

## Watchwords for 2009 — please help!

By Paul Gottbrath

I answered the bell of our donations drop-off door one afternoon in February to find a woman unloading an SUV-full of lamps, tables, pictures, rugs and dozens of other items.

When I asked why she had brought us such a windfall, she gave me a sad smile and heartbreaking explanation.

"I've lost my job. Now I'm losing my house," she said. "I'm moving into a small apartment. I just don't have room for this stuff any more."

It's been that kind of a year at Be Concerned. Even donors are hurting, many of them pummeled by the fallout from the global financial markets' meltdown.

### Join us for Hunger Walk May 25

Be Concerned is primarily a food program, so it's not surprising that we devote a good deal of our time to obtaining food.

A substantial portion of our product comes from free sources — food drives by schools; the USDA commodities program;

#### Note from the Director

And our customers? In the first three months of the year, people seeking help poured through our door in unprecedented numbers.

We signed up 270 new families to our food program in that period, compared to just 96 a year earlier.

The economy was weighing on our supporters, too. Through March, donations were down 47 percent from 2008, an ominous trend for an organization that has largely depended on the generosity of individuals, churches, schools and businesses to sustain it.

That combination of overwhelming demand and waning

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and suppliers like Kroger, Remke's and Club Chef, which donate past-their-prime items.

But even so, we'll spend thousands of dollars this year on food. And nearly \$20,000 of that will be from the Freestore

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The Food Store was typically jammed during a recent shopping session. A surge of new customers and lagging donations caused the agency to stop taking new families as of April 1.

### Golf outing moving to Sept. 18

By Pauline Baumann

The quality of play and the brand of humor may be blistering again this year at Be Concerned's annual golf outing, but the weather should be quite a bit less so.

That's because the event is moving from mid-July to Sept. 18.

Organizers decided to give the early fall date a try for the 12th annual outing, which will also feature a later starting time — 10:30 a.m.

No longer will golfers swelter in the summer heat and worry that the perspiration dripping from their brows will blur those shots down the fairway.

The outing will also have a new post-play feature — rapid raffles, in which major prizes are given away at a pace the name implies.

But most everything else about the event will be status quo. The same beautiful venue — Twin  
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# Golf outing on the move to Sept. 18

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Oaks Golf and Plantation Club in Latonia — the same \$100 cost per golfer, the same prime rib and turkey dinner in the clubhouse following the tournament, an assortment of tempting items in the Silent Auction, and a random drawing in which a lucky foursome will win \$1,000.

All in all, it should be an entertaining day to assist an organization that helps so many.

Requests for aid have been overwhelming this year at Be Concerned, and, thus, this golf outing is more important than ever.

It is Be Concerned's major fund raiser, and its success each year enables us to purchase food and other items to help the growing number of people who are turning to us for assistance.

In the past, the outing has been filled to capacity, so we urge you to gather your foursome and send in your registration.

It is an easy way to help those most in need!



Annie Wehry shows baby blankets she has spent the past five months making for Be Concerned.

## NDA senior pours heart into blankets for babies

By Judy Kinman

The word "teenager" makes many of us cringe, thinking of our own adolescence and how it seems teens are so different from us. But there are many teens doing wonderful work today.

Exhibit A is Annie Wehry.

As a junior at Notre Dame Academy in Park Hills, she was assigned to Be Concerned last year to do service hours.

She fell in love with the organization's mission, so when it came time to do her senior service project, she decided to employ her newly acquired skill at crocheting for the benefit of some of the agency's youngest customers. In late April, she delivered 10 baby blankets — representing five months' work — to Be Concerned.

"We're always told to use our talents to benefit others," said Annie, who's headed to the University of Notre Dame this fall on scholarship.

"It makes me feel good to be able to do that."

So, the next time you feel disheartened by what seems like teenage indifference, remember Annie and her blankets.

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## 'Adopt' a doll

Due to the generosity of many of our young donors, Be Concerned has become temporary home to many dolls.

They all have one thing in common — they come to us needing clothes, or the clothes they have need repair. Many also need their hair combed, washed or styled.

Be Concerned is looking for groups and individuals willing to clean up these dolls so they can be given to children at Christmas. In some cases, the dolls may be the only gifts these kids receive.

It may be as simple as putting the doll's hair in a pony tail, washing and ironing an outfit or buying a new outfit.

If you can help, please call Brenda Young at 291-6789.

### SAVE THE DATE!

## Be Concerned Golf Outing Sept. 18, 2009

To sponsor a hole,  
provide raffle items  
or play,  
call Brenda Young at  
291-6789.

# Help Be Concerned in a variety of ways

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support caused us to stop taking new families into the food program as of April 1, the first time we've taken such a drastic step in at least 10 years.

So let me be blunt about it — we urgently need your support.

We are one of the two largest free food pantries in Northern Kentucky. We are one of the few that offers shoppers a choice of items. We have been a mainstay in the region's social service network for two decades. But our capacity to continue depends on people like you understanding our need and responding to it.

