

Community Giveaway

Community. A simple word that means so much, especially to those who attend the Madison Community Seventh-day Adventist Church. From the bi-monthly meals we prepare and serve at the local day shelter, to the Blessings Box we have in our front lawn that we stock weekly with food for those who may be facing food insecurities, to our newest outreach called, Project SMALL (Single Mothers and Little Lads), we are always looking for ways to engage our church within the neighborhood.

Faced with a room full of donated goods from church members as well as those in the community, we wondered what type of outreach event we could hold to reach those in need. Understanding the impact that Covid has had on many people financially, it came to mind that we hold a Community Giveaway. Instead of charging people for the goods, everything would be given free, creating an inviting environment where those could come, regardless of their ability or inability to pay for things, and take what they may need.

What started as a simple Community Giveaway, utilizing the donated items in the church basement, soon became so much more. Reaching out to local businesses, we were able to secure donations of fresh produce, bakery products, pizza, and ice cream tokens for kids that stopped by. Along with the donations from businesses, we put together a budget buying school supplies for local kids.

It is an understatement to say that the August 22 event went well. Nobody was



sure what to expect since this was our church's first time holding an event like this, but it was more than we expected. We saw around 75-100 people, some that came back more than once. Our inventory of school supplies ran out within the first half hour, as well as the toys, and tables of household goods. People were filling up boxes with bedding and clothing, in addition to stopping by the Blessings Box and stocking up on groceries.

We made sure to have volunteer church members in the yard, to make ourselves available for those that may need assistance or have questions. Along the way, many showed gratitude and appreciation for what our church was doing. One woman who stopped by stated that her family was finally moving into their first home after being homeless for the past three years. Another gentleman walked over and stated that he was

currently homeless and in need of clothing to survive the cold Wisconsin winters. Many of the kids that stopped took advantage of the juice boxes, popcorn, and frozen Icees we had in the cooler, remembering our church from previous years of Vacation Bible School, asking if that's what was taking place and when it will happen again.

Speaking to many of the kids while their parents and/or grandparents took part in the giveaway, it became a question as to what other fun activities our church could host. One young boy suggested we host an outdoor movie night, with popcorn, cotton candy, and games. Another boy stated he wanted our church to just come over and play basketball with them.

Simple and small gestures mean so much to people. From hosting the giveaway

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From the President's Desk

Church: Hospital for Sinners

Part of my pastoral ministry is to visit people in hospitals and nursing homes. Whenever I am aware of such need, I am willing to spend time with our members, family, and even people I don't know. I usually read the Scripture and pray for comfort, peace, and a fast recovery. Often in my prayers, I include the medical staff and the other patients or residents. Even those I don't know, I want everyone to recover and have a normal existence in their homes, surrounded by family and friends.

As an RN, my wife can certify that the primary purpose of the hospital and the medical act is to do everything humanly possible for a fast and complete recovery of their patients. They use their knowledge, skills, and mostly, their dedication to their profession and love for people to fulfill their mission.

Since my childhood, I heard the metaphor that the church is not "a museum of saints but a hospital for sinners," based on Jesus affirmation from Luke 4:18:

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed;"

Furthermore, Jesus reiterated His life and ministry's goal in Luke 5:31-32: "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance."

In these two passages, Jesus wanted to make it evident that the primary purpose of His mission on earth was to invite those aware of their sinfulness and offer them the chance of complete emotional and spiritual restoration. He spent most of His active time serving and meeting people's needs, making sure everyone who wanted His healing received God's blessings for them and their beloved ones. He also instructed His "medical staff" to

minister to those hurting and suffering under the tyranny Satan. Matthew 10:6-8 is one of the most powerful pieces of evidence: "Go rather to the lost sheep of Israel. As you go, proclaim this message: 'The kingdom of heaven has come near.' Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons."

Evidently, besides worshipping God corporately weekly, the main focus of our ministry is to be Jesus's "physicians and nurses," always ready to go the extra mile to fulfill His mission. We are called to love, have mercy, and minister to everyone we contact, letting them know that our church is always open for them before they change their thinking and lifestyle.

We have to prioritize people's needs for physical, emotional, and spiritual restoration. Some may not respond promptly to the "medication" God Himself administers. Others may be "chronic" sinners, and they may not be the best candidates for a fast and complete recovery. But we need to remember we are called to love and serve our brothers and sisters in Christ no matter how they manage the spiritual instructions for their recovery.

