



The Mission of Yahweh

CONNECTIONS

FALL 2009 NEWSLETTER



Member of Congress, Sheila Jackson Lee reads the Certificate of Congressional Resolution in memory of Sister Helen Gay.

Sister Helen Gay Honored

In part it reads: "The life she led provided an example for not only her children, but to everyone that crossed her path. Sister Helen Gay at the age of 89, left behind a legacy of lives transformed through her love and generosity. She made such a great impact in her community by responding to the call from God by starting The Mission of Yahweh."



"She would describe it as doing the work of the Lord. She took in abused, homeless women and children. In addition to providing food, shelter and clothing, she also held prayer sessions and gave counseling to families."

Congressional Representative Sheila Jackson Lee presented a Certificate of Congressional Resolution In Memory of Sister Helen Gay during her funeral. *continued on p. 2*

FallFest is Back!

Please join us on-campus October 24th!

Sponsor a poor neighborhood family. How about a tour of the new & improved facilities?

It is that time of year again for The Mission of Yahweh's 2nd Annual Fall Festival which will take place on October 24th starting at 11:00 am! At this year's FallFest, families, churches, companies, groups, and individuals **can pledge to sponsor a neighborhood family for \$50** so that they can attend. The great thing about this sponsorship is that the donors get to interact with the community families and enjoy the carnival rides, games and food together.



Sponsors are also needed for the petting zoo, dunking man booth, bobbing apple booth, pony rides, hula hoop contest, musical chairs, face painting, *continued on p. 2*

Mission Incredible to Mission Possible

The room was packed with 225 people awaiting their chance to place a bid on an auction item of their choice...all the while knowing that donations were going to help support The Mission of Yahweh in a down economy. On Sunday, May 31st, 2009, at the River Oaks Country Club, The Mission hosted its first annual gala: *Mission Incredible*. The gala surpassed its goal of attendance and 120 items were featured in the silent auction. A stirring Mission DVD, created by C&M Marketing, set the tone for the evening.



Channel 13 news anchor Dave Ward hosted the affair; as Mission honoree, builder Doyle Stuckey, addresses the packed house. Television celebrity and honoree Warner Roberts tells of her early Mission involvement.

Three of Sister Gay's most cherished "volunteer angels," were honored at the gala. Among those instrumental in helping her fulfill the Lord's mission were: Warner Roberts, "Houston's Sweetheart," who raised the funds to build the first dormitory; Doyle Stuckey, whose company *Doyle Stuckey Homes*, built the first dormitory and more recently, managed the construction of the new *continued on p. 3*



FallFest continued from p. 1

cotton candy machine, cake walk, high striker, and massage chair (which includes a 15 minute massage).

Also this year, we will host a silent auction which will include rounds of golf, art work, sports memorabilia, trips, antiques and more.

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS. In order to make this year's FallFest a success, we need plenty of volunteers to help man the different carnival booths. Your assistance, cash contributions, food and drink donations or other in-kind gifts are greatly appreciated. We're a 501(c)3 or-

ganization so all donations are tax deductible.

To pledge your participation or to learn how to get involved for this year's festival, please contact Betty Godso at (713) 466-4368.

The Fall Festival is open for the entire community on Saturday, Oct. 24, 11:00 am to 4:00 pm at the Mission's 12-building campus located at 10247 Algiers, off Gessner between Clay and Tanner.

Come and enjoy the food, drinks and fun and see the latest additions to the campus!

Now is your chance!

Sister Gay continued from p. 1

This high honor was not the only award that Sister Gay received during her lifetime. She also received many humanitarian awards which included the Savvy Award, the Mickey Leeland Award, three City of Houston Proclamation Day Awards and the Jefferson Award.

Sister Gay, along with her late husband, Fisher Gay, adopted a total of twenty-four children and became the guardians for others. She also began a second foundation and became the guardian for several babies born in prison.

Her ministry went beyond food, clothing, and shelter by investing in the spiritual lives of the community, by conducting weekly prayer meetings at her home and visiting with the elderly and widows.

