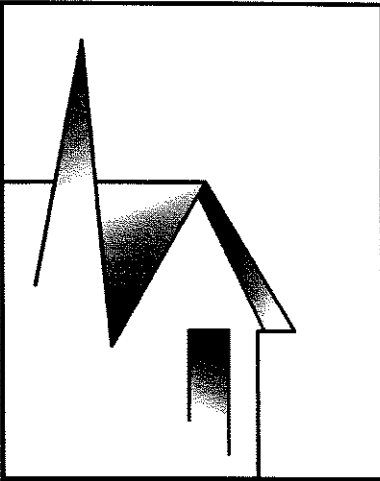
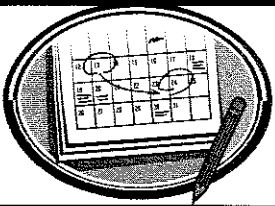


VIFCC Newsbreak 2009



This issue
contains
our
2008
Annual
Report



**SAVE THE DATE
FOR THESE
"FUN" RAISING
EVENTS**

April-Sept: Volunteer
opportunities @
Great American
Ballpark

May-October: Volun-
teer @ Kings Island

July-Annual Wine &
Martini Tasting

October: "Empty
Bowl Project"

August-December:
Volunteer @ Ben-
gals games

Client financial assistance need reaches all time high

It is not surprising, given the recent headlines, that our clients are feeling even more financially strapped. What is alarming is the amount of people affected in our service area. In 2008 the number of clients served jumped to 18,547 an increase of 6.9%.

This past year the financial assistance given out by VIFCC rose by a staggering 66%, and not all of those that were eligible were able to be helped. In 2007 we gave out \$48,381 toward our clients rent and utilities. In 2008 that figure jumped to \$65,990.

Unfortunately, while the economic outlook is uncertain, it appears that somewhat rough time may be with us for a while. The clients we serve are not the only ones feeling the squeeze of the economy.

Generally, when our food pantry runs low, we are able to e-mail the Manna list with specific needs and the response is immediate and plentiful. But when our check book balance runs

low, we can't send out a quick email...or can we?

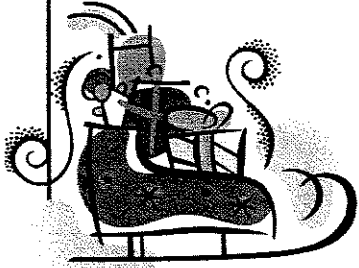
2008 saw a significant change in contributions from individuals (down 21%) and from organizations (down 41%) Thankfully, contributions from our Sponsoring Faith Communities exceeded our expectations, ending the year up 9.8%. We prudently watched our spending and will continue to do so. We are committed to serving our neighbors in need. However, we cannot continue this mission in the manner that our community has come to love and appreciate without your generous financial support. Thank you for prayerfully considering how you can help us in this mission.

New Volunteer Opportunities Abound...

Want to help out at Valley, but don't have the time during the day? Aside from the daily volunteer positions there are MANY opportunities to make a difference *behind the scenes* at Valley...for instance; **Volunteer recognition:** This committee is dedicated to random acts of kindness towards our volunteers...help organize the Volunteer Appreciation Dinner, plan once a month birthday lunches, send out cards of encouragement, etc. **Fundraising;**

want to host a party, or help plan an event? Have a great idea that has worked in other organizations? We have some great events planned for the future and could really use your help. **Publicity;** Do you like to write? Would you like to generate articles for a newspaper or newsletter? And finally **Web Design;** Are you a techie and could help us update our current site? contact Marne Kappes at

Fill the Sleigh Program a success!



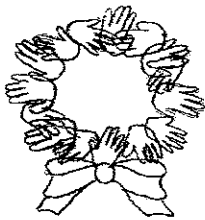
Another successful Christmas Program was achieved for 2008! Over 40 area churches, businesses and community groups called upon their members to shop, wrap, and organize to the end result of over 1200 new Christmas clothing and toy gifts being delivered to Valley for distribution on December 18. The Sharing Tree and Food Basket program plus our Final Friday give-away of general Christmas items reached 407 families with more than 880 children. 350 families were given a holiday box filled with a complete turkey dinner and some staple food items for the winter break. 217 teens received gift cards in lieu of a toy gift. All of this was made possible by the generous donations of time and hard work from all donating groups plus the more than 60 volun-

teers who worked with Valley to call clients, organize, transport and distribute the food and gifts during the third week of December.

I would like to personally thank all the volunteers who have helped throughout the years, and to introduce the new Christmas Program Coordinator for 2009, Alisa Blevins. She worked closely with me during this past program and will be an exciting new leader for the coming year. I encourage everyone to jump in and give her your full support! A happy and healthy 2009 to all.

~Michelle Childs

Thank you, Michelle for your countless hours of hard work and dedication to making this program a success.

