



HGI Newsletter

Helmer Global Initiatives exists to promote a culture of generosity by using our resources to engage our people to their highest level of capability in order to provide aid and justice to the poor and vulnerable.

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 6

OCTOBER 6, 2010

CALENDAR OF EVENTS IN OCTOBER:

October 7

Garry Busby & Donnie Stohler Haiti Trip Send Off

October 19

Ukraine Service Trip Video Presentation

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Why I Ride



www.nationalmssociety.org

Written by Gaile Menhennett, Accounts Receivable at Helmer, Inc.

Since my 2006 Multiple Sclerosis diagnosis, I have participated in several fundraising events and given many speeches for MS awareness. I never thought about riding in the MS Bike until a co-worker set forth a challenge. I did some bike training research, made the announcement to Helmer employees and the rest is history.

The Helmer MS bike team held a 'MS Bike Week' at Helmer September 7-10 which consisted of a spaghetti luncheon and bake sale, a money jug collection and a bike raffle. Thank you

for bringing all the hungry appetites! We raised \$808.16 that

week. Thank you to Lisa Brown, Shannon Heavilin, Lou Ann Sylvester and Marie Foley for the all goodies for the bake sale. Congratulations to Rebecca Rhoades, winner of the bike at \$105.00. **Total funds raised were \$2375.16.**

I would like to express my humblest thanks and appreciation to the 'Crusin' with Gaile' bike team; Penny & Rick Witzke, Dennis Dawes & Beth Thomas, Paul Tackett, Corey Knopp, Tatiana Akram and Peter Zurowski.



Helmer MS bike team (from left to right): Paul Tackett, Tatiana Akram, Gaile Menhennett, Dennis Dawes, Rick & Penny Witzke, Corey Knopp.

The ride was a big success, together the team completed a



From left to right: Tatiana Akram, Beth Thomas, Gaile Menhennett with MS Bike Ride clowns.

total of 410 miles with Paul & Corey in the lead at 100 miles each, way to go! Beth rode 2 extra miles when Dennis' pedal broke and Tatiana & Peter decided to go sightseeing when

they took a wrong turn but were soon on track and at one point Penny needed a little push!

When asked why we ride, the biggest responses were, "It's for a good cause" & "For you." I think the one I like the most is, "It is purely selfish. I like to ride!"

That's why I ride – it purely selfish – I want to find a cure.

September 10 & 11, 2011 is the next MS Ride. Get ready team!

David Helmer with children at Ivuka art center in Kigali, Rwanda



Let's Do More!



Word from David Helmer

"As I stood in the parking lot of a local retail store last week, talking to people from many organizations, who had congregated as a part of End Poverty Now, a thought occurred to me that was actually very discouraging. There are so many needs in so many places. Do our efforts really matter in the scope of significant hardships around the world? The statistics are always in the millions. How can we dare to think that we could actually be a part of the solution?"

Yet, I believe that it is not our individual responsibilities to feed the world, end slavery*, eradicate AIDS, or shelter all homeless families**. But, it is our responsibility, as a community of people, to be a part of the solution. And, it does matter to the individuals, their families, and their communities whom we participate with.

I am encouraged that during our Summer of Service 46 of us contributed 322 hours with nine different local organizations. This is in addition to our ongoing involvements and international trips. Well done!

An ancient biblical writing states, "Do not withhold good

from those who deserve it, when it is in your power to act. Do not say to your neighbor, 'Come back tomorrow,' when you now have it with you."

Not only are we currently impacting the lives of individuals, we can also, as I say, "make a dent in the universe" together. Let's do more!"

David

* - There are more people presently in slavery than in any other time in world history.

** - There are 1.6 million homeless children in the US. There are 78 million homeless people in India. Each one has a name and a dream.

"During Helmer Summer of Service 46 of us contributed 322 hours with nine different local organizations. Well done!"

Back To School Help



www.passwordmentoring.org

Written by Tabatha Weatherbee, Assembly Team Member at Helmer, Inc.

On Monday August 9th New Era Baptist Church joined with a mentoring group called PassWord to help families in need get their kids ready for school.

Thanks to many volunteers and company's helping out, many kids received free haircuts, free books, free school supplies, hygiene products, and a free health check.

