



# The Mission of Yahweh

# CONNECTIONS

SUMMER 2007 NEWSLETTER

## From Dee's Desk



Dear Friend,

**It's a new day at Mission of Yahweh!** New dreams and exciting opportunities are unfolding like never before.

Through our **new mental wellness programs** and **on-site classes**, we are instilling hope in women and children who often see their lives as hopeless. We are teaching them to dream again, believe again, and live again.

I am excited about the plan that God is unveiling before my eyes.

That plan includes adding a **full-time vocational counselor**, opening an **on-site licensed child-care facility** and procuring **permanent housing** opportunities.

As the Mission embarks into new territory, it's most important that you continue to support the unfolding vision that God is giving us.

**Please help us minister to homeless women and children.**

Your partner in hope,

Dee Johnson, LMSW  
Director, The Mission of Yahweh

## College Now Possible for Mission Residents

An exciting new partnership with Cy-Fair College is opening new doors of opportunity for Mission residents to earn their GED and occupational certifications.

Staff counselors at Cy-Fair Community College are providing one-on-one guidance to help homeless women take control of their education and their future.

We're happy to report that several homeless women from the Mission are now attending, or scheduled to attend (pending financial aid) Houston Community College, Cy-Fair College and the Academy of Health Care Professionals.

This exciting partnership grew out of a "chance" encounter at a Super Neighborhoods meeting, where Mission director Dee Johnson spoke with Doris C. Lee, assistant dean of student services at Cy-Fair, Fairbanks Center.



Cy-Fair College, Fairbanks Center.

"After the meeting, I just asked Ms. Lee about the possibilities that might be open for our homeless shelter, and suddenly a partnership is taking shape," said Mrs. Johnson.

Shortly after that first encounter, several representatives from Fairbanks Center toured the Mission and gave a presentation about *continued on p. 3*

## Learning is Big Fun at JoyFest 07

It's a busy summer at the Mission of Yahweh.

Children's activity coordinator **Rosetta Turnerhill** and her team of teachers and volunteers are running full tilt with the 2nd Annual JoyFest kids day camp from June 11 through August 17.

The House of Joy is home base. Last year, 61 kids ages 4 to 12 years attended from the Mission and the surrounding Carverdale community. This year promises even more fun and broader outreach.

Rosetta's top priority is making sure the kids have FUN! But don't be fooled—there's serious learning happening here, with an exciting curriculum and a talented line up of volunteers to help.

Kids are gaining important computer skills from veteran volunteer, **Joshua Robertson**, a familiar face and an experienced computer teacher.

They're learning all about staying healthy by making healthy choices—think fresh fruits and vegetables, and plenty of exercise!

And when it *continued on p. 4*

## In Their Own Words

**My name is Donna . . .** I came to the Mission of Yahweh in 2006.

Having broken my foot, losing my job and my apartment. I had nowhere else to turn.

I was scared to death to even think about what a shelter was. But, the minute I walked into the door I felt so welcomed and knew that I was in a great place.

I started out being asked by Ms. Barbara, to become an RA (Resident Assistant) over the family dorm, and later filled in working at the Re-Sale shop when needed.

Then I was asked to fill in at the Volunteer office answering the telephone.

By December 2006, our Director Ms. Dee, offered me a position as Assistant Resident Manager. And I greatly accepted it . . .

Thank you, and my God continue to bless The Mission of Yahweh.

**My Name is Eliska . . .** I came to The Mission of Yahweh, December of 2006. Along with my 2 children, and at this time I was also expecting a baby.



I was living in my own apartment, when FEMA cut out my rent. With nowhere else to go, I called The Mission of Yahweh, and came

in the same day I called.

The Mission of Yahweh gave me a roof over my head, meals, and any and everything, that we needed.

My girls love to attend the special activities that are here for the children who live here; I also, have been attending many classes, which have benefited me, mentally and spiritually . . .

I was offered a private room in the new Katrina Dorm. In March of 2007 I gave birth to my son. The Mission provided many items I needed to bring my son home.

I was so surprised when some of the staff came to visit me while I was in the hospital. When it was time to come home, they also came and picked me up from the hospital.

The Mission also provided me with the transportation to go back to Louisiana, drop of my oldest daughter for a visit with family, until I gave birth for my son.

I am now enrolled in school, Medical Assisting, with financial help from the Mission of Yahweh.