The Adventist church has to be part of God's Spiritual Health Care Network. We are to encourage and edify one another, care for one another's needs, and pray for one another. Apostle Paul says: "You who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness" (Gal. 6:1). There is no place for a judgmental spirit, criticism, or gossip. There is no place for someone to be hurt in the church.

Remember, the church is a spiritual hospital where even the medical staff suffers from various "diseases" and need the healing of the Savior. We need to manifest grace, empathy, and patience to our fellow recipients of God's grace.

Titus Naftanaila

Wisconsin Conference President

Sabbath Schedule

November

- 6 Wisconsin Academy
- 13 Madison Community
- 20 Richland Center
- 27 Thanksgiving Break

December

- 4 Available
- 11 Janesville
- 18 Rice Lake
- 25 Vacation

January

- 1 Vacation
- 9 Kenosha
- 15 President's Retreat
- 22 Madison Hispanic
- 29 Racine

February

- 5 North Milwaukee Hispanic
- 12 Available
- 19 Available
- 26 Available

To request speaking appointments contact Titus Naftanaila at: titusn@wi.adventist.org

Wisconsin ACS Delivered \$10,000 Worth of Items to Afghanistan Refugees



On September 1, 2021, I (Alice Garrett, Wisconsin Conference Adventist Community Services Director) was on a conference call with the State of Wisconsin VOAD (Volunteer Organization Active in Disaster) and learned that the Afghan guests were arriving at Camp McCoy and there was an urgent need for clothing.

I put out an email to our pastors and churches in the state asking for new clothes for men, women, and children. Because of the urgency we decided to try to get a load focusing on underwear and socks and other new clothing to them by September 9. This was also Labor Day weekend so it was very short notice. Our pastors and members responded and we delivered 95 boxes with an estimate of 2000 items. What a blessing!!

On September 10, I sent another notice to start another collection and this time we would focus on winter clothing. We were able to deliver 94 boxes and about 1,300 items, all sorted per item, size, and labeled as to what was in each box. This gives us a total of 189 boxes with 3,300 items.

I have been asked many times why we did not accept used clothing? Our organization was asked to bring new clothing by those in charge of the donations management. So we needed to follow instructions given to us. The question was answered by one of Team Rubicon's volunteers, Jeff Wagg, "The reason we're asking for new donations isn't because we're being snobby or anything. It's a matter of time and logistics. If someone donates to us a box of 12 brand new pairs of pants, we can take that box and

then just ship it right off, but if we get a bag filled with assorted clothing, we have to sort through that clothing, and catalogue it and decide what we can use or not."

Approximately 12,500 guests are staying at Fort McCoy. They came with just the clothes on their back. Many had not been able to bathe for days. Adventist Community Services along with many other organizations and generous people in Wisconsin have come forward to help in this endeavor, and in one short month we have supplied the immediate needs for these people.

In my conference call Wednesday, September 29, we were told that the state of Wisconsin is leading the other states with the best coordinated donations efforts. What a privilege to be a small part of this!!

I want to thank everyone who donated for this endeavor. We have received over \$10,000.00 in money and many clothing donations. Every penny will go to help these people.

At this point we will not be collecting any more clothing, as Fort McCoy is transitioning into resettlement and relocating these people.

Alice Garrett
Adventist Community Services Coordinator

NOTE: The North American Division has noticed the smooth operation in Wisconsin. Derrick Lea, NAD Adventist Community Services director, said that Alice Garrett and her team continues to lead ACS efforts in this area [of organizing aid for Afghans]. "It's the relationships that have been developed previously that enable us to be engaged within our community when crisis events take place," said Lea. "I rely on Alice and her team of dedicated team members to rally our church members to respond when calls for help go out. It's a privilege to work with those willing to be the hands and feet of Jesus in their local communities."

Thank you, Alice!

New Members Join Church by Baptism



Levi Yngsdal-Chapi (pictured in center) joins the Madison Community Church family.



Janette Robles (with Pastor Rowell Puedivan) joins Madison Community Church.

Amber Meyer (with Pastor Kevin Kuehmichel) joins the Hudson Adventist Church.



Russell Leslie Kothe (with Pastor Rowell Puedivan) joins the Monroe Adventist Church.

Pastor Samuel Latouche baptizes new member into the Milwaukee Central Hispanic Church.



