



# 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 11, ISSUE 5

JULY 28, 2011

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS IN AUGUST:

August 6

Joy's House Joy Ride

August 13

Golf Open for Joy's House

August 6, 27 – 28

Special Olympics Events

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## Keep Your Head Up!



[www.indycityview.com](http://www.indycityview.com)

Written by Justin Witzke, son of Rick & Penny Witzke, Mfg & Supply Chain and HGI at Helmer, Inc.

On June 30, 2011 some folks from Helmer took a trip downtown Indianapolis to visit City-View. In attendance were Lisa Brown, Shannon Heavilin, Anita Stephens, Tammy Hamman, Leonce Jean Baptiste & family, Penny Witzke, Rick Witzke, and myself.



**Rick Witzke with his son Justin serving ice-cream to a local boy. In the background: Leonce Jean Baptiste with his wife Jill and children Thierry & Ally.**

Upon arrival, we were immediately surrounded by people that were so thankful that we were able to come and help out on such a lovely evening. We served

a whole array of food from Sloppy Joe sandwiches to potato salad to Rocky Road ice cream. While I was there, I learned about a program called S.W.A.T., which stands for Servants with a Testimony. This

program helps get people off the street by taking a select few and giving them shelter and food, but if they steal or go back to drugs, they are immediately kicked out. I feel that this is a great idea because it gives some men an opportunity to change the direction of their lives.

Of all of the people that I met that night, there was one that really changed my perspective; his name is Lou. This man was so grateful for what he had that he rubbed off on everyone that was in the same room as him. He also gave me some advice that I don't think I will ever forget. He said "If you are ever going through a



**A teenage boy residing downtown Indy is anxious to get his free meal.**

hard time in your life and feel like you're in hell, scream out a big 'HALLELUJAH'. Keep your head up, and you'll slide right on through".

I learned many things that day that I deem will stick with me for the rest of my life. Ideas from believing in yourself and always staying positive, to the fact that children prefer ice cream in a cone instead of a bowl. If

I had to chance to go back and revisit, I would take it in a heartbeat. I hope all is well with Lou and everyone else who attended.



**Anita, Tammy, Lisa, Shannon & Penny are ready to serve the meal.**

# MTU Goal Reached - \$5,167!



Supplies, clothing & other necessities were purchased for boys at Romaniv orphanage.

*“Team Helmer raised \$4,687.42 and also earned a Silver Level in Noblesville Relay for Life!”*



[www.missiontoulkraine.net](http://www.missiontoulkraine.net)

Written by Penny Witzke,  
Helmer Global Initiatives Administrator

## Mission to Ukraine Fund Raising Update

Our Helmer 2011 Ukraine team designated \$5,000 as their fund raising goal this year! They hosted 4 events to reach out to fellow co-workers and the community in hopes of reaching this goal. Below is the list of events and updates that total \$5,168!

### Noodles & Company Benefit – \$205.67

“I was excited that I could help out Mission to Ukraine team so they would have the resources to make an even larger impact – simply by ordering my favorite dish at Noodles! (Penne Rosa, if

you’re curious)” Heather Barry, Marketing Product Manager

### Team Breakfast - \$479.32

“The breakfast fundraiser provided an opportunity to support our coworkers and to contribute towards the supplies needed for the children and less fortunate of Ukraine.” Marie Foley, Customer Service

### Benefit Bingo - \$2,000.00

“It was a joy to participate, contribute and interact with

and other necessities to those who are less fortunate.” Becky Werkley, Customer Service

### Team T-Shirt Sale - \$999

“The HGI Ukraine group funds will inspire the boys and their family members to improve their relationships. The work of the Helmer team will show others that someone cares and that they can make a difference.” Aaron Stout, Director of Global Sales & Marketing

### Other Donations - \$1,484



other Helmer employees in an event to raise money for our team for their trip to Ukraine to provide supplies, clothing

Thank you Helmer family for everyone’s support and contributions to make this successful!

# Relay for Life: Silver Level Earned



The final numbers have been totaled. Team Helmer raised \$4,687.42 and also earned a Silver Level! The total participation of 42 teams and 285 walkers for the Noblesville Relay raised \$85,768 this year!