I want to thank everyone at The Mission of Yahweh for the opportunity to start my life over with my children.

**Hello, my name is Elaine . . .** I am presently a resident at The Mission of Yahweh and serve as the weekday cook.

I am a divorced mother...I found myself allowing depression while I grieved my son and losing my job. I called The Mission of Yahweh who graciously took me in. By this point I had gained nearly 100 extra pounds



...Miss Barbara started an exercise regimen for the residents...and with her sincere encouragement, I have lost a total of 30 pounds...

The Mission has helped me in many ways. Firstly by being here and being able to communicate with others, the feeling of family, and knowing that I am on the right track in many ways. Thank you Mission of Yahweh. 🙏

### A Non-Denominational Christian Shelter for Homeless and Abused 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 and abused women and their children for over 46 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, productive members of society.

At The Mission of Yahweh, we shelter, clothe and feed over 700 women and children per year, supporting more than 1,500 residential stays each month. We also support 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](http://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.

## Summer Operations Funds Needed

**Please Donate Now.** This summer, all our programs are at risk. The Mission is in serious need of summer operational funds.

Can you help us with the kids JoyFest program and the adult learning ministry—plus the everyday costs of providing food and clothing for more than 1,500 resident stays per month?

To donate, call (713) 466-4785. For more information, email: [Dee.Johnson@missionofyahweh.org](mailto:Dee.Johnson@missionofyahweh.org).

**Your donations help us feed homeless women and children**



# The Mission of Yahweh

## Mission Staff – Full-Time

Dee Johnson, LMSW, Director  
Barbara Moore, Resident Manager, RA's, Resale Shop  
Michelle Paul, Case Manager  
Rev. Betty Godso, Volunteer & Business Develop. Mgr.  
Rosetta Turnerhill, Children's Activity Coordinator

## Mission Staff – Part-Time

Sarah Crum, Clinical Social Worker  
Brandy Williams, Bookkeeper  
Glenda Fenner, Weekend Resident Manager  
Donna Stephens, Assistant Resident Manager  
Barbara Pierce, Weekend Front Office/In-Take  
Lenda Murrell, Weekend Front Office/In-Take  
Jeff Kingdon, Maintenance

## Mission Staff – Resident Assistants

*(Full-Time On-Campus Volunteers)*  
Daphne Atkins, Myrtle Christie, Kendra Dilworth, Els Lani, Barbara Johnson, Elaine Morris, Debbie Wilson

## Mission Front Office – Volunteers

Elinor MacMillan – Tuesdays for 26 years!  
June Long – Wednesdays, for 25 years!  
Betsy Lowe – Monday and Thursday afternoons  
Carol Janeke – Friday mornings  
Barbara Pierce/Lenda Murrell – Alternate weekends  
Donna Stephens – Substitute

## Mission Instructors – Volunteers

*Computer Class Administrator* – Shann Shin  
*Computer Class Instructors* – Melissa Bolinger, Marilyn Owings, Joyce Urban, Ivonne Vazquez, Joshua Roberson  
*Cy-Fair ISD Children's Tutors* – Jennifer Gardner, Delta Gregg, Irvette James, Joslyn Williams  
*GED Class (residents & community women)* – Harris County Education Department  
*Reading Adventures Instructors (Tuesday evenings)* – Sarah Wisnoskie & Americore Volunteers  
*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  
*House of Joy Instructors* – Rosemary Anthony, Daphne Atkins, Jade Chou, Christina Fung, Julianne Jillison, Josh Liao, Tiffany Mackinzie, Art Mold, Megan Reed, Susan Tran, Lauren Williamson, and vol. from Child Evangelism and Grace Fellowship  
*House of Joy Instructors' Aids* – Alixus Garner, Anthony Shelton, Tierra Turnerhill  
*Mental Health* – Diedre Charles, w/MHMR

## Mission Operations – Volunteers

*Administration* – Mel Kieke  
*Retail* – Jamie Miller  
*Development* – Ron Sterlekar  
*Grant Administration* – Dr. Robert Brecht  
*Public Relations* – Nan Brewer, BrewerETC  
*Donor Development* – Hielt Ives  
*Computer Repair* – Bob Janicke

## Mission Chapel Services – Volunteer Ministers

Debra Witherspoon (Thursday evenings)  
New Life Church (Friday evenings w/Children's Church)  
Rivers of Living Waters Church (Saturdays w/Children's Church)  
Living Word Fellowship (2nd Saturdays)  
Luberta & Ernest Johnson, neighbor (Sundays)  
White Oak Baptist (Sundays w/Children's Church)

