

# THE COMMUNITY WAREHOUSE

JULY 2013 NEWSLETTER

The men and women who work at Community Warehouse, and its subsidiary Milwaukee Working, are helping our organization make steady progress. Success of our ministry is not only measured in terms of product sales and production growth, but also personal and spiritual growth in the lives of our employees. The purpose of this newsletter is to inform you of the happenings at the Community Warehouse. Our prayer is that this information will affirm your commitment to the Community Warehouse as you experience the blessings resulting from your support of our ministry.

## OUR PURPOSE

Community Warehouse (CW) and Milwaukee Working are organized to provide employment to men and women who face significant barriers to employment. Criminal convictions, lack of work experience at a legal workplace, or a lack of education and skills bar them from employment opportunities elsewhere. Our focus is life transformation. We seek to mentor our employees, create great relationships, and build a team attitude, all while performing high quality and timely work for our service partners. All Employees and volunteers are also invited to participate in a weekly Bible study.

Between Community Warehouse and Milwaukee Working we currently have nineteen full-time employees and eight transitional job employees. In addition there are students from

the Milwaukee Public Schools and many volunteers.

This fiscal year we will employ six MPS students who have been assigned to us as a part of the Student Exchange Program. Each MPS student will work 100 hours, learn skills and habits for the workplace, and be paid wages in return. We also provide work for six individuals from the Boys and Girls Club.

Additionally, we have hundreds of visitors and volunteers during the year who work alongside our employees. This experience allows them to develop a better understanding of how our employees are overcoming backgrounds of crime and poverty and are now learning through the love of Jesus.

## OUR IMPACT

### A Story of Two Brothers

Leroy and Jacob Maclin were raised by a Christian mother. She took them to church, read the Bible to them, and involved them in programs where their

faith could grow. However, at an early age, the influence of their friends led them into a life of crime.

Story continued on back...

## LEADERSHIP

GEORGE BOGDANOVICH has been President and CEO since 2002 and has been a huge factor in the success of Community Warehouse. Twelve years ago the plan put George as CEO of both Community Warehouse and PS Companies, his family business. Recently, George asked the Board of Directors for a four month sabbatical; the Board approved. George continues to be deeply committed to the ministry of CW and we anticipate his continued involvement in future years.



NEAL METLER has been appointed by the Board of Directors as Interim CEO effective July 1, 2013. Neal is a retired organizational planning consultant with a long history of involvement in Christian ministries during the past 45 years. Like all members of our Board of Directors, as well as our volunteers, he receives no monetary compensation.

At age 15, LEROY was incarcerated in Wales Correctional Institute for "reckless engagement," a weapons offense. Leroy has scars from a bullet wound, from which he spent months recovering. Leroy provides support for his four children. Because of complications from his past, Leroy still has ten months to spend at the Huber Correctional Facility in Franklin where he has to return every evening after work.



Leroy is a genuine encouragement to other employees. Leroy is our team leader in the Amazon online book business and is building a solid resume to take to future employers.

JACOB is the manager of the Community Warehouse at 9<sup>th</sup> and Bruce Street. Jacob is hard-working, intelligent, organized, punctual, and he is a very effective leader of our warehouse staff. He also provides support for his wife and kids. Jacob got his leadership experience on the streets of Milwaukee running a drug operation, for which he did time in prison. Now, Jacob, like his younger brother Leroy,

has returned to his childhood faith in Christ on whom he depends each day.



Jacob is a MODEL of leadership with all of our warehouse employees and with everyone in the organization. customers and is a key player in our success at the warehouse.

### Praise for the Past Year

The new Milwaukee Working facility at 30<sup>th</sup> and North was opened in October, 2012. An aged and abandoned warehouse was substantially renovated and has been turned into an efficient production facility for Milwaukee Working. In 2012-2013, the staff of Milwaukee Working has provided services and produced products that exceeded budget projections!

Merchandise sold at Community Warehouse produced a total income of approximately \$350,000 in 2012-2013. The value of goods donated to the warehouse was over \$700,000, thus increasing inventory to be sold in the future. The value of this donated inventory is recorded at our potential sales price to customers – about 25% of its original retail value! Merchandise is

provided to Community Warehouse customers at very substantial savings! Local foundations provided very generous support to underwrite our extensive facility expansion in 2012-2013, as well as our ongoing operational costs.

Many challenges were faced in 2012-2013 as we moved to a new location and started multiple enterprises. However, the Lord has blessed CW in unbelievable ways and we are poised to have a great year in 2014!

### Goals for Fiscal 2013-2014

The Community Warehouse is projecting a significant sales growth in the next 12 months.

Milwaukee Working is also projecting a substantial increase in the revenue produced from services and products in the next fiscal year.

Continued generous funding has been pledged by many of the foundations that support the Community Warehouse, and we will continue to seek more financial support from individual donors.

The goals for 2013-2014 are very ambitious, but we are relying on God's provision as we move forward!



Please continue your support as a customer, supplier, financial supporter, volunteer, or in any way you can. We are a ministry that is designed to assist in changing lives. If you feel inclined to provide financial support for the work that we are doing, an envelope is enclosed. We would genuinely welcome your investment in what we are doing. Please continue to pray for our employees as they work hard! May God bless you and your ministries.