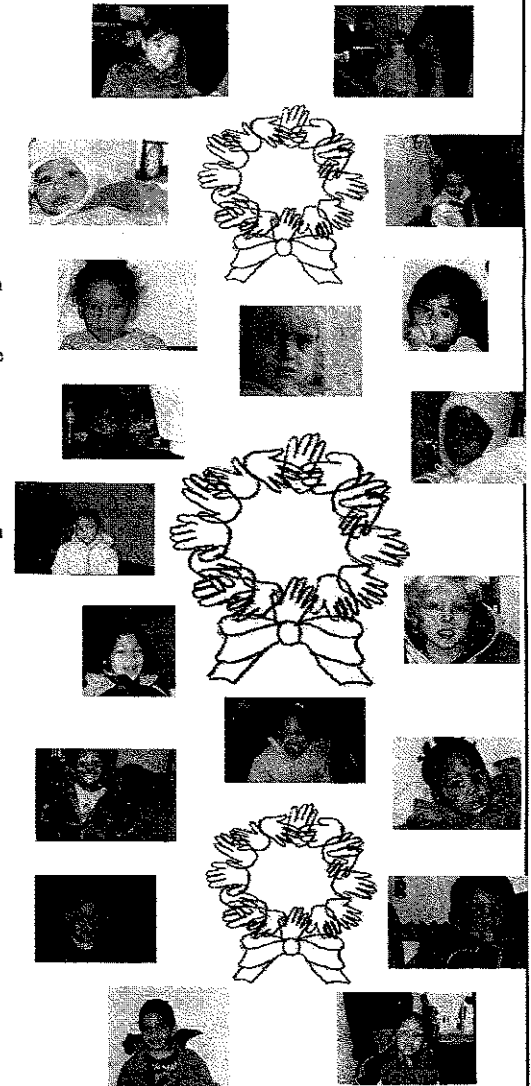


Helping Hands from Christmas 2008

Carthage Christian Church
 Christ Church of Glendale
 Church of Ascension & Holy Trinity
 Fleming Road United Church of Christ
 Hartwell Presbyterian Church
 Immanuel United Church of Christ
 Lockland Church of the Nazarene
 Northern Hills Fellowship U.U.
 Presbyterian Church of Wyoming
 Reading-Lockland Presbyterian Church
 St. Michael's Church of Sharonville
 Mike Castrucci Ford
 SaraLee Corporation
 St. James of the Valley
 Mike Albert Leasing
 Reece-Campbell Construction
 Lockland High School FCCLA
 Wyoming Junior Women's Club
 Spring Valley Bank
 Costco

Sharonville United Methodist Church
 Trinity Baptist Church
 First Presbyterian Church of Glendale
 Friendship United Methodist Church
 Hartwell United Methodist Church
 Mt. Zion Baptist Church
 Landmark Baptist Church
 Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church
 St. Bartholomew Church
 Wyoming Baptist Church
 Wyoming Firefighters Association
 Valley Temple
 St. John United Church of Christ
 Powell Crosley YMCA
 Wyoming Newcomers Club
 Remke Market
 WesBanco
 Gentle Brothers
 St. Gabriel School
 Wyoming Skyline Chili

...and many caring Individual Donors



The Next Generation of Caring Hearts...



This Wyoming football team lead by Olaf Strom and other dads, went door to door selling LaRosa's Buddy Cards in the fall. Thru their efforts Valley received \$1,220. Go Cowboys!!

For the third year in a row the Brown sisters, Kira, Leah, and Tori, (pictured with mom Christy and Barb Campbell) with the help of cousin Hannah, raised \$280.58 selling hot chocolate on New Year's day! What a way to start off the new year!



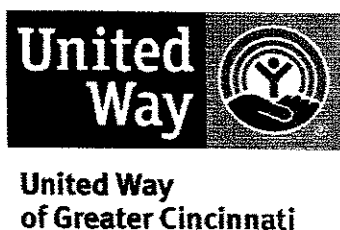
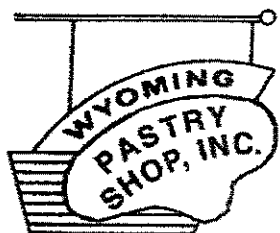
Student volunteers for the Back2School Program getting geared up.

'08 Back-2-School Program served 776 students

The first week of August at Valley, saw 776 school children and their parents anxiously awaiting their turn to pick out gently worn out fits or uniforms. New back packs were then selected and filled with schools supplies, they then received gift cards to purchase new shoes from either Steve & Barry's or Kmart. We served 276 families, 49 of those were new to the Center. This year our Sponsoring Faith Communities joined with us in providing various school supplies. This was a tremendous undertaking and greatly appreciated. This program is partially funded by a grant provided by the Dater Foundation. Over 50 volunteers, made up of primarily students, helped make this program a success. I am looking for a Co-Chair to help organize the '09 program, if you are interested, contact Marne Kappes @mom2btandj@aol.com.



With the Help from these Local
Businesses and Partnering Agencies,
We are able to Fulfill our Mission of
"Helping our Neighbors in Need"



**CHARLES H. DATER
FOUNDATION**



we put people to work!



Spring Valley
Bank



**Cincinnati-Hamilton County
Community Action Agency**
We help make things happen.