

## VOLUNTEER NEEDS

Please contact Rev. Charlotte at 616/235-7211 ext. 101 or [charlotte@heartside.org](mailto:charlotte@heartside.org) for more information about internships and volunteer needs. For 2010-2011, internship opportunities are available for students of Social Work, Community Development, Social Justice, Pastoral Care and Non-Profit Studies. We have volunteer opportunities open & available for special projects and persons with skills in:

- Art
- Basic Literacy/GED Teaching
- Computers & IT
- General Office Work
- Carpentry
- Web Design
- Photography
- Videography
- Painting

## OUR WISH LIST

- *Coffee supplies:* coffee, cream, sugar and cups
- Office Supplies
- Cleaning Supplies
- Incense & Airwick
- a Conference Table
- Office Chairs
- Locking Filing Cabinets
- a Shop Vac
- an Upright Vacuum
- 6 ft. Plastic Folding Tables
- Easels: Table & Floor
- Dry-Mount Press
- Fine Art Frames & Matt
- Electric Drill/Screwdriver
- Sewing Machines
- *Art Supplies:* Canvas, Acrylic Paint, Brushes, Drawing Paper
- Craft Supplies: Jewelry, Mod Podge, Sand Paper
- Personal Care Items
- New Men's Sweatpants: LG, XL, XXL, XXXL

If you're interested in donating any of the above items or other items, please contact Gregory at [greg@heartside.org](mailto:greg@heartside.org)

Become a fan of the ministry on Facebook, to receive updates on ministry news and happenings. For more information visit the *Announcements* section at [www.heartside.org](http://www.heartside.org)

Nonprofit Organization  
US POSTAGE  
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Grand Rapids, MI  
PERMIT NO. 729

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

HEARTSIDE  
MINISTRY



54 S. DIVISON AVENUE  
GRAND RAPIDS, MI 49503

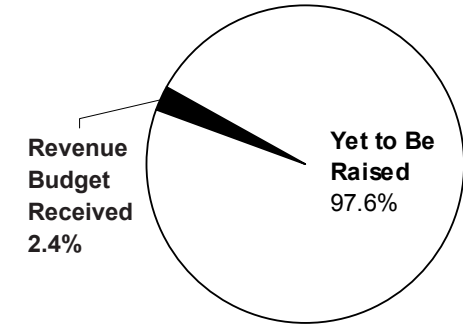
RECYCLE THIS NEWSLETTER – GIVE IT TO A FRIEND

A WORD FROM HEARTSIDE MINISTRY • MARCH 2010

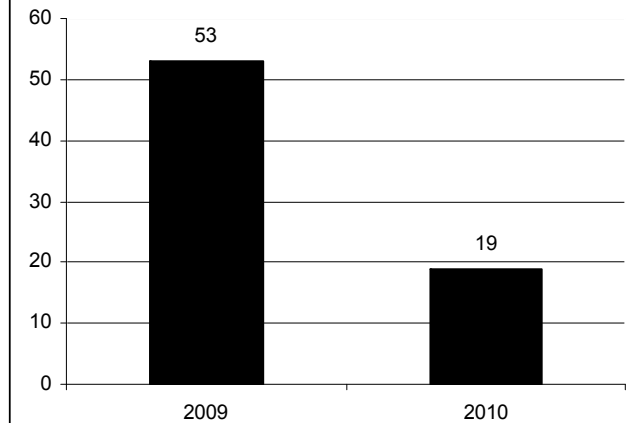
## A LOOK AT THE NUMBERS

Our 2010 revenue budget is \$462,783; that means we are committed to raising about \$38,565 every month. Your help is crucial to maintaining programs and services that help the poorest of the poor in Grand Rapids during the hardest times many of them have known. Your donations share the hope and the experience of God's loving care that changes lives forever. Here's a look at the numbers so far:

Percent of Revenue Budget Received



Number of Donations in February: 2009 vs. 2010



\*Estimates as of February 28, 2010

# REFLECTION

The Niagara River has a Point of No Return, a spot so close to the Falls that no swimmer is strong enough and no boat engine is powerful enough to resist the current's pull towards the drop. Past that point, unless you are miraculously snatched from the riverbank, you will be pulled down the river, over the falls and to your death.

Why would anyone enter the river near that spot? Why swim so close to the sweeping current? Each day, we take pause and ask ourselves "why?" We work with men and women living perilously close to the *point of no return* (PNR)—physically, emotionally and spiritually.

Most people waded in far upstream, far from the churning cataracts, doing ordinary things: having drinks with some friends on a Friday night or after a tough day at work. They found that their prescribed drugs worked better with a cocktail. Some found an extra edge with stimulants. Others numbed the loneliness, the pain, with a bottle or a pill. Almost no one steps in at the strongest point of the current.

We work with end-stage addicts. We walk alongside the homeless. We work with men and women struggling against co-morbidities of mental illness and self-medicating behavior. All are the hurting and beautiful Children of God.

Admittedly, for me, chronic alcoholics are the hardest of the Neighbors to work with. They range from the truly endearing to the very annoying. Some are painfully aware of their situation, bearing the weight of the world in their guilt and shame. Some have an attitude of personal justification and entitlement, oblivious to the pain they have caused themselves or others. I find that they are difficult to engage.

Each alcoholic's story is different, unique. Yet, as addiction slowly destroys them, pulling them closer to the PNR, everyone's story becomes the same. They drift into the current. As



ART BY: RIGOBERTO

they approach the end of a terminal condition, the water roars. They succumb. They slip beneath the surface. All along, they leave hurt. Often, without a successful intervention, their children learn to do the same.

I think that we, as a society, have difficulty thinking about and reacting to the terrible destruction others experience—the apparently irresistible spiral of decline that an unfortunate minority cannot seem to escape. The river swallows them. What is a right and just reaction? We place great importance

on individual liberty and personal responsibility. Yet, there were times when we more keenly felt a communal responsibility for the wages of sin. It was once the drink and not just the drinker that was understood as the agent of destruction.

I have a friend that says that Heartside Ministry is “the last knot on the rope.” We stand on the riverbank, trying to pull ashore as many people as we can, as they near the PNR. We also work upstream, where the water is quieter, helping people evaluate where the river of life might be carrying them. We provide good alternatives for their healing and strength—different directions.

Heartside Ministry is steadfast in its ministry, service and proclamation of the truth: *that although the currents carrying these men and women struggling with addiction*

*seem irresistible, there is the very hand of God, extended, to pull them to the safety of His loving arms.* Not everyone that walks through the doors of this ministry may be healed, but with God's help and your support, each person can be ministered to, served and hear the truth.

God's hand is extended and God's help is sure.

REV. CHARLOTTE ELLISON  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & PASTOR