



bringing HOPE to children and families in need

# 2015 annual accountability report

## Serving Our Neighbors (SON) Ministries

*A message from our Founder and Executive Director*

**T**he blessing of serving God is so multifaceted! I have been completely honored to answer the call I felt on my life by God on March 3, 2007 to **love, serve and feed the children in poverty in my town and to mobilize the community to Serve Our Neighbors.** I had no idea God would bring us such amazing people who would: come for a free lunch, need to be helped with homework, attend English class, seek free legal advice, or partner with us by donating financially, volunteering their precious time or allowing us to use their buildings.

**We partner with children and families in need, connecting with them with resources as they take steps out of poverty; simultaneously we mobilize the community — the Body of Christ — to Serve Our Neighbors!**

We have been learners and connectors, building relationships with people from different socio-economic, cultural, religious and ethnic groups. We value and learn so much from each other. I had no idea God would call us to teach and train others the amazing things He had first taught us!

More and more, we are being asked by parents and children for help with jobs and employment. When I asked 16 children at our free summer lunch site in 2012 what they wanted to do for the summer and what they dreamed of (they were bored with

our programing)...they said their dream was to start and run a full restaurant led completely by children using their family recipes, named "Taco Bell Jr." **In effect, they told me they dreamed of working and serving people.**

God is showing us that all He has built at SON Ministries, in the first five years, has been a structural foundation to support helping people move toward meaningful

and lasting employment: **JOBS.** Helping children as they grow (with enough healthy food, with tutoring and homework help) and their parents (with English, Job Readiness, Legal Advice) are all in an effort to support finding employment that will allow families to be stabilized and dreams be fulfilled.

**We believe: people get work done but work also gets people done.** When we work, we use our God given passions, gifts and talents to make a difference in this world, in our community, our schools and our homes. Working and serving God is truly a blessing. Our jobs are a large part of who we are and how we express who God created us to be.

**Whatever you do, work at it with your whole being, for the Lord and not for men.**

**Colossians 3:23**

Join this community building movement — as an individual, a church, a business, a civic association — Serving Our Neighbors by helping our neighbors fulfill their dreams of meaningful and lasting employment.



**Kim Emch**  
Founder and  
Executive Director

### SON Ministries' VISION

SON Ministries is the catalyst connecting the community together in the Hilliard City School District and beyond to be a place where:

- No child experiences the hopelessness of hunger.
- Families working their way out of poverty are connected to resources that will meet their basic needs, so hope is restored, families are stabilized, and community is built.
- Local churches partner to demonstrate the Gospel through their service and relationships with people in need.
- Community members join the movement by developing relationships across socioeconomic, cultural, and religious barriers.

For the whole law can be summed up in this one command:

**"Love your neighbor as yourself"**

Galatians 5:14

# Programs & Services

## Hilliard Free Lunch Summer Camp for Kids

(Since 2007)

**72,866 nutritious meals lovingly served in 9 summers**

Address the needs of low-income children (ages 1-18) when school is not in session. Promote healthy child development through healthy food and pro-social day camp experience.

Address summer learning loss through Reading Buddies and Children’s Mobile Publishing Shop.



**Teen Internships:** Teens representing diverse populations are trained, serve as volunteers and develop leadership skills and a lifelong commitment to service.

**Children as Entrepreneurs** (Since 2012): “Taco Bell, Jr.” a restaurant developed and run by children with Grandma’s secret recipes! Children develop critical thinking, problem solving and collaboration skills. “Customers” are local business people, educators and community leaders.



## Responding to Known and Emerging Needs

[www.HilliardHelps.org](http://www.HilliardHelps.org)  
(Founded in 2010)

A centralized listing links families in need to a network of caring organizations and community members to find solutions.

**Good Tidings Christmas Store** (since 2013) Low-income parents joyfully purchase new toys at dramatically reduced prices.

**FREE Legal Clinic** (monthly since 2/12) through partnership with Columbus Bar Association.

**Free Water Safety/Swim Lessons** for low-income children (NEW in 2015). A teen/lifeguard identified a community need. We supported her in responding. Partnered with the Hilliard Recreation Department.

**Back to School Supply Store** (NEW in 2015): coached a church partner in the “dignity store” model of responding to community needs. Low-income families shopped for new school supplies at dramatically reduced prices.



## Family ESL Program

(Since 2008)

A full family program to help break the cycle of poverty through education.

**ESL classes:** adults study English and improve their employability. 78% of the students are WOMEN. For some women this English class is their very first experience in a classroom of any kind.

**Job Readiness:** adults learn skills critical to finding meaningful employment including resume building and interview practice.

**Kids Club:** school-aged children benefit from academic support, recreational programming, healthy snack and enrichment opportunities.

**Early Childhood:** children 3 months — pre K are cared for and benefit from elements of early literacy and kindergarten readiness.

