Ministry & More, Inc. 1107 West Empire Street Bloomington, IL 61701

Client prayer requests:

Will you PRAY—will you GIVE?

This is perhaps the most important part of this newsletter – so I hope you will take a few moments to read these heartfelt prayer requests.

Health of self and family members (many of these) Pray husband gets saved before it's too late Relief from debilitating headaches

Adoption finalization process

My mom and my brother

That making ends meet will get easier

A place to live

Money to pay off my electric bill

Money to purchase my child supplies and clothes for school

To get my GED - need money for the test

My own place to live

Money to get water turned back on

My throat

Friend found her father who had hung himself

Daily care for my family

Money to pay bills - struggling

A little boy in our church who was born with many physical problems

My kids and their dad's relationship

That my back surgery will take place soon and help me heal Son is in drug rehab – pray this is the beginning of a new future for him

Pray for my doctor and that my surgery will go well Difficulties of living in a tent

From one of our former clients: Our pastor, was diagnosed with a brain mass in his left frontal lobe, which governs higher reasoning and speech. Please keep him in prayer as he and his family prepare for more testing and possible surgery.

PRAISE:

- Thanking God for everything!
- "Praise for everyone that makes Ministry and More, Inc. and all donations possible."
- I got the job that Betty Ayers prayed with me about!"
- We recently received this email from a former client: "I know prayer works because back in 2013, my son was injured and lost all feeling in his left leg which was very devastating to him as a competitive tennis player. Due to this, he was unable to compete and was dependent upon me to take care of him. I filled out a prayer request for him at Ministry and More, Inc. and one of the volunteers prayed for my son's recovery. Well, in May of 2014, my son competed in a USTA tournament with no complaints of pain or weakness in his leg. Praise God!!!"

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Ministry & More, Inc. Newsletter / September 2015

Alan McLaughlin

A Sweet Observation!

One thread is continuous throughout this latest newsletter... God is the key to every notable event that takes place here at Ministry and More, Inc. The first week of August was a mission week benefiting Child Evangelism Fellowship, which many of our volunteers were gone to this year. I was amazed at what God did (why are we always amazed) and how other volunteers came and worked extra hours so the volunteers who signed up to go could enjoy their trip serving with Child Evangelism Fellowship. It is obvious that those who serve here do it because of the great joy they receive from God, and the awesome feeling of being busy in His name, and for His children. Though our food drives typically drop off, both in number, and quantity in the summer, God always shows us just how big He is. It is apparent that the Holy Spirit is moving at the pantry, in our prayer time, and in the hearts of those who come for help.

We are sharing several stories in this issue. Here are two that happened the same morning. A client called to ask if she could drop off some school items to give to our children for our back to school party. The lady stated that God had blessed her with some extra funds and she wanted to supply some of the items we put in the children's backpacks to give away. The lady was there later that morning with a big smile on her face, which put smiles on our faces as well.

A second story was so touching. A former homeless client who had lived in a tent, had recently moved to Wisconsin to pursue a job opening. He got the job, and had met a nice lady who saw in him a person of value. He phoned the pantry because he wanted us to know what God



Alan McLaughlin, director.

was doing in his life, and how our prayers all these years had and were making a difference. For many, like these two, Ministry and More, Inc. is like a connection with family – someone who cares.

Would you consider being the face and hands of Jesus?

Lastly, thank you all for your prayers, your many likes and comments on Facebook, and the wonderful gifts of funds and food on a daily basis. I am thankful to be with this ministry and always think of how it came from such humble beginnings. Please remember us in prayer – and read the client praises and prayer requests. God bless you for all you do. Alan

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What's in a name?

Someone recently asked what the name Ministry and More, Inc. means? So we went to the source and asked co-founder Linda Winterland what she and husband Don were thinking when deciding on the name. We found out that the name was actually suggested by a coworker of Linda's as descriptive of what the purpose is – ministry first! And more.

This purpose was wonderfully illustrated by a recent letter from a client to one of our volunteers, Betty Tripp. Here is an excerpt.

