

# THE CHOSEN VOICE



## What other companies are doing *Your Giving is Reaching More People Than Ever!*

In September 2008, Chosen 300 opened its second site in West Philadelphia to extend its relief to the homeless and the needy. Thanks to grants from the Esther Gowen Trust, Anthony Robbins Foundation, Enon Tabernacle, and Hambleton Builders, the site is now fully operational, providing an additional 500 meals each month. In Center City, about 85% of the populations we serve are persons who are homeless. In our West Philadelphia Site only 50% of the people are homeless. The other 50% are folks who are now making choices to either pay their rent or feed their families. We often encounter a group of children who come without their parents. One eve-

ning co-founder, Shandai Jenkins, asked them where their parents were, and their response was, "we don't know, we are just hungry." Shandai immediately brought the children into the center for a meal.

Chosen 300 is pleased to announce the opening of its 3rd Homeless Outreach Center in January of 2010 at 201 N. Hanover Street, Pottstown, PA. Executive Director, Brian Jenkins states; "The gifts through major corporations have helped to develop many new programs and has helped to expand our work. It is because of the gifts of Churches, volunteers & contributors that we can maintain these programs and continue to reach the needy in Philadelphia and around the world."

### HOW OTHERS LEND A HAND

**Hambleton Builders**, a construction company, donated labor, time and expertise to renovate and make repairs at the Chosen 300's outreach centers.

**Cross Movement Records** gifted \$6K of their proceeds from their Issachar Live (Where Ministry Meets Music) concert.

**Stubbs BBQ** partnered with Chosen 300 to serve it's famous BBQ sauce along with hot meals to the homeless. This was part of their 12 city "Feed the World" tour.

**Sam's Club** donated their surplus of lasagna and chicken parmesan. Their donation provided 250 hot meals.

**U.S. Post Office** national "Stamp Out Hunger" campaign collected canned goods. 50% of the cans went directly towards meals. 50% was given to those in need.

**UPS** sponsored Chosen 300's Walk Against Homelessness. UPS' team volunteered over 500 hours of community service.

**IMPACT Thrift Stores** donates its profits to Charity. This year Impact gave a gift of \$12,000 to Chosen 300.

### Inside this issue:

- Police Illegal Entrance* 2
- International Work* 2
- Wendell's Success Story* 3
- Upcoming Events* 3
- How to Donate* 3
- Volunteer Opportunities* 4

## Giving is Easy with *United Way*

*Or your employers community giving programs*

**Option 1** Make Chosen 300 your organization of choice in your employer's United Way or Community Giving campaign

**Option 2** Donate online by visiting [www.chosen300.org](http://www.chosen300.org).

Giving Campaign  
Numbers  
Southeastern PA  
Region:  
#06484

Tri-State Region:  
#029432

\*All other regions indicate  
"Chosen 300 Ministries"

**YOUR HELP WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE.**

## POLICE ILLEGALLY ENTER SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE

**I**t was Sunday, July 5, 2009. We had just began our corporate prayer for Sunday Morning Worship preparing for baptism. On Sunday mornings we hold a worship service and breakfast for the people we serve. Over 90% of those who attend our Sunday worship and breakfast consist of people who are either homeless, have been homeless or are in an impoverished state. Despite the challenges of their lives we find it valuable to offer them the same services as people in any other congregation.

On this Sunday morning, two police officers from the 6<sup>th</sup> District entered the worship service with the intention of performing an illegal search, without a warrant, for a potential suspect. As the officers entered, I said, "Excuse me, but we are in worship." The officer responded that they were going to look around to see if someone was there. I extended my hand to his shoulder to stop him at the end of the corridor and told him he was not going to enter. His response was that if I touched him again he was "going to arrest my ass." One officer even pointed his finger in my face and the face



**Dep. Commissioners Ross & Bethel join the worship service to support the community & begin the reconciliation process.**

of my wife continuing to threaten to arrest us. As we contented with them that they did not have the right to come into our worship just to look for someone the office responded, "We can do what we want to do."

As the officers became more belligerent, my staff proceeded to contact 911 requesting for a captain to come on the scene. Eventually we managed to get them out of the building.

