



Illinois Campers On Mission

October 2023

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President's Letter—

Hello COM family,

We had a great week in Joliet at Morning Star Mission. Please read the project report on page 3 of this newsletter to see what the team was able to do to help them. We also had great meals provided to us at Morning Star. Hats off to Charles that fed us those great meals plus fed the homeless.

Morningstar Mission is a place of Christian love and help for those that need it . It was a blessing to serve there with the wonderful staff. We look forward to going back and seeing the rest of their campus and the work that they do.

As we have finished the official COM work year, I am so blessed to be part of this organization and work with my brothers and sisters that come together to serve God and serve others. I am very aware that this is not the end of the many things COM members do in their home churches, in their communities, in their homes and in so many other places. May God bless your lives with a richness and peace that only He can give.

Hebrews 13-16

And do not forgot to do good and to share with others, with sacrifices God is pleased!!!

Hope to see everyone in Streator 2nd week of October for the fall rally!!! We will have more details out soon.

Fred Riley , President



COM Officers

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1	Jim	Herrin
5	Sue	Herrin
6	Anita	Evans
7	George	Meese
10	Catherine	Rentfrow
21	Red	Collins
23	Angie	Felix
24	Joanne	Diercks
28	Doug	Kingsbury III



Tentative Schedule for 2023 IL COM Work Projects

October 9-12 Fall Rally, Streator Baptist Camp **NOTE CHANGE OF DATE**
 December 2 Christmas Luncheon, FBC, Farina

Other Dates for your Calendar: (See Don or Jan Kragness)

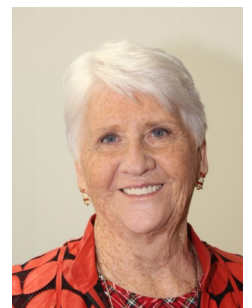
October 23—November 5 IL COM work week at Great Passion Play

Chaplain's Chatter— My Chaplain's chatter comes as a reflection on the time we spent at Morningstar Mission with the precious women, children and staff at the Family Shelter. We were privileged to spend almost an hour each morning with the women who were there during the day. We also got to meet some of the other clients in the late afternoon when they came back from work and their children as they came home from school.

At first, they were pretty quiet and a little tentative to talk or share but as the week went on and our COM women shared our testimonies and love with them, they began to open up a little to us. They were thrilled with the "As You Go Bears", the drawstring bags and some satin pillowcases we offered to them. They began to tell us their stories and their dreams for their lives after Morningstar. It was an encouragement to us to see how God is working in them and in us every day.

A little fabric, a little stuffing and a short time of work can open doors for conversation and sharing God's love. Until those women knew we really loved them and that it was not just a project to make ourselves "feel good helping the homeless", they remained closed to us but God opened doors for us to walk through and gave us opportunities to speak as we openly shared with honesty what God has done in our lives. Take those opportunities every time God presents them to you. The time is short until He returns and we need to share our story with others.

Marilyn



Morningstar Mission, Joliet, Illinois September 18 – 22, 2023

Present: IL COM = 19 + 1 guest

Fred & Paula Riley	John & Francie Lindeman	Richard & Anita Evans
Dick & Karen Mowers	Leroy & Irma Burnett	Terry & Debbie Odum
Andy & Marilyn Thomson	Cathryn St. Dennis	Logan & Sky Diercks
Sonny & Sondra McKenzie		
Guest: Marilyn's sister, Sheila		

Projects completed

- a) Built walls for a new office in the dining area – constructed, dry walled, mudded, painted, stained and varnished the office door and got it hung
- b) washed walls, doors and cleaned in dining areas and general public areas
- c) landscape areas – raked out old mulch, removed it, removed old black landscape fabric, weeded areas, replaced mulch
- d) Treasure chest 1 thrift store – built shelves, painted
- e) Treasure chest 2 thrift store – cut weeds, bushes and tree stumps, built new shelves, repaired front doors with weather stripping, other repair tasks
- f) met with women in family center every morning for devotions
- g) repaired some clothing and hemmed pants
- h) made drawstring bags (completed approximately 40), As You Go Bears (approximately 40), a few good news girl dolls, bibs for infants and older children and a few Christmas ornaments for the mission.
- i) a few women went outside the mission and met with homeless waiting for services or meals and handed out bags and bears.
- j) attended a volunteer recognition banquet hosted by the mission
- k) handed out bags, bears, dolls and satin pillowcases to the residents in the family center
- l) repaired a weight bench at the mission
- m) trimmed trees outside the Women & family center
- n) cleaned & painted security door in Women & Family center
- o) cleaned & painted bathroom doors and outside kitchen doors in dining area

CHANGE OF DATES

COM Fall Rally is

October 9-12 at Streator Baptist Camp

We will get a final schedule of events put together soon and get it out to you. There will be time for some project work helping Jacob start to winterize the camp and maybe begin some work on prepping for winter projects. There will also be time for sewing if you want to do that.

