

CHERRY ST.

MISSION MINISTRIES

MEDIA ALERT

Date: April 1, 2009
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Double digit increase of needs at Cherry Street – require an *urgent* double digit increase in support.

You've seen it everywhere: employment rates in area counties are hitting double digits¹. Healthcare costs are rising. Wages are being cut.

More and more people are in need. Many, for the first time in their lives, are finding themselves homeless or hanging on by a thread and reaching out for help. The economic hardship our community members are experiencing has become a staggering reality for Cherry Street Mission Ministries. "The number of men, women, and families who are coming through our doors are unprecedented," remarked Dan Rogers, president and CEO. "With 55% more women staying at our women's shelter, The Sparrow's Nest, 17% more men in our Men's facility, and 10% more meals being served – all more than just one year ago today – we are in need of the community's help – the men, women, and families that are coming through our doors are in need of the community's help.

While we are not facing an emergency as an organization, we have never been faced with the level of urgency we are experiencing right now for additional support," Rogers explained. While Cherry Street will never turn anyone away, the additional needs have put a strain on our services. Things as simple as toilet paper and paper towels, to milk, eggs and meat are among some of our most urgent needs. A complete list of items that are in urgent need follows, or can be found at www.cherrystreetmission.org

In lieu of the urgent need, Cherry Street will be accepting donations Monday – Sunday, 7 a.m. – 7 p.m. at the Madison Street Food Services and Community Center, 1919 Madison Street and the Men's Facility, 105 17th Street at Monroe.

FAST FACTS: JANUARY & FEBRUARY 2009

- *We provided shelter for an average of 191 men per night at our Monroe Street Facility*
- *On average, 63 women stayed at The Sparrow's Nest each night*
- *730 meals were served daily, on average, at Good Samaritan Outreach Center, Madison Food Service and Community Center, and The Sparrow's Nest*

¹ Civilian Labor Force Estimates, February 2009. Fulton: 14.9%; Henry: 14.9%; Lucas: 12.0; Ottawa County: 16.6%; Wood: 11.3%;

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Serving Communities Since 1947

Opportunity List

GROUP 1

Meats	Canned Vegetables	Flour	Mayonnaise
Milk	Canned Beans	Sugar	Salt & Pepper
Butter	Canned Fruit	Cooking Oil	
Eggs	Coffee	Mustard	
Cheese	Tea	Ketchup	

GROUP 2

Bar Soap	Deodorant	Men & Women Underwear (all sizes)
Bath Towels	Shampoo	
Wash Cloths	Conditioner	
Tampons	Sanitary Napkins	

GROUP 3

Laundry Powder	Toilet Paper	Paper Plates
Bleach	Paper Towels	Plastic Silverware
Garbage Bags (60 gallon)	Napkins	Large Box Foil Wrap

GROUP 4

Copy Paper
Gift Certificates to Walgreen to refill Ink Cartridges (\$10/Black; \$15/Color)