have gotten help from Mike Monfreda, who built a bike stand. **Circle City Bicycle and Fitness** provides trade-in bikes that can be repaired.

Their ministry of fixing bikes has already provided 23 bikes to the men at Wheeler. The men ride their bikes to work in the downtown area and as transportation at Camp Hunt. Eight other bikes have been distributed to local children. Our bike repair team is looking for gently used bikes that be reconditioned for our kids at Christmas. Please call 317/625-6430; Bert will make arrangements to pick them up.



**Jeremiah Rhodes**

## The Bean Counter June–September Stats

185 ... First-timers  
960 ... Return visits  
29 ... Out of Area  
3,446 ... Lives touched

## SERVANT'S HEART OF INDY, INC.

5602 Elmwood Ave., Ste. 212  
Indianapolis, IN 46203

### Mailing address:

P.O. Box 805  
Beech Grove, IN 46107

Phone: 317.788.9433

### Board of Directors

Bill Boone, Chairman  
Linda Pea, Vice Chairman  
Bill Hurt, Treasurer  
Jess Albright, Secretary  
Jon Albright, Volunteer Coordinator  
Nita Rich, Member at Large  
Anna Williams, Member at Large

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Editor: Debbye Butler

Webmaster: Gary McCabe

E-mail: [info@servantsheartofindy.org](mailto:info@servantsheartofindy.org)

## Fall/Winter Calendar of Special Events

### October

- Month-long: Can-Do-Challenge Food Drive, for companies interested in encouraging employees to donate food to benefit Servant's Heart clients. Participants at press time include ACS, Erie Insurance Co., JWF, and Franciscan Alliance.
- Oct. 31: Trick or Treating for Servant's Heart at LifePoint Church

### November/Thanksgiving

- Nov. 5–6: LifePoint Church mission conference
- Early Nov.: Beech Grove Central Elementary Food Drive
- Nov. 7–11: Hornet Park Elementary School Food Drive
- Nov. 13: Baskets of Hope at Indian Creek Christian Church
- Nov. 18, 7–9 p.m., volunteers meet at LifePoint church for Thanksgiving Drive-Thru staging.
- Nov. 19: 9 a.m.–noon, meet at LifePoint to pack boxes for distribution
- Nov. 21 Drive-Thru at Servant's Heart: 5–6 p.m., volunteers set up; 6–8 p.m., clients drive through to pick up Thanksgiving boxes. We need 100 volunteers.
- Thanksgiving Day: 4–9 a.m., volunteers cook at South Emerson Church of God; 11 a.m.; we need 20 volunteers to deliver hot meals.

### December/Christmas

- Dec. 3 & 10: Christmas shopping days, 9 a.m.–noon.
- Dec. 4: Spaghetti dinner and auction fundraiser for community at Community Center (reserve seats but no tickets required). Dinner: 5:30–6:30 p.m.; auction follows. Bring a wrapped gift for the auction. Auction proceeds benefit Christmas Assistance program. Dinner \$6 adults, \$3 children ages 3–12.
- Dec. 14: South Grove Intermediate students purchase gifts with donated money for sponsored Servant's Heart families.
- Dec. 16: Wrapping party 5–10 p.m., South Grove Intermediate school. Volunteers will eat, then wrap new gifts. We need 100 volunteers.
- Dec. 17: Christmas distribution, 8 a.m.–4 p.m., at South Grove Intermediate school.

**Our goal and prayer: Help 500 families at Thanksgiving and 600 children at Christmas.** We also need volunteers to develop new teams, plus board members for fundraising, communications, and marketing. Prayerfully consider how God can use you to serve at Servant's Heart. Call 788-9433 or check out [www.servantsheartofindy.org](http://www.servantsheartofindy.org).