

Annual Report 2009

# PARKER STREET MINISTRIES



*The WORD became Flesh and moved into the Neighborhood.*

Parker Street Ministries is a Christ-centered non-profit 501(c)(3) organization committed to individual, family and community restoration, reconciliation and revitalization in Lakeland's Parker Street community.



(863)682.4544 | PO Box 433 | Lakeland, FL 33802 | [www.parkerstreetministries.org](http://www.parkerstreetministries.org)

## LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Supporters & Friends,

Thirteen years ago we joined in God's transformation of Lakeland's Parker Street neighborhood through Gospel-centered community development. From the smallest of beginnings encompassing one couple's vision, we have grown into a ministry worthy of an entire community's support, offering programs that are being replicated in other at-risk communities! **Thank you for partnering in this exciting work.** We especially want you to know that, in 2009, despite economic uncertainty all around us, our faith and hope was strengthened when

### **Partnerships made the difference for our neighborhood.**

The City of Lakeland, Keystone Challenge, Polk Museum of Art, Desire Street Ministries, parents, schools, 691 volunteers, 13 churches, 14 organizations and schools, and 315 of donors joined hands with PSM to serve this neighborhood;

**New relationships with 30 families** were formed through Christmas Store as we spread farther into the Willow Glen apartment complex; and

**We finished the year with no debt**, and over half of our \$404,000 budget was raised through one fundraiser.

By the end of 2009 our program space — the 22,000 square foot Wesley United Methodist Church facility — was available for purchase, and we began negotiations to buy the buildings. What an exciting opportunity to move into the heart of our neighborhood! There is so much in the year ahead. Our plan for 2010-11 is to grow our ministry while we purchase and rehab this facility.

We strive to be good stewards of the funds given to us each year. Please review this annual report and contact us if you require more information.

Thank you for your partnership in this amazing work.

In Him,

Tim Mitchell  
Executive Director

Tracy Wilson  
Board of Trustees President



Tim Mitchell, from urban missionary & intentional resident raising own support (1999) to Executive Director (2002)

## 2009 LEADERSHIP

### **Board of Trustees**

Tracy Wilson, *President*  
Laura Pallos, *Vice President/  
Chair Elect*  
Teresa Bray-Paul, *Secretary*  
Mike Wells, *Treasurer*  
Jorgeanne Carpenter  
Mark Lutter  
Randy Mathews  
Michael Pallos  
Sam Taylor

### **Advisory Committee**

Marsha Vass, *Chair*  
Barney Barnett  
Matthew Diaz  
John Fitzwater  
Tim Strawbridge  
Craig Sumey  
John Tucker  
Bill Vass  
Danny Wuerffel



Sam Taylor, from neighborhood resident (1996) to PSM Trustee (2008)



Parker Street Ministries Staff — August 2009  
Living out PSM's commitment to holistic ministry, nine of these staff live in the neighborhood as intentional residents.

## ABOUT US

The Parker Street neighborhood is a low income, high crime area just north of downtown Lakeland. Its people are, for the most part, broken, forgotten and marginalized.

For 13 years, PSM has ministered to this community and currently employs three full-time and seven part-time staff. A Board of Trustees and an Advisory Committee volunteer their time to oversee ministry budget administration and offer strategic advice respectively. Their membership comprises a variety of business backgrounds and Christian denominations. Parker Street Ministries is a member of the Christian Community Development Association and a strategic partner of Desire Street Ministries. Both partnerships provide opportunities for PSM to impact a national network of urban ministries as well as benefit from the experiences of similar ministries.

Parker Street Ministries utilizes a holistic approach characterized foremost by a staff that intentionally lives in the neighborhood to bring transformation from the inside out. This staff is committed to Gospel-centered community development beginning in the Parker Street community and spreading to other impoverished neighborhoods.

**Through the support of individuals, churches, foundations, and businesses and the efforts of staff and volunteers, Parker Street Ministries impacted more than 200 children and their families in 2009.**

## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

### 1996-2008

#### **Academic Enrichment Program**

- Provided homework help and safe environment for children
- Hired Education Director in 2005, shifted to current model with structured educational focus and partnerships

### 2009

#### **Academic Enrichment Program**

- Served 38 children grades K - 8 in four classrooms
- Provided transportation
- Improved partnerships with schools and parents
- Received nationally standardized software to aid in evaluations
- Each child progressed to next grade level
- Education Director moved out of classroom to focus on management and improvement of program
- Served as model for program in Montgomery, AL

### 2010 and Beyond

#### **Academic Enrichment Program**

- Increase of space availability enables expansion by two classrooms each year for three years to serve eventual capacity of 100 children in ten classrooms
- Expand and improve partnerships with parents, schools and community
- Expand to serve grades 9-12
- Provide model for other at-risk communities



Aaron Butler, AEP student  
2006-present

#### **Summer Camp**

- In 2002 provided one half-day summer art camp, partnered with Polk Museum of Art (PMoA)
- In 2004 added reading camp two afternoons a week
- In 2006 shifted to full-day, eight-week model with academic and enrichment focus

#### **Summer Camp**

- Full-day program of academic and extracurricular instruction
- Partnered with PMoA, FSC volleyball, local churches
- Utilized LitArt curriculum for at-risk children
- Provided healthy meals
- Extended curriculum through field trips
- Employed first indigenous intern

#### **The Bridge Summer Camp**

- Increase of space availability enables expansion by two classrooms each year for three years to serve eventual capacity of 100 children in ten classrooms
- Form a Summer Jobs program for 9th-12th grade students that teaches savings and soft jobs skills
- Provide model for other at-risk communities



Louis Lucas, AEP student  
2006-present

#### **Spiritual Development**

- Informal Bible studies in homes

#### **Spiritual Development**

- Community Bible study with meals, childcare provided
- Developed indigenous leaders through mentoring groups
- Formed small discipleship groups

#### **Spiritual Development**

- Train indigenous leaders to teach in small group settings
- Continue large community Bible study and mentoring
- Provide model for other at-risk communities

# PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS CONTINUED...

## 1996-2008

### Housing

- Revitalized homes and neighborhood through volunteers
- Began stabilizing neighborhood through partnerships with Keystone and City of Lakeland; resulted in establishing five intentional, mixed-income residents

## 2009

### Housing

- Revitalized homes and neighborhood through volunteers
- Stabilization efforts affected by downturn in housing market; welcomed addition of two neighborhood residents who became homeowners and one intentional, mixed-income household; partnerships with Keystone and City continue

## 2010 and Beyond

### Housing

- Revitalization of homes and neighborhood through volunteers
- Three renters in process to move to home ownership
- Begin Home Buyers Club
- Expand program by hiring case manager



721 Magnolia Avenue — From substandard and empty (2007) to revitalized, lived in, loved (2008)



### Community Building through Church Partnerships

- Hosted neighborhood parties
- Hosted community dinners

### Community Building through Church Partnerships

- Hosted three neighborhood parties
- Provided community dinners twice a month
- Discontinued community dinners to reconsider impact and move to alternative program in 2010

### Community Building through Church Partnerships

- Host three neighborhood parties
- Provide block parties in alternating locations



Christmas Store 2009 served 192 children

### Christmas Store

- In 2002, first store sold out in 15 minutes with \$1k worth of toys
- No qualification measures; no pre-registration; no gift limit
- Improved process in 2005 to current model

### Christmas Store

- 92 families served
- 192 children served
- 1,521 gifts purchased
- 11 churches and schools donated gifts
- 160 volunteers made it happen

### Christmas Store

- Continue same program
- Provide model for other at-risk communities

