

Serving Our Neighbors (SON) Ministries

A message from our Founder and Executive Director

Ten years ago, God put a call on my heart to go out and love, feed and serve children facing suburban poverty in my town after reading that one in four children were facing poverty in the very schools my children attended. On that day, I could have never imagined where that call would take me; founding Serving Our Neighbors (SON) Ministries and all the programs that we would create, directly responding to the needs of the families we serve. From the beginning, our primary focus has been helping children OUT of poverty, and we have learned that the very best way to help children is to help every member of their families.

Suburban poverty is unique in many ways, and our organization has had to LISTEN to those we serve and respond to their needs in new, innovative ways. Poverty across the US has shifted into the first ring suburbs, and along with it, new challenges have emerged as children and families find themselves in communities of mixed socio-economic groups. In addition to challenges, this situation also offers opportunities for communities to come together in service to their new neighbors. At SON Ministries, the ability to mobilize our community to Serve Our Neighbors, is one of our founding principles. **In 2017, 823 members of the community served 13,825 hours through SON Ministries.**

In the last ten years, we have learned many lessons about what it means to serve those facing suburban poverty; from immigrants/refugees to situational and generational poverty. Our focus has always been forming RELATIONSHIPS with those we serve; people are our priority. **These relationships allow us to have a deeper understanding of how we can best help those we seek to serve and the answer continues to be EDUCATION for all; from 3 month old babies to adults of all educational levels.** Our strength still lies in that we are small enough to form relationships with those we serve but large enough to provide life-changing programs.

In 2017, we continued our work of helping each family member take actionable steps out of poverty through education while providing programs to fill the visible and invisible needs of all of those in our communities. Children were fed, clothed and poured into though entrepreneurial programming, mentorship and recreation. **Adults received educational programming, job readiness skills and legal support, improving their chances for meaningful change for their families.** *Inside these pages are stories of change and more details about our programming; I encourage you to read on to learn more.*

The past ten years have been orchestrated by God as we have learned and grown in the Hilliard community. In addition to our work in Hilliard, SON Ministries has guided 15+ non-profits around Ohio on how to set up and run successful summer lunch programs

and/or respect-based programs for children and families facing the unique challenges of poverty in suburban settings. The Family ESL Program is being recognized by other organizations as a unique and much needed family program, and for the first time this year, we taught another church how to run their own full family ESL Program. The Executive Director of CRIS (Community Refugee and Immigration Services) said, "How fast can you replicate? This is so needed all over Columbus and beyond!"

We are now looking toward the future and have dreams of replicating not only the SON Ministries Summer Lunch Program and the Family ESL Program, but Serving Our Neighbors (SON) Ministries as an organization, teaching suburban communities all across the country how to serve their neighbors. As an organization, we have begun strategically planning with our staff, board and others how to help other communities benefit from all we have learned to make lasting, meaningful change across the country. **This is where we are looking to go this year, will you join us?**



Kim Emch
Founder and
Executive Director

Serving Our
Neighbors (SON)
Ministries

Programs & Services

SON Ministries Summer Lunch Camp

Addressing the needs of low-income families when school is not in session - serving children ages K-18: breakfast, lunch, FUN pro-social day camp activities and entrepreneurial opportunities.

Nutritious food and physical activities promote healthy child development.

Developing Entrepreneurs:

NEW: All three Hilliard sites hosted child invited restaurants, fully run by K-8th grade children at the free summer lunch program. Customers are local leaders and business people. Equipping children with entrepreneurial/ business skills and expose them to business leaders in

their community. Helped them identify as future entrepreneurs and leaders, taking steps out of poverty. Partnered with Junior Achievement of Central Ohio.

Educational Initiatives address summer learning loss:

Reading Buddies: Older children, teens and adults read with younger children.

Teen Internship Program: Teens from diverse socioeconomic, cultural and religious backgrounds receive training and leadership opportunities in a 4 week volunteer term as they develop a lifelong commitment to Serving Our Neighbor.



Connecting Families to Resources

Responding to family requests by phone and in person.

Founded and maintains www.HilliardHelps.org, a centralized listing of community specific resources that links families in need with a network of caring organizations and community members.

Programs to respond to emerging community needs with partners

The Good Tidings Christmas Store where low-income parents joyfully purchase new toys at dramatically reduced prices with Cornerstone Christian Fellowship.

FREE Legal Clinic in partnership with Legal Aid.



Consults and partners with organizations to respond to community needs:

New School Shoes: each child who attended our summer program received a new pair of shoes of their color/style choice and size to start off their school year. Partnership with Cypress Church.

