

# NEW ENGLAND CHAPEL: RESTORATION

SHOWING COMPASSION, MENDING INJUSTICE

NOVEMBER 2013

When I think about the work of Restoration, I wonder, how we are showing who God is here at New England Chapel and to the people outside of NEC? Do they know what God looks like? No one really knows what God looks like, but we can see God in action. When I think of God in action, I imagine His hands: big, beautiful, creative, mending hands. And because we are created in His image, our hands are important too. NEC Restoration is about helping you use your hands to be God's hands to mend, repair and restore God's now broken, but beautiful world.

This year we want to *show compassion and mend injustice*. Over 300 of our community members have rolled up their sleeves and gotten their hands dirty in the work of Restoration at NEC, locally, regionally and globally!

On the corner of Main Street, Worcester, one of our Regional partners, Straight Ahead Ministries, is transforming it's neighborhood. Straight Ahead café sits in the middle of several competing gang territories. One of the staff members praised a NEC volunteer for being God's hands just by showing up

and being a positive presence in youth lives.

At a local Healthy Futures Franklin coalition meeting, a representative from one of NEC's local partners, Franklin Food Pantry, talked about her amazement at our church that will go beyond just handing out food to addressing the root causes of hunger. One of the things the Restoration local team would like to accomplish this year is working with the YMCA and local families to learn how to cook healthy, low-cost meals.

Here at NEC, I was speaking with a woman about the care she receives through her Stephen Minister. She said, "My Stephen Minister was there for me when I didn't think I could make it. She really showed me that God is with me."

God's handprints are everywhere—NEC, Franklin, New England and the World. Will you join this Restoration work and use your hands to show others who God is?

~by Jodi Koeman, Pastor of Community Restoraition

*"Equipping the people of NEC to show compassion, mend injustice and deepen partnerships as God guides our part in restoring his world." - Restoration Mission*



Mend, Repair, Restore

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# Restoration: @NEC & Local



*Christ comes to us, redeeming and healing our brokenness through a loving relationship with him. We want to offer the same hope and love Christ has shown us to our neighbors here at New England Chapel by providing relief and comfort through:*

## Relief Ministries

Can you prepare and deliver a meal or a sack of groceries to someone in need? *Caring Meals* is a team of people willing to be on call to provide a meal for someone after a move, birth of a child, hospitalization or injury. Questions? Contact Nicole Viola at [johnandnicoleviola@verizon.net](mailto:johnandnicoleviola@verizon.net) or Amy Cornwell at [amy@newenglandchapel.org](mailto:amy@newenglandchapel.org).

Can you provide short term relief through the donation of gift, grocery or gas cards? Contact Jodi Koeman at [Jodi@newenglandchapel.org](mailto:Jodi@newenglandchapel.org) or Amy Cornwell at [amy@newenglandchapel.org](mailto:amy@newenglandchapel.org).

Would you like to be part of a team that develops relationships between giver and receiver in the process of matching needs with resources within our community?

NEC is working to implement an online program called [youshare.org](http://youshare.org) that helps pair needs and resources. If you have resources to share or would like more information on [youshare.org](http://youshare.org), contact Amy Cornwell at [amy@newenglandchapel.org](mailto:amy@newenglandchapel.org).

## Stephen Ministries

**Stephen Ministry:** Stephen Ministers are trained to provide one-to-one confidential care to those experiencing crisis such as hospitalization, disabled, difficult pregnancy, bereavement, loved one deployed in military service, job loss, etc.

**Need a Stephen Minister?** If you would find a Stephen Minister helpful, contact Amy Cornwell@ [amy@newenglandchapel.org](mailto:amy@newenglandchapel.org).

**Be a Stephen Minister?** Apply to be part of the [2014 Spring training class](#). Contact Amy Cornwell at [amy@newenglandchapel.org](mailto:amy@newenglandchapel.org) or Claudia Wieggers at [clwieggers@verizon.net](mailto:clwieggers@verizon.net).

## Kids Making an Impact

By Bryan Wieggers

On Saturday, October 26th the Ignite Student Ministry group had an incredible morning working together to make an impact in our local communities. A group of 15 students, student leaders and parents worked together on a few different projects.

Half of the team worked to put together 200 food baskets at the Franklin Food pantry to be distributed as Thanksgiving meals in the town of Franklin. The other half set to work on raking a yard for a family in need in Franklin. Later that day both teams joined together in Uxbridge to clean up another lawn of fallen leaves.

It was amazing how the jobs seemed pretty big to tackle, but were completed easily when we all worked together as a team. We learned not to take the food in our refrigerators for granted and the power of tarps, rakes, bags and leaf blowers working together.



NEC Youth help with yardwork (above) and at the Franklin Food Pantry (below)



# Restoration: Regional

## Giving in Thanksgiving

New England Chapel will be "Giving in Thanksgiving" this year by bringing boxes of food to families in Worcester as well as in the New England Chapel community.

Please consider completing the whole list of foods to help a family. If you cannot complete the whole list, consider sharing the list with your circle or a friend! Bring non-perishables to NEC on Nov 17—24th to the box in the café. **Perishable items can only be brought in on Nov 24th before/during services.**

If you are in need of a basket this Thanksgiving, or know someone in the NEC community who is, please contact Amy Cornwell at [amy@newenglandchapel.org](mailto:amy@newenglandchapel.org).

