



SOUTH STREET MINISTRIES

WORD ON THE STREET

“Unlikely partners taking shared risks to renew our community for Christ’s sake.”

MOMENTS OF GRATITUDE, MULTITUDES OF BLESSINGS

by Erin Irwin, Development Director

Tuesday at 4:21PM, I was stopped dead in my tracks at work. Lugging around a mountain of marketing materials for South Street Ministries, I realized how potent urban ministry really is behind the scenes.

Earlier I’d laughed hard at one of Jaden’s jokes. He’s a young Front Porch Fellowship regular, and an all-around awesome kid. He



outdid himself as he energetically cleaned a window spray painted with staff names. That’s a holdover from Toni Code, Reentry Co-Director. She decorated for Christmas in 2018, and somehow the names stuck. Randy, a board member and faithful Front Porch Café champion, watched me drop scores of folders in the trash. We laughed again at my accident, as he showed me what I could cook in a flash once home with my husband, Bob. He’s the Youth Director at South Street Ministries.

I’ve noticed over several years that Patty and Buzz always bring joy into the room, especially when Patty has baked chocolate chip cookies for the whole Reentry crowd. They’re incredibly active Reentry alongsiders, who voluntarily journey with the recently released towards restoration. Daps, hugs, and handshakes ensue as Donovan

and Roy enter to get the meeting organized.

Then it’s well into the four o’clock hour. Sixty people are packed in the Front Porch Café, listening intently to Lamar Atchison as he lays the groundwork for a guest speaker. Jaden’s faithfully volunteering in the middle of the room, an anomaly amidst adults. I can’t help but laugh at how out of place his pre-teen face looks.

I had to step out of the Reentry meeting for a moment. As I walked past the open Faithful Servants Clinic, I noticed twenty or so women getting a tour and quick medical support during their reentry time. Joe Tucker was inside, smiling as usual, and chatting with the guests.

This is when I stopped. I realized I was smiling ear to ear.



THIS. Days and moments like this...this is why ministry at South Street matters! Youths on

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THE FRONT PORCH
A Vision of South Street Ministries



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summer break, faithful volunteers, and staff make up a team of folk ready to spread the good news with their hands and feet.

Supporting South Street Ministries means supporting days like this, full of laughter and summer antics. It also means partnering and giving to make days like this a reality. Tonight, a packed room will hear the gospel of Christ spoken directly to their unique situations as returning & restored citizens. These same listeners will receive the tangible help they need - right now - to lift the burden of returning to society. That is not possible without your support, prayers, and presence. We see your faithful financial gifts as faith investments in God's eternal kingdom. That's no small thing, and we are forever grateful!

Help us keep South Street Ministries going strong. Would you consider supporting the fast-approaching Trails 'N' Rails fundraiser? Personal and corporate contributions are welcome of all kinds (see enclosed sheet) to keep our many ministries going:

- AdjustTheCrown (formerly Girls' Studio)
- Bike Shop
- Christmas Store



- Front Porch Café
- One-on-One & Group Mentoring
- Open Gym
- Pastoral Support
- Prison & Jail Ministry
- RICH Kids EnRICHment—Afterschool & Summer Camp
- South Street Reentry Services
- Sports Scholarships
- Summit Lake Neighborhood Engagement

Your presence is needed, too! Come celebrate the 6th Annual Trails 'N' Rails fundraiser with the whole SSM family on Saturday, September 14th from 9am to 2pm.

Registration and event details are available online
- <https://southstministries.typeform.com/to/walMa6> or our website!

SAVE THE DATE FOR TRAILS N RAILS 2019!

Saturday, September 14th, 2019 at 8 am.
We are presently accepting Sponsorships for Gold, Silver, and Bronze levels.

E-mail Erin Irwin at
erin@southstreetministries.org
to sponsor Trails N Rails.

Want to Give Back?

Contact us at:
South Street Ministries
130 W. South Street
Akron, OH 44311
phone - 330.761.1992
website - www.southstreetministries.org
email - lcrabbs@southstreetministries.org

Cafe Hours

In addition to
Tuesday through Friday 7-2,
Cafe is open on Saturdays 8am-1pm.
Kids under 10 eat pancakes for free!
The Café is available for catering at any time;
email lcrabbs@southstreetministries.org
to place a catering order.