

Look into the *Faces of Change!*



2007 ANNUAL REPORT OF

MEL TROTTER

MINISTRIES



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All photos were taken at Mel Trotter Ministries by friends of the ministry unless otherwise noted. Front and back cover and page 11 photos © DeJonge Studio.



Rev. Chico Daniels
President & CEO

The Faces of Change

Dear Friends,

We've come through one of the worst winters on record in Michigan. It seems as if every day was filled with severe weather and unending snow. Can you imagine how you would feel if you were homeless in the weather we have experienced? We made an extra effort this winter to provide shelter, meals, encouragement, and counseling to all who entered our doors—and thousands did. We were able to meet every need (long-range as well as immediate) thanks to God's unending blessings and your compassion.

In this annual report, you'll read how we were able to provide **80,607 nights of safe shelter** and serve **287,690 meals** to homeless men, women and children. Living on the street is very dangerous. Marie, a young woman in our Excel Rehabilitation Recovery Program, remembers, "I have been on the streets with no food. It's not a good feeling at all. You feel like there is no hope. It feels good to come in for a meal and to find people who really care. I'm grateful that the Mission is here."

As the new President & CEO of Mel Trotter Ministries, I want to convey to you how much I appreciate your standing with us. It is an awesome responsibility and privilege to lead this ministry. I know you will be encouraged as you read the stories represented in this annual report and look into the faces of change. May God bless you for caring!

Together in Christ,



Feeding the Hungry

Too many of our neighbors are going hungry.

The most recent reliable study shows that 11.5% of the men, women, and children here in Kent County live in poverty and do not consistently have enough to eat. And sadly, 19% of requests for food help go unmet every year.

But there is hope, because people like you follow Jesus' example and have compassion for the poor. Last year, entirely because of your support, we were able to serve 29% more meals than in 2006. Thank you for taking the fear of hunger away from thousands of people!

In 2007, your generosity provided:

- over **287,690 meals** at the Mission.
- more than **950 holiday food boxes, and 6,192 daily food boxes** each containing 21 meals for a family of three—130,032 meals!
- **13,699 daily food bags.**
- more than **1,500 Thanksgiving dinners** for homeless and working poor people.

We were able to distribute **2,626,000 pounds of food** (an average of 5 tons per work day) donated by friends like you.





Scott

Changing Lives

“I was smoking my whole paycheck,” Scott says, shaking his head. Anneliese explains, “My father sold drugs to people I knew, and I bought drugs from them—he didn’t know it, but my father was selling drugs to me.”

While enrolled in Mel Trotter’s year-long program, Scott earned his GED. In addition to education, Scott found all the spiritual and emotional support he needed here, and today he’s a completely changed man. After graduating, he joined our Aftercare program and earned his degree in Culinary Management. Most recently, he’s gotten married and bought a house!

“I know failure isn’t the end,” he says. “I know now even if I fail, I’m going to get up and try it again. A Christian uses his mistakes to learn and further himself. I can’t feel sorry for myself. I remember where I’m from—I’m going to keep moving forward.”



Anneliese

Anneliese spent her life running—going to a friend’s house to escape turmoil at home, and taking drugs to cover up her pain. But at Mel Trotter, she learned to face her problems and deal with them. “I don’t run away from conflict,” she says now, “but I don’t get angry either.” She plans to pursue social work after she graduates this spring, and for the first time she’s excited about the future.

“Mel Trotter Ministries is a very beautiful place for somebody to get their life together,” Anneliese says. “The counselors treat you like you’re somebody. It’s a God place!”

As a friend of the Mission, you know drugs aren’t the real problem—the root of recovery is finding the causes of addiction and dealing with them with God’s help. Thank you for giving dozens of men and women that opportunity every year!

In 2007 you helped change lives by supporting:

- **22 men and women who graduated** from our year-long program into new lives.
- **1,825 group and individual counseling sessions** to help residents overcome the problems that led to addiction.
- Over **885 chapel services** to draw our guests closer to God, the true source of all healing.

More than **1,100 people made spiritual decisions** last year to pursue a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ!



Caring for Kids

Imagine a child you love living his or her whole life surrounded by grim city walls.

That's all hundreds of children in Grand Rapids know. Often, their families are staying just one step ahead of an eviction notice. There's no time or money for things we think are essential to childhood—a helping hand with homework, a safe place to play after school, the fun of summer camp.

Last summer, gifts from community partners like you sent **314 inner-city children** to our rural overnight camp on beautiful Hopkins Lake. They had the thrill of a lifetime swimming, canoeing, horseback riding, and more—guided by caring Christian counselors.

You also helped children through our “Community Club” after-school program and our on-site summer day camp. Caring for at-risk children is the best way to break the cycle of poverty in our community—you've given them a head start on the future!

Cars, Clinics, and Charity

When you donate a used vehicle to Mel Trotter Ministries, you create work opportunities for our resident men, revenue for ongoing ministry, and reliable transport for low-income families. In 2007, we sold **430 donated cars** to individuals and families.

