



Bringing Hope To Children
& Families In Need



Annual Accountability Report

SON Ministries' VISION

SON Ministries is the catalyst connecting the community together in the Hilliard 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 socio-economic, cultural, and religious barriers.

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

“Love your neighbor as yourself”

Galatians 5:14

Serving Our Neighbors

A message from our Executive Director

From a single ministry to a community MOVEMENT in five short years! SON Ministries has been blessed with tremendous growth of volunteers and partners, as well as children and families in need who are engaging with us as they work to stabilize their families and take steps out of poverty.

“We partner with children and families in need, connecting them with resources as they take steps out of poverty simultaneously we mobilize the community - the Body of Christ - to Serve Our Neighbor!”

At the core of our work we **build relationships and connect people** - to resources and to people in their community so that all feel connected and needs, both visible (food, clothing and shelter) and invisible are met. The relationships we foster and make space for are bidirectional, with each person contributing to and benefitting from them. The result is life changing for all! For example we are seeing an additional arm of impact. **God is using SON Ministries' to grow volunteers into leaders, and some founders, of new programs** that are addressing needs in our community and *around the world*, grounded in respect and in relationships. This exponential growth makes it nearly impossible to report every aspect of the IMPACT



**“Join the movement,
loving God and
Serving Our Neighbors!”**

- Kim Emch

SON Ministries has had in the last 12 months - yet we try.

Metaphorically, SON Ministries is like a “community theatre.” God fills to overflowing, the theatre with children and families in need, full of expectations of finding a friend and hope for their future. Hope that they will find connections to people that walk beside and encourage them as well as resources to take steps to stabilize their family and move out of poverty. Onstage is the Body of Christ, people who have answered God’s call and are willing to reach out in faith and love their neighbors. Behind the curtains are the skeletal paid staff of SON Ministries, building the structure, stability and sustainability so that the show continues past opening night. God literally shines the stage lights so that all involved (volunteers, donors, children and families) can see and feel His love, warmth and blessing as they build relationships, mutual trust and caring for one another. *(See more on this metaphor on page 7.)*

**We invite you to join the movement,
loving God and Serving Our Neighbors!**

Kim Emch

Founder & Executive Director

kemch@son-ministries.org

Programs & Services

*How SON Ministries addresses the needs of children
and families in the Hilliard community and beyond...*

Family ESOL/Kids Club (since 2008)



ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages):

Through SON Ministries' partners, adults learn English and improve their employability. They also improve their ability to help their children with homework to be more successful in school.

SON Ministries Directs:

- **Kids Club:** School-age children receive academic support, recreational programming, and healthy snacks. Pre-school children are cared for and receive early literacy support.
- **Teen Interns:** Teens receive volunteer training/coaching to become helpers with the younger children.
- **Relationship Building:** Create a safe and caring environment based on relationships, for children which allows parents to attend English classes.
- **Community Building:** Enrolled adults, children and community volunteers all interact and build relationships - empowering individuals and *building a stronger community* for all.

Hilliard Free Lunch Summer Camp for Kids (since 2007)



- Children from low-income families receive a healthy breakfast and lunch, and a FUN, educational day camp experience while school is not in session.
- Nutritious food and physical activities promote **healthy child development**.
- Two **NEW educational initiatives** address summer learning loss.

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

Publishing Shop: Children have the opportunity to write, illustrate and “publish” their own book and then take home.

- The **Teen Internship Program** continues to grow. Teen Interns from diverse socioeconomic, cultural and religious backgrounds receive volunteer training, leadership opportunities and mentoring as they volunteer as helpers with the younger children.

Connecting Families to Resources



www.HilliardHelps.org

- SON Ministries' founded and keeps current **Hilliard Helps website** (www.HilliardHelps.org) lists community specific resources that help families in need with a network of caring organizations and community members who together strive to support and strengthen families and our community.
- **Good Tidings Christmas Store** and **Children's Winter Coat Store** are respect-based dignity stores with **NEW** items available at very low cost to families.
- **Job Skills Training** is offered to adults to help increase employability.
- A monthly **Free Legal Clinic** is provided for low income families through a partnership with the Columbus Bar Association.

Community Education



- SON Ministries **teaches** organizations, businesses, churches, schools and individuals the benefits of collaboration, how to address the unique challenges of suburban poverty, how to help people in need with a hand up that preserves their dignity and cross cultural community building.
- We facilitate **Poverty Simulations** to help uncover the challenges and hardships of poverty, break down barriers and generate empathy.
- We teach others how to **replicate the SON Ministries model** to mobilize the community to address needs in their community. Our mission is to reach more children and families in poverty.
- SON Ministries offers **Community Service Training for Teens** to connect to meaningful service and to begin to develop a life-long commitment to Serving Our Neighbors.

