



# Life Lines...

Fall 2013

Building Lives, Growing Relationships, Imparting Hope

## COMMUNITY: PAST, PRESENT, FUTURE

If you haven't seen the community mural, you need to come and check it out. It is amazing! Our thanks to Jay Jones, the artist, who took the community's input and created the mural from design to finished product with mentors, Brian Hoursht, Rebekah Kjolhaug, and Blake Jones, who took instruction from Jay to pull it all together. Thanks also to Valspar for all of the paint and R2Arts Council for the grant that helped make it happen!



*"This mural provided both challenges and rewards. Working on something of this size requires a bit of contemplation, collaboration, and willingness to be flexible. The project was perfect for my desire to work on a large collaboration. Within that setting I was able to mentor three outstanding individuals. In addition to that opportunity, I was also able to work with community members, as they left their mark on this project. The whole process was so rewarding and fulfilling. Sometimes as an artist, you tend to become self-centered around your work. The collaborative opportunity provided with this*

*project let me open up to a larger group of creative influence and productivity. Having help from some young daycare artists, as well as other community members and those I was mentoring redefined my thoughts of Community and I could see the future being applied to the wall from the sets of young hands wielding the paintbrushes. These little ones will become our future leaders, visionaries, and workforce. Working together, whether on a mural, in the classroom, in the workplace, or in the churches, they become the strength in and for our future." - Jay B. Jones*



From the initial questionnaires that were filled out by community members about what community is and what it will look like in the future was this message: "It is all about passing on traditions and values from one generation to another and people helping people." That is what it comes down to. As you look at the mural, you will see symbols of community past and the ever growing connection of people standing together to be part of the future of our

community. So what will Clear Waters Life Center pass on? At the very least a beautiful mural that testifies of working together. We pray we leave a legacy of hope, moral values, and family traditions. We will continue to co-labor for the sake of our communities, for the sake of families, for the sake of individuals, and for the cause of Christ. Thank you for co-laboring with us!



## GIVE YOURSELF A ROUND OF APPLAUSE

Thank you for a good season at Grow It! Shop-at-the-Top and Restore It! have had awesome sales so far, and the CWLC food both at the fair did well. A special thank you to the volunteer pie bakers and staff that made it possible. Support for the CWLC • Gonvick mural project was encouraging and those who participated left their mark for future generations.

In addition our monthly donors and some amazing one-time donations have come in to help us complete projects and maintain programs! Grants are still being written and waiting for responses, grants come and go, they are great, but it is our donors that know us and believe in what we are doing that make the difference and keep us going! It is YOU that make CWLC sustainable. THANK YOU!

Special thanks to Country Faith Church for donating the Gathering Place to us! We now have a gym and kitchen! As a result, we are looking for used tables and chairs to allow more flexibility in the space. If you know of businesses, churches, or schools that are remodeling or closing, let us know. Twenty to 30 tables and 200 chairs would allow us to set up for banquets. The chairs and tables do not have to match.

## A MAP AND A DART THROW AWAY!

One Sunday evening in early June, CWLC received a call from the youth pastor of the Evangelical Free Church in Grand Rapids. A mission team was going to be in Clearbrook the next morning at 9:00 AM to work on whatever project(s) were needed. This wasn't a young pastor without a plan or an unorganized one. Pastor Phill has done this before. The night before the 9-day mission trip begins, one of the group throws a dart at a map of Minnesota. As long as the dart lands within three hours of the current location, that's where the team goes to serve! This process continues each evening. The team pulls a trailer filled with tools to complete most any job. We quickly mixed some paint and put the team to work giving the "boiler room" a face lift to prepare it to become Shop-at-the-Top's new and permanent sorting room. They were an amazing team; God blessed us with their presence and promises of future mission trips. We have made a connection orchestrated by God and look forward to our next adventure with Pastor Phill in January for a youth retreat!