Sr. Gay's legacy continues today at The Mission of Yahweh. She started in 1961, with a single small wooden house, that became a campus of 12 permanent buildings. Today, The Mission is on course to provide over 25,000 stays (bed with three hot meals)

to homeless women and children during 2009. Now Sister Gay has received the greatest reward of all... in heaven...and hearing the words "WELL DONE, MY GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT!"




The Mission of Yahweh

Mission Staff – Full-Time

- Ron Sterlekar, Interim Executive Director (volunteer)
- Barbara Moore, Resident Manager, Resident Asst's Manager
- Sara Ramos Yearwood, MSW Supervisory Case Manager
- Trennie Henry, Case Manager
- Pat Hender, Vocational Counselor
- Rev. Betty Godso, Volunteer & Donations Manager
- Rosetta Turnerhill, Children's Activity Coordinator

Mission Staff – Part-Time

- Mel Kieke, Administrative Manager
- Pamela Jones, Supervisory LCSW
- Lisa Modglin, Accounting
- Barbara Pierce, Weekend Resident Manager
- Sheila Comier, Weekday Cook
- Benny Chavez, Maintenance
- Lenda Murrell, Alternate Weekend Resident Manager

Mission Resident Assistants – Volunteers & Part-time

- Debbie Wilson (thrift), Els Lani (thrift), Consetta Jones (office & recep.), Daphne Moffett (babysitting), Darlene Jones (security), Linda Dotson (security & babysitting), Judy Turner (security & recep.), Michelle Aych (weekend cook)

Mission Front Office – Volunteers

- Elinor MacMillan – Tuesdays for 27 years!
- June Long – Wednesdays, for 26 years!
- Betsy Lowe – Monday and Thursday afternoons
- Mary Merrill – Weekdays

Mission Instructors / Volunteers

- Computer Class Administrator – Ivonne Vazquez
- Computer Class Instructors – Melissa Bolinger, Marilyn Owings, Wendy Pearson, Mary Francis Allen, Stephanie Graves
- Cy-Fair ISD Children's Tutors – Jennifer Gardner, Delta Gregg, Irvette James, Joslyn Williams
- Character First Class Instructors (Monday evenings)
- West Houston Chinese Church
- Children's Self-Esteem Class Instructors – Dale Gibson & Alton Wimberly w/FUUSA
- Employment Svcs. & Parent Link – Tracy Kidd w/FUUSA
- Mental Health – Diedre Charles w/MHMRA
- Dress For Success – Kristen Adkins
- Computer Support – Bob Richardson, Bryan Weldon

House of Joy – Volunteers

- Audrey Edwards, Lizzie Hays, Gale Barden, Sydney Thomson, Abby Moore, Dale Edwards, Jonathan Novack, Lisa & Mrs. Alexander, Loyce Kelly, BriAnna Johnson, Maria Gallego, Nicholas Meriweather, Jonathan Phillips, Marsedes Haughorn, Corey Douglas, Monika Zarzycka, Rebecca Gay, Jala Hopkin, Sarah Surginer, Isabel Cosnahan, Sharon Hays, Kiana Herring, Luigi Becerra, Marisol Bomera, Benjamin Andrews, Caleb Bollin, Ruth Gay, Mathew Haughton, Undsey Alexander

Mission Chapel Services – Volunteer Ministers

- Debra Witherspoon & Family (Thursday evenings)
- Living Word Fellowship (2nd Saturdays)
- Houston Revival Center (Sundays)

Mission Communications – Volunteers

- Newsletter Editor – Jeanique LaCour
- Newsletter Design – Dave Mahavier
- Newsletter Production – Donated by DMN3
- Website – Charles Eldred

Mission Board of Directors – Volunteers

- Randy Blanchard (Chairman)
- Rev. Janet Gilmore
- Jamie Miller
- Pam Lockard
- Chad Hodges
- Alice Olivias
- Hiatt Ives
- Joyce Pankonien
- Laurie Fleming

Mission Advisory Board – Volunteers

- Peg Dudar (Houston Homeless Coalition Founder)
- Mel Kieke
- Rev. Pat Ryan
- Dick Baker
- Julie Pitts
- Debra Witherspoon
- Monica Cole Drolet
- John Dudar
- Dr. Robert Brecht

Gala continued from p. 1
 transitional dormitory, *The Mercy House*;
 and Larry Martin who donated the
 10,000 square foot campus facility, the
Sister Gay Children's Home. The Mis-
 sion was fortunate to have Dave Ward
 of Channel 13 as the emcee for the
 evening's event.

