

AN UPDATE OF MASTER'S TOUCH MINISTRY

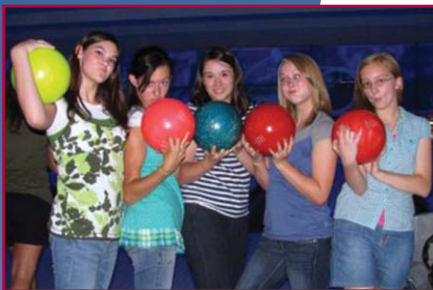


A DIVISION OF
WAYSIDE CROSS
MINISTRIES

lifeCHANGE

JUNE 2012

BOWLATHON SET FOR MONDAY, AUGUST 13th



The 7th Annual Master's Touch Bowlathon Fundraiser will take place from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm on Monday, August 13, 2012 at Funway Ultimate Entertainment Center, 1335 South River Street (Route 25), in Batavia.

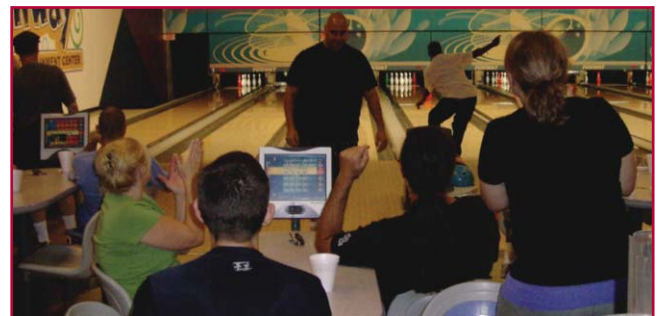
This event is limited to 100 bowlers, so be sure to reserve your spot as soon as possible.

We would love to have several teams (5 bowlers per team) from your church. Our goal is to raise \$10,000 (\$500 per team). This is a great event for youth groups, small groups, men's groups, and women's groups.

The funds raised will be used to continue the work that Our Lord began over 80 years ago in Aurora, namely: to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with all who walk in our doors; to feed and house the men in our residential program; to provide necessary teaching resources, education and job skills that will allow men who have lost control of their lives as a result of drugs, alcohol, or some other destructive behavior pattern to experience the life transformation that will allow them to return to their families as God-honoring, productive members of society.

Over the years, this event has proven to be a fun-filled, family-oriented event. Here's the format:

- Each bowler pays \$15 (\$75 per team of 5), which provides: two hours of bowling, shoe rental, pizza, and soda pop.
- Each bowler asks friends and family members to sponsor him/her by a donation to the Master's Touch Ministry.
- Each bowler brings the donations to the Bowlathon.
- Prize awards ("red pin" strikes, most funds raised, etc.) and raffles will take place throughout the evening.



Please contact **Randy Tomassi** at (630) 723-3422, or at rtomassi@waysidecross.org, for further information, or visit www.waysidecross.org. We also need volunteers to help on the day of the event. If you would like to help, or if you would like to donate a prize, please contact Randy.

Director's Corner

Thanks for taking the time to read *Life Change*, a quarterly newsletter intended to keep you abreast of how Our Lord is at work in our Bible-based, Christ-centered residential program for men who are seeking a permanent solution to the crisis of a broken life.

As the cover story reports, we hope to raise at least \$10,000 at our upcoming Bowlathon (August 13th). The back page discusses our Annual Banquet, held May 15th at the Lincoln Inn, at which close to \$45,000 was raised. In what has become an annual tradition, I will use this space to contextualize these dollar amounts by "connecting the dots" of the Master's Touch financial picture.

Our annual operating expenses total \$300,000. This translates to less than \$300 per month, per resident. This is a remarkably low number. (For example, the average monthly cost per inmate in an Illinois prison is well over ten times that amount).

There are three primary factors that explain our financial efficiency:

1. We truly are a volunteer-driven ministry. The vast majority of the teaching, preaching, and counseling within our program is provided by volunteers from the Body of Christ. Without volunteers, we would cease to operate.
2. Those of us who are compensated by WCM (an equivalent of 6.25 full-time employees, including me) receive annual gross salaries that total a modest \$114,000.
3. As a result of donations and discounts from numerous vendors, we are able to feed our residents (an average of 90 men) three meals per day, plus snacks, for \$17,000 per year. This translates to approximately \$50 per day.

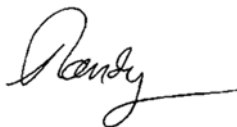
I trust that you'll agree that we take our stewardship responsibilities very seriously.

