

Grace United Community Ministries
801 Benton Blvd. Kansas City, MO. 64124
816-231-5745

Education

After-School Tutorial Program: This program operates Monday – Thursday from 3:00 – 6:00 pm. and currently serves 70 children that attend K-5th grades in the Kansas City School District. These “at risk” students are primarily of African-American and Latin-American backgrounds. Most of the students come from families living below the poverty line and many are from single-parent households. Some of our children come from homes where alcohol and drugs are abused. The Hispanic children frequently are from parent(s) who do not speak English and therefore receive little adult help with reading or homework. A majority of our children read below grade level. These are the students that benefit the most from our “one-on-one” tutoring. GUCM is certified by the state as a Supplemental Education Service (SES) provider which is funded through the Kansas City Board of Education.

Freedom School: GUCM was selected by the K.C. Freedom School Initiative (funded by the Kauffman Foundation and the Children’s Defense Fund of Washington D.C.) to be one of 15 sites in the K.C. metropolitan area and was the first multi-cultural (African-American/Latino/White) Freedom School in Kansas City. The Freedom School program operates for 6 weeks during the summer from 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM and serves 100 children. With a full-time staff of 17 persons, which included a Project Director and Site Coordinator, emphasis is placed on reading, cultural awareness, civic responsibility, alternatives to violence, parental involvement and community development.

Parent Advisory Group and Learning Programs: This program involves parents of students that attended the Freedom School. They met weekly during the summer to learn more about successful parenting, setting and achieving family goals, and becoming advocates for children’s education. They continue to meet once a month this fall. There are currently 37 participants in the program.

Improving lives through Substance Abuse Recovery

Heart to Heart Substance Abuse Program: This is coordinated by a part-time director and 6 community volunteers, and is part of the FAITH Coalition sponsored by the National Council on Alcoholism & Drug Dependence, a member of the Missouri State Committed Caring Faith Community. The GUCM Executive Director, Heart to Heart Director, and three community volunteers have taken the addictions training and been credentialed for “Access to Recovery” funding from the State. The Heart to Heart Director is also credentialed as a substance abuse counselor and has been trained/certified to lead “How to Cope” Groups, CAN (Considering Adolescent Needs) groups, and CARE groups (Children At Risk Encounter) programs, under supervision of NCADD. Services of Heart to Heart include: treatment referral, case management, individual/group recovery support services, pastoral counseling, family re-engagement, job preparation, “drop-in” center, transportation and spiritual life skills. Serves approximately 75 persons each month.

Emergency Assistance

Food Pantry - Open four days a week from 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM, it is operated by Northeast community volunteers along with staff supervision. Our pantry is a member of the Northeast Food Pantry Coalition and the MAAC (Mid-America Assistance Coalition) who track client assistance. The pantry is a recipient of the Harvester Food Bank and Commodity Programs. Clients must be under Federal poverty guidelines or show immediate need for emergency help. Care packages are given to persons outside the area if homeless or show extreme need. Serves 1600 to 2,000 persons month.

Clothing Pantry- Opened in May 2009, this program lends a hand to those that need to up date their wardrobe for the season, as well as supplies clothing for interviews. It is operates at the same hours as the Food Pantry and generally assists the same clientele.

Weekly Meals - offered on Thursday at 7:00 PM and is sponsored by an Independence, MO Baptist Church. Serves 100-125 people each week. On the 2nd & 4th Saturdays a noon meal is provided by volunteer churches and serves 75-100 persons each Saturday. Heart to Heart Director supervises and uses these meals as opportunity to build trusting relationships and provide assistance to those suffering from Substance Abuse.

Bus Pass Program - this service provides a free bus pass in exchange for 10 minutes of volunteer assistance in the community. This provides the Director and three community volunteers an opportunity to build trusting relationships. Serves 35 – 50 persons each week.

Referral-Resource – all staff and volunteers are trained to provide referrals for rent and/or utility assistance, transportation and medical prescriptions. There are 10 -30 referrals made each week.

Utility/Rent Assistance – several times each week the Executive Director refers qualified people to a sister church for direct financial assistance. There are 125-150 financial grants made each year.

Reach the Least - is held bi-annually to distribute clothes, food, information, prayers and support to the homeless community. This event is organized and run by Heart to Heart Director and 10-15 volunteers. This provides another opportunity to build trusting relationships with persons suffering from substance abuse; often two or three persons go into treatment from this event. Serves 250 -300 each event

Holiday Assistance- provides clothing, hats/gloves/scarves, blankets and hot meals for the homeless on Easter, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. For our “adopted families”, Thanksgiving and Christmas food, clothing, toys, and other presents are provided. We also operate a Christmas store offering donated items to people of the community. Coordinated and supervised by the Executive Director, all staff members participate, and more than 50 volunteers assist. Project Warmth, Salvation Army, Harvesters, Toys for Tots, MAAC, many sister churches, civic groups and schools participate. This program serves 350-400 families each holiday.

GUCM operates to better the community one person at a time in a holistic approach, through basic needs, supportive needs and spiritual needs. We appreciate your support in these programs.