**Starting in October - CWLC • Clearbrook!**  
***More information coming.***

**Youth Connection program with an intentional TEAM focus!**  
There is NO cost to attend; a snack will be provided.

**Learn how to:**

- Work with others to accomplish a goal,
- Honor one another's differences,
- Encourage one another,
- Discover who you are and what YOU do best.

Come and join us for a year of discovery as you participate in team sports and activities and have FUN while learning how to be a good team player!  
Character building activities and understanding your personality will help develop the leader within YOU!!

**We will be open two days a week with a different age group each day:**

**Mondays, 2:00 - 5:00 PM for grades 3 - 5**

We are willing to help transport, if needed, from Gonvick to Clearbrook  
Call to arrange transportation.

**We will NOT be open on Mondays when school IS in session.**

**Thursdays, 4:00 to 6:00 PM for grades 6 - 9**

Ride the bus over from the school.

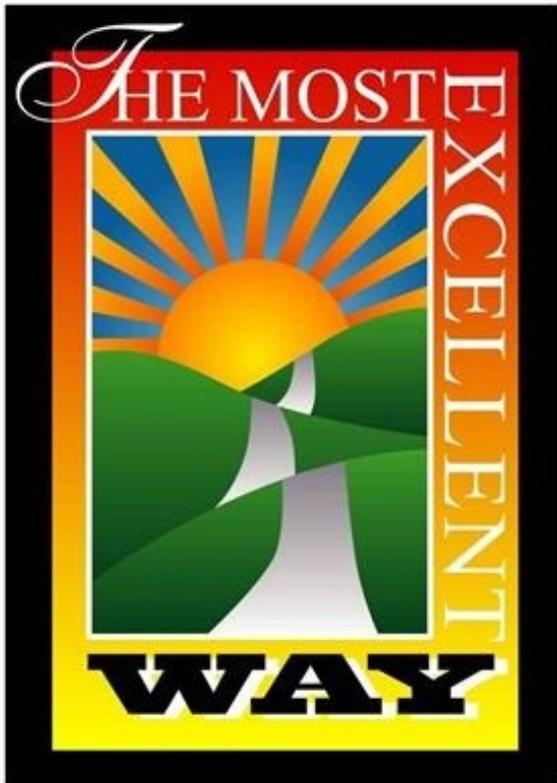
**We will NOT be open on Thursdays when school is NOT in session.**

***We are still lining up staff and volunteers. If YOU are interested in an administrative leadership position with the above focus, please contact us.***

**Community Youth Events for youth in grades 7-12**

We will help advertise the different monthly Community Youth Events that take place in our area. Some will take place at CWLC, others at various churches or community centers. Our desire is to support and encourage existing activities. Activities will be publicized with posters and in the local newspaper.

# TMEW RECOVERY SUPPORT GROUP



**Join us:**

**Thursdays at 7:00 PM  
2nd floor at CWLC • Clearbrook**

“The Most Excellent Way” is a Christ-centered, Bible-honoring recovery support ministry dedicated to helping people become free from any hurt, habit, or hang-up through a new life by faith in Jesus Christ.

*The Most Excellent Way has helped me learn through others about healing through Jesus Christ. I like that it's confidential and I can share anything because the people there are loving and accepting. ~Heath*

*The Most Excellent Way is a very refreshing meeting where people can get together to discuss, support and help one another with Hurts, Habits or Hangups. It does not have to be drugs or alcohol that affect our lives- it can be relationships, things that get in the way of our having a peaceful and harmonious life with ourselves, other people and God. It has been a great help to be able to confidentially discuss issues that I have- to vent frustrations, explore thoughts and feelings and find out how I can “Let go and let God” help me achieve a better balance in my life. It is a wonderful fellowship of people who truly care about God and each other. This is an open invite to come join us. ~Eugene*

We use the Word of God and its principles to help people overcome the guilt, frustration, hopelessness, fear and shame associated with any life dominating sin. We acknowledge the problem, but our focus is on Jesus - the problem solver and healer because we believe a person can become totally freed only by the power of the  
We hope you will join us as we press in to live victoriously. Many of our volunteers have experienced life-dominating sin and are open and willing to lead you to the path of freedom!

