

Statement of Appreciation

It is with a sense of deep gratitude that I thank the committed Area Leaders and Advisors, Presidents and Coordinators of Adventist Community Services, Inner City Ministries, Disaster Response, Prison Ministries and Women’s Ministries. This report would not be possible without your dedication. I also thank you on the behalf of individuals you faithfully serve, annually. There are many others to whom I am grateful including the AEC Administrators and staff and my administrative Assistant, Tiffany Ellis. I am indebted to my husband Andrew of 44 years, for his love, patience and “chauffeur”.

Adventist Community Services/Inner City Ministries

Minnie McNeil, Director

Area Leadership

Federation Presidents

Aula Sumbry, North Jersey

Horace Vassel, Delaware Valley

Mildred Polk, DelMar

Bernice Webster, Baltimore Extended

Catherine Saunders, Washington Metro

Sonya Brinkley, Co-President Virginia

Althea Henderson, Coord/Co-Pres. Virginia

We are grateful for the many years of service provided by Mrs. Lorraine Jones as Federation President for the North Jersey Area. She served with dedication, passion and distinction. Her community continues to work with and value her as a community leader.

The Mission

The Adventist Community Services Ministries Network of Allegheny East is intentional about its mission to: “Interpret God’s love to the poor, hurting and disillusioned through Christ-centered ministries.

This Ministries Network of services includes: Community Ministries, Inner City Ministries, Tutoring and Mentoring, Elder Care, Crisis Care, Youth Empowered 2 Serve and Disaster Response.

The Challenge

Even as ongoing and astounding advancement in scientific and medical research, technology, astronomy and other explorations and accomplishments continually increase; it is also true that crime, poverty, preventable illness, loneliness and depression, abandonment, abuse of every description along with increasing environmental disasters and spiritual apathy continues to increase at an alarming rate.

We are particularly burdened by the negative impact of spiritual apathy, illiteracy and poverty within our communities. These are often proclaimed the foundational benchmarks of a myriad of other societal ills.

If community members are to compete for jobs, promotions, etc. they must be prepared.

The downward spirally economy continues to affect America at an alarming rate. Home foreclosures are happening in every community, even among the advantaged. Some 37 million people live in poverty in the USA.

- The poor are often powerless to influence key decisions affecting their lives.
- Rising disparities between the rich and the poor have increased the sense of deprivation and injustice for most.

Additionally, crime is increasing; abuse, neglect, white and blue collar crimes, and a myriad of other dysfunctions degrading our homes, churches and communities, alike.

The ACS Ministry Network represents the love of God to multiplied thousands who live in despair. Our ministries reach out to those who at least for the moment, are unable to help themselves. The Network is also a prime vehicle for volunteerism amongst adults and youth alike.

WHAT WE DO

- Church-based Emergency Service Programs
- Community-based Programs
- Three (3) Metro Ministry Partnerships
- Food Pantries
- Disaster Response Teams
- Tutorial and Mentoring
- Homeless Ministries
- Ex-Offender Ministries
- Job Training
- Support Groups (Diabetes)
- Computer Literacy

Space will not permit me to highlight the tremendous outreach ministries happening in local churches throughout our conference. Having received documented reports from just 20% of the leaders, we find some quarter of a million individuals have been serviced by community services, nearly 400,000 pieces of literature has been distributed by nearly 1400 volunteers.

Metropolitan Ministries

Metropolitan Ministries were organized by the Columbia Union Conference beginning 1999 to increase the visibility of Adventist in urban cities. The model initiated included developing community action organizations with multi-conference governance whose primary vision is to meet the needs of the poor and suffering through practical compassion in Christ's name. Additionally, to serve as a visible expression of the social concern of the Adventist Church and to function as a resource center for the local church, helping them to develop and implement strategies that interpret God's love in their communities in tangible ways.

Four such Ministries are bringing this vision to fruition in the following cities:
Wilmington, Delaware – Greater Wilmington ACS, Michelle Knight, Executive Director
Baltimore, Maryland – Baltimore ACS, Pastor Darriel Hoy, Executive Director

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania – Adventist Humanitarian Resource Center, Currently the Executive Director is Gail Ann Felix Guy (2008)

Newark, New Jersey – Adventist Community Development Center, Carl Sobremisana, Acting Executive Director

AE/ACS has focused on community assessments to determine the ministry most needed in a given community. Many of our churches have completed full assessments of their communities including door-to-door surveys, windshield surveys, community resource surveys and professionally prepared demographic studies completed by the Center for Metropolitan Ministries sponsored by the Columbia Union College.