Serving Our Neighbors from around the world, right here in OUR community!

At the SON Ministries’ Family ESOL Kids Club program that meets during the school year at UALC Mill Run, we registered a smiling young woman who had just arrived in Hilliard from Iraq, as a refugee - relocated here by our federal government. When she learned of all the supports SON Ministries offers families in need in this community, she approached me, **“Thank you so much for all you are doing... In Iraq, I am PhD in Arabic Language and worked for the Ministry of Education.”** She, like many of the refugees and immigrants God brings to us, wanted us to know that she is educated and a professional in her own country. But moreover, being educated and a professional is *her identity*.

“Here... I must be patient. With the language, with job. I left everything for (physical) safety. I patient. Step by step (she gestures with her hands).”

After several weeks of not seeing her, she shared that she has no transportation and that every Monday she calls classmates asking for a ride to English class. She is often unsuccessful-her plea goes unheard and her need to get to English class goes unmet. Thus her 1st grade daughter and preschool son cannot access the social and academic support they desperately need, from SON Ministries’ Kids Club or Early Childhood rooms.

I cannot get this woman off my mind, I pray and pray about her need. I send an email asking SON Ministries volunteers to consider helping a Muslim woman with transportation to and from the English program. No response. Again I pray...

I call and go to her apartment to bring her to English class. She is standing in her open door waiting for me. Her daughter is smiling and with total trust climbs into my car. Her son follows. **“Thank you” she says with a tear streaming down her face.**



New Best Buddies

On our drive, I learn this family has been sitting home, struggling financially, lonely and isolated, in their new, uncertain, world- due to lack of transportation. **I share with her about our Hilliard Free Summer Lunch program explaining that one of our seven lunch sites will be located within walking distance of her home.** There her children can attend to receive a free lunch Monday - Friday all summer, and she can continue to practice her English, and all three can continue to build much needed relationships. She is ecstatic to learn that her new *community* won’t end in May!

Summer 2014 this mother and preschooler came to our Hilliard Free Summer Lunch program all summer! **At our lunch site her 3 year old (Arabic speaking) son became fast friends with one of our teen interns who only spoke Spanish as he too was new to our country. Though the boys could not communicate verbally because of their different languages, they had no problem bonding and becoming the best of friends.** Every day you could see the two of them sitting next to each other during lunch or playing a game together, or if separated, looking for the other. **God showed and inspired us all this summer, through these two boys, that love is not limited or bound by language!**

Several volunteers came forward to take turns driving this family to our Family ESOL Kids Club program. We recruited another volunteer who came beside the husband/father in this family to help him learn to drive and pass his driver’s test so he could secure work. **The mother and children began and continue to work in the UALC Community Garden with SON Ministries volunteers where they grow, weed, harvest and receive fresh vegetables.** This mom was a shopper at both our Children’s Coat Store and Good Tidings Christmas Store, affording her the opportunity to buy both children’s coats and Christmas gifts that she could afford!

Because of the love of MANY neighbors, mobilized through SON Ministries, this family is well on their way to feeling connected in their community while taking steps out of poverty. *SON Ministries programs are missional and relational.* **There is a place for YOU to connect, please JOIN us, as we meet basic needs while building significant relationships for Jesus!**

Alison Gessner Rooney
Director of Programs - SON Ministries

SON Ministries Community Impact *One Stronger Community!*

Serving Children in Need

1,698 Touches of Service

Summer Lunch



389

Children Served
(7,654 Total Lunches)

Kid's Club



389

Children Attending

Coats for Kids



553

Coats Distributed

Good Tidings Christmas Store



367

Children Served

Serving Families in Need

682 Touches of Service

28 Zip Codes (20 inside Franklin County)

Summer Lunch



223

Families from
22 Countries

Kid's Club



187

Families from
48 Countries

Coats for Kids



143

Families Served

Good Tidings Christmas Store



129

Families Served

Connecting Adults in Need

831 Touches of Service

Legal Clinic

136

Family ESOL/KC

320

Connections To Resources

211

Job Readiness

26

Traffic Safety

138

Mobilizing Volunteers

649 Created and Filled
Volunteer Opportunities

10,662.5 Total Hours

Summer Lunch

203

Adults
Teens
(6,358 hours)

Family ESOL/KC

191

(3,404 hours)

Legal Clinic

13

(34.5 hours)

Central Office

8

(121.5 hours)

Coats for Kids

26

(93.5 hours)

Good Tidings Christmas Store

105

(651 hours)

Creating Partnerships

91 Community Partnerships
Formed

Churches

13

Businesses

23

Civic/Social

26

Schools

16

Individuals

13

SON Ministries Community Impact

52,578



8 Year Total Free Lunches Served

Served **7,654 lunches** to children through our Hilliard Free Lunch Summer Camp for Kids, bringing our **8 year total to 52,578 free lunches served**.