**Teen Internship Program:** Teens representing diverse populations are trained, serve as volunteers, develop leadership skills and a lifelong commitment to service.



## Community Education Around Suburban Poverty

- **Poverty Simulations:** experience the challenges of poverty, build empathy and move towards a compassionate and effective community response. 47-100 participants.
- **The SON Ministries Model:** identify and address needs in suburban communities. Work collaboratively with partners to reach more children and families. Mobilize the community (churches, partners, adult and teen volunteers) to love and serve their neighbor. Build a stronger, more compassionate community – *together*.
- **The HAND UP Model of Community Development:** help children and families take steps out of poverty through a respect-filled Hand Up not a Hand Out.

# Jobs

At SON Ministries we believe connecting adults to meaningful work is the best way to empower adults to break the cycle of poverty for their family. We have seen it to be true over and over again. Helping move people toward work/jobs is what the women, parents and even the children we serve have literally said would help them the most each time we ask. We are responding directly to the needs that the people we are called by God to serve are sharing with us.

Thus far, SON Ministries has made strong efforts in helping adults and even children toward fulfilling their employment potential now or in the future in two significant ways: **Job Readiness** and **Taco Bell Jr.** We feel called to continue these efforts in the coming year and work hard to multiply them!

## Job Readiness

(part of our FULL Family ESL program since 2013)

**WHY:** The primary reason adult immigrants and refugees attend our Family ESL program is to learn English to secure meaningful and lasting employment. 78% are women (some of whom have never been to school of any kind). Some of the adults we serve have valuable professional skills from their home country of origin and they are only limited by their still-developing facility with the English language and then a lack of job seeking skills around the employment customs in the U.S.

**WHAT:** SON Ministries partners with The Salvation Army and coaches them on how to customize their curriculum to meet the needs of the ESL population. The workshop spans four nights and covers:

- Job searching strategies such as: networking, on-line job websites, job fairs.
- Each participant completes a resume worksheet to best highlight their knowledge, skills and abilities.
- New interview skills are practiced. Mock interviews are conducted with human resources professionals and employment consultants from our partners: The Salvation Army and Randstad USA.



37 adults participated in the job readiness workshop. Here is what a few said:

*“I know how to find a job now and interview better. Thanks very much for respecting and helping me.”*

*“The teachers are helpful, kind and they are interested that we are learning.”*

*“I had job but I hope to get better than this job.”*

**Our DREAM:** of having a monthly job clinic where all looking for work can come and find support with resume writing and interviewing practice. We dream of helping adults start their own businesses and of a social enterprise with job training internships for adults and teens!



## Taco Bell Jr.: Dream Catchers

When we asked 16 children at a lunch site in June 2012 what they wanted to do for the summer and what they dreamed of... they said they dreamed of starting a restaurant “Taco Bell Jr.” and running it themselves. They told me they dreamed of working and serving people. We agreed to invite the “customers” all of our Hilliard friends (Mayor, pastors, entrepreneurs, superintendent of schools, city council,

BMW and Willis and Wills staff) to support these young entrepreneurs while enjoying a GREAT lunch.

**“Taco Bell Jr.” debuted on July 6, 2012 and has run for four summers.**

Every year the restaurant grows—the number of guests having lunch, children participating and taking leadership roles and living their dreams expands.

We bring special guests in to stretch our entrepreneurs learning:

- Cameron Mitchell to tell his story of growing up poor and starting his own business,
- Bankers to explain Income, expenses and balance sheets,
- Regional Taco Bell employees to run a mock “job fair” with applications and interviews.

The children are learning work ethic, problem solving, conflict resolution and working as a team to accomplish something amazing! The community grows as leaders see how the children (in poverty) can do great things when surrounded by adults who love them unconditionally through Jesus and encourage them to DREAM!

**Our DREAM:** that each of our lunch sites has an entrepreneurial business run by the children that serves the community and prepares the children to be managers and business owners.