Pastor Chanchai Kiatyanyong baptized three new members during Hmong camp meeting.

Cover Story Contiued

to communicating with young kids and understanding their needs, it has become evident that those in the community see our church as a safe place. No fear of judgment or discrimination, rather, sets of loving and open arms willing to be there at no cost. “And the King will answer and say to them, “Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.” Matthew 25:40

As a first-year event, we used this as a learning experience on how we can improve for years to come. In looking to incorporate more businesses and partnering with barbers to offer free, back-to-school haircuts for kids, the possibilities of what we can do to make this more successful are endless. Just like our name states, we are a community. Not only to our members, but also to those outside our church doors where the need is oh so great.

Meaghan Yngsdal, Community Service
Director for Madison Community Church

Providing Beds for Kids in Need



The students of Hillside Christian School work with The Shepherd’s House Church in a program called Beds for Kids. Together they have delivered 358 beds to kids in Marathon County! Learn about their most recent delivery on their Facebook page: The Shepherd’s House.

Chris Erich New Milwaukee Teacher



We are pleased to introduce Christopher Erich as the 3rd-4th grade teacher for the Milwaukee Adventist School South Campus. From elementary through high school, he always looked up to his father, who was both a principal and teacher. Christopher attended both Pacific Union College and later Walla Walla University. He graduated in 2014 with a bachelor’s degree in history and certification in secondary education. “Seeing the need for teachers, I stepped down from secondary (education) to teach elementary in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. An interesting change to say the least, but one that has felt God ordained for the times we live in.”

C. Steffen New Milwaukee Teacher



We welcome Christina Steffen as the new K4-K teacher in the Milwaukee Seventh-day Adventist School North Campus. Christina grew up in Wisconsin and attended Milwaukee Junior Academy as well as Wisconsin Academy. “As a teacher, I’m passionate about making meaningful connections with each child and leading them to their friend, Jesus.”

Farewell to Scott & Tammi Baker



Camp Wakonda Ranger/Manager, Scott Baker and his wife Tammi, Administrative Assistant for the camp, have accepted a call to the Minnesota Conference to be manager for their conference youth camp, North Star Camp. Scott and Tammi have faithfully served in Wisconsin for many years and have impacted countless lives for Jesus. They will be greatly missed and we pray God’s blessing on them as they follow God’s call to serve Him in Minnesota.

Travis Dennis New Milwaukee Teacher



We are happy to welcome Travis Dennis as the 5th and 6th grade teacher at the Milwaukee Seventh-day Adventist School, North Campus for the 2021-2022 school year. He has worked both as a teacher and as a health care worker. Travis graduated from Andrews University in 2008 and says, “My parents were teachers for many years, the apple did not fall far from the tree.” He also says that he enjoys helping people learn no matter their age. Travis’ wife, Carmen, is a nurse and his son is in 7th grade.

Celebrating More Wisconsin Baptisms



A highlight of Wisconsin Hispanic camp meeting was the baptism of 19 new members.



Ian Roesler was baptized in Richland Center by Pastor Sam Garbi.



Several Milwaukee Adventist School students chose to be baptized this summer.

Dedication of Beloit Hispanic Company



On September 18, 2021, the Lord made a dream come true for the Beloit Hispanic Adventist Company as they held the dedication ceremony of the temple that the church has purchased to praise the name of the Lord. Thanks to donations from church members, support from the Lake Union and the Wisconsin Conference, the building is paid for in full. We thank God for allowing a beacon of light to shine permanently in the city of Beloit.

Richland Center Health Fair Ministry



Literature sharing, free water, and seed-sowing conversations made a successful witnessing day.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Autumn is upon us as we are in the final quarter of 2021. I am thankful that our tithes and offerings remain strong through September. The tithe is up 8.93% over last year and Wisconsin budget (while showing -16.77% year to date loss) is up 3.3% after accounting for a last year's one-time large donation. Thanks to all of you for your faithful support of God's work in Wisconsin.

While we are thankful for your strong financial support, we certainly find the times in which we live to be very unstable, both socially and economically. I believe that in times like these, we have a special opportunity to show a calm loving spirit as Christians. I believe God has given us the talents and means to make a real difference and if we ask the Holy Spirit, He will provide each of us with divine appointments to minister to those searching for the Lord.