Served **362 breakfasts** to children in need during the summer of 2014.

103



Number of Children Provided Bussing

Provided **bussing for 103 children** to attend the Lunch program.

Sponsored 7 lunch sites, with SON Ministries administering activity programs at 5 sites.

Hired and managed **12 summer staff**: 3 Site Leaders; 4 Assistant Site Leaders; 4 AmeriCorps Vista Site Staff; 1 Monitor.

482.6 lbs.



Vegetables Sent Home with Children

Sent **482.6 lbs. of vegetables home** with children from the community garden at UALC The Church at Mill Run.

Utilized **one full-time VISTA capacity building volunteer** to structure our Volunteer Recruitment and Training Program as well as help raise funds.

682



Touches of Service to Families in Need

682 touches of service to families in need during the 2013-2014 fiscal year.

Introduced 2 new educational initiatives to address summer learning loss:

- **Reading Buddies Program**: Older children, teens and adults read with younger children in the program.
- **Publishing Shop**: Provided children the opportunity to write, illustrate and “publish” their own book on site to then take home.

The **Teen Internship Program** continues to grow: **66 Teen Interns** from diverse socioeconomic, cultural and religious backgrounds received volunteer training, leadership opportunities and mentoring.

“Hilliard Helps”



**Founder & Coordinator of
www.HilliardHelps.org**

SON Ministries is the founder and coordinator of the **“Hilliard Helps” website** which connects families in need to resources in Hilliard. www.HilliardHelps.org

The Body of Christ Comes Together for the Glory of God...

It is rare that the Body of Christ comes together across multiple churches to serve a family from a congregation and ask absolutely nothing in return. Beyond asking for nothing in return - giving selflessly to serve the family in need.

But indeed that is exactly what happened the day Marjorie Crabtree passed from this earth to her eternal home. Marjorie was a faithful committed member of Cornerstone Christian Fellowship Church where my husband and I pastor. As faithful as Marjorie was to her own local church she was also deeply committed to the community and the needs of the families that are served through Serving Our Neighbors (SON) Ministries. **Marjorie often volunteered with SON Ministries: at Kids Club during the school year - helping children with their homework, at the Hilliard Free Lunch Summer Camp for Kids program, at UALC The Church at Mill Run's Community Garden - working side by side and building relationships with internationals through SON Ministries.**

Even in her final days, Marjorie volunteered at The Good Tidings Christmas Store - a dignity Christmas store for local families in need - made possible through a partnership between SON Ministries and Cornerstone Christian Fellowship Church.

After Marjorie's "Homecoming" her husband set a memorial fund through SON Ministries to further help families in our community that find themselves in need.



Honoring a Selfless Servant

But it was her dear husband Keith who was now in need. In the midst of grief he needed to locate a facility that could accommodate 300 - 400 people for the public viewing and funeral service for his beloved wife. The church where Marjorie attended and served to the very end of her life simply was not big enough to accommodate all the lives that Marjorie had touched here on this earth. Even the local funeral home would not have been adequate for the expected crowd.

I shared this need with Kim Emch, Founder and Executive Director of SON Ministries who immediately connected me with the larger community Body of Christ through

Upper Arlington Lutheran Church - also a partner church of SON Ministries. With absolutely no hesitation they offered their building and staff for the service at no cost and treated us as family.

Marjorie spent her life selflessly giving and helping others and indeed she reaped what she had sown. I believe that while we said our last good byes to our dear Marjorie in that holy space, God was welcoming her home saying, "Well done good and faithful servant." I also believe that He was looking down at the Body of Christ and saying the same: "Well done good and faithful servants, today you have acted as the Body of Christ should - coming together to love and Serve Our Neighbors - and thereby honoring Me. You have brought ME great joy!"

I'm thankful that I witnessed what it looks like when the Body of Christ works together across churches to meet the needs of its community and God gets all the Glory! As a local church leader, I'm thankful for our partnership with SON Ministries.

It is my prayer that our church and others will be open to future opportunities to partner and work together as a unified Body of Christ to serve families - and glorify God.