Free Water Safety/Swim Lessons for low-income children. Partnership with Hilliard Parks & Rec.

Back to School Supply Store: coached a church partner in the “dignity store” model of responding to community needs. Low-income families shop for new school supplies at dramatically reduced prices. Partnership with Hilliard Presbyterian Church.

Family ESL Program

A school year length, full family educational program to help break the cycle of poverty.

Early Childhood: infants and preschool aged children are cared for and receive elements of early literacy and kindergarten readiness preparation.

Kids Club: school-aged children receive academic support, recreational programming and a light meal. **NEW:** elementary school children created “Sweet Treats,” a children’s entrepreneurial dessert restaurant.

Teen Internship Program: teens from diverse socioeconomic, cultural and religious backgrounds receive training, leadership opportunities in a four week

volunteer term as they develop a lifelong commitment to Serving Our Neighbor.

Adult ESL (English as a Second Language) Classes: adults study English and improve their employability and income security. **NEW: Parents as Educators:** invited professional educator to coach parents

on how to work with their children at home over the summer to minimize summer learning loss and develop a lifelong love of learning and reading. **Job Jump-START:** adults learn valuable skills critical to finding meaningful employment including resume building and interview practice.



Community Education

Teaching organizations, businesses, churches, individuals and schools:

Poverty Simulations: for groups of 47-100 people, to uncover the challenges of poverty, break down barriers, generate a compassionate response to community action.

The Community Development model: working to help children and families take steps out of poverty through partnerships, collaboration, a hand up and respect based efforts.

The SON Ministries model: of identifying and addressing needs in other suburban communities to reach more children and families facing the unique challenges of suburban poverty.

Community building through volunteer recruiting and coaching: of 823 dedicating 13,825 service hours to Serve Our Neighbor building a compassionate community where all gifts and talents are utilized and community is built and all are transformed.

Teens in Service Training Class: training young people to connect to meaningful service and to begin to develop a life-long commitment to Serving Our Neighbor.



Expanding Children’s Entrepreneurial Programs

Last year, Serving Our Neighbors (SON) Ministries made a commitment to “flip” our summer lunch camp from a free lunch camp, to an entrepreneurial summer camp that also provided children a free lunch, as they were facing poverty. In turn, three children’s entrepreneurial restaurants took place that summer and this continued in 2017. We prayed and were able to dream even bigger, what could we do to give our older children, who would soon be ready for their first “real jobs,” more real life experience? Then it hits us, INTERVIEWS! All children who work the restaurant have titles, roles and responsibilities with the older children taking on the most! With help from the seasonal staff we identified the roles we should hold interviews for: Manager, Head-Chef, Head-Waiter, On-line Shopper, Head-Advertiser, and Money Manager. Julie Comer, a Central Staff Member with SON Ministries; retired teacher with 32 years of background; offered to do the interviewing.

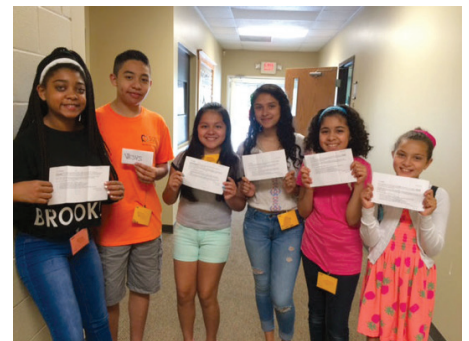


The interview—nailed it!

Julie said of the experience, “What a joy it was to interview the middle schoolers! They came prepared with knowledge of the job they were applying for and had obviously talked with staff on what would be expected at an interview; use of eye contact, talking clearly, and sharing their knowledge. I was able to pull on my prior teaching experience when asking questions and fill my “teacher heart” by working with these young students in a very unique way. After interviews I made notes for the staff to give them feedback so they could fill the positions with a qualified student who would fill the given jobs the best, just like in the real job world.

Following this interview process Site Leaders provided offer letters to the students to represent what the real world would be like. In addition, due to the success of the interview process at HCC, I went to Resurrection Evangelical Lutheran Church (RELC) and repeated the process with those students. Again, a successful progression of moving the Entrepreneurial process to the next level. One student really stood out to me at RELC when a 7th grade boy came, said hello and held out his hand for a handshake. He had obviously heard this would be a great thing to do!