**Kim Emch**  
Founder and Executive Director



# SON Ministries Community Impact

*One Stronger Community!*

## SERVING CHILDREN IN NEED

**2,167** TOUCHES  
OF SERVICE



SUMMER LUNCH

**669** CHILDREN  
SERVED  
(9,574 TOTAL  
LUNCHES)

FAMILY ESL



**347**  
CHILDREN  
ATTENDING

COATS  
FOR  
KIDS



**504**  
COATS DISTRIBUTED



GOOD TIDINGS  
CHRISTMAS STORE

**617** CHILDREN  
SERVED

## SERVING FAMILIES IN NEED

**873** TOUCHES  
OF SERVICE **28** ZIP CODES  
(20 INSIDE FRANKLIN COUNTY)



SUMMER LUNCH

**324** FAMILIES  
FROM **21** COUNTRIES

FAMILY ESL



**149**  
FAMILIES  
FROM **34**  
COUNTRIES

COATS  
FOR  
KIDS



**193**  
FAMILIES SERVED



GOOD TIDINGS  
CHRISTMAS STORE

**207** FAMILIES  
SERVED

## CONNECTING ADULTS & CHILDREN TO RESOURCES

**702** TOUCHES  
OF SERVICE

LEGAL CLINIC

**125**

JOB READINESS

**37**

ADULT ESL

**308**

SWIM LESSONS

**30**

CONNECTIONS  
TO RESOURCES

**202**

## MOBILIZING VOLUNTEERS

**445** VOLUNTEERS  
SERVED **12,665** HOURS

SUMMER LUNCH  
**172** ADULTS  
**118** YOUTH

6,122 HOURS

FAMILY  
ESL  
**207**

4,963 HOURS

**722**  
CREATED AND FILLED  
VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

LEGAL  
CLINIC  
**23**

61 HOURS

CENTRAL  
OFFICE  
**28**

461.5 HOURS

## CREATING PARTNERSHIPS

**120** COMMUNITY  
PARTNERSHIPS FORMED

CHURCHES

**13**

BUSINESSES

**41**

CIVIC/SOCIAL

**29**

SCHOOLS

**16**

INDIVIDUALS

**21**

COATS FOR  
KIDS

**41**

123 HOURS

CHRISTMAS  
STORE

**133**

934 HOURS

# Naema’s Story



**“K**im! I’m sorry I’m late (to Serving Our Neighbors (SON) Ministries Family ESL program) I was at ITT for my first admissions interview for the nursing program!” Naema.

God is transforming lives and families are taking steps out of poverty through the work of SON Ministries.

I met Naema in January of 2009. She was pregnant, with her husband who had just had leg amputation surgery and their two young children. A mutual friend invited me to come to their home (offering to translate) asking if I would help this new family who’d moved into their apartment complex who the neighbors were giving food to.

I had no idea how I could help... not being a social worker... not speaking Arabic. I went wanting to love them in God’s name.

I learned they had come from Iraq—as refugees. I learned a car bomb had gone off when her husband had been walking to work at a women’s clothing factory and that he’d suffered shrapnel injuries. I learned they’d been moved to Syria for five years before coming to USA. I learned that they were hard working people just trying to work and raise a family and that “life” had happened to them. They hadn’t planned to come here—hadn’t saved their money—hadn’t learned English. But that they were THRILLED to be in the USA. Safe. With great medical care. With a future for their children.

## We became friends.

Over the years, we connected her family with resources: clothes for the children, food, winter coats, summer lunch, adult English classes, tutoring and homework help for the children, baby supplies, connections to jobs and to friends and to our community. We asked Naema “what did you dream of when you were a little girl.” She cried saying no one had asked her that question...“a nurse, I want to be a nurse.”



We have shared life together. Prayed together. Encouraged one another about parenting and being wives. Shared heartaches and losses. I had the privilege of being in the Federal Court room as she fulfilled her dream and hard work of becoming a US citizen!

Naema “When I come (to USA), no one stand beside me but you and be my friend then help me meet other friends.” Now, Naema is a SON Ministries volunteer, she helps us translate with families still learning as she is now bilingual Arabic and English. Naema is a great cook! She often brings delicious food that she makes to her neighbors, to her friends (me too).

I have been blessed many times over and encouraged and inspired on my darkest days by Naema. By her perseverance, persistence and her joyful spirit that never gives up. By her friendship.

At SON Ministries, PEOPLE are our priority, RELATIONSHIPS are our goal!

**Kim Emch**

*Founder and Executive Director*

## 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!

# Through partnerships we strive together for the **BEST** for our community!

I had no direct contact with poverty, no context to relate it to, it had no face to me. I'm actually embarrassed to admit it, but I rarely thought about poverty and never considered it to be “my” problem.

Then I began my teaching career in 2001 and for the first time, poverty had a face in the children I taught. I began to “see” poverty, to experience its effects and to feel its impact on the lives of children and families.

In 2012, I became the principal at JW Reason in Hilliard and my experience with poverty changed again. I was now responsible for an entire school of 500 students, 57% of them living in poverty and receiving a free or reduced lunch. Roughly 26% of our students speak English as a Second Language. Many of these children are refugees from Iraq, Jordan and other Middle Eastern countries. Not only have many of our students and their families had to leave all of their belongings and flee from a war torn country but they are also now living in poverty, learning about a new culture and trying to learn a new language.



As I got to know the children and their families, as I heard their stories and learned about their struggles, I felt extremely helpless. I watched as my teachers attempted to teach children who hadn't eaten breakfast or dinner, who didn't have clean clothes or shoes that fit and I remember thinking that this problem was way too big for me to tackle on my own.

Thankfully early in my first year as principal at JW I was introduced to Kim Emch and all of the wonderful people at SON Ministries. Over the years our partnership has enabled us to touch the lives of countless families.