We all know that families in many areas are still struggling with work and paying their bills while trying to put food on the table. By supplying the school supplies, it helps take some stress away from the

parents and gives the kids a chance to be equal with their peers when school starts.

Julia and Ana passed out backpacks full of school supplies. Donna watched the little kids while parents were walking their siblings through the church to different booths. Tabatha passed out reading books to all the school kids while Matt and Leonce passed out hygiene products.

All the Helmer employees had a wonderful time meeting some great kids that plan to go far in life. The kids were all excited about the entire function and could not wait for school to begin. Some kids were unable to attend so the Mentors took the children school supplies and reading books to their homes.



From left to right: Tabatha Weatherbee, Julia Coy, Donna Stephens, Matt Shafer, Ana Dawes, Leonce Jean-Baptiste

Together We Are Stronger



www.lutheranfamily.org

Written by Ryan Bird,
Assembly Team Lead Operator at Helmer, Inc.

It was a day of service and hard work for Helmer's lead operators on July 16. The four of us, Mike Reed, Tammy Hamman, Scott Heavilin, and myself, made our way to the Lutheran Child & Family Services of Indianapolis for a none too simple project. Founded as an orphanage in 1883, this faith based organization has provided a wide range of social service supports to vulnerable families and children in crisis. It includes a 24 hour residen-

Scott Heavilin volunteering at Lutheran.



tial treatment facility for children, a satellite K-12 public school in partnership with Indianapolis Public Schools and an independent transition living program for boys.

That day our task involved painting of a basement recreational room as well as its two adjoining hallways. We succeeded in our allotted time, and the organization was more than content with our efforts. Yet, in the end, we four learned something

quite valuable: how well we were able to work together.

The sheer enormity of the work set out before us made our cooperation and interdependence all the more necessary. Not only were these basement and hallways already of fair size, but the former required an unforeseen additional coat of paint; needless to say, we were not prepared for this event. It was a speed bump. Yet our group did not falter. In fact, this obstacle allowed the four of us to reach our full potential. We persevered, we transcended, we synergized our talents towards our ever increasing goal, and we did so with favorable results.

All in all, we four succeeded in helping a noble charity and urge everyone at Helmer to volunteer at Lutheran Child & Family Services.

“Although the world is full of suffering it is also full of overcoming it.”
Helen Keller

Far From Home



Randy Mullins, a Fabrication Team Member at Helmer, Inc., has encouraged Helmer folks to join in support for US troops. Having his son serve overseas, Randy says, “Personally as a parent I know they have a job to do. Being so far from home and having very little communication - may be a phone call once

a month or an e-mail when opportunity arises - anything we can col-

Randy's son, Brad Robinson, serving overseas in Marine Corp.



lect and send to make them feel a little bit more comfortable is the least we can do.”

4 boxes with donated items have been collected and sent out by Helmer Global Initiatives. In his appreciation letter to Helmer employees Corporal William B. Robinson stated, “We thank you all for your hard work and dedication to helping with our needs. I am grateful to you all, because I can give my Marines so much needed supplies.”



US Marines in Afghanistan

Work It Out, Man!

HELMER
Summer of Service



Special Olympics
Indiana

www.soindiana.org

Written by Wes Peik,
Customer & Technical Service
Manager at Helmer, Inc.

Wes & Amanda
Peik,
happy
Special Olympics
Volunteers



“As they were giving us the instructions to make the hash marks on the card, I thought to myself, how hard will it be to keep track of three scores? That thought didn’t last past the first hole.”

Amanda and I had an opportunity to help out with a state wide Special Olympics golf tournament on August 21st as part of the Midwest Sports fest. The Midwest Sports fest is an annual Special Olympics event that has athletes from all over the state competing in softball or golf. With varying degrees of skill levels, the golfers were grouped together by taking into account their golf skills and putting golfers with similar skills in the same group in order to help level out the competition.

