

DAMASCUS ROAD JUSTICE LEAGUE

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What is the DR Justice League?

- We are a team of people seeking to fill the gap between provision and need among the people in our church, our neighborhood, our city, our world.
- We are missional: We make a tangible and eternal difference in the lives of real people.
- We are relational: We build relationships on a foundation of trust. We offer dignity, respect, humility, good humor and love.
- Our core values are summarized by Isaiah 58 (justice and compassion), Matthew 28:18-20 (disciple making), 1 Corinthians 13 and Matthew 22:36-38 (love).

Making a difference in our:

Church...page 2 Prayer, Road Exchange, Single moms, 911 Crisis, Media, Volunteer support

Neighborhood...page 3 Outreach, Neighborhood Party, VBS

City...page 3-4 River food pantry, Light program, D.A.I.S., Road home

Nation and World...page 1,5 Uganda, Haiti, Montana

to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke

to set the oppressed free and break every yoke

*to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter—
when you see the naked, to clothe him, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood ...
then your light will break forth like the dawn, and your healing will quickly appear;
then your righteousness will go before you, and the glory of the LORD will be your rear guard.*

(From Isaiah 58:6-8)

UGANDA

Helping orphans The people of Damascus Road Church are helping orphaned children in Uganda, Africa by partnering with Father's Divine Love Ministries (FDLM). This locally operated Christian ministry, under the leadership of David and Sarah Livingstone, restores dignity to rural African communities through parenting orphaned children in HIV/AIDS-ravaged communities, economic empowerment for improved household income, food security, evangelism, church planting, and discipleship. FDLM places a high value on families. Some children are cared for by extended families. In other situations, that is not a workable or safe solution. In these cases, FDLM provides a loving home for these children in the form of Rapha Children's Haven. The 43 children living at Rapha range in age from 3 months to 17 years.

You can help. We will be collecting:

- Clothing for older children size 5T-16
- Both boys and girls clothing. Please no stains or holes. The girls usually wear skirts (they must be knee length)
- Bras and underpants would be great for the girls too.
- The boys wear pants or shorts.
- Shorts sleeve shirts are good for both.
- Light weight jackets are nice too.
- Shoes: children and adult

We will have the hallway near the kid's area available for Uganda Drop off now until the end of April.

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From the desk of Amy Agnew...

The Isaiah 58 Challenge



Never underestimate your power to make a difference. The choices you make will change lives ... in our church, in our neighborhood, in our city, and in our world. That excites me.

How do you leverage your power to change your world? You connect with others who are out there doing it. Here at DRC, we call this the **Isaiah 58 Challenge**. I challenge you to "loose the cords of injustice" by partnering with at least one person from the DR Justice League who is in the trenches, making it happen. Where do you find those connections? As you read through this newsletter and find an opportunity that fits you, dive in! You could be literally hours away from changing somebody's life forever.

Making a difference... in our Church

Prayer Team:

Some things just go together; like a sundae with hot fudge and whipped cream or Batman and Robin and DRJL and the prayer team. What? Ya, they complement each other. Together, they're amazing! Sure, without gooey toppings, there's no sundae. Without Robin's "Holy strawberries Batman! We're in a jam!", Batman's #@! zap is not an adventure! Prayer is what supports the action of the DRJL. The prayer team is a dedicated sidekick of the DRJL; loving and serving our community. Please contact Marleah Grinnel metalmomma@yahoo.com for more information on ways to connect with the DRJL prayer team.

Road Exchange

Have a need? Want to help? The Road Exchange will be something like a free Craig's List for the people of DRC. If you need a ride to work, or want to help someone clean their home, or you need a washing machine, or want to donate a computer to someone at DRC, or whatever ... the Road Exchange will be for you. This is in development now. Watch for future announcements!

