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Life Pointe Church coordinates "Adopt A Family" outreach

By DIANE TEZENO
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Alan Jenkins, pastor of Life Pointe Church in Missouri City, believes in putting his faith in action and making a difference in his corner of the world.

"We can't help everyone, but we can help someone," Jenkins said.

The Fort Bend pastor and his 200-member church have launched an "Adopt A Family" outreach program that connects families in need with area individuals, families and small groups willing to help.

Coordinators of the effort identify underprivileged families in the community and seek referrals from area women's shelters and match them with concerned individuals and businesses.

Last year the church coordinated the adoptions of 38 low-income families through the project.

In 2007, a Houston Texans player provided food and toys for 15 families living on one street in Arcola and brought in several players from the team to participate in the project.

This year, British Petroleum has joined the church's effort and will help meet the needs of one or more area underprivileged families through the effort.

At last count, 15 families have been "adopted" through the outreach initiative, Program Coordinator Deetra Koch said.

Adoption wish and needs lists from needy families and adoption assignments will be made up until the week before Christmas, according to Koch, whose home has been transformed into a work station for volunteers to drop off and wrap gifts.

"It has been a miracle what God lays on people's heart when others are in need," Koch said, as two rooms of her home fill with donated items.

Through the "Adopt A Family" project, participants adopt an area family and purchase Christmas gifts or help with basic needs such as food or bills.

"It is sobering to see what people are asking for on their wish lists for Christmas," Koch said of requests such as soap, shampoo and diapers.

Koch adopted a family last year and treated family members to a trip to Walmart.

A resident of Sienna Plantation, Koch recalls one of the family members, a 14-year-old girl in need of shoes traveling to the store in her bare feet.

"She told me that she had never worn anything new in her life," Koch said.

Jenkins believes in taking a hands-on approach to addressing the needs of the community his church serves.

"We believe we are called to make a difference now, to not just talk a good game," Jenkins said.

The Missouri City pastor's goal is to leave the community better than he found it.

"We have a role and have been given a responsibility to make an impact wherever we can."

Last year the church made a significant impact by providing beds to 12 area children who formerly had been sleeping on the floors of area homes.

Jenkins also hopes to do his part to make the holidays brighter for many families through the church's Angel Tree project.

The church encourages children and youth to participate in the project by obtaining an ornament from the "Angel Tree" and bringing in a requested toy.

Volunteers from the church coordinate with Second Mile Mission to deliver toys to underprivileged children on designated days at the mission.

"For individuals and families that cannot afford to adopt an entire family, we ask them to buy a gift for a child which we will combine with other gifts which are dropped off at our Angel Tree to meet needs at Christmas," Jenkins said.

"In this way, individuals and families of all economic levels can work together to bring joy to others at Christmas."

Life Pointe Church services are held each Sunday from 10-11:10 am. at Elkins High School, 7007 Knights Court in Missouri City.

For more information or to adopt a family, contact Life Pointe Church at 281-923-7834, send an e-mail to info@yourlifepointe.com or visit www.yourlifepointe.com.

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CHERYL THERIOBEAUX, Houston, Texas, USA
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Notice is also given that the motion to dismiss proceedings will be brought for a ruling before the Court on January 9th, 2009, at 10:45 a.m., in Room 2 of the Sherbrooke courthouse.
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