Going into this, we haven’t experienced a Special Olympics event before. We really didn’t know exactly what to

expect or what we were supposed to do. We had volunteered to be caddies, which really meant that we each had to keep score for a group of 3 golfers. It was suggested at our pre tournament meeting that we keep hash marks on the score card for every shot the players hit and then count the marks at the end of each hole and compare our recorded score to the athletes to make sure we were accurate. As you can imagine, some of the golfers would hit the ball many more times than others so a 10X rule was in effect. If the golfer has hit the ball 10 times and hasn’t made it in the hole yet then we would record a 10X and we would have them pick up the ball and keep moving. As they were giving us the instructions to make the hash marks on the card, I thought to myself, how hard will it be to keep track of three scores? That thought didn’t last past the first hole. As we got to the green and prepared to putt, all of the golfers in my group decided to start putting at the same time, it was like a fireworks show. However, we quickly got that worked out and decided to allow me to determine who

would put first from that point forward... it was really funny. The rest of the round the athletes would hit bad shots, good shots and anything in between, the group really seemed to have a lot of fun!

As Amanda and I reflected on this experience we really think a good time was had by all; golfers, coaches, families and volunteers alike. Not having any expectations going into this event made us a little weary in the beginning, however the experience was very rewarding. We wouldn’t hesitate to do this again and would also recommend to you all to volunteer for a Special Olympics event that would align closely to your hobbies and interests the same way we did with the golf event.

In the appreciation letter from Special Olympics representative Tracy Miller it was noted, ‘Thank you SO MUCH for volunteering at the 2010 Special Olympics Indiana Midwest Sports Fest! We had over 1,700 athletes compete in this annual event. Without the help of our volunteers, this event could not have happened. Whether you caddied for golf, or handed out awards at softball, you played a big role in the weekend’s success.’



You Guys Rock!



www.indycityview.com

*Written by Lisa Brown,
Regional Sales Representative at
Helmer, Inc.*

Feeding the homeless was never an outreach I wanted to participate in. After college, I spent 10 years working in every sector of the “social service network” and witnessed firsthand many of society’s social dysfunctions, which, also, included “homelessness” and all the factors surrounding it. I was all too familiar and to a certain extent maybe even immune to the role I could play in changing this “social dysfunction.”

I won’t bore you with all of the details of how I got hooked with this outreach and remain “hooked,” but I will say in retrospect, it is pretty amazing to look back and see that many times in life the things we think we would not be interested in are the very things we find ourselves drawn to!

Preparing and serving the meal to

Helmer folks feeding homeless children of Indianapolis.



“100” homeless at CityView Christian Center on Sept 23rd could not have been a success without all of the support and hard work of my co-workers! (Not mention the fact I got to spend time and get to know several people outside of work that I may

that donated cash and food items to make this happen!! Thank you from the bottom of my heart. You guys rock!

Now after participating in City-View’s “Feed my Sheep” homeless outreach for the past 2 years and becoming the designated



From right to left: Karyn Yates and her daughter Paige, Jessica Cortez serving drinks.

not have had the chance to)! There were 9 employees from Helmer that attended CityView and served the meal of meatball sandwiches, macaroni and cheese, cookies and lemonade/iced tea (including Terry McCurry, the only male in attendance, and who didn’t seem to mind doing whatever we told him to do!) but even more amazing was the fact there were a total of “21” people at Helmer

“Many times in life the things we think we would not be interested in are the very things we find ourselves drawn to!”

“coordinator” for scheduling other organizations to serve meals, I could not imagine not being involved. Establishing relationships with the individuals we serve meals to and seeing everyday miracles of how their lives have been changed is truly a blessing that is beyond words.



Terry McCurry, the only male in attendance, preparing the food to serve.



“Why did the number 63 mess with my emotions so much?”

Barry Rodriguez tells this and other stories about his recent trip to Haiti on www.worldnextdoor.org

Visit his blog - the stories will cut at your heart!

Garry Busby & Donnie Stohler will be travelling to St. Ard Haiti October 8-16. They will be assisting medical teams to provide free medical and dental services to Haitians.

Safe Travels & Good Luck!

Calendar Of Events - October

Garry Busby & Donnie Stohler

Haiti Trip Send Off

Thursday, **October 7**, at 10am in the break room

Best Buddies International Back To School Sale

Take part in the annual Back To School Sale! Buy 1 Get 1 Free deals! Sale ends **October 18**.

Visit www.bestbuddies.org/shop

2010 Ukraine Service Trip

Video Presentation

Tuesday, **October 19**, at 11.30am - 12pm in the break room



To get more information on HGI activity please contact Penny Witzke:

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www.helmerinc.com/newhgi.aspx