"I just want to say thank you for your prayer on Monday, July 20, 2015. I came to Ministry and More, Inc. with a lot of heaviness in my spirit. While the natural food is a blessing to me and my husband, I never leave that place without asking for prayer. My Bible tells me, "the effectual, fervent prayer of the righteous availeth much'. On Monday July 20, the Holy Spirit gave you the words of prayer on my behalf. You didn't know what I was going through, but you prayed a prayer for my situation. Thank you, for allowing God to use you."



Don and Linda Winterland, founders of Ministry and More. Inc.

Back to School Party!

For Children in Grades Kindergarten through Junior High

Our Back to School Party for the children of pantry clients was on Saturday August 8. We had a good number of children attend – with their parents! It was exciting to see the parents receiving the same good news as their children! And several of the parents allowed their children to be signed up for the Child Evangelism Fellowship Mailbox Club, a Bible correspondence course designed especially by age group! Teachers, Margaret Archibald and Abby Ruffcorn, were assisted by Joyce Craig. Thank you to all who gave towards this party at which each child received school supplies, a Bible and a clear gospel presentation. Pray especially for two children who attended with a parent, all Muslims.



Back to School Party and Ministry and More, Inc.



Children sing along with Margaret Archibald as their parents listen.

Children working on craft projects making their own flannel graph to share the way to heaven!

Do you order anything through **Amazon.com** on the internet?

If you do, Ministry and More, Inc can receive a percentage of your purchases.

When you use amazonsmile you can designate Ministry and More, Inc. and amazonsmile will donate a percentage of your purchase to the pantry. The donation **does not** increase the cost of your purchase. This is a great way to donate! Thank you!

If we could put a Price on our Volunteers...

Every day Ministry and More, Inc. is open, we average 7 volunteers helping in various capacities and roles. Without these volunteers this ministry would be not be able to function as it has in assisting those in need. Our volunteers serve in various ways.

Before the pantry opens for clients, at least two or three volunteers show up to get ready for the day. This includes returning phone calls from clients who want to schedule an appointment, removing any food items left from the previous week that have spoilage, setting out the bread and bakery products, checking pantry needs such as meat that needs to be bagged for the day, among other things. Several volunteers 'break down' cardboard boxes from donations so they can be recycled.

When the pantry opens we have at least two volunteers at the front of the pantry at a table to greet clients, pray with them, provide friendship, present Christ and distribute groceries. We often have a third person up front, a 'runner' who 'runs' to the pantry area to get needed items clients can request, such as household or personal hygiene products. This 'runner' is a great help as it allows the other front end persons to remain with the client and focus on their spiritual needs.

Meanwhile, in the rear pantry area we have volunteers preparing a sack of groceries for each household, bagging frozen meat for each household, restocking shelves, dividing up larger quantities of things like laundry or dish soap, and funneling them into donated empty plastic water bottles for distributing to clients.

In our garage and storage areas, volunteers are stocking pantry items as they have been received from food drives or from Midwest Food Bank. A volunteer may drive to Midwest to pick up food, or drive to Aldi to purchase needed food items that we are out of, such as cereal, canned vegetables, soup, etc. This entails not just driving, but loading up the groceries and unloading upon return to the pantry.

One faithful volunteer collects bread products from an area grocer and brings them to the pantry on Sunday afternoon so they will be fresh and ready for Monday. Two ladies volunteer doing our bookkeeping and another lady volunteers doing our data entry.

Weekly a volunteer mows and trims the pantry property – this is so important as we are in a residential neighborhood and



Betty and Barb at the front desk taking requests for appointments.



Craig stocking shelves.

consider it important to respect our neighbors by keeping up our property appearance. Volunteers often come up with ideas we can implement in keeping the property attractive, but also safe, such as installing signs to direct traffic, warn of a sharp drop off near our driveway, adding non-slip stair treads and hand rails to the outside steps leading from the upper parking lot – we welcome suggestions from our volunteers!

Weekly a volunteer cleans the inside of the pantry and makes it 'spic and span'. This volunteer is rarely seen, but her work never goes unnoticed nor unappreciated. It is one more way we can show value and dignity to the people we serve by providing a clean environment.

These are certainly not all of our volunteers – we also have volunteers that assist on a less frequent basis, such as organizing food drives, the preparation of this newsletter, helping in programs for children such as Child Evangelism or Christmas Share the Gift.

If we could put a price on our volunteers, it would have to be **PRICELESS!**

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