Five pastors and 3 local church members completed the Crisis Care Certification provided by the North American Division ACS (NAD/ACS). Several pastors and laymen have completed the National Leadership Certification Program sponsored also by NAD/ACS

Grants

Thirty-three churches, community centers and ministries (including Prison Ministries) received a collective total of \$87,000 to support their community ministries over the past four years. An additional \$152,000 was given to support disaster response initiatives. We are grateful for the generosity of the AEC membership in their generous giving for the Harvest and Disaster Relief funds to make these local grants possible.

During this same period, the NAD/ACS provided \$245,000 to AEC outreach ministry projects through a competitive proposal process. Additionally, the National Association of Katrina Evacuees was granted \$50,000 from NAD/ACS on the behalf of AEC.

Disaster Response

Area Leadership

Disaster Response Instructors:

Micah Chavers, Belinda Goodwin and Minnie McNeil

We are grateful for the generosity of Allegheny East members toward hurricane victims over the last four years. Your offerings to disaster response have been generous enabling us to assist in the most devastating circumstances.

We sent a total of \$130,991 to ADRA (Tsunami), Haiti, Grenada & Katrina/Rita victims. We facilitated an ACS/North American Division grant of \$50,000 to National Association of Katrina Evacuees (N.A.K.E.), an advocacy group who were brought to Philadelphia, trained and organized through a joint effort of the Tenant Union Representative Network of Philadelphia, the Attorney for the Atkinson Center in Coatesville, Allegheny East and Columbia Union Conference.

In addition to the funds, we sent seven tractor trailer loads of goods to the Gulf Region that included some 10,000 personal care kits, bedding, furnishings, household supplies and other items. Four of the truckloads were delivered by Pastor Peter S. Campbell and Mr. Calvin Taylor. We entered into an agreement with C.H. Robinson Truckers and

Roseland Properties of New York to send an additional three truckloads of appliances. (Donated by Roseland Properties).

We are very grateful to Pine Forge Academy students whom re-packaged personal care kits, and prepared them for delivery to the hurricane victims. This job was done very well.

Special Events

Pastors William Hall, Anthony Andrews and Verne Joyner led out in the *Live 8/July 4, '06 Concerts*, where one million people gathered in Philadelphia to increase the awareness of AIDS/HIV. Here are some of the highlights:

Acquired a 3 room trailer with bathroom for the purpose of screening.

Partnered with publishing houses to distribute 12,000 magazines about health issues.

Partners: Adventist Humanitarian Resource Center

Allegheny East Conference – All departments participated

American Heart Association (AHA) – Search Your Heart Program

Mayor's Office of Health and Fitness - Philadelphia

The National Association of Katrina Evacuees (N.A.K.E.)

November in Review 2005

Six victims of Hurricane Katrina/Rita, sponsored by AEC arrived in Philadelphia on November 2, 2005 for two weeks of intensive training in community development and revitalization.

- **Outcomes** of the two week training
- Attended classes on Community Dev. taught at the Tony Compolo School by Monte Sahlin, Carl Sobremisana, the TURN staff directed by Phil Lord, Esq., Art Haywood, Esq., Dr. Johnson, MD and Community Development professionals
- Named themselves: **N.A.K.E.** (National Assoc. of Katrina Evacuees)
- Declared themselves to be a National Organization
- Agreed on a Motto: "Justice After The Storm"
- Developed Mission & Vision Statements, and Organizational structure
- Gained non-profit status with an application & approval (501 C 3 Status)
- Designed a logo and acquired tee-shirts, flyers and posters
- Facilitated their first advocacy meeting, nearly 90 people attended the mtg.
- Admitted and organized their first chapter (Philadelphia evacuees)
- Met with several Philadelphia officials and civic leaders
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Returning to New Orleans NAKE became an effective voice throughout New Orleans as advocates for victims of the storm. They were invited to Washington, DC on two occasions to testify on behalf of storm victims before congress. They led two peaceful marches gathering over 500 people demanding assistance. Their voices were heard.