# MUSTARD SEED TESTIMONY BY EUGENE VORDERBRUGGEN

I would like to share a little bit of my life's journey, emotional and spiritual, with you, in search of God and mercy.

I was raised in a very religious home- devout Catholic. We attended church faithfully, prayed before meals, in the evening before going to bed, at weddings, funerals and other church related events. Some of the events that stand out in my memory are my First Communion, attending Catechism, being an altar boy at the family church and Confirmation. I believed that I knew the Lord and was on the right path religiously. I was attending church, praying, going to confession and praying penance for my sins.

Growing up as a young child, I was under great pressure to be the best- have good manners, submit and obey, be neat and clean, never disobey or talk back (respect my elders) (children are to be seen and not heard), etc. Misbehaving was not an option as the retribution would be swift and merciless. I grew to believe that all authority was unmerciful and looked down upon the weak of mind, body and spirit. I modeled myself after "authority" and came to have no mercy for myself or for others who did not "measure up" to standards.

As I got older, I drifted away from going regularly to church, although I still believed in the Lord and felt that I could praise and worship Him even though I was not in "His House". (Church). I also began to be consumed with "Living", instead of being "Alive". I became totally immersed in earthly desires- working hard, acquiring "things" that were symbols or "false gods" that I worshipped. My life was always focused on working, getting ahead, getting more and nicer "things" as symbols of my accomplishments. I became very goal-oriented, striving to be the best in anything that I attempted, and was very scornful and unforgiving toward anyone who did not have the same ideals. I had become that, which as a child growing up, what I had feared the most. Authority- unforgiving, merciless, judgmental and incapable of loving my fellow human being.

During this time I experimented with different desires of the flesh- drugs, alcohol and other vices. I never had a problem casting out these demons- telling myself that I could do without them- basically going it on my own. During this time I felt that I was in complete control of my life- that I did not need any one's help. Little did I know that I was living a lie.

Eventually the pressures of living began to overwhelm me and I started self medicating with more and more alcohol. It began with drinking on the weekends, and then graduated to drinking during the week, then eventually I would have a drink in the morning when I got up just to feel "normal", and then I began drinking on the job. Things really started spiraling out of control. I knew that I needed a change. I had lost all respect for myself and had feelings of hopelessness and disgust regarding my behavior. Every time that I tried to drag myself out of the "pit" and failed, I would look at myself in the mirror and curse at the person that I had become. I had no mercy whatsoever for the image that was looking back at me, even though I knew that deep inside me there was still a good person struggling to rise to the surface. I was causing irreparable damage to many of my relationships with work, family, friends, co-workers and life.

**I knew that I could not do it on my own anymore- I needed someone's help.**

***PSALM 55: 1-4 ESV- Give ear to my prayer, O God, and hide not yourself from my plea for mercy! Attend to me, and answer me; I am restless in my complaint and I moan, because of the noise of the enemy, because of the oppression of the wicked. For they drop trouble upon me, and in anger they bear a grudge against me. My heart is in anguish within me; the terrors of death have fallen upon me.***

# EUGENE VORDERBRUGGEN (CONTINUED)

When I heard of the Mustard Seed Program, I decided to give it a try- little did I realize that my spirit was crying out for salvation from the demons that possessed me. I came into the Program, still very skeptical of getting anywhere, because if I couldn't do it- who could?

I didn't trust anyone, and believed that if anyone did try to help me, it was for their own hidden agenda, and not because they cared about me. I slowly began to renew my relationship with Jesus Christ, and came to realize that it was important for me to accept Jesus Christ into my heart, because only through the Grace of God, and through God, will I be able to truly have mercy and forgiveness for myself and for others.