## Mission Newsletter

Editor/Designer – Sandy Calhoun, Dave Mahavier  
Production – Donated by Direct Marketing Network

## Mission Board of Directors – Volunteer

Randy Blanchard (Chairman)  
Pam Lockard  
Jamie Miller  
Julie Pitts  
Ron Sterlekar

## Mission Advisory Board – Volunteer

Peg Dudar (Houston Homeless Coalition Founder)  
Suzie & Steve Austin  
Scott Black  
Charles Eldred  
Mel Kieke  
Shirley Molina  
Tony Taft  
Debra Witherspoon

## Founder Emeritus –

Sister Helem Gay

# New Grant Initiative Needs Proposal Writers

The Mission depends heavily on community volunteers to make things happen.


The Mission is taking the "next step" in its efforts to provide financial resources to grow and support its programs through grant applications.

The effort involves creating a systematic approach to developing proposals to various funding agencies.

An important part of this initiative is finding a number of volunteer proposal writers to work with Mission personnel to develop funding requests targeted to specific agencies. These agencies may be charitable foundations, churches or government agencies.

This opportunity affords volunteers the opportunity to write grants on areas that are of particular interest to the writer as well as the Mission's priorities.

The Mission of Yahweh Grants Initiative will assist grant proposal writers by providing much of the basic information needed to develop proposals.

You don't need to be an experienced grant writer to help us. If you have worked in the business, educational, government or the nonprofit sector, you probably have the skills needed for proposal writing. 

## MAKE A DIFFERENCE BE A MISSION GRANT WRITER!

**Job Title:** Proposal Writer  
**Duties:** Writing funding proposals  
**Where:** Anywhere you feel creative  
**Hours:** Set your own hours  
**Wages:** Volunteer  
**Benefits:** Make a difference for the homeless in Houston  
**Contact:** Dr. Robert Brecht at rbrecht@ezytec.com

**College** *continued from p. 1*  
the college and the kinds of career certifications they offer.

Cy-Fair's presentation sparked a lot of excitement among Mission residents, and very soon thereafter, more than twenty women loaded into the Mission vans for a tour of Fairbanks Center and meetings with counselors. While on campus, they learned more about degree programs and all the women took assessment tests.


Cy-Fair counselors returned to the Mission for one-on-one career counseling, discussing each woman's assessment test results and walking them through the process of enrolling and applying for financial aid.

Dee Johnson is pleased about the level of assistance Cy-Fair is providing. "One-on-one attention is essential in getting our residents enrolled and gaining the skills and knowledge they need to better their lives," she said.

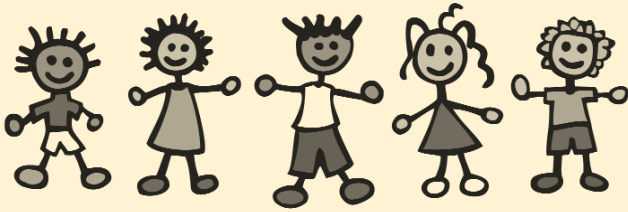
"My dream is to identify three or four certification tracks that will be the most beneficial training programs, that will allow our women to transition out of homelessness into permanent housing, with good-paying jobs to sustain them," Mrs. Johnson added.

The Mission of Yahweh provides food, shelter and clothing for homeless women and their children. With this education partnership, residents may continue living in transitional housing at The Mission, save their money while in school, earn a certification and enter

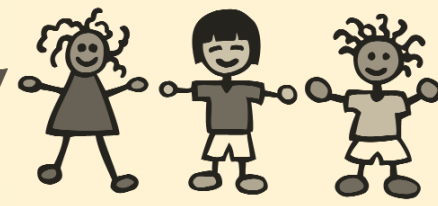
a vocation that will give them a new start in life.

This partnership with Cy-Fair College is helping The Mission of Yahweh address one of the root problems of homelessness and help residents become independent, productive members of society. 

*Cy-Fair's counseling is opening the college gate for Mission residents.*



# JoyFest 07



JoyFest continued from p. 1 comes to learning how to read better, **Rosemary Anthony, Lorrie Dawlearn and Julianne Jillison** make it a great adventure!