Ellen White says in Councils On Stewardship p.22, "However large, however small the possessions of any individual, let him remember that it is his only in trust. For his strength, skill, time, talents, opportunities, and means, he must render an account to God. This is an individual work; God gives to us, that we may become like Him, generous, noble, beneficent, by giving to others."

"When rightly employed, wealth becomes a golden bond of gratitude and affection between man and his fellow men, and a strong tie to bind his affections to his Redeemer. The infinite gift of God's dear Son calls for tangible expressions of gratitude from the recipients of His grace. He who receives the light of Christ's love is thereby placed under the strongest obligation to shed the blessed light upon other souls in darkness."

May we each be that person that spreads the light of Christ's love and hope in a dark and hopeless world.



Brian Stephan
Executive Secretary/Treasurer

FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT			
	2021 (39 wks)	2020 (39 wks)	% Change
September Tithe Income:	\$582,161	\$588,642	-1.10%
YTD Tithe Income:	\$5,877,009	\$5,395,013	+8.93%
September Wisconsin Budget:	\$20,993	\$19,484	+7.75%
YTD Wisconsin Budget:	\$226,353	\$271,963	-16.77%



WISCONSIN ACADEMY



Artie Hamann New History Teacher



We are happy to announce that Artie Hamann has accepted the position of History teacher at Wisconsin Academy. Artie was born and raised in the Chicago area, where he developed a life-long interest in history. He graduated with a BS in Political Science from Francis Marion College and later with an MA in History from Andrews University. His career as an educator has included positions teaching and tutoring at several schools both in the Adventist education system, and in other public and private schools. Twenty of these years were spent teaching history to at-risk kids at Dolan Education Center in Durand, Illinois. He also served briefly as a missionary in Thailand working with Cambodian refugees.

"I'm a sinner saved by grace," Artie says. "It's such a privilege to be at Wisconsin Academy. My dream is, by the grace of God, to share Jesus and His soon coming with my students. That's the most important thing to me - much more important than history."

Artie has been married to his wife Madelene, a nurse practitioner, for 21 years. Their son, Stevie, attends Wisconsin Academy and their daughter, Ysabella, attends Andrews University. In his free time, Artie enjoys gardening, traveling (when he can), reading (especially history), biking, playing baseball, and going on short-term mission trips. Welcome Artie!

find out more at
www.wisacad.org

from the principal's desk

A Homecoming

Wisconsin Academy Celebrates a Double Alumni Weekend

Wisconsin Academy celebrated two runs of honor years on October 15-17, 2021, and we were blessed so much. God works in such amazing ways. We had to postpone our gathering three times, and as Covid continued to remain high in Wisconsin, we decided to go ahead and plan the celebration for those who wished to gather together.

The class of 1970 had Gary Hixon share his testimony of choosing to go the wrong way, but after hitting bottom giving God another chance which led to a wonderful saving relationship with Jesus.

The afternoon message, shared by Susan Champion Jen of the class of 1971 seemed to mesh beautifully with the morning, as we focused on end times and how God offers us this wonderful gift of eternal life, has

paid the price for us, and is longing for us to surrender our lives to Him and let Him have control.

Even the reading Carl Sigler shared at Hallowed Moments (written by Mildred Summerton) tied in beautifully to fill the weekend with a message of hope and comfort. There were many invitations to the Homecoming which Jesus is preparing for us when we can be truly united forever with our Savior and our friends and relatives who make the choice to accept His gift to us.

In these very uncertain and troubling times, God orchestrated our weekend to share His message. If you were unable to be on campus for this Alumni Weekend, you can hear the messages by finding the links on the Wisconsin Academy Facebook page.





Door-to-Door in Richland Center



On the afternoon of Sabbath, September 11, the student body traveled to Richland Center to help pass out literature door-to-door. Working with members from the Richland Center SDA Church, they began by stuffing small bags with literature.

Next, they went from house to house, leaving the small bags of literature at each door. By leaving the bags at the doors, students in groups of two or three were able to move quickly through the communities and reach many homes. The afternoon ended with a delicious lunch back at the church.

We are praying that God will use the literature to reach many lives in the Richland Center area.

Fun Run/Walk Raises Money for Kosrae



Our second "Run for Kosrae!" 5K Fun Run/Walk took place on Sunday, October 17, 2021. Students, families, church members, several alumni, and community friends gathered to run or walk an out-and-back distance of 5 kilometers. Matthew Lawrence, a junior, was the first to complete the run, followed by Wisconsin Conference associate treasurer John Ramsey.