As a church we are also exploring how we might be involved in the Dane County Time Bank. The Time Bank offers individuals and organizations the opportunity to trade time volunteered in the community for assistance from other volunteers. You provide an hour of assistance; you get an hour of help. For more information on the Time Bank see danecountytimebank.org, info@danecountytimebank.org, 608-663-0400. If you would like to be on the Time Bank team for DRC, contact amy@damascusradchurch.com or 467-1071.

Resource for Single Moms

Free or reduced rate prayer ministry sessions are now available to single moms and low income individuals through CrossCounsel. Theophostic Prayer Ministry (TPM) is a powerful Christian tool to heal relationships, resolve past traumas, overcome stress and addictions, bring peace into chaos and turmoil. God has used TPM and CrossCounsel to transform many lives. (See CrossCounsel.com.) There is an application and orientation process. Contact Carla at 819-6626 Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri.

Volunteer Support Team:

The Justice League wants to make sure that your time spent serving will be beneficial to you, as well as those that you are actually serving. We have spent a significant amount of time serving our communities in various ways in the past and we know that it's not always easy. Often, times of service can bring out the best in people and really help us to see how God is at work in the world today and how He wants to work through his people. However, since we are broken people serving other broken people, this is not always the case.

We are still trying to figure out how all of this is going to work and how the Justice League is going to serve the volunteers. The current plan is to touch base with volunteers prior to their service and follow up after their service time just to check in and see how it went. Please be patient with us as we learn how to meet the needs of our volunteers. Please also know that we look forward to growing relationships with you and that we are here for you. If you have any ideas feel free to share or if you are interested in helping please let us know by contacting Kevin Fountain at kfountain001@gmail.com.

The Media Team

The Media Team helps spread the message of social justice to our church, to our city and beyond by creating newsletters, videos, a web presence and a visual backdrop for our welcome table. This is a great opportunity for techies, writers, proofreaders, artists, graphic artists, film makers, web developers, and other media savvy people. Contact Dwight Clough at books@dwrightclough.com or 834-8291

The "911" Crisis Team ... When tragedy strikes someone here at DRC, we want to be ready to help, to provide support, to encourage. We're putting together a team to do that. If you have good crisis intervention skills, or if you're good at working behind the scenes to help people in urgent need get immediate help, then this might be an opportunity for you to serve others in their time of greatest need. Contact amy@damascusradchurch.com. 467-1071

Making a difference... in our neighborhood

Jesus often asked, "What do you want me to do for you?" He didn't make assumptions. He asked. In the same way, we are asking parents and students in our neighborhood questions about their needs and about how we can serve them. This information will help us decide how to best use the DRC space to serve our neighbors, possibly with an after school program that will unfold later this year. In addition, we are working with MMSD Play and Learn, Child Family Enhancement, Dane County Department of Human Services – Joining Forces for Families, and other community agencies.

We will also be serving our neighborhood this summer with...

July 10th – Servant Evangelism Outreach

July 17th – 2nd Annual Neighborhood Party

July 26th – 30th – Hero's Vacation Bible School

Making a difference... in our City

The River

The River Food Pantry is the busiest pantry in Dane County, consistently serving 500 families with 20,000 pounds of food each week. More and more, The River is fulfilling a role as a significant part of the social safety net in our city. We help families stay in their home during stressful times.

Our Tuesday evening pantry session, from 4:30 to 6:30, is busy with the working poor. We recently started serving a hot meal during this session. People have been very appreciative!

Damascus Road Church is committed to helping with the meal on the 2nd Tuesday each month. Please consider helping out! You can serve food, bus dishes, help do dishes and clean up from 4:45 to 7 PM. Please sign up at the welcome table. Anyone who wants to help cook should contact us directly at river@theriver-madison.org. If you prefer, you can help in the food pantry, please plan on 4:30 to 6:30 for pantry helpers.

View a documentary about The River at this link, www.youtube.com/v/DINTKZP9Wbo

Eastside LIGHT

Eastside LIGHT is an after school tutor/mentoring program for Madison youth. It is the newest of three after school programs, in addition to an ongoing monthly pre-college program, organized by Autumn Shadis of the Nehemiah Community Development Corporation.