Although this was an outrageous situation, I do want to applaud the Sergeant who came on the scene and handled the matter very professionally by reprimanding the officers for their inappropriate behavior.

As I entered back into worship and gathered my robe for baptism, my eyes were filled with tears. My heart ached for the people, because I realized

they were often disrespected without anyone to defend them. The issue is that the rights of the poor to gather for worship are being denied. When you think about it, there would never be a time that the police would enter The Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter & Paul or any other prestigious congregation on a Sunday morning to walk up and down the sanctuary to see if a suspect was there, disrupt worship, use profanity, and threaten the pastor. It is because these folks are poor and normally do not have someone to stand in their defense that their rights are being violated. On July 5, 2009 they came to the wrong house. Chosen 300 will stand up for the

“ My heart ached for the people because I realized they were often disrespected with out anyone to defend them.”

Brian Jenkins

rights of the homeless and the needy.

This is not the first time this has happened. In October 2008 officers stormed in our worship and were forced to leave. Over the years there have been several other instances similar to this. This has got to stop and we are going to see to it!

When asked about the incident, Deputy Commissioner, Kevin Bethel stated, "it is a current policy that if officers need to enter a place of worship, then a supervisor must be called on the scene." Secondly, Deputy Commissioner Ross confirmed that unless the police were "in chase" of a individual in which they saw him run into a facility, if a property owner refuses to permit a search that the police can not force entry without a warrant.

We will see to it that this does not happen anymore and to make sure I made a call for action. Shortly after the incident Deputy Commissioner Bethel met with Pastor James Hall of Triumph Baptist Church, Pastor Albert Douglas Of the Upper Dublin Lutheran Church, Council Women Jannie L. Blackwell and I. Deputy Commissioner Bethel stated that he officially reported the incident to internal affairs to undergo a internal investigation.

REACHING OUT INTERNATIONALLY

Every month Chosen 300's International Food Distribution Project provides food for the hungry across the world. Ten churches belong to the program and provide monthly financial support. The countries that receive food include Guyana, Jamaica, South Africa and Nigeria. Due to the economy, the price of rice, milk and other goods increased

dramatically. As the cost of food increases, the number of families in the program has tripled. Chosen 300 is on a campaign to enroll churches in the program. By donating only \$200 a month a church can help. Churches can find out more simply by contacting Chosen 300.

"Participating in this program is a great way for a church to make a real impact without being over burdened economically or taxing human re



Our Nigerian Partners:  
Rev. & Mrs. Aparson

sources" the founder of the program, Brian Jenkins stated. Reverend Aparson, of Evangel Chapel in Nigeria, stated "we carry out this programme in rural communities where the

poverty level is below \$ 2 per family per day. Many die due to hunger and sickness, which could have been prevented, had someone cared like you are doing. And it is like this in many parts of the country and beyond."

Reverend Aparson also stated that due to Chosen 300's efforts the health conditions are improving and that some who would have died of hunger are looking refreshed and have a future.

# Addiction to Benediction: Wendell's Story

"I'm not on a corner *selling* drugs, I'm on the corner *ministering*. When I go to prison, I'm not *doing* time, I'm there to *donate* time to speak to those that were in the same place that I once was." Wendell's story starts the same place as many men battling an addiction. Wendell was homeless amidst a 20 year fight with drugs when one of his buddies from the shelter asked him if he wanted to visit the "Chicken Man" for a good meal. The Chicken Man, as Wendell later found out, was Brian Jenkins, founder of Chosen 300. This is where the page in Wendell's story began to turn. Prior to Wendell's first visit to Chosen 300, he ran the streets and sold drugs. "I knew how it felt to be Neo Brown and I knew how it felt to be Pookie," Wendell remembered. His addiction reached a point that his own