The Lake Union voted to "adopt" the island of Kosrae back in 2019 and raise money for its small elementary school. Wisconsin Academy hosted a small 5K fundraiser in September 2019. COVID delayed many things, but we are so happy that God has allowed us to host another run to support our brothers and sisters on the other side of the world.

Seniors Bond During Retreat at Sagola



This year, the 16 seniors of the Class of 2022 and their sponsors traveled to Camp Sagola in the upper peninsula of Michigan for their traditional Senior Retreat. This retreat is designed help students grow closer to each other and closer to Jesus as the school year begins.

In addition to the beautiful natural setting, the seniors enjoyed canoeing, kayaking, paddle-boarding, a chilly 8:00 morning swim, a night hayride, glow-in-the-dark hide-and-seek, volleyball, and other fun activities at the camp. They also took a short hike and got their feet wet in the rushing rapids at Piers Gorge. On Sabbath morning, the students had church at a beautiful amphitheater overlooking the lake. We are excited to see how God will use each of the seniors here at WA this year.

Recent Snapshots



Senior Thomas McCormick takes Chemistry notes during the first period of his first class of the year. The school year began on August 15 with 73 students registered, including 21 freshmen, 18 sophomores, 18 juniors, and 16 seniors.



The junior class cheers in preparation for a game of tug-of-war with the seniors during our annual SA Fall Picnic. Games included a relay, steal the bacon stripple, soft-ball throw, donut eating, egg-toss, colony kickball, capture the flag, and more.



Junior Dana Colindres speaks on the book of Romans during outdoor church. Three students preached to the congregation of students and church members gathered by the Lighthouse Thrift Store. The WA Church has often met outdoors since COVID began.



Senior NiiTeiko Aryee and members of his Sabbath School class unload donated items. WA volunteered to be a Donation Center, working with Team Rubicon to help donated items reach relocated Afghan families, many of whom arrived in Wisconsin with the clothes on their backs.

Wisconsin Conference of
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Return Service Requested

Calendar of Events

November

- 3-4 Pastors Meetings
- 5-7 Lay Pastor Cohort
- 12-13 WA Senior Dedication
- 16 Board of Education
- 17 Executive Committee
- 21 Hispanic Certification & Grad.
- 23-28 WA Home Leave
- 24-25 Office Closed - Thanksgiving

December

- 4 JAHWI Youth Rally
- 18 WA Christmas Concert
- 18-1/2 WA Home Leave
- 23-1/3 Office Closed - Christmas

January

- 3 Office Closed - New Years
- 14-17 Youth Winter Retreat
- 17 Office Closed
- 21-22 JAHWI Leaders Retreat
- 26-30 WA Home Leave

February

- 1 Pastors Meetings
- 4-6 Lay Pastor Cohort
- 11-13 Pathfinder Winter Retreat
- 15 Madison Town Hall Meeting
- 16-20 WA Home Leave
- 21 Office Closed - Presidents Day
- 22 Board of Education
- 23 Executive Committee
- 25-27 Hispanic Ministry Certification
- 25-27 PCM Retreat

Yin Schaff New Health Ministries Coordinator



We welcome Yin Schaff as the new Health Ministries Coordinator for our conference. Yin, a cardiac nurse of 37 years, received her nursing degree from Southwestern Adventist College, and later furthered her education and became a certified family nurse practitioner. Currently she works as an acute care nurse practitioner in cardiology. "I can't wait to get to know more of the men, women, and pastors who can partner with us and serve from a place of wholeness in health and in Christ. My deepest prayer is that we will be in health physically, mentally and spiritually. May we all, together, pray on and serve with joy!"



Sheldon Bryan, and his family, are moving to Virginia. He has served as pastor in the Milwaukee Central District since 2017.

Cristian Sorto New Rhinelanders Pastor



Cristian Sorto, with his new bride, Génesis, have accepted the call to pastor in the Rhinelanders District. Cristian is bilingual, mission oriented, and graduated Southern Andrews University with a Theology degree.

"My greatest desire is for my congregations, and everyone I encounter, to see Jesus through me, and that they may grow in their personal walks with God," says Cristian. "My wife and I are so excited to be a part of the Wisconsin Conference. I hope I can help to grow Jesus' kingdom as a good steward, leader, and pastor."

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