In 2007, The Delaware Valley Ministerial organized a Katrina Mission Trip with more than 40 volunteers; joining NAKE in their quest to rebuild and to provide safe housing

for victims remaining in FEMA Trailers. On that trip, more than 100 lawns were mowed, some for the first time since the hurricanes.

NAKE members have been invited by the AEC President to attend camp meeting twice.

Specialized Training

Several Pastors, ACS Area Presidents and members of local churches attended the NAD ACS Leadership Certification Program held in Illinois, California and Maryland. (Spring and Fall Sessions)

Fifty additional persons have been trained for Disaster Response

One Million People Visit Philadelphia

Planned w/committee the AEC and Delaware Valley response to the **Live 8/July 4 Concerts** in Philadelphia

Chair, Pastor William Hall, North Philadelphia Church, Philadelphia & City zoning officer

Acquired a 3 room trailer with bathroom for the purpose of screening

Partnered with publishing houses to distribute 12,000 magazines r/t health issues

Partners: Adventist Humanitarian Resource Center

Allegheny East Conference of Seventh-day Adventist

American Heart Association (AHA) – Search Your Heart Program

Mayor’s Office of Health and Fitness

Pacific Press Publishing

Pennsylvania Conference of Seventh-day Adventist

Review and Herald Publishing

Services Provided:

Screenings

Blood Pressure, HIV/AIDS, Glucose and Cholesterol

Body Fat Screening (Mayor’s Office of Health and Fitness)

Health and Life Style Periodicals and Book

Gifts

Handheld battery operated fans

Beach Mats for moms with small children

ADRA International – Adventist Mission Coloring Books and Crayons

Guest on the Hope Channel during the GC Session regarding the Live 8 Event

Statistics

ADVENTIST COMMUNITY SERVICE 2004-2007	
Clients served over four year period	108,639
Literature Shared	48,588
Bible Studies	503
Active Volunteers	1,366
Job Trainings	60

Prison Ministries

Area Leadership

Federation President: Edith Tucker

Chapter Presidents/Area:

Morris Wilder, North Jersey

Romel Hollie, Delaware Valley

Robert Hunter, Bay

Gwendolyn Witherspoon, Baltimore Ext.

Henry Smith, Washington Metro

Juanita Cole, Virginia

The Mission

The primary mission of Prison Ministries is to provide Christ- centered leadership which facilitates spiritual, social and civic growth; and the reconciliation with God of offenders, ex-offenders, their families and communities.

The Core Values

- ✓ Reconciliation
- ✓ Redemption
- ✓ Healing
- ✓ Community
- ✓ Advocacy
- ✓ Collaboration
- ✓ Mercy/Compassion

The Challenge

Who is in prison according to the Bureau of Justice?

- Women are 10% of the U.S. jail population
- 48% of women in Jail reported being physically or sexually abused, 27% raped.
- People of color make up 63% of Jail population.
- Over one –third of people in Jail have a mental disability.
- 36% of people in Jail were unemployed at the time of admission.

What We Do

- Inmate Visitation
- Facilitate Worship Services and Bible Study
- Facilitate Baptisms
- Provide Financial Support
- Trained Rest/Insight I.S.P. Program Facilitators
- Participate in Shelter Feeding Programs
- Coordinate Angel Tree Programs
- Follow up with Post-incarceration After Care
- Encourage Participation in Regeneration Sessions
- Provide Federation Training Workshops
- Active Advocates
- Information and Referral Agents
- Recruit Volunteers and Assistance for Families

Statistics

PRISON MINISTRIES 2004-2007	
Prisons Visited	18
Visits to Prisons	3,400
Former Residents in Church	96
Family Members in Church	874
Worship Services	872
Worship Service Attendees	14, 271
Bible Study Classes	350
Bible Study Class Attendees	3,264
Tracts Distributed	2,641
Books Distributed	1,394
Bibles Distributed	169
Volunteers	559
Man Hours	4,184
Mileage	39,993
Decisions	28
Residents to be baptized	139
Families visited	1
Letters written to residents	141

Women's Ministries

Area Leadership

Area Leaders/Area

Rosalyn Ferguson, North Jersey
Helen Peace, South Jersey
Dianne Privette, Delaware Valley
Audrey Booker, Delaware Valley
Jackie Ruley, Bay
Margaret Brown, Baltimore Ext.