People were given several ways to
 support The Mission of Yahweh at the
 gala. They could donate money, gift
 certificates, or an item for the gala's
 silent auction; buy individual tickets or
 a table for 10 for *Mission Incredible*; and
 of course, bid in the silent auction. We
 are proud to say that this year's gala
 was a success and we learned
 a lot about what goes into a gala.
 Next year's gala promises to be even
 better.

Thanks to all of those who donated
 and helped make The Mission's first gala,
Mission Incredible, a Mission Possible.



**A Non-Denominational Christian Shelter
 for Homeless Women and Children**

*"I was hungry and you gave me food.
 I was alone and you invited me into your house.
 I was without clothes and you gave me something to wear."
 Matthew 25:35-36*

Our Ministry

*The Mission of Yahweh has empowered homeless women and their chil-
 dren for over 48 years. The doors are always open for women in crisis. We
 are a truly unique refuge that not only gives food, clothing and shelter, but
 also is committed to rehabilitating women to become self-sufficient, pro-
 ductive members of society. At The Mission of Yahweh, we shelter, clothe,
 feed and support more than 2,100 residential stays each month. We also sup-
 port thousands of Houston/Carverdale area residents with donations of food,
 school supplies and other necessities.*

The Mission of Yahweh is a 501(c)(3) corporation. For more information, please visit our
 website at www.missionofyahweh.org. To inquire about volunteering or to make a donation,
 please contact us at (713) 466-4785 or visit our campus at 10247 Algiers, Houston, TX 77041.



10247 Algiers,
 Houston, TX 77041
 Phone 713-466-4785
 Fax 713-466-3480
www.missionofyahweh.org

Please join us for the 2nd Fall Festival!

Come enjoy the fun and excitement – Food, Drinks • DJ Music • Surprise Celebrity Guest
 Raffle • Silent Auction • Carnival Games • Clowns • Petting Zoo • Game Booths and More.

- Food/Drinks
- Music
- Guests
- Carnival Game Booths and Tickets
- Silent Auction



Raffle tickets - \$10.00 per ticket
 1st Prize... 50" Flat Screen Television
 2nd Prize... 7 Day Galveston Beach House Package
 3rd Prize... \$500 Gift Card Bonus (Walmart, Target, Best Buy and More)

Saturday, October 24, 2009 • 11:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.
 10247 Algiers, Houston, TX 77041

JoyFest 09



Turnerhill said that she had 10 full-time workers, ranging from ages 14-24. These workers had a wide range of responsibilities that included instructing classes, maintaining the upkeep of the different facilities, keeping track of attendance, and assisting the volunteers throughout the summer. She said many of her workers were volunteers in the past, but are now building up skills, earning spending and college money, and doing what they enjoy. This year, The Mission was also blessed to have more than 50 volunteers from all age ranges. We would like to say thank you all for your time, hard work, and for sharing your gifts and talents with the children of *JoyFest*.

The purpose of the JoyFest summer program was to help the neighborhood become more connected and keep the at-risk kids off the streets. Many of the kids in the neighborhood don't play, interact or get to know one another, and *The House of Joy* allowed for them to do this.

Building a Foundation for Community

The Mission's *House of Joy 2009 Summer JoyFest* camp program was again a success! The community Block Party on May 16th, got JoyFest off to a great start. St. Maximillian cooked BBQ, as The Mission organized games, had a fire truck come for the kids, provided immunization information, gave parents tours of the facilities, and registered children for the summer camp.