As I was nearing the end of my first year as principal at JW Reason, I began to worry about what my students would do all summer, where they would go and whether they'd have food to eat. I began to inquire about how we could bring SON Ministries' Hilliard Free Lunch Summer Camp for Kids program to my school. After months of conversations and planning with district

leaders and SON Ministries staff we were able to launch the very first Hilliard Free Lunch program to be held on Hilliard City Schools property! As part of the program, children attended camp and were able to play games, make crafts, and play outside each day. They also received a free, healthy lunch. We have continued to grow our summer lunch program to best meet the needs of our families. Summer 2015 we fed 170 students in partnership with our district's ELL summer school.

**When we work together to  
serve our neighbors we can  
change the lives of children.**

**Poverty is here.  
Poverty is real.**

Thank you SON Ministries for helping us serve children and families at JW Reason each and every day. And on behalf of Hilliard City Schools, I thank you for being our partner and helping us as we too work each and every day to **Serve Our Neighbors.**

**Jacki Prati**  
*Principal at JW Reason Elementary*  
Hilliard School District



## How Can You Help?



**1** Be a champion for our cause — Help us tell our stories!



**2** Invite others to be engaged!



**3** Make an investment in our IMPACT!

## 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 busses 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](http://www.SON-Ministries.org)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/sonministries](http://www.facebook.com/sonministries)

Blog: [hilliardfreesummerlunch.wordpress.com](http://hilliardfreesummerlunch.wordpress.com)

### Donate

Donate Online:

[www.SON-Ministries.org/donate](http://www.SON-Ministries.org/donate)

Mail a Check:

SON Ministries

2300 Lytham Road, Columbus, OH 43220

### Volunteer

Visit our website to learn about opportunities.

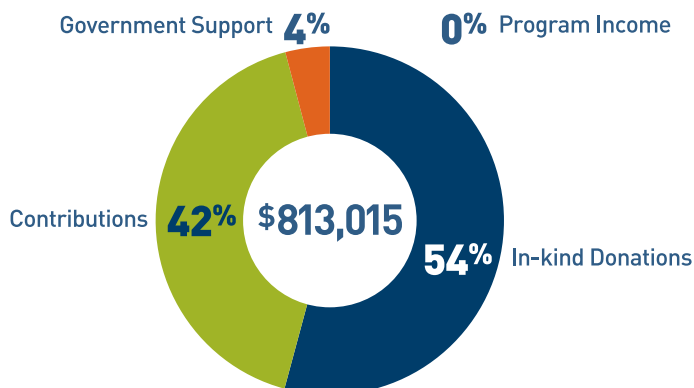
Adult, teen and family volunteers are always needed to keep all programs running throughout the year!

### Support SON Ministries while shopping

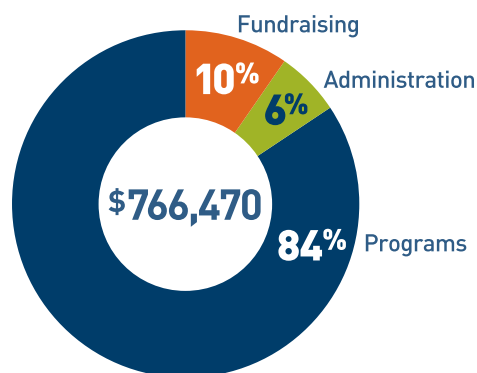
Register your **Amazon** Account through AmazonSmile at [www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com)

Set up Community Rewards through **Kroger** at [www.kroger.com/communityrewards](http://www.kroger.com/communityrewards)

## Revenue Summary



## Expense Summary



### Our Board of Directors

**Irma Chon**

Youth Pastor, Cornerstone Christian Fellowship Church

Interim 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

### Son Ministries' Central Staff

**Julie Comer**

Administrative Assistant, Programs PT  
jcomer@SON-Ministries.org

**Sarah Griffith**

Operations Coordinator PT  
sgriffith@SON-Ministries.org



**Alison Rooney**

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**Kim Emch**

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**Sarah Florimonte**

Development and Communications Associate  
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**Pam Vallette**

Manager of Programs  
pvallette@SON-Ministries.org

Plus: 445 Volunteers and 2 OSU Social Work Interns

**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.**

**Community Support**

**Through Partnerships**

- Churches Civic/Social Organizations
- Community Members
- Schools
- Businesses

**Thanks to:**

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

### Please Donate

Donate **NOW** online OR mail a check to SON Ministries—Your donation will change lives.  
[www.SON-Ministries.org/donate](http://www.SON-Ministries.org/donate)

**SON Ministries**  
2300 Lytham Road, Columbus OH 43220  
614-586-7939  
[www.SON-Ministries.org](http://www.SON-Ministries.org)

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.