***LUKE 6:36-37 KJV- Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful. Judge not, and ye shall not be judged: condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned: forgive, and ye shall be forgiven.***

***MATTHEW 5:7 KJV- Blessed are the merciful; for they shall obtain mercy.***

***MATTHEW 6:14 KJV- For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.***

Some have a great emotional experience when they come to Christ and are born again. Others experience little or no emotion. They may not even be able to pinpoint the exact time when they gave their hearts to Christ, but they know they did. That has been my experience. There was no great revelation, just a slow awakening of my spirit. The important thing is that Christ moved from the outside of my heart to within.

The road to redemption is littered with potholes- constantly under construction and guaranteeing a rough road ahead. I struggle every day for mercy and forgiveness, but I have faith that with the help of our Lord Jesus Christ, I will succeed.

***ROMANS 5:1-6 KJV- Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; And patience, experience; and experience, hope: And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit which is given unto us. For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.***

I know now that I do have Someone there to help me- Someone who is merciful, Someone who will forgive me unconditionally and Someone I can put my complete trust in.

***PSALM 23: 1-6 KJV- The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever. AMEN.***

# NEW IN GONVICK...NO MORE LEAKS!

We have received a grant from Open Your Heart to the Hungry and Homeless for \$7500 to help replace the roof over the north wing. You will soon see materials pile up, and then, we will have a Rafter Raising, September 18, 19 and 20! If you would be willing to jump in and help for a couple of days that would be great. Let us know, and we will get your name on a list! Thank you!

Create It! Community Art Studios is undergoing some changes. The Mosaic Studio has moved across the hall into the former band room with the Drawing/painting Studio. New members are invited to join; please plan to attend the first Monday of any month to get acquainted with the studio policies.



## CWLC • Gonvick

Mon., Wed., & Fri.

9:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Saturday,

10:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Good used, refinished, re-purposed furniture for your home! Enjoy a cup of coffee in the Coffee Coop and browse through our newly refinished items .

We are always looking for woodworkers to join our volunteer team and furniture donations! Thank you for your support and for making CWLC • Gonvick a FUN place to be!



Monday - Friday 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

& Saturday 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Gently used clothing for the whole family, linens and small kitchen items. We have the best prices around, ranging from 50 cents or less for infant and toddler items to \$4.00 for winter coats and formals.

Shop-at-the-Top is always looking for willing workers: sorters on Tuesdays, "cashiers" Wed., Thurs., & Sat. and stocking help any day.

## Memorials

Clear Waters Life Center gratefully acknowledges the receipt of memorial donations given on behalf of loved ones whom we have "adopted" into our CWLC family. Memorials are thoughtfully used to carry on the work that these individuals came to support and value. With their help, we will continue to "Build Lives, Grow Relationships and Impart Hope".

We were honored to receive the following memorial:

Gifts were given in loving memory of

*Monte A. Mason*

**Thank you!**

# Financial Support

If you are willing to become a financial supporter of the Clear Waters Life Center, please complete and mail to the address below. All donations are tax deductible.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I want to become a monthly financial supporter and commit to giving \$\_\_\_\_\_ per month.

I understand that I will receive a monthly donation coupon book for this purpose.

\_\_\_\_\_ I want to make a one time donation of \$\_\_\_\_\_.

**Please return to: CWLC, PO Box 155, Clearbrook, MN 56634**

To receive our newsletter by email, print your email address: \_\_\_\_\_

*Experience It!*

*[www.clearwaterslife.org](http://www.clearwaterslife.org) & visit us on Facebook*

**You can support us in a variety of ways:** Use GoodSearch as your Internet search engine; save your Galen's receipts and turn them in to our office; volunteer; "like us" on Facebook, share our posts with your Facebook friends, donate gently used clothing, housewares, and furniture; pray for our ministries, or become a regular financial supporter of CWLC. Thank you.



256 2nd Ave SW  
PO Box 155  
Clearbrook, MN 56634

*All profits from CWLC businesses are returned to Clear Waters Life Center to continue and expand programming and maintain facilities to build lives, grow relationships and impart hope.*