To be a part of the Entrepreneurial Process with the Summer Lunch Program was a true highlight of my summer. Instilling in children what it takes to be a part of a restaurant or any business begins with knowledge and an interview. I wonder if I would have had the courage to interview for a job at their age and had the poise and articulation they demonstrated?”



Students with their offer letters

In addition to the expansion of the summer Children’s Entrepreneurial Restaurants, a NEW restaurant was opened this year, Sweet Treats! Sweet Treats is a children’s entrepreneurial dessert restaurant that takes place at the Family ESL Program, ran the same way as the summer restaurants. Sweet Treats ran for two nights and hosted 42 customers and the reviews were fabulous! We were so thrilled to expand our entrepreneurial program to reach the children at the Family ESL Program as we believe having this experience help children OUT of poverty.

Addressing Suburban Poverty = One Stronger Community!

SERVING CHILDREN FACING SUBURBAN POVERTY

1,882 TOUCHES OF SERVICE

SUMMER LUNCH CAMP

889

CHILDREN SERVED

11,784
MEALS SERVED

259

CHILDREN BUSED TO LUNCH SITES

FAMILY ESL

270

CHILDREN ATTENDING

3,473
MEALS SERVED

GOOD TIDINGS CHRISTMAS STORE

723

CHILDREN SERVED

SERVING FAMILIES FACING SUBURBAN POVERTY

761 TOUCHES OF SERVICE

18 ZIP CODES

SUMMER LUNCH CAMP

337

FAMILIES

FROM **39**
COUNTRIES

FAMILY ESL

204

FAMILIES

FROM **31**
COUNTRIES

GOOD TIDINGS CHRISTMAS STORE

220 FAMILIES SERVED

RESPONDING TO COMMUNITY NEEDS

1,553 TOUCHES OF SERVICE

NEW SCHOOL SHOES

304

FREE LEGAL CLINIC

88

JOB READINESS

52

SCHOOL SUPPLIES

304

ADULT ESL

227

NEW AMERICANS REGISTERED TO VOTE

7

NEW WINTER COATS

421

CONNECTIONS TO RESOURCES

150

POUNDS OF FREE PRODUCE

3,298

MOBILIZING VOLUNTEERS

823 VOLUNTEERS

1,063

CREATED AND FILLED VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

SERVED **13,825** HOURS

SUMMER LUNCH CAMP

218

ADULTS

147

YOUTH

6,112 HOURS

FAMILY ESL

466

6,418 HOURS

FREE LEGAL CLINIC

14

91 HOURS

COAT STORE

49

147 HOURS

CENTRAL OFFICE

20

189 HOURS

CHRISTMAS STORE

149

868 HOURS

CREATING PARTNERSHIPS

123 COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS FORMED

CHURCHES

23

BUSINESSES

32

COMMUNITY GROUPS

23

SCHOOLS

7

INDIVIDUALS

38

EDUCATING THE COMMUNITY

334 COMMUNITY MEMBERS

FACILITATED **5** POVERTY SIMULATIONS

Never Feel Alone...

Jay Patel
Teen Intern

This summer I was new. This is my second year running in United States. I heard about this summer camp in Hilliard Davidson Morning summer news when school was closed in 15 days. **That time I decide I want to do some fun and productive things.** I filled out my application form and took interviewed with SON Ministries. Then I was good to go.

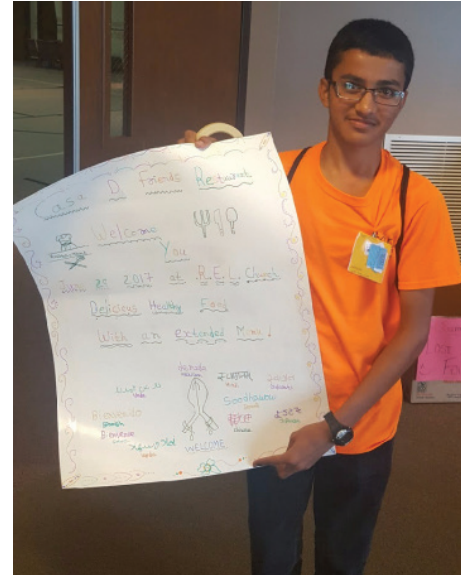
I was really nervous on first day of camp. Nobody knew me, **But as time gone everybody knows me. I like to come in this camp. I am bored at home when camp is not on specific day.** I ride bus with children to the camp I meet the children in the bus and I got to know and build relationships with the children. Not only with bus riders from other children also I got to know them even though they are not come in my bus. I love to play with Kindergarten and 1st grade children. I do crafts and participate in every games and being a role model for them. Green shirts and Orange shirts are really nice and help me when I am in problem. Especially when I have trouble in speaking and understanding.

