

Raising faith in

The Backyard

with a passion for generous stewardship ■ April 2011

Hunger Rumbblings AKA the 30-Hour Famine

Rumbling stomachs make a difference in fighting world hunger.

On Friday, March 25 and Saturday, March 26, youth from around the Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod gathered at Kinsmen Lutheran for a lock-in. Emily Adams, Lillian Evans and Melanie Rohla represented Hosanna at the event; they were sponsored by Debbie Rohla and Amy Adams. The trio went without food (consuming only liquids) for 24 hours, raised awareness and raised money (\$1,066!!!) for ELCA World Hunger.



During the lock-in they played games, shared Scripture, joined in worship and participated in service projects. Despite their rumbling tummies they had some fun too. It was a simple concept—going without food so that others can eat.

Melanie Rohla stated, "Hunger Rumbblings was a life-changing event. It opened my eyes to how many people go hungry every day. Even though we were hungry, we weren't nearly as hungry as the people who were starving to death. We realized that so many people (even us) take things for granted, when others don't have anything. Some people, even in this country, don't even know when their next meal will be. It was a very eye opening event for me."

Emily Adams added, "It changed my mind about the way I look at things when I say I'm hungry. Now I actually think about the people who are starving. The

thing I liked the most was at the end. We had a service and we broke the fast after the 24 hours by taking communion and I thought that was really cool."

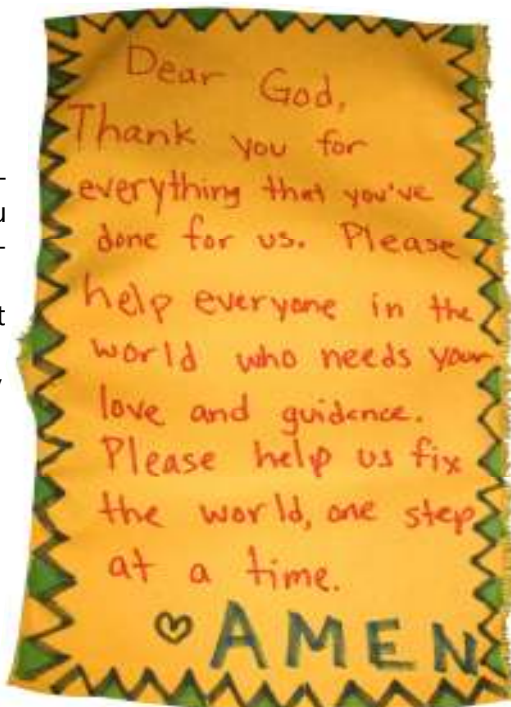
And Lillian (right, holding a prayer flag she sowed with a picture drawn by a child in the Central African Republic) stated, "Once I got to the Hunger Rumbblings I sat in a room with kids from all over the Houston area. We listened to a woman from a



local food bank talk about what she did, when food was needed most, and how many people they fed a year. All the while, I had gone for about 7 hours without food. When she brought out a jar of peanut butter I realized I wanted some, badly. That's exactly what she was talking about, seeing something you want and not being able to have it because of not having enough money. This put hunger in a new perspective for me. It

means physically being hungry, but it also means craving something that you can't have because your family doesn't have the money to pay for it, much less anything to feed the family."

Right, a prayer flag made by Melanie Rohla.



2011 CROP HUNGER WALK UPDATE

The Hosanna Walkers and Rockers had a successful day!

We had 5 walkers: Debbie Rohla, Melanie Rohla, Rick Agafitei, Nancy Agafitei (Spirit Walker) and Pat Gibbons. Thanks to Nancy and Pat for organizing the event.



Left to right: Debbie Rohla, Melanie Rohla, Nancy Agafitei, Rick Agafitei and Pat Gibbons.

The group was sponsored for \$1,335 between local and online donations. We will also be requesting Thrivent Community Abounds Matching Funds.

Thanks to everyone for their generosity in helping serve the hungry.

"For I was hungry and you gave me food..." Matthew 25:35

Thank you

Men of Hosanna,

Greetings and salutations from Goodfellow AFB, TX.

Thank you for the generous care packages. They are always greatly appreciated, as are your thoughts and prayers. As we finish our Technical Training we would like to express to you how much yours and others prayers have contributed to our success in the longest and one of the most mentally challenging courses the military has to offer. There really are no words in any language to express our gratitude for the abounding support we have received from across the nation and around the world. We could not do what we are doing and continue to do on a daily basis without you.

Thank you for your continuing encouragement and prayers.

