



2010 ANNUAL REPORT

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VISION STATEMENT

*Back Bay Mission, shall
embody with integrity
and truth the prophetic
mandate of Micah
". . .to do justice,
to love kindness,
and to walk humbly
with your God."*

MISSION STATEMENT

*Back Bay Mission, a
community ministry
of the United Church
of Christ, serves the
Mississippi Gulf Coast
and the wider church
community by faithful
witness for social justice
and compassionate
service to the poor and
marginalized.*

Dear supporters and friends:


Each year, this Annual Report strives to tell the story of one year in the life of Back Bay Mission. We gather our statistics about the many we've served, report on our financial situation, and offer a tiny snapshot of programs and accomplishments. But the real story is impossible to capture in a list of numbers or short paragraphs of summary. The most important information is the narrative of people's lives, the stories of profound change and striking healing that unfold as individuals and families are served by Back Bay Mission on our campus and throughout the Mississippi Gulf Coast community.



Within this Annual Report, you will learn that thousands were served by our Emergency Assistance program in 2010. You will read of new programs we launched in 2010 to serve the homeless and to prevent others from becoming homeless. You will be reminded of our continuing work with volunteers from throughout the country to restore low-income homes and neighborhoods. You'll see the benefits of our "Home At Last" program for those who have long been without a roof over their head. And you'll journey with us to a new place called Bethel Estates, representing Back Bay Mission's continuing ability to "do a new thing" with faith and purpose.

We offer you a great deal of information in the following pages. But what lies beneath and within each statistic are the intensely human stories of loss and new life, despair and hope, devastation and joy, brokenness and healing. The truest summary of a year in the life of Back Bay Mission is the journey we take with those we serve from places of need to places of new possibility.

All we do is made possible by those who faithfully provide their generous support to the Mission. *Thank you* for being part of our year, so that others' stories could emerge in new and glorious ways.

Sincerely,


Rev. Shari Prestemon
Executive Director

RADICAL HOSPITALITY...

On March 8, 2010, Back Bay Mission opened the doors of its new Micah Center building to welcome in those experiencing homelessness in our community. The *newly established “Day Center” for the homeless* was a fresh concept for us and for our community, offering a “one-stop shop” of services desperately needed by this sub-population. Our goal: to provide more dignified, streamlined service delivery to the homeless in a welcoming and empowering environment.

What if you were homeless and looking for employment, but you had nowhere to take a shower or launder your clothes? How would you prepare a résumé or search for open jobs? Where could you go to feel safe or get out of bad weather? How could a family member or potential employer reach you? And when you were ready to really change your life and get the help you needed, where would you go to start?

The Day Center was designed to lend constructive answers to each of those questions and more. Day Center “guests” can take a shower, have laundry done, get a clean set of replacement clothing, or receive a haircut. They can use the Day Center telephone number and address as contact information for family members or potential employers. They can work on computers to do job searches or build their résumé. They can meet with Back Bay Mission caseworkers, or case managers recruited from other nonprofits, with expertise in substance abuse or vocational rehab, veterans’ needs and other special needs. They can fill out applications for disability status or food stamps. And they can do all this under one roof, no longer forced to walk the span of the Coast to receive a host of services they need.



“[The Day Center] gives me a sense of home even though I’m homeless. I can get a shower, a shave, camaraderie, talk to staff. It’s a safe place to come. You don’t know how important that is.”
-Frank, 60,
homeless 2 years

Day Center Statistics (March 2010-December 2010)

Total guests served = 507

Males=381

Females= 126

Average # of guests per day=32

Ages 18-25=137

Ages 25-49=203

Ages 50+ =167

Services rendered:

Laundry services: 910

Shower services: 1,286

Clothing items provided: 4,033

Computer access: 189

Personal hygiene kits: 737

“The Micah Center is valuable to the community because it provides the tools for the homeless community to get themselves into a more promising situation, as well as allowing them to feel human again with a clean shower and clean clothing.”

-Anna, Day Center staff

HOPE IN TROUBLED TIMES...

The Emergency Assistance Program is a lifeline of support extended to those with urgent and critical needs. It often makes the difference between a family being housed or homeless, having power or no power and being fed or going hungry. It also helps purchase life-saving, prescribed medications for those who cannot otherwise afford them.

“Back Bay Mission gave my family food, kept our power on, and restored our faith in the goodness and generosity of people. It is truly a blessing to us and our community.”

-Richard, Emergency Assistance client

Statistics

Services provided 3,215

Individuals served (unduplicated) 1,875

Financial assistance distributed \$110,938.48

Tons of food provided 66



“What we all do at Back Bay Mission helps to improve the quality of people’s lives. What greater privilege could there be?”

-Jill, Back Bay Mission social worker

STRETCHING TO DO MORE...

Through funding established in the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009, Back Bay Mission received a grant and fully launched the *Homelessness Prevention & Rapid Re-Housing Program* in 2010. Designed to target those who found themselves either newly homeless or on the verge of homelessness because of the economy's adverse impact on their lives, this program focused on quickly stabilizing families. Rental and utility assistance were provided for up to 12 consecutive months to help families weather short-term crises and become self-sustaining once more.

Statistics

Families assisted 27

Individuals served 62

Rental payments made 110

Utility payments made 31

Financial assistance delivered \$89,071

“We have come dangerously close to accepting the homeless situation as a problem that we just can't solve. A home is a place of warmth and love. No one should be denied a home.”