I love to drink chocolate milk, eat fruits and salads everyday. I love to play new games like nine square and many other board games which I never played before. I was alone to come to this camp for 1 week. I encouraged my two brothers to joined this camp. They also like this camp. one of my brother is blue shirt and one he just complete Kindergarten. This my little brother tells my family everyday what we are doing at this camp. He enjoying this

camp every much. I got a chance to make a poster for Restaurant. It made me famous at whole camp. I alone made that poster at home. All was happy to see my poster. Mr. Art took some pictures and stick that poster in front door.

I was so happy that all like my poster.

On July 7, 2017, I met a lady who works at Washington D.C. in White House with their team. It was my best thing ever I did in summer camp. She told her story to all of us. She is working in legislature and she visited 20 countries



SON Ministries' Values

- PEOPLE are our priority – RELATIONSHIPS are our goal.
- We see each person CREATED in GOD's own image; each has a purpose and a voice.
- We bring HOPE to children and families in need by connecting them to people, resources and a hand up.
- We build up COMMUNITY one respectful, empowering relationship at a time.
- Through PARTNERSHIPS, we strive together for the BEST for our community.
- We nurture DREAMS to alleviate poverty.
- We are inspired by the unexpected...Join us!

including my country India. She went to India for 1 week 15 days ago. She told her story about she just visited India recently. It was a fabulous experience. (Editors Note: Congresswoman Joyce Beatty visited)

Another thing I had a chance to do lead an activity named Musical chair in brackets with little kids. For me it was hard kids wanted to do their stuff but after some time they contributed in my activity for 20 minutes. Altogether 3 orange shirts handle that activity. With that two volunteers I leaded my activity, thanks a lot. I didn't have that much to say but thank you SON Ministries for giving me an opportunity for volunteering. **I am so happy to come at your camp and got to know many people from different cultures, countries, religions etc. I never see such a diverse place. Thanks also to staff that helped me and never feel me being alone.**

The Capacity to Serve

Lindsay Phoenix

Winter Wear – Children’s Coat Store Leadership Team

This was our family’s second year to help at the Winter Wear coat store. While I was feeling like less of a novice and really looking forward to getting everything set up to host as many families as we could, it was my own kids who might have been even more excited about the upcoming Monday nights than I was! They remembered from last year what it was like to organize, carry, sort, move, bake, and smile for these special guests who were coming to our church. There’s no denying Ephesians 2:10, “For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.” While I have the words to articulate this verse and understand what a privilege it is to serve others, I loved watching the purity of heart with which my kids, and the other

kids from our church group manifested this innate part of our hearts. There’s no denying the way God satisfies our hearts when we give to others. I’m so thankful for the verse right before Ephesians 2:10 that says, “For it is by grace we have been saved, through faith,” and I’m so glad God has gifted us the capacity to serve.

I love being a part of Winter Wear in particular because of the way SON Ministries desires to preserve the dignity of the recipients of their services. I think that’s what makes this such a great environment for our family to participate in. There’s no chaos (except what my own 4 year old may be creating!), fear, or stigmas generated. My kids watch

people who look and sound the same and different from them be welcomed and embraced, and they find it easy to do the same. They see kids who want to run around, find the perfect pink hat, and have a warm winter coat, just like they do. I’m really thankful that SON Ministries has given our family this model to serve by, and that they have provided lots more kids in Hilliard the opportunity to hear “Put your coat on!” this winter.

At SON Ministries, we bring HOPE to children and families facing suburban poverty by connecting them to people, resources and a HAND-UP!



Distinction

We **LISTEN** to the needs of the community...

All of our programs have been established in response to expressed needs of those we serve. We know families know best what their needs are.

REALATIONSHIPS are our priority...

Our first priority is forming relationships with those we serve. Every human is unique; their needs, motivations and stories shape what their needs are.

We employ a **DIGNITY** model of charity...

All of our goods-based programs employ a dignity model of charity, in which families pay a small fee for their goods. This enables families to retain their dignity, while having a true shopping experience.

We are **INSPIRED** by the unexpected...

We encourage the children and families we work with to be dreamers, we are dream catchers! Our children’s programs are designed to be flexible to the dreams of our children.

We **EQUIP** the community to serve others...

We were founded on the idea that the best way to help the community is build relationships within the community; we do this by equipping others to serve each other.