There are 3 beautiful State Parks close to the camp: Starved Rock, Mattheissen, and Buffalo Rock that you can visit and have a picnic lunch. There are also several interesting museums in Streator and Peru as well as the I&M Canal museum and canal boat tour. Shopping is always an option and Katie can tell us about some great thrift stores.

No meals will be provided except meat and table service for potluck.

Tentative schedule:

Arrive on Sunday Oct. 8 or Monday Oct. 9 (as it works for you)

Monday, Oct. 9 1 pm gather to talk about the week's work available

Tuesday, Oct. 10 4 pm Executive meeting for executive team

Wednesday, Oct. 11 noon picnic in pavilion (bring your own lunch) and
General membership meeting to follow

Thursday, Oct. 12 6 pm potluck supper and fellowship

Friday, Oct. 13 depart by noon (unless staying for retreat)

Streator Experience Men's Retreat

Streator Baptist Camp

October 16—18, 2023

Come join other men in bible study and fellowship as you dig into the scriptures with speaker, Ric Worshill. The cost is just \$100 and that includes your meals, study materials and housing. You can enjoy the beautiful camp surroundings that God provides as you enjoy a time away from the usual business of life with other Christian men. You will share fellowship and spend time together. Contact Don Kragness for reservation and details (618-983-5546).



Craft/Missions Project: Blessing Bags for Women in Transition

Items to buy:

Travel Toothpaste/Mouthwash	Wash Cloths
Toothbrush/Floss	Nail Files/Nail Polish
Combs/Brushes	Chapstick/Lip Gloss
Hair Accessories	Deodorant
Travel Lotions	Travel Shampoo/Conditioner
Fuzzy Socks	Feminine Hygiene Products
Razor/Travel Shave Cream	Band-aids
Journals/Pens (Dollar Store)	Soap/Facewash
Travel Mirror	Nail Clippers

Our goal is to assemble 100 bags. During online registration please select the items you plan to bring. The list will be adjusted so others will know what to contribute.

Our desire is to help women who are in transition from abuse or homelessness.

Last day to register at a discount is October 1.

Fall Festival at Carmi report

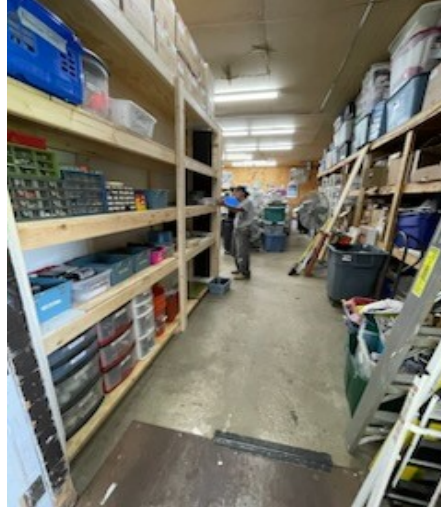
Once again, Fall Festival was a great success. There were lots of people there to participate and quite a few COM workers to help in the tents. Thank you to Sonny & Sondra, Jim & Marilyn, Fred & Paula and Andy & Marilyn.

The team was happy to have 3 pop up tents to work under this year and they gave away As You Go Bears, salvation Frisbees and Gospel Girl dolls. Sondra said the crowds were great and she estimated that the plan of salvation was presented at least 150 times that day. She also received 3 requests for the bear pattern.

Fred and Jim were able to make quite a few contacts about Campers On Mission and Sonny walked through the crowds presenting the plan of Salvation.

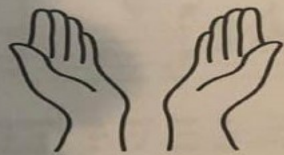






Campers on Mission 2024 Rally

June 3rd – June 7th
New Castle, IN



Reaching One More in '24

- one more for Christ
- one more Member
- one more Project

Please plan to participate in this rally. It is a wonderful time of meeting other COM members and the fellowship is so sweet.

Mark it on your calendars and send in your reservation as soon as they are available after January 1, 2024. Indiana is so close to travel.



Left to right: Kevin Watson, Executive Director of Morningside Mission (and also an IL COM member), Andy & Marilyn Thomson, Dick & Karen Mowers, Cathryn St. Dennis (back), Sheila (front) Logan & Sky Diercks, Fred & Paula Riley, Richard & Anita Evans, John & Francie Lindeman, Leroy & Irma Burnett, Terry & Debbie Odum and Sonny & Sondra McKenzie.