LIGHT's mission is to meet the six major program goals: academic enrichment, leadership development, motivation and empowerment, setting and accomplishing goals, provision of support and resources, and providing fun and positive environments for the youth. The target population is youth at risk for academic failure who may need additional support and services to be successful and reach their full potential in life - a conscientious effort will be made to target African-American and minority youth.

Relationships are built between mentors and youth, emphasizing improved relationships with the youth's parents/guardians and his/her school. College students and professionals provide support, encourage, teach, and tutor the students. Activities aim to stimulate critical thinking, practice writing skills, and develop other educational and life skills

Meals provided by volunteers are a huge component for success at retaining students throughout the semester. If you would like to provide a meal or more information, contact Mack at mrnaber@gmail.com.

The Eastside LIGHT program meets every Tuesday and Thursday and has classes from 3:30-6 pm at the Winnebago House at the intersection of 4th and Winnebago Street, a few blocks across from East High School.

Making a difference... in our City continued

D.A.I.S.

Domestic Abuse Intervention Services (DAIS) intends to give our clients the strength to move forward and to heal. *DAIS operates the only shelter serving victims of domestic violence in Dane Co.* in its' 25-bed 2-bathroom facility. Recently, DAIS has seen a 145% increase in the number of people seeking shelter without an increase in financial support, in fact some local funding has been cut for next year.

The agency is currently in a crisis situation, last year many victims seeking shelter were placed on a waitlist for services. One woman and her 4 kids were on our waitlist for 22 days; ***she stayed with her abuser*** until space was available.

DAIS offers 24-hour Crisis Line, Crisis Response, Legal Advocacy, Support Groups, and Shelter. If you are in need of any of these services, please call the crisis line at 251-4445.

DAIS is in the process of seeking a new facility. Dais is also in need of many professional level services, such as, but not limited to, accounting, legal, and realty specialists. If you are able to offer services, or are willing to finance a specialist, please contact Sally at freedom4us@yahoo.com or see the welcome area bulletin board for job listings. Sally is also a DRJL core team member and can help answer any questions you may have. Direct service training is also available on the website <http://abuseintervention.org>

Road Home

What is The Road Home?

The Road Home serves homeless families with children in collaboration with local faith communities and organizations. They are committed to the empowerment and long-term success of children and families, to serving each family with dignity and respect and to achieving results in helping families improve their lives. In its simplest form, The Road Home helps homeless families get back on track, providing assistance with low-income housing, obtaining employment, childcare, basic life skills, etc.

Opportunity to Serve

Damascus Road will again be teaming up with Immanuel Lutheran Church to provide cooking, childcare and general help to the families within the Road Home on April 13 – 15th (Tue. – Thurs.).

As a church, we need many volunteers to fill these shifts. The three shifts include:

Dinner and Clean-up – 5:00 to 6:30 p.m.

Clean-up and Hangout – 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

Overnight & Breakfast – 8:00 p.m. – 7:15 a.m.

If God is putting it on your heart to help or if you just want more info, please contact Jamie Cayo at jamiécayo@yahoo.com or 608-444-7419.

Thank you DR Volunteers

The one big project I **desperately** need help with is finding volunteers to help me move all this furniture.... Just kidding... we did that already. In fact I have a thank you from them...

"I cannot thank you and the entire crew from Damascus Road enough for all your help and hard work on Saturday (March 6th). For the first time **EVER** we had enough furniture for all the families! I had a lot of fun meeting the guys from DR. It was like moving furniture with a bunch of pirates – they were great! Thanks again – The Road Home"

Making a difference... in our nation and world

Continued from page 1

Montana Outreach

The Damascus Road Church Youth Group is planning a mission trip to a Montana Native American reservation on June 28 – July 6th. Focusing on outreach to the community, the youth will be hosting a kid's basketball camp, doing work projects at the church and around the area. Nights will be filled with teaching and worship.