With an estimated attendance goal of 100 combined Mission and community kids, the *House of Joy* surpassed its expectations with over 136 registered. Ages ranged from 4-12. Kids arrived at 9 am for check in. Then, all the children were invited to attend chapel. Rosetta Turnerhill, the Children's Activity Coordinator for The Mission, said that it helped when the children participated in the hands-on activities during chapel because they were less likely to get restless. She added that they were blessed with different churches and organizations who volunteered their time to teach the children lessons from the Bible.

After chapel on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, the children were di-

vided into three age groups and rotated between reading games, art, educational board games and movies in the Theatre. Turnerhill says, "By making reading fun, children grow in their skills and remain interested in what they are learning." On Tuesdays and Thursdays, the children rotated between computer, health and science, and Kids' Connection. Kids' Connection is a self-esteem course, teaching children about being drug free and learning how to develop a positive image of self.

The expansion of *The House of Joy* single facility to The Sister Gay Children's Home, provides new opportunities for the kids. Throughout the week, children were given the opportunity to earn *House of Joy Bonus Bucks*. They earned these Bonus Bucks by participating in class or activities, and every *Super Friday* they could buy a variety of items in the Kidz Shop. Through this process the children learned how to manage money and how to save up for the item that they really wanted in the student store.

This year, thanks to funding from the *WorkSource* for youth summer programs,



Channel 2's Novack visits Joyfest 09

Meteorologist Jonathan Novack of Channel 2 News visited the kids at *JoyFest 2009* and brought the weather with him. Excited kids asked many questions as Jonathan described how storms formed and explained the purpose of cold and warm fronts. The Mission of Yahweh thanks Channel 2 for taking the time to invest in the lives of the kids at *JoyFest*.



Cosnahan Answers The Mission's Need

Isabel Cosnahan first came to The Mission of Yahweh in hopes of earning a Brownie badge. As she volunteered, she realized that she enjoyed her time here. Now at age 17 and a senior at Memorial High School, Isabel came at a time when The Mission needed a computer and science volunteer to teach the kids during *JoyFest 2009* summer camp.

Cosnahan used the computer to integrate learning computer skills, while implementing various programs and games that taught the children math, reading, and grammar. In preparation for the classes, she did research to find educational sites that challenged the children in the different subject matters. "The kids enjoy the programs. In order to advance to the next level in one of the math games, the children must enter a password that they won from passing the previous level," Isabel said.

Science class was another favorite of the children this summer. Cosnahan brought hands-on experiments to the classes, in subjects like biology, chemistry, and physics. She taught them about plants and their environment. The children created terrariums; and learned about static electricity through a salt, pepper, and balloon experiment. Isabel says that the children got a better understanding of science because of the hands-on teaching methods.

With volunteers like Cosnahan, The Mission was able to provide lasting experiences for summer campers.

