



Becoming Help



When the hurricane made landfall, Houston residents had no idea what kind of devastation they would face.

This was Hurricane Harvey. Meteorologists' descriptions like "unprecedented" and "catastrophic" failed to do justice to the life-altering realities in Harvey's wake.

Ana Costello was one such person. Her resources were limited even before that awful storm. Her children, Alejandro and Valeria, attended a "Title 1" school, meaning the students are from families with disadvantages. The Costellos were already stretched to make ends meet, as were many families in their community, and Harvey destroyed most of their few possessions.

Enter Pastor Bryant Lee, Cru® affiliate staff member in Houston. With a heart for the people in his city, Pastor Lee shepherds the congregation of Higher Expectations Church and leads a network of inner-city churches. He connects under-resourced inner-city churches with resourced churches.

This helps them minister together to those experiencing poverty. One way they do this is through Boxes of Love®. One goal, he says, is "to build deeper relationships and close the gap between the 'haves and have nots'. We don't want those with resources to simply write checks, but to go to homes to visit and pray with people."

And that's exactly what they do! Teams of...

Continued inside...



This Thanksgiving, so many impoverished inner-city families were able to enjoy a warm meal — and experience the power of the love of Jesus — because friends like you reached out in compassion to send a Box of Love® to them.

Becoming Help *Continued from front*

volunteers deliver the Boxes of Love. Teams consist of a person from an inner-city church who lives in the neighborhood and a volunteer from a resourced church outside the neighborhood. Sharing in ministry develops friendships between churches and their people.

The school Alejandro and Valeria attend sent Pastor Lee the names of some families who could use food for Thanksgiving. The Costellos were on the list. Pastor Lee connected with Ana and arranged a time for volunteers to bring a Box of Love® to her family. She felt so loved by their warm conversation and willingness to pray with her, that she made her way to Higher Expectations Church soon after. Alejandro and Valeria were later delighted to receive PowerPacks™ filled with school supplies and gospel materials for

“She felt so loved by their warm conversation and willingness to pray with her...”

the school year. Now, the whole family has plugged into Higher Expectations’ Spanish ministry!

Then this past Thanksgiving, Ana reached out to Pastor Lee with a surprising request. In the previous year their economic situation had improved

somewhat, but they were still in need of a little help. She asked for another Box of Love, but added, “we don’t just want to receive help. We want to help as well.” The whole family helped pack Boxes of Love for others! Pastor Lee shared how that is exactly what he prays for: “Our hope is to take families from needing help to becoming help.”

Through your generosity and prayers, that is just what God is doing through Boxes of Love!



Milton Massie (left) and **John Sather** (right) have worked together as co-National Directors for 8 years, and have been good friends for much longer, having met in 1999 while working together to share the gospel with urban youth.

A New Day!

Introducing Our New Executive Director, Milton Massie

We're pleased to announce that after 8 years of co-leadership with John Sather, Milton Massie is taking the reins as the Executive Director for Cru Inner City. Our current co-National Director, John Sather, will be transitioning into a new role as National Director Emeritus, and will serve on the Executive Leadership Team.

John and his wife, Chris, have been on staff for 45 years, and are excited that this transitioning (that's been planned for 3 years) to Milton and Cynthia's leadership is happening.

John and Milton have been friends and colleagues since 1999 when John, who at that time worked with Cru's High School ministry, sought out Milton for his wisdom about reaching teenagers in the inner city

with the gospel. Milton's help opened John's eyes to the challenges of the inner city and was influential in John and Chris' transition to Inner City in 2001.

They've spent their life together serving others in the name of Christ alongside Cru Inner City

John and Chris will continue to serve as part of Inner City's Executive Leadership Team. We are grateful to have their experience, leadership, and continued ministry, building into and inspiring our staff and partners.

Milton has been involved with Cru since 1979 while a student at Chicago State University. He worked at the Agape Community Center from 1980 to 1985. Cynthia and Milton were married in 1984 and joined full-time staff in 1986. They've spent their life together serving others in the name of Christ alongside Cru Inner City.

Milton shares, “I have no doubt that God has great things in store for those we serve through Cru Inner City as Cynthia and I minister alongside you. We are fully committed to being Christ-centered, church-based, and compassion-driven.

Micah 6:8 tells us to love mercy, to do justly, and to walk humbly with our God — this is the focus of our life together and will continue to drive our ongoing ministry as we serve the Lord and lift Christ high in America’s inner cities.”

***He has shown you, O mortal, what is good.
And what does the Lord require of you?
To act justly and to love mercy
and walk humbly with your God.***

- Micah 6:8



In his new role as National Director Emeritus, John and Chris will continue to serve alongside Milton and the Executive Team of Cru Inner City and their ministry partners.



“I’ve invested and partnered with Milton and his family because of his integrity and devotion. I would give my last earned dollar to support what he does.”

- David Lautenbach, Managing Partner, StepUP Stair Parts



“We’ve been financial supporters of Milton and Cynthia for about 29 years. Milton is really a super hard-working guy. You can tell he’s ministering from the heart because he is emotionally attached to what he does.”

- Nate Sutton, President, Sutton Auto Group



“Milton is authentic, a servant. He’s also vulnerable, which is one of the great characteristics that distinguishes a very successful leader.”

- Bill Marquard, Managing Director in a global consulting firm



“Milton is uniquely qualified to be Executive Director of Cru Inner City. He knows what it’s like to grow up in poverty and he knows what it’s like to come out of poverty. He knows what it’s like to lead the church. He’s a leader and I’m excited about our future under Milton.”

- Brad Harry, City Co-Director, Chicago



“He’s a shepherd. He loves on his team. He loves on the people in his church.”

- Michelle Harry, Staff, Chicago

An entire family ... transformed!



It's hard to imagine: an entire family homeless ... living in shelters and on the streets. Now, add snow and cold — freezing rain and howling winds — into the picture, and you'll get a glimpse of reality for far too many of our nation's children and families.

Tia was already struggling to make ends meet when she moved to inner city Minneapolis with her two young children to live with her mom. When her mom passed away, Tia could no longer provide. She found herself suddenly homeless ... and hopeless ... with two kids in tow.

That simple gift of love
touched Tia's heart

And then your love entered the picture. Our partner ministry reached out to Tia in Jesus' name with the gift of three Homeless Care Kits. One for her and each of her children. That simple gift of love touched Tia's heart. That very day, she came to faith in Christ. Tia's two children prayed, too!

This is how God uses Homeless Care Kits again and again, leading people to the Savior! Please make this transformation possible for more children and families in desperate need this winter by giving generously to provide Homeless Care Kits.

Thank you!



Cru Inner City
2112 Broadway Street NE, Suite 100
Minneapolis, MN 55413
(612) 338-0999

CRU.ORG/INNERCITY
innercity@cru.org



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