Denise Crarey, Washington Metro
Cheryl Thorpe, MD, Virginia

Advisors

Patricia Nelson
Betty Mason
Carol Kearney
Geraldine Weathers
Lucille Davis
Geraldine Davis
Phyllis Edmonds
Barbara Lee

The Mission

Women's Ministries (WM) throughout our Conference provides a safe haven where women encourage each other to grow mentally, physically, spiritually and socially; as they reach their highest potential in service within their churches and the community.

The Ministries

Some Areas of the Conference have strong and vibrant ministries, while others have strong ministries within individual churches rather than area-wide. No matter the method,

indisputably, women are making the difference in every church according to her individual contributions and gifts.

Prayer Breakfasts, Seminars, Book Clubs, Home Visitations, Prayer Support Groups, Meals for Homebound, Tuition Assistance, WM Emphasis Days, Holiday Gifts for the Underprivileged and Women’s Shelters, Reclamation, Pamper Me Sessions, Annual Women’s Day of Prayer and Annual Abuse Prevention Day, are among programs and projects currently offered by women willing to share their gifts, talents and resources.

WM increasingly works collaboratively in the local church with other departments; specifically Family Life, Youth Ministries, Health Ministries, Prison Ministries, ACS, Disaster Response, and with Deaconess.

Two Areas have participated in the WM Leadership Certification Program. Each leader has been equipped to continue the Leadership Certification Program in her given area.

Statistics

Women’s Ministries 2004-2007	
Retreats/Congresses	14
SDA Women Attending	880
Non-SDA Women Attending	97
Reclaimed Members	39
Training Seminars	62
Baptisms	8

Request for Service in Areas other than AEC

South Hampton Church in Bermuda to provide ACS Training-8 days
 Guest speaker for Volunteer Recognition Day-**Washington ACS Center, DC**
 Provided ACS seminars for the **No. Calif. Conference Churches** (800 miles, 7 days)
 Provided workshops at **Atlantic Union Leadership Conference in Massachusetts**
 Presenter, AWC/WM Retreat
 Presenter, Pennsylvania Conference Ministerial
 Visited Accra, Ghana with Dr. Gina Brown to develop a Nursing Program for Valley View University 2006
 Presenter, Disaster Response Training, Bermuda, Island-wide participation
 Presenter, ACS Training, Miami, Florida, 2007
 ACS Retreat Training, Northern California ACS Retreat Weekend
 Presenter for ACS Federation, Roanoke, W. Virginia, Allegheny West, 2007
 Guest on **Really Living Series** with Don Schneider

Continuing Education

Avid Reader
 Completed the National Leadership Certification Program every 3 years
 Attended PSI Convention
 Attend Housing and Urban Development Workshops

Attend the Annual Religious Conference Management Assoc. Sessions
A “sponge” for informal learning through observation and interaction
Charles Williams, Media, AEC has been an excellent instructor in technology updates

Community Involvement

Keynote Speaker for **Chester County’s “Sharing the Harvest: People of Faith Respond”** sponsored by Senator Andrew Dinniman (700 people were in attendance)
Called for Jury Duty 2005
Facilitates weekly Prayer Group with neighborhood women

Adventist-related Board Participation

Adventist Community Development Services-NJ (Consulting Role)
Adventist Humanitarian Resource Center-Philadelphia (Chair)
Baltimore ACS (Consulting Role)
NAD/ACS Board (Member)

Accepted the role of Columbia Union ACS Coordinator in 2007

Active Community Board Memberships

Chester County Board of Health (Chair)
Coatesville Economic and Development Committee (Member)
W.C. Atkinson Memorial Community Services Center, Inc. (Vice Chair, Chair)

Personal Note

2005 was my most challenging year in memory, on a personal level. At the close of the year, it was a victorious year of growth. It was the year that my faith was strengthened beyond measure and I experienced full evidence of God’s abiding love and faithfulness. I know for a surety that God will answer before we call, and I further know without a doubt that “the effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.” I have learned to trust God completely.

I Praise God from whom all blessings flow, and thank Him for opportunities
He so graciously provides me to be his handmaiden. I look forward, with great anticipation for what God has planned for the future.

Grateful for what God has done, and continues to do.