[www.relayforlife.org](http://www.relayforlife.org)

Thank you for everyone’s participation to make this year’s event a huge success. All proceeds go to the American Cancer Society to fight for cures of cancers that have impacted so many lives.

What will our goal be for next year’s event? We hope to see you there, May 12-13, 2012.

# Advancing Philanthropy in Indiana



[www.indianagrantsmakers.org](http://www.indianagrantsmakers.org)

Written by *Natasha Mazur,*

*Director of Development, Helmer Global Initiatives*

In July 2011 Helmer Global Initiatives became a member of Indiana Grantmakers Alliance (IGA). The purposes of this step were to join other colleagues in IGA that work

toward advancing philanthropy in the state of Indiana and also for HGI to become a better corporate partner in our local community.

Indiana Grantmakers Alliance (IGA) is a nonprofit membership association serving the state's foundations and corporate giving programs. IGA's has a total of 134 members across the state.

As a corporate generosity program within Helmer Inc., HGI strives to be successful in providing for both local and international needs. We believe that membership with IGA will allow for new relationships to help us become more effective in our mission.

Presently, Penny Witzke, David Helmer and I are defining the Vision and Priorities for further HGI development, as well as our overall Strategic Plan for the years to come. Your input is welcome also. Please email me at [nmazur@helmerinc.com](mailto:nmazur@helmerinc.com) with your comments or ideas.

*"In July 2011 Helmer Global Initiatives became a member of Indiana Grantmakers Alliance."*

## Major Needs of Hamilton County



[www.connect2help.org](http://www.connect2help.org)

Compiled by *Penny Witzke,*

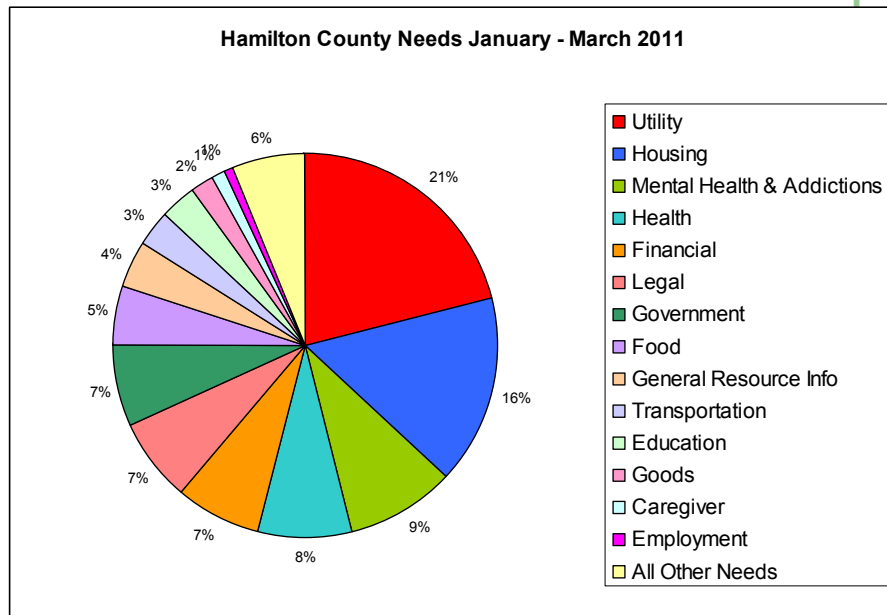
*Helmer Global Initiatives Administrator*

Hamilton County is believed to be one of the wealthiest counties in the state of Indiana. The following Hamilton County data was provided by Connect 2 Help which shows that many people in Hamilton County are not immune to significant need. Connect2Help™ 2-1-1 is a free and confidential telephone assistance service to provide information about: Food, Housing, Health Care, Employment, Support Groups, Parenting Counseling, Education, Clothing, Shelter, Volunteering, Legal Aid ...and much more! Callers reported 1,413 needs and received 1,922 referrals to community agencies in the first quarter of this year. The Hamilton County Needs Chart (see chart) shows the major need categories

for these Hamilton County callers. Housing, utility assistance and mental health/addictions issues comprised 46% of the total needs.