We are looking for 10-15 volunteers to be Sponsors/Mentors to our DR Youth going on this trip. We'd love for you to consider investing into our youth with a financial commitment of around \$200 and the sharing of your time before the trip and once again when they get back. If you would like to help support our youth in their efforts please contact tony@damascusradchurch.com by April 25th.

Short Term Missions Connects

The following YWAM outreaches are scheduled and accepting applicants. You can help to create a missions experience that will change the lives of your youth group as they reach out to other parts of the world! Each of these will include a 4½ day training/ministry prep at the YWAM Training Center near Sun Prairie. Unless otherwise noted, they are for youth 13-18.

- **San Francisco:** June 18 – July 2. *Work with the poor and homeless.*
- **MadReach** (Madison outreach for youth groups): July 4 – 13. *Urban outreach. MadReach will integrate training and ministry into each day. Other dates are available.*
- **Dominican Republic:** July 25 – August 8. *Work with children and with the poor*
- **Haiti:** August 13 – 27. *Earthquake relief and rebuilding, and children's ministry.*
- **Haiti:** August 8 – 22 (18+) *Earthquake relief and rebuilding.*
- **For families:** Family outreach, tentatively to Native Americans. Dates TBD.

If you would like more information about any of these outreaches, please email ywam@ywammadison.org or call the YWAM office at **608-255-0500 ext. 306** and ask for Michael or Wayne.

Haiti Updates:

Thanks **DR Kids** for bringing your coins! We sent a check to GLBC/Converge for \$64.51 to help their efforts in Haiti Relief! Go Kids- you rock! **Hands for Haiti** is one of your 1st projects and you should be really proud! Let's see what God can do with a generation that is willing to serve and love people well.

The first **Haiti Relief Container** shipped on Feb 28 and should be in St Marc for the Madison mission team at the end of the month! Thank you for your timely and generous response! Over 6,800# of cargo was shipped including food, baby formula, medical, clothing, shoes and other relief supplies. To date, just over \$14,000 has been raised for the Haiti Relief Train project of which \$ 5,500 has been spent on the first container. For more information, go to www.ReliefTrain.org or email relief@relieftrain.org Please continue to pray for revival in Haiti, ongoing relief efforts, and the upcoming spring break mission trip! Damascus Road is sending 3 young adults to help in these efforts!

Haiti Baby Formula Blitz! In the month of March we will be quickly collecting as much baby formula and bottles as possible for the second Haiti relief container. In a meeting with government and UN leaders this week YWAM Haiti learned that this is a critical need right now! Please place your donations in the Haiti Relief boxes located in the hospitality hallway.

Making a difference... in our World

Uganda from page 1

We are also raising funds to provide a mattress, sheet, blanket, and a treated mosquito net for 56 children. The cost is \$40 per child, and we have raised \$300 so far. Right now these children are sleeping on the dirt floor, with nothing over them but the clothes they are wearing. The nets will help prevent malaria. We are also looking for people to help sponsor the 56 children's school fees each year. It costs \$50 per child for this sponsorship, and this \$50 provides: school fees for the year, school books, paper, pencils, school uniform, and noon meal.

Sponsorship opportunities

Sandy Williams from DRC partners with David and Sarah to also help orphans on one of the Buvuma Islands in Uganda (Lingira Camp). Sandy currently sponsors 32 children, and David and Sarah sponsor 22 of these children. These children have lost one or both parents to HIV-AIDS, and are living with extended family or caring friends. Without this sponsorship these children would not be in school, and would not have at least one meal a day, and minor medical care. It is our goal to find DR sponsors for each child, so that we are able to help more children on the island, and to ultimately move the double orphaned children to David's orphanage, and to help build more stable houses for the other orphans on the island.

Contact

If you would like to sponsor a child or if you want more information on how you can partner with this project, please contact Sandy Williams at sandywilliams@tds.net