Here are some ways to help:

□ **Financial contributions.** It takes about \$21,000 a month to pay for the food, utilities, insurance and other expenses to keep our program going. While we've

done relatively well with donations of food, the cash flow has slowed to a trickle.

No contribution is too small, no fund-raising idea too crazy.

One of our volunteers and his wife put a quarter into a Mason jar every time they "cussed" during Lent. Easter Week they brought us a check for \$57.

□ **Food donations.** We've had a substantial response this year to our ongoing appeals for food, but the shelves empty quickly when 775 families are shopping at our pantry each month.

Again, feel free to think outside the box.

Eighth-graders at St. Joseph Catholic School in Cold Spring generated six boxes of food for us with a school-wide dodge ball tournament in which they charged eliminated players a can of food to

get back into the game.

□ **Used clothing and household item donations.** Good quality items dropped off at our building are sold at rock-bottom prices in our thrift stores, with the proceeds going back into our food program and our Christmas Store.

I don't know when the economy will rebound and employers will start hiring again. I don't know if or when the various stimulus packages will start stimulating.

I don't know if we're in for 20 more weeks of hard times or 20 more months.

What I do know is that there are nearly 800 families — the elderly, the working poor, the single-parent families, the disabled — depending on us to finish the month with food in the fridge.

Won't you please help us to continue to help them?

## Hunger Walk May 25

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regional food bank in Cincinnati.

But you can help us cover our Freestore bill by participating in the Hunger Walk.

The run/walk begins Memorial Day at 9 a.m. at Lytle Park, overlooking the Cincinnati riverfront. Registration starts at 7:30.

For each participant who signs up in Be Concerned's name and pays the registration fee, we receive dollar-for-dollar credit on our Freestore account.

Can't walk or run? You can still participate by sponsoring someone who is walking, or by making a donation to Be Concerned.

The 5K course should take about an hour to complete, so you can run or walk and still have most of your Memorial Day left to enjoy.

Use the form at right to register. Call Paul Gottbrath at (859) 291-6789 if you have questions.

The Hunger Walk offers an excellent opportunity to get together with friends and family for a good cause. We hope to see you there!

### Freestore Foodbank Hunger Walk Registration Form

First Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Gender \_\_\_\_\_

I am \_\_\_ running \_\_\_ walking for Be Concerned

Entry fees: □ \$25 (includes Tee-shirt) □ \$20 (no Tee-shirt)

Waiver: In consideration of the acceptance of my registration fee and for being permitted to participate in this event, I hereby release, waive and discharge, on my own behalf of my heirs, executors, and assigns, the Freestore Foodbank and Be Concerned, Inc., its employees, volunteers, officials, sponsors or affiliated individuals, from any and all claims of any nature, including personal injury, arising from my participation in this event. I also hereby agree to abide by all rules for participation. I further consent to emergency treatment in the event of an injury or illness. I acknowledge that it is my responsibility to consult my physician prior to beginning an exercise program or otherwise engaging in strenuous physical exercise. I also understand the risks of such a run/walk and I am physically able and have trained adequately in preparation.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
(If participant under 18)

I can't walk but would like to make a \$ \_\_\_\_\_ donation to Be Concerned.

Mail registration form and check to:

Be Concerned  
714 Washington St. Covington, Ky. 41011



714 Washington Street  
Covington, KY 41011

NON PROFIT ORG  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
COVINGTON, KY  
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

### Thanks!

Chelsea Vaal, front, and Holly Claypole apply a coat of fresh paint to the Be Concerned lobby on April 25. The two were among students from the youth group at St. Pius X Church who spruced up our building. The group does service projects regularly for nonprofit organizations.



- SC Ministry Foundation
- Greater Cincinnati Foundation
- Johnson Family Foundation
- Robert M. Butler Foundation
- Triple Crown Doll Club
- Tradewinds Iced Tea Co.
- Central Trust Tower Associates
- Covington School District
- St. Agnes Church
- St. Timothy Church
- Prince of Peace School
- Blessed Sacrament School and Church
- St. Joseph, Crescent Springs
- Covington Catholic School
- St. Catherine of Siena School
- St. Joseph School/Cold Spring
- New Haven Elementary School
- Children's Hospital
- Notre Dame Academy

### Special Thanks!

- St. Henry High School, St. Pius X School and all others who donated baskets and hygiene products for our Easter program.
- Maureen Smain for providing Volunteer Appreciation lunches.

### Wish List

- ▶ Shampoo
- ▶ Toilet paper
- ▶ Laundry detergent
- ▶ Toothpaste
- ▶ Pork'n Beans
- ▶ Tuna fish
- ▶ Cereal
- ▶ Bar soap
- ▶ Canned fruit
- ▶ Canned soups
- ▶ Spaghetti sauce
- ▶ Macaroni & cheese
- ▶ Large shopping bags w/handles
- ▶ High-speed buffer
- ▶ Canned corn
- ▶ Good quality used housewares
- ▶ Fresh produce