Kids have loads of fun on the creative side with **ArtBridge** volunteers to guide them.

**Jane Brown** is helping the kids master math with fun learning exercises.

**Paula Dommard** and **Josh Liao** are helping lead Health and Art classes, too.

Rosetta has upgraded the curriculum especially for children who live in high-risk situations, to teach them how to stay away from drugs and overcome adversity.

Learning about God's love is an essential part of JoyFest. Volunteers

from **Grace Fellowship, Child Evangelism, West Houston Chinese Church, FUUSA/Kids Connection** and **Pastor Tae of Seoul Baptist** are leading kids chapel this summer.

Are you looking for an opportunity to make a BIG difference this summer?

JoyFest is the place! **Please send a donation to help sustain this important ministry for children.** Help us provide a safe place for kids to gain important life skills.

Rosetta says, "My hope is for the children to have an

enjoyable summer. With this joy, I would like for them to continue to enhance their reading, improve their computer skills, and stay drug-free."



*"...I would like for the kids to enhance their reading... and stay drug-free."*

*- Rosetta Turnerhill*

## A Special Approach to Learning

Kids attending JoyFest have plenty of opportunities to improve their academic, creative, social and personal health skills, in a safe, loving environment.



Rosetta Turnerhill continues to upgrade her curriculum to make classes even more engaging and fun.

With the new health program, **Organ Wise Guys**, the children are learning how to choose low fat, high fiber foods, and the importance of eating fresh fruits and vegetables and getting regular exercise.

The Organ Wise Guys program uses videos and workbooks and proven methods to motivate kids to change their eating and physical activity habits.

**Kids Connection** is a support group program that provides at-risk kids with the skills they need to overcome adversity and stay drug-free while gaining a greater understanding of themselves and others.

Emphasis is placed on trust and creating a feeling of safety while recognizing and celebrating the different and unique qualities of each child.

Kids Connection teaches children to respect themselves and others, gives them the confidence to resist negative peer pressure, and helps them express their feelings in healthy, peaceful ways.

Additionally, the kids are learning how to set goals for themselves and take



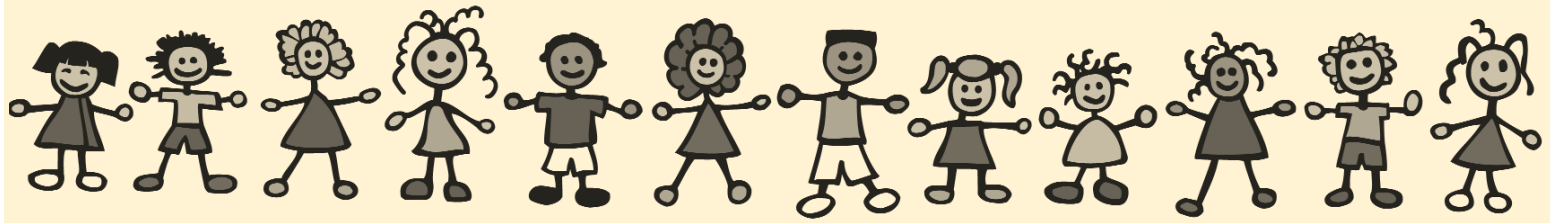
## WANTED VOLUNTEERS

Instructors and Helpers still needed in Art, Health and Outdoor Activities

## REWARD

The joy of making a difference in the lives of at-risk children here in Houston

**Your donations help at-risk children receive loving guidance.**



steps to achieve them.

**Computer Class**, developed by Joshua Roberson, teaches Word Perfect, Excel, Power Point, and Photo Shop, in addition to basic typing skills.

**ArtBridge** is a time for the kids to discover their creative voices and experience the joy of visual self-expression.

**Reading Literature** is an important part of the JoyFest program that helps improve both remedial and normal reading skills on a one-to-one level.



**Educational Board Games** are a fun and creative way to learn! The games involve all sorts of skills such as reading, writing, measuring, listening, organizing and analyzing

information— skills that help youth succeed in school. All in all,

*Emphasis is placed on trust and creating a feeling of safety.*

this second year of JoyFest promises more fun and more learning for kids who truly need and deserve it!

