

## Outreach Report -2008

*"The only thing we need for authentic outreach is an ear fine-tuned to the promptings of God's Spirit."*

**Heart, Head and Hands in Action:** Grace Church has a passion for sharing the love of Jesus. This passion (HEART) is a result of both immersing ourselves with the clear Biblical message to make disciples coupled with challenging one another to share what we know (HEAD) with friends, family and workers. As a result of our HEARTS and HEADS attuned to God's purposes, we saw over one-half of our congregation serve (HANDS) outside the church in the past year. A recent congregational survey revealed that more than 25 of our people were engaged in each of the following outreach areas this past year: Ministry to the Elderly; refugees and ESL; homeless; international students, after-school tutoring, food-shelves and ministry to those with disabilities.

As God has transformed our HEARTS and HEADS we increasingly used our HANDS this past year to work alongside these local outreach partners: Crossroads Ministries; Family and Youth Advancement Services; International Students; Home Free Ministries, Marie Sandvik Center; MN Teen Challenge; New Life Family Services; Presbyterian Homes; Prison Fellowship; Salvation Army; Somali Adult Literacy Training; World Relief Minnesota; Union Gospel Mission; and Urban Home Works.

**Highlights of 2007-2008:** We rejoice that over the past 12 months we:

- Launched a New Refugee Housing Ministry, resettling and working alongside a family of 10 from Myanmar (Burma) which now regards Grace Church and Roseville as their home.
- Hosted a community block party with nearly 1400 people participating (more than one-half not from GCR).
- Had a combined attendance of over 1500 at three community outreach events: Movie Night; 1000 Generations concert and Comedy Sportz night.
- Conducted a State Fair Parking Outreach performing acts of service to nearly 4,000 people/vehicles who used our parking lot for the Park-and-Ride shuttle buses.
- Collected over 8,000 pounds of food in support of emergency food shelves; hosted 46 International students in our homes at Thanksgiving; and had four service Saturdays with Urban Homeworks in NE Minneapolis.
- Saw nearly 100 participate in the "Faith Search Creation" outreach seminar; 65 participate in the Ethnic City Outreach Tour; 95 participate in the Refugee Journey Experience program and another 22 take the six-week "Perspectives Light" Outreach and Missions course.
- Experienced record Easter Sunday attendance as our congregation invited friends and our neighbors responded to a 25,000 piece mailings inviting them to special events and services.
- Had nearly 800 visitors to Grace Church in the past 12 month, welcomed over 180 new active attendees, and saw two dozen professions of faith in Christ Jesus.

**Expectations for 2008-2009:**

- Resettle a second refugee family as a church-wide service project; host a second Refugee Journey Experience seminar; host 50+ international students at Thanksgiving and Christmas and provide 10,000 pounds of food to the Salvation Army food shelves.
- Host a second Community Block Party Outreach and launch a new believers course.
- Host several Christian bands, including a return concert by 1000Generations, as we share the Good News of Jesus with our neighbors and friends.
- Launch a regular church-wide community service and outreach day and see ABFs and small groups take on a outreach and community service project.
- Send out three 20,000+ piece community mailings

*"The longer we walk with God, the more open our arms should become."*