



INNER CITY MISSION
helping the homeless find lasting stability



**A Cause for Celebration / Outreach Update: ReNew Ministries
LaRae: Homeless no more! / A Special Request / ICM Service Award**

A CAUSE FOR CELEBRATION



You know Stability Coach Sarah Logan as someone who came up through the ranks at ICM. She arrived as a mother in distress, graduated to staff member, and is now a valued part of the ICM family.

Years ago, we featured her son, Solomon, in [this Lifeline article](#). Solomon is now in the service, and will be graduating from Basic Training on October 13.

Sarah would love to be able to attend this ceremony. If you would like to help make that happen, please visit this [Gofundme page](#), sponsored by her friends at ICM.



Outreach Update: ReNew Ministries

[ReNew Ministries](#) in Lincoln, Illinois, is an outreach of Inner City Mission focused on addressing poverty in Logan County using the principals found in ICM's *Stability for Life* program. The ministry operates a store (ReNew Consignment & Thrift) that offers donated and consigned clothing, furniture, and household items at extremely low prices. The store's proceeds (as well as additional funds donated by church and community partners) are cycled back into the community through the ReNew Ministry Center located at the rear of the store.

ReNew's tag-line is "Investing Needed Resources in the Lives of our Neighbors." ReNew Ministries is not a traditional giveaway program. Instead, the ministry invests in the lives of struggling and impoverished persons, helping them to help themselves.

By requiring our neighbors to invest in themselves as we invest in them, we encourage growth, helping them overcome not just the circumstances of poverty, but the behaviors and attitudes that lead to it.

With God's blessing, ReNew Ministries will ultimately be funded by the community it serves through store proceeds, community and church support. Inner City Mission funded the start-up and pledged that \$30,000 in goods and services would be distributed to that area during 2016. As of June we have surpassed the \$19,000 mark by God's grace and through the generosity of supporters.

RENEW'S COMMUNITY IMPACT

Food: \$1,320

Food baskets or grocery bills paid on behalf of our neighbors.

Rent/Utilities: \$2,156.65

Bills paid on behalf of our neighbors (we do not hand out cash)

Transportation/Miscellaneous: \$959.00

Gasoline purchases, bus passes, case by case individual needs

Stability Coaching: \$11,084.50

Hours of staffing dedicated to teaching or supervising neighbors as they work toward specific goals

Household Goods/Clothing: \$4,390.71

Store items chosen by our neighbors when they meet specific Stability for Life goals.



TOTAL INVESTED: \$19,910.86

ICM Current Needs



OUR HOUSEHOLD NEEDS....

1. Toilet paper
2. Hygiene Products
3. Bleach and cleaning products



OUR KITCHEN NEEDS....

1. Breakfast Cereal
2. Coffee
3. After school Snacks



LaRae: Homeless No More

In June of 2015, LaRae and her three children (ages 6, 3, and 1) moved into Inner City Mission after having made the rounds of other area shelters. "I cried when Sarah said they had a room for us (at ICM)," she says.

Even so, LaRae was afraid that she and her kids might not fit in. "I was afraid we wouldn't be accepted because I had all these young kids, and my middle child was sick so much."

LaRae's youngest underwent surgery while they were living at ICM. "He cried for three days after the surgery. The staff and other residents at ICM didn't complain. That's when they really showed me that they cared."

Once things settled down, LaRae was introduced to ReNew Consignment & Thrift in Lincoln, Illinois, as part of ICM's work program. "I was excited to be able to work," she says. "I like working with people."

"She's fabulous," Store Manager Bobbi Reddix says of LaRae. "She can do just about everything, from the cash register to pricing and tagging, to customer service. The customers really like her."

LaRae appreciates the trust Bobbi has in her. She takes pride in her work and her ability to contribute.

Recently, LaRae moved with the kids into an apartment. They are doing well, and LaRae still spends time at ReNew.

So what's next for the mother of three? "I'm looking into schooling to become a social worker. I want to work with victims of sexual assault. I think I could share my own experiences and be a good support person."

Special Request

You may notice that ICM E-News has a new format. This edition is a reboot, and your participation is requested! We would love for you to repost, forward to your friends, or print and hang this newsletter on the nearest bulletin board.

This is such an easy way to raise awareness of homelessness in your community and spread the word that there is a practical, Biblically based solution to homelessness and poverty. You will be sharing firsthand examples of God working through the body of Christ!

If this is the first time you have seen ICM's E-News, would you consider clicking the SUBSCRIBE button at the top of the page? You will receive these updates regularly in your inbox.

If you are on our mailing list and would rather not receive these updates, there is an "unsubscribe" button at the bottom of the page. God bless!

Praises & Prayers

Praise God and bless our supporters for the response to our call months ago for funds to replace our office windows and garage roofing. One of those roofs is thirty years old! We will be starting in on the windows soon, and hope to have the entire project complete this year.

Praise God for employment opportunities. We've had three residents find jobs in recent months. Christina, after working diligently for several months on third shift, was rewarded with a first shift position.

Be in Prayer for one of our resident children who is very intelligent but experiencing behavioral problems. Pray for homeless children in our community and the world over, that God's love finds its way to them.

Pray with us for those who struggle with addiction, that they may rely on Christ for strength and peace.



Funds for this commercial fridge and a separate freezer were raised by a Small Group led by Owen Rugg at the Westside Christian Church. Parishioners donated generously. **Praise God for the body of Christ!** and thank you to everyone involved in bringing this useful addition to our lodge kitchen.

The New Service Award



This August, ICM's Director of Operations presented Bethalto Christian Church with an ICM Service Award.

Recently we caught up with our Director of Operations Caleb Payne about a new service award he is presenting to some of our wonderful volunteers.

"Since I took this position I've seen multiple groups I thought should be honored in some way," Caleb says. "For example, the First Christian Church of Camp Point (honored in February) is a small church, but they raised funds to set up our basketball hoops, a TV in the conference room, and took part in other significant projects."

"Our second awardee, Bethalto Christian Church, sends a service retreat group of 20-25 people about four times yearly for a weekend of service. They've accomplished a whole host of projects for our residents and facility, including building our handicap ramp, and installing a sidewalk between two of our buildings."

Recently, BCC Elder Dave Wilkerson and our own Michelle Oest came up with the idea for a "reverse service retreat." Several residents and staff from ICM spent a night at the church in Bethalto and joined with the youth in renovating their nursery.

"During my presentation at their church service that Sunday, I asked anyone who had visited ICM on a Service Retreat Weekend to come forward," Caleb says. "I was amazed when half the congregation came forward!"

"There are many individuals and groups who are deserving of our recognition—and we have more awards to come—but I just want to say a big thank you to all the wonderful volunteers and partners of ICM. Your influence shines the light of Jesus in a way that no one else, even our staff, can."

[Visit our Website](#)

Inner City Mission | 217-525-3940 | [Email](#)

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