Most sincerely,

Airman First Class Eric Jenkins

and

Airman First Class Rani Jenkins

Dear Men of Hosanna,

Thank you so much for the care package! I received it just before spring break, a very stressful week for me. It was great to have some sugar and encouraging words to get through the week.

A also loved getting another one of my Grandpa John's crosses. I look forward to sharing that with a friend.

What you men do is so great! I know these packages are really appreciated by all who are blessed to receive them. God bless you all and the work you do.

Sarah Jenkins

LETTER ADDRESSED TO NERISA McCONNELL...

Dear Nerisa,

The Family Violence Center (FVC) recently received the two lovely quilts you made for the Annual Quilting bee. They are beautiful.

FVC clients often visit us having left their belongings, when they left their homes. They may be going into a shelter, staying with family or friends, or even finding a safe new home for themselves and their children.

Regardless of their destination, offering them a quilt is offering them comfort. Clients and their children always appreciate the gesture. So, on their behalf, let me assure you that these quilts will find an appreciative home and will aid in consoling a special client.

Sincerely,

Donna K. Amtsberg, LCSW
Director
Family Violence Center

Noisy Offering

April 10

Habitat for Humanity

Houston Habitat was founded locally in 1987 by Carl Umland (for whom the Umland Park neighborhood is named.) Over the past 24 years, we have put 2,800 Houstonians into homes -- more than half of whom are children. We have built in more than 15 neighborhoods in Houston, and are currently working in Milby Park (62 homes) and Umland Park (126 homes). Our history includes many landmark projects, major events and construction innovations.

June 1998 - Houston Habitat became the first U.S. affiliate to build 100 homes in one week.

1999 and 2007, 2008 and 2009 - Houston Habitat received the Energy Star Award, demonstrating a commitment to energy efficiency and affordability.

Fall 2003 - Houston Habitat ReStore opened to both provide earned revenue for the organization and to promote the recycling of building materials.

2004 - As part of an NFL™ sanctioned event for Super Bowl XXXVIII, volunteers constructed 38 homes in 38 days.

2005 - Houston Habitat participated in Builders Blitz. In one week, more than 700 homes were built throughout the United States.

2005-2006 - Houston Habitat joined with Habitat International to provide frames for homes that were shipped to damaged communities in the Gulf Coast through Operation Home Delivery.

2006 - Houston Habitat provided affordable, permanent housing opportunities for new Houstonians displaced by hurricanes Katrina and Rita. A record 119 families closed on their new homes.

2007 - We celebrated our 20th anniversary by breaking ground on Umland Park, future home to 126 families. In 2008, we built and closed 94 homes. We also received notice of a \$1,000,000 Matching Grant opportunity from Houston Endowment.

2009-2010 - 50 homes were built and closed during 2009, in both Umland and Milby Park sites. In 2010 we completed the \$1,000,000 Houston Endowment Matching Grant.

Hosanna Continues its ongoing support for Habitat for Humanity on Sunday, April 10. Make some noise. Make a difference in the world.



Glimpses of Grace 2011

Year-to-Date

Through March 31, 2011:

World Hunger	\$276.00
African Initiative:	
WomenCraft	\$7,725.00
Kagera Scholarship Fund	\$100.00
Buffalo Wings Fundraiser	\$1,155.90
Benevolence	\$6167.04
Helping Hands	\$310.00
Mulkey Scholarship Fund	\$204.00
Habitat for Humanity	\$2000.00

Mission of the Month Gifts:

January — WomenCraft	\$775.57
February — The Life Center	\$729.00
March — Lutherhill Ministries	\$701.80

Helping Hands

January: Two families received money for assistance; Four individuals received items from the food pantry.

February: Four individuals received food, one received rent assistance.

March: Four individuals received food.

Helping Hands Fund balance on hand: \$647.57

Christ has no body on earth but yours,

no hands but yours,

no feet but yours.

Yours are the eyes through which Christ's compassion for the world is to look out; yours are the feet with which He is to go about doing good;

and yours are the hands with which He is to bless us now.

Saint Teresa of Avila

Through the Back Gate

“If I have achieved anything in my life, it has been because I have not been embarrassed to talk about God. Dorothy Day

“Christianity has died many times and risen again; for it had a God who knew the way out of the grave. G.K. Chesterton

“I love the recklessness of faith. First you leap, and then you grow wings. William Sloan Coffin

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has. Margaret Mead

“If you think you are too small to make a difference, try spending the night in a closed room with a mosquito. African saying

“There are no ordinary people. You have never talked to a mere mortal. C.S. Lewis

“But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. 2 Corinthians 4:7

“What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb; if I were a wise man, I would do my part; yet what I can I give him: give my heart. Christina Rossetti