**PLEASE SUPPORT JoyFest!**

Send a donation in support of this important children's ministry. 🏠



# JoyFest 2007 Summer Program Schedule

JUNE 11 – AUGUST 17



Daily Schedule:	4-5 yrs	6-8 yrs	9-12 yrs
9:30-9:45 a.m.		Check-in (House of Joy)	
9:45-10:00 a.m.		Morning Devotion	
<b>Monday-Wednesday-Friday</b>			
10:00-10:30 a.m.	Reading/Lit	Board Games	Computer Skills
10:40-11:10 a.m.	Board Games	Computer Skills	Reading/Lit
11:20-11:50 a.m.	Computer Skills	Reading/Lit.	Board Games
<b>Tuesday-Thursday</b>			
10:00-10:30 a.m.	Art	Health	Kids Connection
10:40-11:10 a.m.	Health	Kids Connection	Art
11:20-11:50 a.m.	Kids Connection	Art	Health
<b>Daily</b>			
11:50-12:00 p.m.		Wash Hands (HOJ)	
12:00-12:30 p.m.		Lunch (HOJ)	
12:30-1:00 p.m.		Bible Study and Music (HOJ)	
1:00-1:45 p.m.		Outdoor Activities (Sports Field)	
1:45-2:00 p.m.		Home Base and Snack (HOJ)	
2:00 p.m.		Dismissal	

**Our THANKS go out to The City of Houston Parks and Recreation Department for supplying lunches and snacks for the entire JoyFest Summer Program!**

## Fill the House!

*Share Your Coins & Change Lives*



Challenge your church, school or workplace to share their coins and *make a difference* for homeless women and children in Houston.

**It's easy to start a group fundraiser.**  
We supply the house banks & flyers!  
Contact us to learn more.



**Call: Betty Godso**  
**(713) 466-4368**  
[betty.godso@missionofyahweh.org](mailto:betty.godso@missionofyahweh.org)

**DONATE TODAY! Please don't delay. Call 713-466-4785 or Email [Dee.Johnson@missionofyahweh.org](mailto:Dee.Johnson@missionofyahweh.org)**



# The Mission of Yahweh CONNECTIONS

10247 Algiers, Houston, TX 77041  
(713) 466-4785



For More Information  
Please Visit Our Website  
[missionofyahweh.org](http://missionofyahweh.org)

Your donations help homeless women  
get a new start in life.

## Volunteer Groups Help in a Big Way!

### **Thank you, Meyer Smith Fence Co.!**

They donated an attractive new front gate, and put in new fencing and car stops. Good security is important!

**Thank you, Shell Oil!** Shell recently bought ceramic tile for the downstairs main dorm and painted the dining room, halls, fence and car stops, and dry-walled the food pantry. Great improvements!

**Thank you Sun Landscape & Design!** They installed landscaping all around the grounds. Flowers lift our spirits!

**Thank you, Living Word Fellowship!** Volunteers led classes in Job Readiness, Health and Parenting, and donated nice outfits, shoes, purses and suits to get us ready for work! This loving group has also faithfully led Chapel every 2nd Saturday of the month for many years now. You encourage us!

**Thank you, faithful Chapel volunteers!** Many of the same shining faces are here

each week to encourage us in worship.

### **Thank you, brothers and sisters!**

We want to thank our neighbor, Mrs. Johnson, and Mrs. Debra Witherspoon and her family, along with members of **New Life Church, West Houston Chinese Church, White Oak Baptist** and **Rivers of Living Water** for conducting Chapel every week for many years. We also thank **Pilgrims** members for coming each 4th Monday of every month for years. You share your joy!

### **Thank you, 1st Metropolitan!**

Volunteers styled 40 heads of hair and led classes on Interviewing & Job Placement Skills, Gardening and Painting. They helped with Dress for Success and gave away free scholarships to their Christian Women's Conference April 26-28. What a blessing!

**Thank you, Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit!** The church blessed us with

a much-needed freezer for the kitchen and a new phone system. On Valentine's Day, church members brought every resident \$100 worth of daily facial kits. The women were deeply touched by the outpouring of kindness.

**Thank you, Alpha Graphics!** John Mason donated a \$4,000 copier.

**Thank you, Jobing.com!** This company has provided a grant that is helping women find jobs on the Internet.

**Thank you, supporters!** Your participation in the Macy's "Shop for a Cause" event on April 17 helped us gain extra income and exposure for The Mission.

**Thank you Memorial Drive United Methodist Church!** Your Mother's Day gifts of foot and hand care were a great kindness.

**Thank you, Bath & Body Works!** Each woman received a gift basket and a gift certificate.