

Metropolitan Community Foundation

Update for 2008

MCCSF Congregational Meeting ~ January 25, 2009

Paula Fraser, President
Karen Dickinson, Treasurer
Charles Lougee, Secretary
Richard Davis, Member at Large
Rev. Lea Brown, Member at Large

In 1997, the **Metropolitan Community Foundation** (MCF) was formed as an umbrella organization for the social justice and outreach ministries of the **Metropolitan Community Church of San Francisco** (MCCSF). MCF works to meet the basic needs of the most vulnerable in our community. Its efforts are focused in the following areas:

- School enrichment programs in partnership with the San Francisco Unified School District.
- Food, clothing, advocacy and other basic life support programs for the homeless and marginally housed in the Upper Market and Mission neighborhoods of San Francisco.
- International humanitarian aid, especially to children, in partnership with the Rainbow World Fund.

PARTNERSHIP WITH HARVEY MILK CIVIL RIGHTS ACADEMY:

The 2008 school year began in October with the continued partnership of MCF and the Harvey Milk Civil Rights Academy, a public elementary school located in the heart of the Castro. The music program has been scaled back significantly due to changes in Stephanie Smith's availability, but "Read Aloud" continues to thrive. On the third Thursday of every month MCF volunteers read in each classroom from selected books purchased by the Foundation. These are colorful books chosen by Liz Miller for their diversity and social justice values, as well as their ability to improve reading comprehension skills. Liz also provides a set of questions so that volunteers can lead a book discussion after the reading. The books are then left in each classroom as a gift from the Foundation. Adrienne Krug has coordinated this group of volunteers with care and compassion since early 2006! Please join us in thanking Adrienne and the Read-Aloud volunteers:

Emily Hoyer	Kindergarten	George Voigt	3 rd Grade
Jack Porter	Kindergarten	Joan Bush	3 rd Grade
Michael Cronin	1 st Grade	Michael Navarro	4 th Grade
Homer Hobi	1 st Grade	Bill Wilson	4 th /5 th Grade
Cees Van Aalst	2 nd Grade	Sue Parcell	5 th Grade
Kristine Poggioli	2 nd Grade	Scott Bellamy	Substitute

The Read-Aloud program is supported by individual contributions and grant funding from the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence and the Walter and Elise Haas Fund.

FOOD PROGRAMS:

In April of 2008, the MCF Board of Directors voted unanimously to suspend the Foundation's food programs, including the Friday afternoon Simply Supper at St. Francis Lutheran Church and the Tuesday evening brown bag supper at Prevention Point. This decision was necessary because we could no longer sustain these programs financially and we did not have enough consistent volunteers to support the programs. Contributing factors were a decrease in grant funding and an increase in the cost of food, security and transportation. The last Simply Supper at the St. Francis Lutheran Church was held on Friday, May 9, 2008. The Simply Supper van was sold to St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Redwood City for use by their homeless shelter program. Mother's Kitchen, who partnered with us at Simply Supper, now provides a weekly meal at First Baptist Church on Waller St. MCF is providing kitchen supplies and some administrative support for the program, as well as volunteers each week (thank you Lynn Jordan!).

Thanks to grant funding from the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence and the Walter and Elise Haas Fund, MCF will be able to continue the tradition of providing a "gift bag" consisting of socks, scarves, rain ponchos and toiletries to the homeless and marginally housed in the Castro neighborhood. This event is scheduled for January 16, 2009 at Mother's Kitchen.

HOMELESS CHILDREN'S NETWORK:

For the sixth year in a row MCF sponsored Christmas gifts for the children of the Homeless Children's Network. Coordinated by Charles Lougee, our program provided gifts for over 160 children who would not have received a present for the holidays if not for the generosity of the MCCSF community.

"Hearts of Gold, the MCC Spirits are, giving hundreds of gifts to homeless children who without their support would be left to wonder if next year will be different. Each MCC Spirit took the time to enclose toys, books, cards, games, clothing, music, and other sprinkles of play in colorful wrappings that in and of itself sang celebrations into the heart of each child. Dreams came true and homeless children found a home in the embroidered smiles that this act of grace left on them to cherish forever."

April Y. Silas, Executive Director, Homeless Children's Network

INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN AID:

Again this year several members and friends of the congregation participated in a humanitarian aid journey to Guatemala with the Rainbow World Fund (RWF). Approximately 1,800 pounds of medical and educational supplies, valued at over \$300,000, were distributed to local NGO's along with \$56,000 in cash grants. Since the first trip in 2005 there have been 15 people from the MCCSF community who have journeyed to Guatemala with RWF. The 2009 trip is scheduled for July 9-18. If you are interested in participating in this life-changing experience, please see Yew-Hoe Tan, Karen Dickinson, Rick Rosser, Kelly Mazzei, or Dale Danley (all past participants) or go to www.rainbowfund.org for more details.

In October 2008 MCCSF partnered with RWF on the "Bus of Hope" trip to Tijuana, Mexico. Medicines (including much-needed anti-retrovirals), educational supplies and toys were collected

at church and then loaded on the bus for transport to Tijuana where they were delivered to two orphanages, an HIV/AIDS medical clinic, and a school. The project benefited some of the poorest children and families in Tijuana. In addition to delivering supplies, financial grants were given to the orphanages and the HIV medical clinic. Peninsula MCC, MCCLA and MCCSD also partnered with RWF on this project.

MCF continues to partner with the Yvette A. Flunder Foundation and with Dr. Robert Scott of Oakland in support of the Mother of Peace Orphanage in Mutoko, Zimbabwe. Medications, especially anti-retrovirals, analgesics, vitamins, and toiletries from the MCCSF community are sent to the orphanage on a regular basis.

FUTURE PROGRAMS:

The Board of Directors continues to look for social justice programs that would be financially feasible and attractive to volunteers. If you have any suggestions please contact Paula Fraser. She can be reached through the church office at (415) 863-4434.

To: MCCSF Board of Directors

February 19, 2009

From: Metropolitan Community Foundation

Subject: Current Outlook for 2009

- **HMCRA**
- **Homeless Children's Network**
- **International Humanitarian Aid: RWF (Guatemala Trip)**
- **Food Programs: Canon Kip Lunch March 29th, Mother's Kitchen, and possible Food Pantry (Adrienne Krug)**
- **Future Programs: Board of Directors continue to look for social justice programs**
- **(New "Social Justice Team")**