



Our Lady of Good Remedy Health Services Holds Annual Summer Health Fair

By Dave Marciniak, RN

With the help of a generous grant from the FidelisCare Diocesan Grant Fund, St. Luke's once again highlighted the benefits of good health and regular medical care at it's annual Summer Health Fair! The Health Fairs are held twice a year, once in the summer and once in the winter, and attendance has been growing with each passing year. The Summer Health Fair, held on June 23rd on the Mission grounds, drew nearly 300 people for medical information, health screening, healthy food, and music from the Voices of Mercy! Gift cards, a bike, a digital camera, and the grand prize, a brand new TV and DVD player, were given away in a raffle open to all participants.



In addition, all those who visited the information and screening tables were given a bag of healthy picnic foods to take home and enjoy.

The Catholic Health System, Sisters Hospital, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Erie County Health Department,

and many others offered health screening and information. The Family Health Center at Sisters Hospital offered appointments to those without a health provider, and Fidelis offered information and assistance in procuring health insurance to those with none. A cadre of volunteers from Sisters Hospital manned the registration tables, and everyone who registered received a gift bag.

Amy and the gang kept the food coming, including chicken Italian sausages with peppers and onions, as well as turkey burgers. Molly and the kitchen crew made a delicious tuna salad and home-made salsa, which was a big hit! Using heart-healthy ingredients, the community got a chance to sample foods that taste great and are good for you. All the while the Voices of Mercy serenaded the crowd with beautiful music on an equally beautiful, sunny day.



Please remember that as the summer comes to a close the community will be in dire need of over-the-counter medicines to battle back the cold and flu season. Next time you stop at the drug store, drop some ibuprofen or cough syrup in the cart for us. We appreciate it!

Missionary Mom



By Michelle Marciniak

"Mom, did you know that the money that American Idol collected to feed the poor is going to an agency that funds abortions?" My seventeen year old daughter's realization allowed me to enter into a "teaching moment".

Sadly, I had to tell her about agencies that not only funded abortions but also considered artificial birth control an important medical supply. I had read many articles of wonderful doctors going into poor countries to help and having no antibiotics for very sick children but having shelves upon shelves of contraceptives. Helplessly, these doctors watched children suffer, and some die, because they did not have the medicines we take for granted.

Not all human relief agencies are like this; some really do assist the poor. I was happy to share my faith and my role at the Mission with my daughter. At St. Luke's we are pro-life, and the money we receive goes to helping the poor. We help young moms who may otherwise have aborted their babies and give them a fresh start in life.

I recall once while "channel surfing" seeing a famous comic actor mocking pro life people. He mocked us by challenging us to take five or six black children home "if we are so pro-life". I thought about all the men and women I know who help young moms and children, black or white. His words became empty in the face of their dedication and love.

I reminded Emily of the things she has seen and participated in over the years at the Mission. With her father in charge of the health services at St. Luke's, she has first-hand knowledge of what we offer the poor. She also knows that I am trying to make a difference one young mom at a time. For a number of years Emily has been involved with the Kids of the Kingdom summer program at St. Luke's. Last summer she took on one little boy, and the two became fast friends. Because of the love and kindness he and his family received last summer and throughout the year he was baptized at the Easter Vigil. Emily's heart was full of joy!

When you look at the big picture the devil wants you to become discouraged. How can we help... so many drugs, so much despair, so much hunger, so many homeless, so many children without fathers in the home. It is easy to lose hope. When I feel most defeated, my "motherly" heart remembers the day I saw children walking home from the mission after dinner. A young boy was hungrily gulping down his meal, a hunger relieved by St. Luke's. This memory brings tears to my eyes and impels me to carry on. We really DO make a difference.

God has a plan for each one of us. For my family, as crazy as it seems, even to us, we have been called to be a "missionary family". God has a plan for you, too. Maybe you are called to help financially. Maybe you are being asked to pick up a big pack of toilet paper next time you're at Sam's Club. Maybe you could pick up an extra bottle of your favorite shampoo while you are at Walgreens. Maybe you are called to join our community for Mass or adoration and to support us in prayer. There are so many ways to serve God's people.

We don't have to go to the other side of the world to reach out to God's poor. They are right here in our midst. Our family is blessed to serve God right here, right now. God has a plan for us, and for you too. Listen to the call, and respond! We need you!