A drop in the unemployment rate is one hopeful sign that the country is slowly emerging from the worst recession in decades. Hamilton County ranked 90th of 92 Indiana

counties in terms of the unemployment rate (the lower the number, the higher the unemployment); 6.2% of Hamilton County residents were unemployed in February, 2011. This was an improvement compared to a rate of 7.2% in February 2010.



# Integra Russia in Focus

Geographic impact of HGI partner Integra Russia.



Over half of employable people from Central Asian countries come to Russia looking for work due to unemployment in their home countries.

Riddled with bullets, walls in a house ruined during the war of August 2008 in South Ossetia.



[www.integrarussia.ru](http://www.integrarussia.ru)

Compiled by *Natasha Mazur*,

*Director of Development,  
Helmer Global Initiatives*

For the last ten years HGI has been a committed partner of Integra Russia, a nonprofit organization within a network of Community Economic agencies in Central and Eastern Europe. Offering practical and professional help for entrepreneurs to start and grow their business, Integra

Russia provides training to help poor adults innovate their way out of poverty. They also promote practical marketplace ethics and corporate social responsibility, thus helping strengthen civil society, democracy and free market economies in these countries. HGI is currently underwriting half of the administrative expenses for these programs.

The post-communist nations of Central and Eastern Europe are struggling with persistent corruption, hopeless unemployment, and millions struggling to survive, contrasted with a few extremely rich power-brokers. Domestic,

political and racial tensions amplified by socio-economic pressure add to the gravity of the situation in this part of the world. The changes of recent years in the economic life of Russia and the world at large add urgency to the fulfillment of Integra's mission and commitments.

The triple threat of poverty, unemployment and corruption decreases the quality of life for millions of people across Central and Eastern Europe. But the team of Integra Russia strongly believes that developing private entrepreneurship is an invaluable investment which can impact the entire nation.

## Integra Russia: Programs

Through the **Master Class Program** Integra provides entrepreneurs with a set of tools, skills, and knowledge that help them better understand the business environment to grow successful businesses. Taking entrepreneurs to the next level in their business results in reducing unemployment and poverty among

local communities, creating job opportunities, and strengthening economic development in the area.

Aiming to create equal economic opportunities for people from a vulnerable group of

Asian immigrants, Integra has implemented a **Social Equality Program** for this target demographic. In order to help Asian immigrants escape from poverty and discrimination Integra provides assistance in adjusting to Russian society, legal issues, business knowledge and skills, and personal financial planning.

The main purpose of the **Financial Literacy Program** is to teach people the knowledge, skills, and attitude needed to earn, spend, save, borrow, and invest. As a result of this program Integra wants to increase the financial stability of low-income populations and improve their access to available financial services.

**Financial Literacy & Core Business Skills Seminars** for residents of South Ossetia,

a disputed region and partly recognized state in the South Caucasus, which used to be an autonomous territory within the former Georgian Soviet Socialistic Republic. The war of August 2008 left Tskhinvali, the South Ossetian capital, in ruins, having completely destroyed its infrastructure. Reconstruction began at once after

Tskhinvali was freed and still continues. As never before, there is a striking need for a socio-economic program to support and develop private business initiatives in the area.

For over 10 years Integra Russia has worked with the **Russian-American Institute** providing classes on Entrepreneurship to students. Young participants of this program prove to be very promising and their skills are in high demand in the job market.

# Integra Russia: Impact



[www.integrarussia.ru](http://www.integrarussia.ru)

Altinay is a single mother with three children. Four years ago she came to Moscow alone to look for new opportunities. A year later she moved her children to be with her. Having specialized as a seamstress she eventually found a job. However, after participating in Master Classes delivered by Integra for Asian immigrants, she took a step

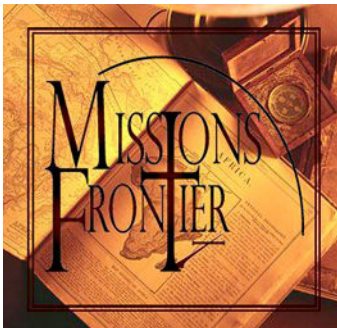
forward and developed a business plan to start her own venture. As a result, she managed to receive a loan.