**“I'm not on the corner selling drugs. I'm on the corner ministering.”  
Wendell**

father did not recognize him because he lost so much weight. After 20 years Wendell found himself homeless and lonely. Wendell says he would pray everyday to be saved from his condition and God delivered. After Wendell's first visit to Chosen 300, he was compelled to come every week to attend the service and get a hot meal. Soon Wendell was volunteering and helping to serve the meals. Now Wendell is the Chef Supervisor at Temple University. He will graduate from OIC in Culinary Arts this year. His aspirations

include owning his own restaurant. Currently Wendell ministers, teaches classes, cleans and does whatever it is that Chosen 300 needs him to do. Within the past year, Wendell was married—his wife's prayers and love keep him strong. Wendell says that he would have never been able to beat his addition without the support of Chosen 300 and the Chaplains at his shelter. Whenever he felt like getting high, he knew he always had someone to turn to. "I'm grateful for Chosen 300 and the churches that fed me. Because of their unconditional love I'm able to be the man I am today."



**CHOSEN 300™  
MINISTRIES, INC.**

**DONATING IS EASY!**

**UNITED WAY  
COMMUNITY GIVING  
CAMPAIGN #:**

Southeastern PA Region  
#06484

Tri-State Region  
#029432

For All Other Regions  
Indicate:  
"Chosen 300 Ministries  
P.O. Box 95  
Ardmore, PA 19003"

**STOCKS &  
SECURITIES**

You can now give stocks and securities to Chosen 300!

**GIVE ONLINE!**

Visit us at  
[www.chosen300.org](http://www.chosen300.org)  
You can even set up convenient automatic monthly withdrawal from your checking account or credit card.

**REMITTANCE  
ENVELOPES**

Use the enclosed postage-paid remittance envelopes to send in your checks.

## Washing, Drying & Pressing Women Towards Greatness

November 2, 2009



- ✓ 13 stylist from area salons donated their time to do the hair of 95 homeless women.
- ✓ Chair massages were offered while guests were waiting.
- ✓ A member of the Social Security Office assisted with benefits.

## Upcoming Events



### WALK AGAINST HOMELESSNESS

*WALK THE BEAT TO KEEP PEOPLE OFF THE STREET*

**WHEN:** Saturday, April 17, 2010

**WHERE:** Mondauk Common Park  
Dillon & Susquehanna Roads  
Ft. Washington, PA 19034



*Download pledge form at [www.chosen300.org](http://www.chosen300.org)*

## A Merry Heart Doeth Good Like a Medicine



On October 27, 2009 comedian, Michael Blackson visited Chosen 300's Outreach Center and put on a comedy show. Michael is a native of Ghana and migrated to the U.S. in 1985. He attended high school with Shandai. Michael has also been featured on Comedy Central and starred in *Next Friday*. Blackson's comedy helped to stimulate self-esteem, move the guest towards self sufficiency and shine light on a positive perspective of their struggles.

## OUR MISSION

*To bring people of different membership groups together, helping them to realize that despite our differences in our race, ethnic group, denomination, social class, or the diverse ways we practice our faith, we can unify ourselves for the common good.*

*The purpose of our unification is to distribute meals and services to the homeless; to provide pre-release classes to incarcerated persons; and offer positive-value programs for inner-city youth.*



*Uniting the Body of Christ to Reach the World.*

# Volunteer Opportunities



### WHERE

Center City Outreach Center  
1116 Spring Garden Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19123

Outdoor Outreach Program  
16th & Ben Franklin Parkway  
Philadelphia, PA 19123

West Philadelphia Outreach Center  
Lancaster Avenue & Wallace Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19123

Pottstown Outreach Center  
201 N. Hanover Street  
Pottstown, PA 19464

### WHEN

Monday, Wednesday, Fridays @ 6:00 PM  
1st Tuesday Learning Lunch 12:00 Noon  
Saturdays @ 5:00 PM (November-April)  
Sunday Fellowship & Breakfast @ 10:00 AM

Saturdays @ 5:00 PM (May—October)

Fridays @ 6:00 PM

**OPENING IN JANUARY 2010!**  
Tuesdays @ 6:00 PM

## Contact Us

Mailing Address:  
P.O. Box 95  
Ardmore, PA 19003

Outreach Center:  
1116 Spring Garden St.  
Philadelphia, PA 19123

Phone: 215-765-9806  
Email: info@chosen300.org  
www.chosen300.org