Irma Chon
Youth Pastor -
Cornerstone Christian Fellowship Church
SON Ministries, Board Vice Chair;
Pastor Liaison

SON Ministries is Like a Community Theatre

How does SON Ministries work to accomplish God’s purpose of Serving Our Neighbors with a central staff of 3.5 employees? Metaphorically, SON Ministries is like a “community theatre.” God fills to overflowing, the theatre with children and families in need, full of expectations of finding a friend and hope for their future.

Community Theatre

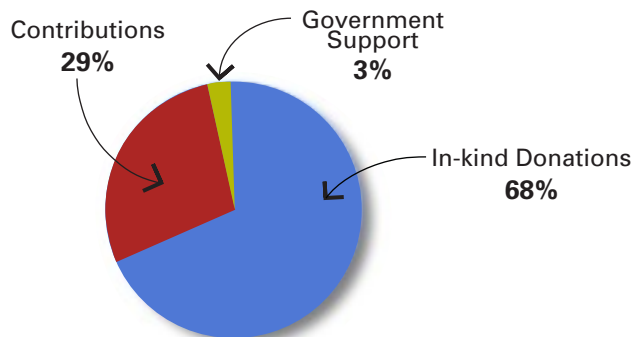


SON Ministries

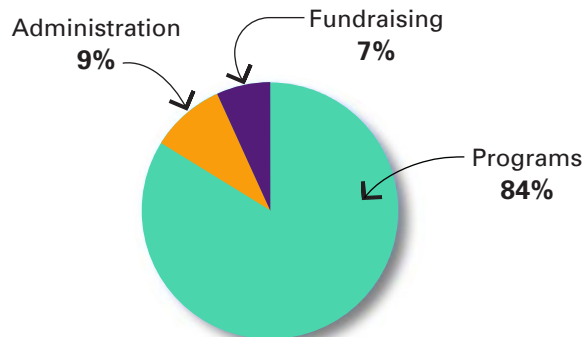


<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of a local theatre for free... 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We ask for and receive free office and program space.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professional lighting and sound crews donating their time/experience... 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We build relationships and ask people/ organizations to partner with us, contributing professional services to help expand and enhance our offerings.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building the set and sewing the costumes... 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We build relationships throughout our community: asking boldly for free items needed to better serve our families.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Auditioning the actors... 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We recruit 100’s of volunteers per year; adults and teens; most are from the Body of Christ.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Holding rehearsals... 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We train and mobilize adult and teen volunteers who commit to 100’s of hours of service helping people in their community.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Writing the script... 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We fully administrate enormous programs to serve 100’s of people in need in our community.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inviting the audience... 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We build long term relationships and communicate regularly with 100’s of families in poverty in Hilliard, connecting them to local resources (some we provide and some are referred).
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On opening night - a packed house with standing room only! 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nearly all programs we run are at capacity (based on our current staff/space) or we have a waiting list.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multiple plays that run over the course of the calendar year... 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We run multiple programs creating many opportunities for God to be glorified by the Body of Christ.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stage lights to see the leading actors... 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We pray and ask God to shine His Light of love and blessings on the lives of all the volunteers, donors, children and families.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A prompter is offstage repeating missed cues and supplying actors with forgotten lines. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most of what SON Ministries does comes from a prompt laid on someone’s heart or mind by God. Together, He takes us on a journey with the people we serve, our volunteers and community.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some actors are inspired. They refine and develop their talents and go on to Broadway! 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God is using SON Ministries to grow Christian leaders creating a movement! We have dozens of examples from all of our programs of volunteers beginning to lead and become founders of new programs in the community or in their local church to love and “Serve Our Neighbors” in need.

Revenue Summary \$792,526



Expense Summary \$828,594



Our Board of Directors

Rev. Robert Armstrong
MA MDiv LPCC
Board Chair

Irma Chon
Youth Pastor, Cornerstone
Christian Fellowship Church
Vice Chair; Pastor Liaison

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Board Member

Kim Cooper
Senior Professional
Human Resources - Cardinal Health
Board Member

Kim Emch
Executive Director
Founder SON Ministries
Board Member

**As a community, with God, we are making
a difference Serving Our Neighbors.**

**SON Ministries'
Central Staff**

A staff of 3.5 Full Time
Employees



Judy Mathis	Pam Vallette	Kim Emch	Alison Rooney
Operations Coordinator	Program Manager	Founder & Executive Director	Director of Programs



649 Volunteers **1** AmeriCorps VISTA **2** OSU Social Work Interns



Community Support Through Partnerships

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



FREE Building Space Year Around

Thanks to:

The Law Firm of Willis and Willis • 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.”

Please Donate...

Donate NOW online OR mail a check to SON Ministries - Your donation will change lives.
<http://SON-Ministries.org/donate/>

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