



January, 2010

## Northwood M. S. teaches us about Giving

*Editor's note: This remarkable school has helped patients in this community far beyond what they could imagine. Their gift to Matthew 25 of \$5,378.38 is exceptional in this economy. Perhaps even more remarkable is the way they have done it. The students also wrote the volunteers at Matthew 25. One of the letters is shared in part at the bottom of p. 2. The following, in part, is a description and photos provided by Todd Roberts, a teacher at Northwood.*

For the past six years, Northwood Middle School students have participated in "Aunt Elena's Hair Care Challenge." During this month long event, students raise money for the opportunity to give a ridiculous Hair-Don'ts to teachers in order to raise money for charity. In the past, over \$19,800 has been given to The American Cancer Society, The Lupus Foundation, The Darfur Schools Project, and The American Parkinson Disease Foundation, The Lahna Gibson Memorial Foundation and Lutheran Children's Pediatric Oncology. This year, Northwood students did their best to raise money for Matthew 25, a clinic that provides free health services for the uninsured. We're going to by-pass the Health Care Debate by supporting Fort Wayne's own free health care service.



*continued on p. 2*



## Tribute to Joyce Eberly

Fort Wayne has lost another valued person—Joyce Eberly. A long-standing supporter of many community causes, most notably Matthew 25 and Erin's House, Joyce recently passed away. This community and this clinic is have benefitted from her active life serving others. She served on the FWCS board, the Junior League, and many community organizations: Erin's House for Grieving Children, PBS Channel 39, and Matthew 25 Medical and Dental Clinic, among others. She secured the endowment for Matthew 25's eye clinic.

"I learned a lot from Joyce in the short time I knew her, mostly about perseverance. When we were working on the Matthew 25 Celebration event last year, Joyce taught me the finer art of asking corporations for sponsorship, when I was hesitant to ask for something extra, she kept telling me 'all they can say is no, go ahead and ask.'" Joyce was right, and most of those we asked said yes, but I also learned that it was hard to say no to Joyce.", Nancy Schenkel reflected. Joyce will be missed by all of us at Matthew 25, as well as by many people in the community she loved, and she will be remembered for her graciousness and caring.



Northwood students and staff members are encouraged to participate in many ways. They purchase T-shirts and CD's with all profits going to charity, write encouraging letters to staff members at the charity of choice, collect money door to door, create songs for the CD, bake cookies, and, yes, both teachers and students get ridiculous hair-cuts in a sign of solidarity to the cause. This year we also, plan to get active in neighborhood clean-up and other community service projects.

The student and staff support has been increasingly amazing throughout the years. They solicited community help by asking for various donated items (coupons, prizes, etc.) that will be used to help encourage student participation. Students asked the community to purchase T-shirts (\$7.00) or CD's of original music created by Northwood students (\$4.00) for underprivileged students at Northwood Middle School, etc. .



Once again, we plan to show everyone that while our students might not be the richest in the world, they have as much heart as any school anywhere. I'd bet my hair on it...matter fact, I'll lose it for it.

Todd Roberts, TV Teacher, Northwood Middle School

## “Dear Volunteer...”

“..When I told my parents about Northwood helping out in Matthew 25 Clinic they were so glad to participate. You see my parents and I don't have health insurance, so if something happens, we won't have the money to fix it. That's why I am so thankful there are people like you who help others and don't request a fee. I really appreciate people like you. You are a hero to me, helping all one hundred thirty-one sick people that come in every day.

Thank you for your hard work. I am so glad Northwood is helping out Matthew 25 Clinic. I am also so grateful that you help out my parents when we go there. It really touches me when you help all the ill clients coming in everyday in need of some medical attention but who can't afford it. Your hard work has encouraged me to be more helpful to other people.”

# Reflections of the year past...

**Ann Hathaway**  
Development Director



Even in difficult economic times, I am so thankful for the opportunity I have to meet and work with people who care about the patients we serve and are willing to help us out financially to help us provide health and dental services to the underserved. Following are a few reflections from this past year.

## New Policies Put In Place October 5

Due to the current economic climate that has resulted in a decrease in funding, Matthew 25 has implemented a few new policies affecting our patients beginning October 5, 2009. The Medication Room will be closed in the evenings. Patients from the evening clinics will need to return the following day to secure their medications. There will no longer be a Tuesday evening medical clinic and those patients will be rescheduled to Wednesday and Thursday evening clinics. The Tuesday evening dental clinic will remain open. It will be requested of each patient that they provide co-pay for services in the amount of \$5.00 per visit for medical and \$10.00 per visit for dental. Exceptions will be made under extreme circumstances.

## Committed to providing services

Matthew 25 has been challenged by the economy pertaining to our Foundation support. Fifty percent (50%) of our budget is provided through local Foundations, and unfortunately their investments are down resulting in less money to be granted to charitable organizations. The Clinic remains committed to not decreasing the services we provide to our patients, so along with the above changes, Matthew 25 staff members have taken a 10% pay decrease beginning in October, 2009.

Matthew 25 often receives donations with notes saying, "Wish this could be more." Or "This isn't much." To that I say, every donation counts. Our Gift Catalog is evidence of the many ways contributions are important to the Clinic. We are sustaining because of the ongoing commitment of our donors on all levels.

On behalf of all Matthew 25 staff, volunteers and patients, I would like to extend a heartfelt wish to all of you for a blessed and healthy 2010!

## Matthew 25

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# Notables

## Volunteer Reception

Friday, November \_\_ found M25 volunteers gathering at The Community Foundation of Greater Fort Wayne to celebrate a year of giving through volunteering.

## Annual Reports

Through a decision of the board and administration, the Matthew 25 Annual Report will be distributed on our website. Those wanting a printed version should contact the Development Director.

## Upcoming Fundraiser

Get ready to mark your calendar. Matthew 25 will be having a fall fund raiser this year. Keep you pen poised to mark the date...as soon as we set one.

according to matthew  
A NEWSLETTER FOR DONORS



**Matthew 25 Health and Dental Clinic  
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