Mission Incredible Gala Donors

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|---|
| Sharon (Wilner) Abercia | Stephen & Joyce Goldmann | Richard Abuzales |
| Truett & Elva Akin | Gracely Family Partnership Ltd. | Mrs. T.R. Reckling III |
| Maurene L. Alfrey | Bette Moser | E. Edward Reitman, PHD |
| Dorothy S. Baker | DJ Hamilton | Gregory & Barbara Rizzo |
| Susan G. Baker | Larry Harris | Warner Roberts |
| Susan Bischoff Barlow | Dr. L. Leighton Hill | Rocky Frazen |
| Ashley A. Barneby | Anne Hodges | Franelle Rogers |
| Chester Bengé | Chad & Jill Hodges | Regina J. Rogers |
| Betty A. Godso | Mr. & Mrs. E. J. Hoffer | Carlos Salomon |
| Richard & Linda Bischoff | Maryann Hoffer | Brett Sarvor |
| Randy & Julie Blanchard | Peter Forbes | George & De Ette Sauer |
| Vera S. Brown | Brad & Linda Howard | Tom R. & Carol Sawyer |
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| Patsy Cravens | John & Melissa LaCour | Bruce & Shirley Stein |
| Deavra Daughtry | Joan E. H. Lyons | Doyle & Edloe Stuckey |
| Jeremy & Helen Davis | Rajiv & Annu Makkar | Megan Stuckey |
| Jacqueline Day | Andrew & Barbara Manger | Wick Stuckey |
| Jacqueline Day | Marlene Marker | Lori Stutt |
| Kimberly DeLape | Beverly Maurice | The Weingarten Schniter Foundation, Inc |
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| John & Peg Dudar | Jamie Miller | Laurette Vea |
| Suzanne T. Ebrahimi | Clayton & Joanne Mills | Noreen Walker |
| Ron & Sandy Eschberger | Robert & Lisa Modglin | Dahlis Waller |
| Sidney Faust | Barbara J. Moore | Dave & Laura Ward |
| Mark & Lisa Ferchau | Ronald & Yvonne Moran | Stanley & Barbara Weinstein |
| Martin & Dr. Kelli Cohen Fein | Julie Mount-Pitts | Lloyd A. & Priscilla A. Wessels |
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| Helen Geyer | | Sherri Zucker |
| Darryl & Fern Giddens | | |
| John & Delores Gilchrist | | |
| Judy Giroto | | |
| Grace Givens | | |

The Mission of Yahweh would like to acknowledge and thank The Harris County Community Service Department for The Emergency Shelter Grant!



The Mission of Yahweh CONNECTIONS

10247 Algiers, Houston, TX 77041
Phone 713-466-4785

www.missionofyahweh.org

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*Come to the Mission
FallFest 2009
Celebration!*

*Sponsor a poor family for the carnival.
Be a food sponsor.
Volunteer at the event.*

Mission Acknowledgements & Special Thanks!

Special thanks to our in-kind donors who brought us food, clothing, and toiletries.

St. Catherine Church
Pines Presbyterian Church
Women's Club of Windwood Lakes
Clay Road Baptist Church
Pine Garden Apartments
Boys Scouts Troop 277 - block party
St Maximilian Kolbe Catholic Church - monthly lunches and block party
Bear Creek United Methodist Church - BBQ & back to school supplies
Foundry United Methodist Church - back to school supplies
Rolling Fork Swim Team

A special thanks to everyone who donated their time, toward the success of The Mission of Yahweh first annual Gala.

Rocky Franzen for coordinating everything for the Mission of Yahweh's first gala, *Mission Incredible*, and all of her work behind the scenes to make the gala a success.

Warner Roberts for all the auction items she solicited and for all of the time invested in *Mission Incredible*

More thanks to...

Dave Ward and **Channel 13** for being the Emcee at the *Mission Incredible* Gala.

Jamie Miller
Randy Blanchard
Pam Lockard & Ron Sterlekar
Joyce Pankonien
Rev. Janet Gilmore
Alice Olivas
Mel Kieke
Betty Godso
Lisa Modglin
Holly White
Jeanique LaCour
Lisa Moscarelli, C&M Marketing

Houston Grotech Services,
Todd Minnis, for providing year-round landscape maintenance services for the entire MOY property.

Channel 2 for sending **Jonathan Novack** to teach the kids at JoyFest 2009 about the weather.

A special thanks to: **Total Package Turnkey (Tanya & Miguel Cossio)** for painting the interior and exterior of the Gay Children's House and **Sherwin Williams Company** for donating the paint.

David Weekly Homes – for the party for the kids (ice cream floats, mini carnival, and clowns)

Neighborhood **WalMart** - (Corner of Kempwood & Gessner)

CyFair-ISD – for school supplies

MAM – for school supplies

Janice Peterson (PPWCE) – for Friday motivation classes

**The Mission Thrift Shop
needs all kinds of
Whatnots to sell:
housewares, vases,
pictures, clothing...
the stuff in your attic!
All goods sold help pay
for Mission expenses.**

**Mission also needs food
(esp. meat!), can goods and toys.**