Today Altinay has her shop running. She hired four people and already has contracts with long-term customers. Now she is able to provide for her 3 children, offer them a better future and employ others who can do the same for their families.

**Altinay Eleeva, a 33 year old Asian Russian immigrant with her son.**



## Hope, Action, and Transformation



[www.missionsfrontier.org](http://www.missionsfrontier.org)

### Update from our partner in Guatemala

Written by Donna Holpuch, Marketing Communications Manager at Helmer, Inc.

Missions Frontier, an HGI partner, provides leadership and economic development opportunities to the people of Guatemala, focusing on projects that provide long-term solutions that are locally sustainable.

Matt and Leslie Capehart, natives of Indianapolis, lead a group of dedicated Guatemalans and expatriates in this endeavor. The organization

is centered in Chichicastenango, Guatemala. The work of Matt and Leslie is far-reaching and has had a profound impact on the lives of many, as evidenced in the following excerpts from individuals who work in tandem with the Capeharts.

*"My name is Tom Hoak. I am a board certified general surgeon working in ChiChicastenango, Guatemala. For the past two years we have been blessed to have Matt as a very capable and enthusiastic first assistant in the operating room. His ability as a surgical assistant greatly exceeds that of many formally trained medical doctors I have worked with him in the States. His help is valuable beyond words and is much appreciated."*  
Thomas Hoak, MD

*"...Matt has been a part of Barnabus Network from its inception..."*  
*"during these meetings I have been able to truly see the depth of Matt's commitment." "The murder rate in Guatemala is four times that of Mexico and less than 2% of cases are ever solved. Drug traffickers and gangs now control most of the country. Matt has*

*been working with young men who are future servant leaders in Guatemala and I have no doubt his impact on their lives will be equally profound and potentially transformational."* Michael J. Soderling MD, MBA

Having previously traveled to Guatemala with HGI to work first-hand with Missions Frontier, I concur with the sentiments stated above. Seeing the differences that have been made in the lives of so many is truly uplifting. I remember clearly the faces of the villagers who purchased each home. They were grateful for the time and efforts extended by our team and were intent upon offering each of us a token of their appreciation.

From working with the foreman at each construction site, to seeing the local villagers who are now helping run Casa del Rey Hotel, it is obvious that the time and dedication given by the Capeharts will have long-term.

**"Drug traffickers and gangs now control most of the country."**



**Guatemalan foreman assists Helmer team lay concrete blocks walls.**

# Upcoming Special Olympics Events



Special Olympics Indiana volunteers can get involved at the local area and state level. Last year Wes and Amanda Peik volunteered to be caddies at the Midwest Sports fest.

**Ask Wes and Amanda Peik about their volunteering experience with Special Olympics and get involved with this year's events! Visit [www.soindiana.org](http://www.soindiana.org) for details on current events.**



**Saturday, August 6** - the **FedEx Plane Pull Challenge** will be celebrating their 10th anniversary.

**Saturday – Sunday, August 27 – 28** - the **State Softball Tournament** will be hosted at the Midwest Sports Complex in Indianapolis.

## Calendar of Events - August, September

### Joy's House Joy Ride

Whatever you ride, join Joy's House on a motorcycle joy ride through town! The ride begins at the American Legion in Indianapolis on **Saturday, August 6** at 10:00 am.

Contact Doug Roy for more details at (317) 254-8393



### Golf Open for Joy's House

Form a foursome for \$300 to play a round of golf in support of Joy's House on **Saturday, August 13** at Winding Ridge Golf Club.

To register contact Tina McIntosh at [tina@joyshouse.org](mailto:tina@joyshouse.org)



### Walk + Run for Life

Life Centers will be hosting their annual walk or run for unborn babies and moms in unplanned pregnancies on **Sunday, September 25** at the Indianapolis State Fairgrounds.

Register online at [www.lifecenters.com](http://www.lifecenters.com)



To get more information on HGI activity please contact Penny Witzke:  
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[www.helmerinc.com/newhgi.aspx](http://www.helmerinc.com/newhgi.aspx)