-Vanessa, Back Bay Mission social worker



PROFOUND TRANSFORMATION...

The *Housing Recovery & Work Camp Program* remained an anchor at Back Bay Mission in 2010, continuing the process of neighborhood recovery from Hurricane Katrina in 2005 while providing deeply meaningful service experiences to volunteers from across the nation. Over and over again, homes in low-income neighborhoods were saved from storm damage or neglect, homeowners' lives were vastly improved, neighborhoods were enriched and volunteers were personally changed. After 50 years of work camp services at Back Bay Mission, the same simple fact holds true: this program transforms everyone and everything it touches.

"I want to thank you and all the workers from Back Bay Mission for the work that all of them did on my house. My house is so much more livable now. I prayed a lot for this and I got so much more than I could ever dream of getting done. I will never forget any of you. I'm going to tell everyone I know to help Back Bay Mission."

-Edna, homeowner client

Statistics

Homes restored or newly constructed 31

Expended on direct construction-related costs \$260,557

Program volunteers from across the nation 1,307

Volunteer hours donated to housing recovery 41,824

Value of volunteer labor invested in the community \$752,832

"I love seeing the change from the beginning of our interaction with a client (despair), through the rebuild process (hope), to the completion of the transformations (comfort). We have been able to calm a storm in someone's life."

-Bob, BBM Housing Recovery Staff Member



NEW LEAPS OF FAITH...

What began as a dream of doing more to meet the affordable housing demand after Hurricane Katrina, started to take real shape in 2010, as ***Bethel Estates*** unfolded. On two adjacent parcels of raw land in Pass Christian, Mississippi, infrastructure was laid and the first two homes were built. Their quality and beauty gave new definition to the image of affordable housing and offered a tremendous opportunity for first-time homebuyers in a community eager to bring its residents home. Economic and housing market conditions combined to make this new venture of Back Bay Mission a challenging one, but the Mission remained committed to offering safe, decent and affordable housing to the Gulf Coast community.

“Our population is still some 1,600 residents below pre-Katrina levels and as the city and the Chamber of Commerce work in the coming years to recapture that population growth, we will need the type of quality homes that Bethel Estates is offering.”

-Mayor Chipper McDermott, Pass Christian, MS



HEALING BROKEN LIVES...

Imagine spending endless years on the streets, your family relationships broken and untended, your prospects for change next to nothing, your health a mess from chronic neglect. Imagine that a hot meal and a comfortable bed are the biggest dreams you have, that your personal safety is always at risk, that someone to trust seems a futile desire. For those experiencing homelessness, this is a daily reality, but Back Bay Mission's *Home At Last (HAL)* program provides another possibility.

In 2010, the HAL program met homeless people where they were, conducting street outreach to establish relationships and build bridges of trust. It managed 14 apartments to individually house homeless individuals with addictions, mental illness or other disabilities who were ready to reach for change. It worked to connect each homeless client with the services they needed to become self-sufficient and stable. It mended broken lives and circumstances in powerful and substantive ways.

“God bless you and thank you so much! Because of this program (HAL) and what you all at Back Bay Mission have done for me, I feel like a new man. I can hold my head up. I love you for that and I will never forget what you have done for me.”

*-Jimmy, 62 years old,
Previously homeless for 1 1/2 years*

Statistics

Previously homeless individuals housed in HAL apartments 29
Homeless individuals contacted through outreach 292
(224 individuals living in places unfit for human habitation)



“This program not only houses people, it helps them take back control of their lives, gives them a sense of hope and helps improve their self-esteem.”

-Roxxanne, HAL social worker

BACK BAY MISSION 2010 FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS
STATEMENT OF OPERATING ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED
DECEMBER 31, 2010
(Pre-Audit Figures)

Operating Support & Revenue:

Individual & congregational gifts	\$ 585,268.31
Public grants/contracts	499,760.35
Program-generated Income	102,800.15
Private grants	65,165.21
Wider UCC (Conference support, Denom. grants)	178,334.41
Miscellaneous	36,520.75
Investments	90,659.60

Total Operating Support & Revenue **\$1,558,508.78**

Operating Expenses:

Program Services*	\$1,353,137.57	(87%)
Fund-raising	108,873.14	(7%)
Management & General	93,319.83	(6%)

Total Operating Expenses* **\$1,555,330.54**

*Does not include Bethel Estates affordable housing project

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AT
DECEMBER 31, 2010
(Pre-Audit Figures)

Assets

Current assets (cash & investments)	\$2,796,019.83
Other assets	1,076,941.83
Property & equipment	2,829,889.56

Total assets **\$6,702,851.22**

Total liabilities **384,627.59**

Total capital **6,318,223.63**

Total liabilities & capital **\$6,702,851.22**

"It is always both amazing & inspiring to me the level of commitment and love that is poured out on BBM by the volunteers that come here, and the donors who have embraced us. Their dedication makes us strive to be even better than we are."

LONG-TERM VOLUNTEERS IN 2010

*This list includes UCC
"Partners in Service"
Volunteers only, who
were with us for
one month or more.*

**Gerald Catron
Marilyn De Tizio
Rod Ingram
Katy Kammerdiener
Sharae McCreary
Ellen Matten
Bill Matten
Jennifer Rowles
Tim Rowles
Jeannette Tangeman
Terry Tangeman
Susie Tharyan
Connie Waidman
Robert Waidman
Charles Whiston**



Back Bay Mission

'Here to Serve'

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