For the current fiscal year, which ends on August 31, 2012, we expect that WCM enterprise-level fundraising, donations to our General Fund, and the portion of revenues from WCM's Hope Chest Resale Store that are allocated to Master's Touch, will total \$230,000. The remaining \$70,000 (\$300,000 - \$230,000) must be met through donations designated specifically for the Master's Touch ministry. By God's grace, we have received almost \$60,000 of this amount to date; thus, just as it was the case last year, we are looking for the Bowlathon to put us "over the top."

In light of what I've shared here, won't you please support our Bowlathon? There are several ways in which you can do so—raising funds by bowling, by financially supporting a bowler, or by donating a raffle prize. Thanks so much for your consideration.

Please remember us in your prayers. If you have any questions concerning The Master's Touch Ministry, please call me at (630) 723-3422, or email me at rtomassi@waysidecross.org.

May God richly bless you.



Randy Tomassi
Director, The Master's Touch Ministry

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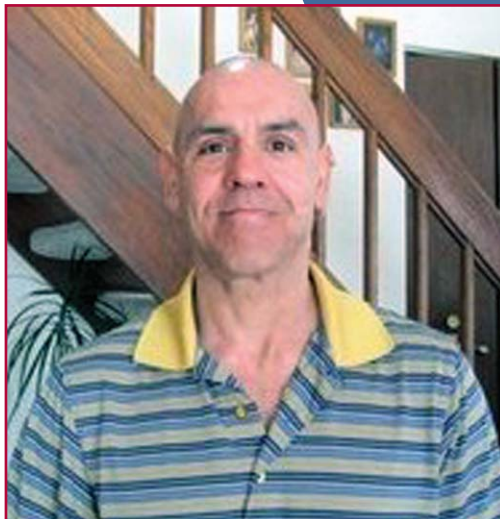
Randy Tomassi
Director,
Master's Touch
Ministry

BRETT STRAIGHT (1966 – 2012)

We received very sad news on Tuesday morning, June 5th: the 46-year-old man whose body was found in Batavia the previous day near the bike trail on the Fox River, was identified as Master's Touch resident Brett Straight.

An avid bike rider, Brett took advantage of the beautiful weather on Sunday, June 3rd by going for a ride. When Brett missed mandatory "bed check" on Sunday night, our staff became concerned. Tuesday's news confirmed the terrible suspicions that had been growing throughout the day on Monday. Batavia Police believe that Brett died from head injuries suffered in a bicycle accident; "foul play" is not suspected.

Brett died just two weeks before completing the Master's Touch six-month residential program. He was a professing Christian, and an excellent Bible student. "He came to class every morning prepared to study God's Word," noted Master's Touch Director Randy Tomassi. With respect to the "work rehabilitation" aspect of the Master's Touch ministry, Brett was assigned to our warehouse where, according to Hope Outreach Coordinator Kale Little, he was "the best worker—by far." Brett was planning to remain in our work program after graduation in a leadership role as a Resident Assistant.



The Wayside Cross community mourns Brett's death, yet is thankful that it was Our Lord's sovereign good pleasure to bring Brett into a saving relationship with Jesus Christ while a resident of Master's Touch.

Brett's life was celebrated in a memorial service in our chapel on June 20th.



Kale Little, WCM Hope Outreach Coordinator and Brett Straight participate in a community coat drive led by Jerry and Billie Needham, owners of Pro Energy Consultants of Geneva, IL.

FRIENDSHIP DINNER A MEMORABLE EVENING

On Tuesday, May 15th, more than 350 people attended The Master's Touch Friendship Dinner at The Lincoln Inn in Batavia. The evening included: a sumptuous buffet dinner; an update on the ministry from Randy Tomassi; comments concerning upcoming curriculum changes from volunteer Mark Cantey; comments from WCM's new Transitional Services Coordinator Dan Olson; a testimony from alumnus (and current Wayside Center - Elgin staff member) Chris Corsault; and musical praise led by alumnus (and current Worship Leader at The Oasis), Ian Nix. Once again, WMBI-FM Radio Host Mark Elfstrand served as the evening's Master of Ceremonies.

The evening's special guest was Christopher Yuan, who teaches at Moody Bible Institute. Joined by his parents, Leon and Angela, Christopher shared his testimony about how God has changed his life from that of a drug dealer and a homosexual, to a sought-out speaker and Bible teacher.

The generosity of the attendees resulted in close to \$45,000 in donations to the ministry, for which we are very thankful.

Plans for next year's Dinner are already underway, so be sure to check out the next issue of Life Change for the details.



To donate on our website go to
www.waysidecross.org
and click on the
red heart
select Master's Touch Ministry