*Shopping Lists* can be found at:

[http://media1.razorplanet.com/share/512328-1689/sources/403708\\_thksgivfoodlist2013\\_1\\_.pdf](http://media1.razorplanet.com/share/512328-1689/sources/403708_thksgivfoodlist2013_1_.pdf)



Thanksgiving in Great Brook Valley

## Safe Families for Children: Supporting Families

*By Julie Paine, Bethany Christian Services*

Meet Melina and her three children (ages 3, 4, and 7) Melina learned she needed brain surgery, requiring up to a week's stay in the hospital. Less than a year ago, she moved to RI, away from a domestic violence situation. Her family lived far away and unable to help, and only one close friend lived nearby. Overwhelmed, Melina didn't have enough support to care for her children while she was in the hospital or during recovery.

God used Bethany Christian Service's Safe Families for Children (SFFC) to wrap three church communities around Melina and her children, preventing the need to use the state foster care system, which is costly and could have taken more than two weeks for Melina's children to return home. The oldest child stayed with Melina's close friend while the other two children stayed with two different SFFC host families. The family who hosted the 3 year old kept in close contact with Melina, visiting her in the hospital, talking to her every day on the phone, and stays in touch with her even now. Other people in the church communities provided coaching support, necessary winter clothing, food, and meals during Melina's recovery. When Melina's children returned home after two weeks, another church community offered help with daytime childcare, meals and friendship.

I will never forget Melina's words to me: "Julie, I am not alone anymore. I never knew God would love me so much through so many wonderful people." This is why I believe in SFFC as it is truly a partnership ministry that brings healing, hope, and connection to the body of Christ.

Come to the upcoming SFFC Info Forums here @ NEC (December 10th) from 7-9PM or in Whitinsville at Pleasant Street Church (December 3rd) and learn how we can help other families like Melina's. To register, go to [www.newenglandchapel.org/safefamilies](http://www.newenglandchapel.org/safefamilies).

## Giving in Christmas:

We have the opportunity to share our gifts with others in the Worcester community through our partnership with Walking In Light. WIL has been working with families for many years. One of their most impactful programs is their mom to mom and man to man program (M2M). Here is what one parent had to say, "I have learned so much through WIL's Mom to Mom program. I am now one of the leaders, and look forward to seeing other moms, like me, come together to do the best for our children."

We will be partnering with these families this Christmas by donating Walmart and Target gifts cards of \$25 and \$50. We will then volunteer to take parents Christmas shopping for their children. This is a powerful way to empower these parents to provide for their families and give them a sense of pride.

Please contribute generously. Gift card donations are needed by November 24. If you need more information or are interested in volunteering to take parents shopping, please contact Dawn Foley at [dawnfoley@comcast.net](mailto:dawnfoley@comcast.net).

## Restoration: Regional

### Giving Hope to At-risk Youth

Straight Ahead Ministries, a long-time partner of NEC, *walks with juvenile offenders* through every step of their journey. They begin in lock-up, and continue through reentry, *providing structure and support to help* at-risk youth through the critical transition into their communities. Straights Ahead helps them develop the skills and character that will see them through each step of their *journey of faith*.

### How you can help....

**MENTOR:** Volunteer 4 hours per month to mentor at-risk youth. *All training provided by Straight Ahead Ministries.* (see [media1.razorplanet.com/share/512328-1689/resources/411507\\_MentoringMatters.pdf](http://media1.razorplanet.com/share/512328-1689/resources/411507_MentoringMatters.pdf) or contact [bstone@straightahead.org](mailto:bstone@straightahead.org)) They are looking for mentors who are predominantly males (age 25 or older), have at least one year of employment history, have a high school (GED) diploma and are willing to take and pass the DYS CORI screening.

**GIVE:** Purchase the following Christmas Items to add to gift bags for both boys and girls in lockup: Sweatshirts, T-shirts, Hats, Socks, Toiletries (deodorant, toothbrush & toothpaste, soap, bodywash, candy) Contact [stevevono@yahoo.com](mailto:stevevono@yahoo.com) to help.

## Contact Us

### Restoration Leader

Jodi Koeman,  
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### Restoration@NEC

Amy Cornwell  
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## Restoration: Global

### Faith in Action: NEC Inspires Youth to Make an Impact Globally

#### Live it out...

**PRAY:** For Nikki's work in Sierra Leone

**GIVE:** Fill a Thank-giving shopping list for a food basket & purchase \$25-\$50 gift cards for Christmas giving

**ACT:** Sign up for the Faith Forum on Dec 3rd or Dec 10th (visit [www.newenglandchapel.org/safefamilies](http://www.newenglandchapel.org/safefamilies))

In December Nikki Perragaux, a young adult member of NEC, will be traveling to Sierra Leone to teach. This is what Nikki has to share about what NEC has meant to her and how she is putting her faith in action:

"New England Chapel shaped my faith and aided my relationship with Christ through weekly sermons, youth group, and multiple other opportunities. In 2009, NEC supported my trip with World Renew to Uganda. I am forever grateful for the time and gifts that you have provided for me. Being a part of such a great community has helped me grow into the woman I am today."

"Since being part of the World Renew's Youth to Youth Uganda partnership program, I have been a different person. I have grown and changed in ways I never thought possible. Upon graduating from Calvin College, I have decided to pursue my dream of returning to Africa." With her degree, the gifts God has given her, and the support of family and friends, Nikki will be teaching English Language Arts to third through fifth graders in the Kabala Christian School in Kabala, Sierra Leone January through June 2014. The mission of Schools for Sierra Leone (<http://www.schoolsforsierraleone.com>) is to build schools and develop a Christian presence in Sierra Leone. The agency supporting her trip is the Christian Reformed World Mission. She says, "I am so excited for this opportunity and ask for your prayer and support on this journey."

If you would like more information about Nikki, how to support her financially or the organization she is working for, please contact Jodi Koeman, [jodi@newenglandchapel.org](mailto:jodi@newenglandchapel.org).