How Can You Help?



1 Volunteer



2 Tell your friends, Bring them with you



3 Donate

What Things Cost

\$20,000 Cost to run one Hilliard Free Lunch Summer Camp for Kids site for the summer

\$500 Monthly Cost to connect families to life-improving resources

\$10,000 Cost for two buses including drivers to bus children to the Hilliard Free Lunch Summer Camp for Kids site for the summer

\$175 Cost to send one child to the Hilliard Free Lunch Summer Camp for Kids for the summer

\$2,500 Cost to run one Hilliard Free Lunch Summer Camp for Kids site for one week

\$300 Cost to send one child to Family ESL Program for the entire school year

\$2,000 Cost to run Family ESL Program for one week including homework help and supervised recreation

\$90 Monthly technology costs for communication with families/participants and volunteers

Learn More

Visit us Online:

Website: www.SON-Ministries.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/sonministries

Blog: sonministriesblog.wordpress.com

Donate

Donate Online:

www.SON-Ministries.org/donate

Mail a Check:

SON Ministries

2300 Lytham Road, Columbus, OH 43220

Volunteer and Pray

Visit our website to learn about opportunities.

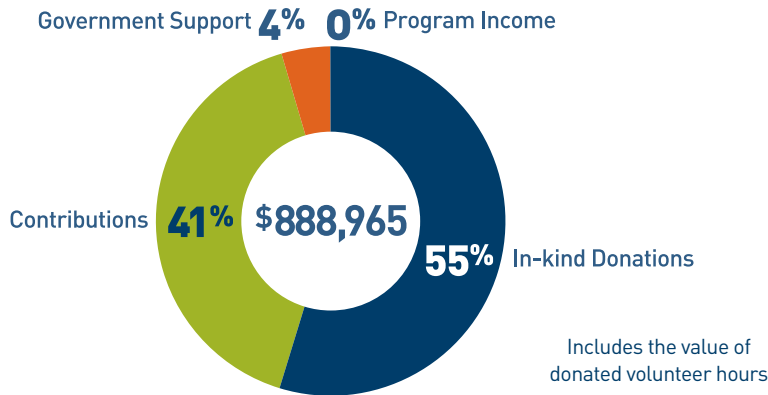
Adult, teen and family volunteers are always needed, as is prayer, to keep all programs running throughout the year!

Support SON Ministries while shopping

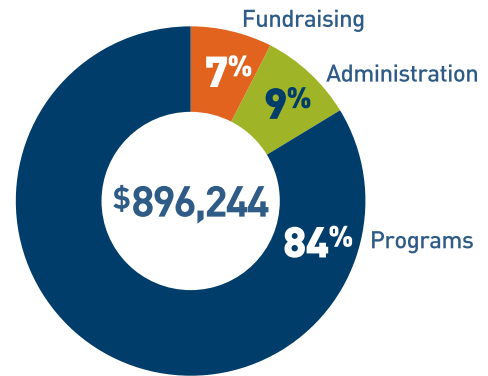
Register your **Amazon** Account through AmazonSmile at www.smile.amazon.com

Set up Community Rewards through **Kroger** at www.kroger.com/communityrewards

Revenue Summary



Expense Summary



Our Board of Directors

Irma Chon

Youth Pastor, Cornerstone Christian Fellowship Church
Chair; Pastor Liaison

Helen Davidson

Retired CFO Make-A-Wish Foundation, Treasurer
Board Member

Kim Cooper

Senior Professional Human Resources, Cardinal Health
Board member

Joan Malarkey

Retired, Executive Director Community Connection for Ohio Offenders
Board Member

Kim Emch

Founder and Executive Director Serving Our Neighbors (SON) Ministries
Board Member

Shawn Oakley

Healthcare Professional
Board Member

SON Ministries' Central Staff



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Community Support Through Partnerships

- Churches
- Community Members
- Schools
- Businesses
- Community Groups

Thanks to:

- Resurrection Evangelical Lutheran Church
- UALC The Church at Mill Run
- Hilliard Church of Christ
- Hilliard City Schools

We'd love for you to share our mission's message. Please forward this community impact report to your network. Grow with us; OWN with us! Become a SON Ministries' Ambassador.

SON Ministries is registered with the state of Ohio as a tax exempt, not for profit 501 c3 organization. Accordingly, donations made to SON Ministries may be tax-deductible.

Please Donate

Donate **NOW** online OR mail a check to SON Ministries—Your donation will change lives.
www.SON-Ministries.org/donate

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