

The EMI Messenger

July 2011

EMI Volunteers Spread Seeds of Kindness

Good Deeds are Honored with Yearly Recognition

It is difficult to express the gratefulness we feel for all the dedicated servants to this ministry. In an effort to show our appreciation, EMI honored its volunteers on the Eastern Shore and South Baldwin County with an April lunch in Fairhope and a brunch in Foley. EMI staff served the meals. The theme, "Spreading Seeds of



South Baldwin volunteers at Cottages on the Green

Kindness," originated with Diane Douglas who has developed ideas, poems and decorations for this event for more than 15 years.

Each year we make every effort to highlight the loving service these hard working individuals provide to EMI clients. They serve as Meals on Wheels drivers, pantry workers, Emergency Aid intake volunteers, Christmas Sharing helpers and office assistants. Volunteers who work in the Home Repair program build wheelchair ramps and do minor home repairs for the disabled and elderly. Many are also involved with our Community Development program...working in our neighborhoods to improve the quality of people's lives one issue at a time. In these challenging times, volunteers make the difference. With our limited resources, they multiply EMI's effectiveness. Fortunately, their contributions enable us to stretch our yearly budget.

In the last fiscal year, the work provided by volunteers reached a monetary value of approximately \$90,000.



Eastern Shore volunteers at Fairhope United Methodist Church

It is a privilege to work with these caring individuals. As we enter our 5th decade of service to Baldwin County, we can only marvel at the number of lives touched because of the Seeds of Kindness spread by our volunteers. Thank you from all of us at EMI for your loving spirit and generosity!

Thank You

EMI would like to express our thanks to all the individuals, foundations, organizations, businesses and churches that continuously support this ministry with your prayers, financial support, food, volunteer work and thrift store donations. The strength of this ministry is expressed in your generosity for which we are abundantly thankful.

Sally Deane, Executive Director

Fairhope Youth Help Prepare "Home" for the Homeless

Group from UMC renovate house

This spring Fairhope United Methodist Youth, directed by Jennifer Myrick, is assisting EMI with the renovation of a house that will be used for homeless families in transition. The house was built by EMI almost 20 years ago for a client in need with the understanding that she could live there for her lifetime. The house was returned to EMI last year. It will be used in the Family Promise program to give homeless families with children a semi-permanent place to live for up to six months. Because of the



complicated and growing homeless issue in Baldwin County, this house will bring stability of shelter

to many while they put their lives back on track.

EMI is grateful to Fairhope United Methodist Church and its youth who have embraced the project and are doing an amazing job of making it a place that can be called "home".

EMI Thanks

Tom Jones

*Popular local potter
retires from Chili for Charity*

Eleven years ago Tom Jones approached Ecumenical Ministries with the idea of having a chili cook-off to raise money for the agency. Out of that conversation, our annual fundraiser, Chili for Charity, was born. The event started small but has grown to be the largest cook-off of its kind on the Eastern Shore. Each year Tom provided 200+ commemorative chili bowls for the event which EMI sold for additional revenue. His bowls became a collector's item. They were admired and appreciated while adding a unique element to the festivities.

After a decade of being a huge part of this event,



Darlene Haas, event coordinator, Tom, Carol Stickney, & Sally Deane, EMI executive director.

Tom will no longer be making his beautiful chili bowls. We are happy to report that we won't lose his talents completely because he has agreed to continue providing the coveted pottery prizes for Chili's lucky winners. In honor of his committed service to EMI, Tom was presented a hardbound book containing pictures and a full history of the event he started.



*Barbara Ingram presents check to Pam Meredith,
South Baldwin Director*

Stargazer Run benefits EMI

Healthy Women is a South Baldwin Regional Medical Center Resource. They recently held a day long event in celebration of their 4th anniversary. The event included the Stargazer 5k, 1 mile Fun Run/Walk benefiting EMI! This year the money raised totaled \$2,930, which will be used by EMI to assist uninsured or underinsured individuals who require a medical test for life-threatening illnesses. Working in partnership with SBMRC, EMI will be able to meet some of the emergency medical needs of South Baldwin residents.



A small house can be seen in the distance behind the group of community improvement leaders at the stop sign. The picture on the upper right shows a close up of that house and occupants and damage done by an automobile that left the road.

EMI's Community Development Program trains and networks leaders to improve communities

These photos capture a stop sign and road markings recently placed on Twin Beech Road, near Fairhope. This followed a Point Clear/ Fairhope Action Committee (PFAC) February meeting with County Commissioner Bob James. The organization took him on a tour of needy spots in the community. The road had been a right-angle curve. It had a dirt road jutting off one side. As long as the side-road was dirt, it was clear which way the main road went. But once the dirt road was paved, it was confusing. Head-on collisions loomed. In addition to fixing this, the program guided county work that significantly improves drainage on Twin Beach Road. Similar drainage research continues in Mills near Foley.

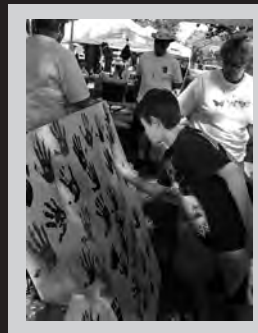


Fairhope City Councilwoman Debbie Quimm meets with EMI/ACT-II/ PFAC community leaders to discuss other needs.

ART IN THE PARK . . .



Good weather and great tea helped EMI raise funds and have fun! Thanks to the donation from Chick-fil-A in Foley we sold cold glasses of tea to many thirsty art lovers. We also created some art of our own. During both days we were set up to "paint" a board filled with many different colored hand prints. Upon completion we hope to display our "Hands Helping Hands" picture in the community, helping tell the EMI story.



EMI Awards Ginwright scholarship

For the third year EMI has been able to award a scholarship in memory of Benny Ginwright. Mr. Ginwright gave to his community and was always willing to use his electrical and plumbing skills to assist others. He left behind a legacy of good works. The scholarship goes to a student at the South Baldwin Center for Technology who exemplifies strong character, perseverance, integrity and a strong work ethic.

This year's recipient is Cynthia Salyers who plans to attend University of South Alabama. Her goal is to be a civil engineer.

We wish her much success!

2011 Chili for Charity Winners

First Place
Riviera Utilities

Second Place
Little Rock
Missionary
Baptist Church

Third Place
The Dwelling Place

Thanks to all our
sponsors, teams,
volunteers and
those who came to
support this event!



Visit our website: www.baldwinemi.org

We are now able to take donations directly through our website via PayPal. Just visit our home page and look for the PayPal button. If you like, you can also sign up to receive our newsletter via email and help us save on printing and mailing costs.



Find us on Facebook. Become a fan of Ecumenical Ministries of Baldwin County and Emmy's Thrift Shop. You will get updates about the ministry and all the happenings at Emmy's including new items for sale and announcements of those spur-of-the-moment sales.

EMI is proud to be members of both the Eastern Shore and South Baldwin Chambers of Commerce.



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