For the poor, vision and dental care are often too expensive. But poor health can also be a barrier to a better job. Last year, with your support, our vision clinic saw 92 of our residents for **\$14,651 in optical services**—26 more people than in 2006. Our dental clinic saw 748 patients and provided **\$127,446 in care**—\$62,680 more than in 2006.

The Mel Trotter Stores are a vital source of income for ministry and a valuable shopping resource for hundreds of families. Because of the success of our first two stores (at 2950 Broadmoor in Kentwood and 538 South State in Sparta), we opened a third store in 2007 (at 363 E. State Street in Belding). All revenue from the stores is used to support the programs and services of the Mission. Please donate your used clothing, furniture, and household items to our stores!





Aftercare: Pursuing the Dream

In our year-long recovery program, residents focus on the basics—getting right with God, catching up on literacy and other essential skills, freeing their bodies from addiction.

But in Aftercare, your support helps graduates focus on the big picture. Like Scott (whose story is on pp. 6-7), they learn to set goals and stick with them. While their daily needs are met at the Mission, case managers work with them on:

- Jobs
- Education
- Housing
- Community networks of support

Their case managers are the same people who have worked with them through the initial phase of recovery, so Aftercare builds on existing relationships. We encourage these supportive relationships to continue for the rest of their lives, while stressing the importance of church fellowship.



With their Aftercare resources, our graduates have a much higher success rate as they transition to independence. We truly appreciate your support for this crucial link between recovery and lifelong stability.



Community Partners

Dawnlynn Suttorp

Volunteer Coordinator for Amway Corporation in Grand Rapids

Dawnlynn says she's one of the happiest people in the world, because her job lets her do what she loves most—help people in need. “God has given me a real passion for inner-city children. They have so much potential, but need a helping hand to fulfill it.”

Each year, Dawnlynn coordinates Amway volunteers to help in our special Christmas Room. The Mission collects gifts all year long, setting them aside for this once-a-year shopping opportunity. During the first week of December, volunteers like Dawnlynn and her friends set up the room and assist residents in selecting presents for their children.

In addition to her Christmas work, Dawnlynn mobilized 45 volunteers from the Amway family to spend an average of four hours a week lending a hand last year. She was also instrumental in re-starting our vital Back-to-School Backpack Giveaway to give inner-city children a head start in school—Amway will provide major financial support for it in 2008.

But Dawnlynn insists it's not about her. She's just lucky. “I wake up every morning and feel honored that I can help.”

Helping Hands

Kim Velting

Kim Velting learned about Mel Trotter Ministries five years ago when a friend struggling with substance abuse came here for help. The more he heard, the more he wanted to get involved!

Soon, he discovered his years of leading Bible studies for teenagers at church were great preparation for teaching our men's Wednesday night Bible study. “I use Proverbs 30:2 as my motivation, ‘Surely I am more stupid than any man...’” he says with a laugh. “I teach them that when life looks bad or things get all turned around, it is only that we've lost our perspective. What God says is absolute. Whenever I'm confused it's because I've lost my perspective.”

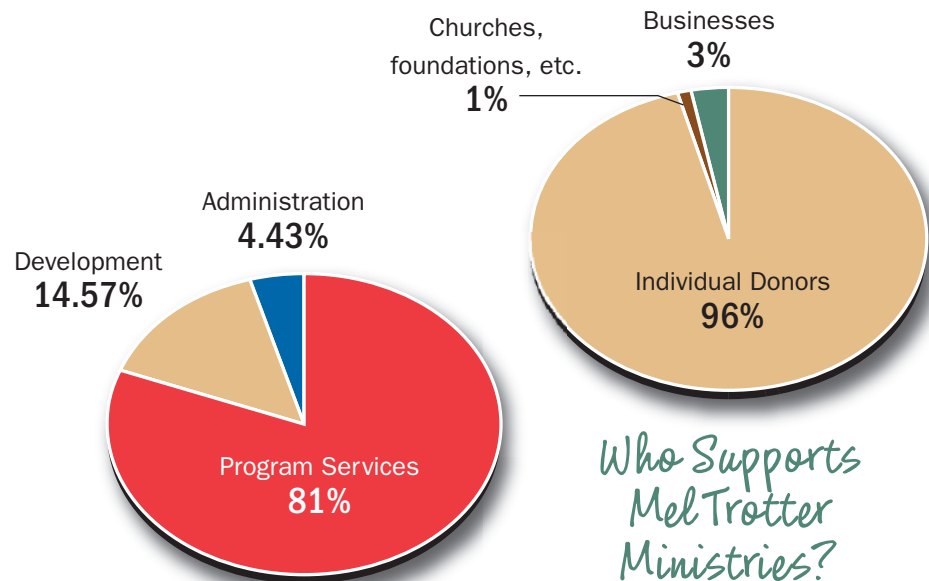
He's constantly excited by the men's response. “There is tremendous growth and I praise God for Mel Trotter and the focus they place on Jesus Christ in their ministry. You see, it's not a program or a system, it is Jesus Christ [in the lives of people] that works.”

In 2007, more than **3,000 people** like Kim showed their heart for the poor through service that saved the Mission thousands of dollars. Thank you!





Financial Information

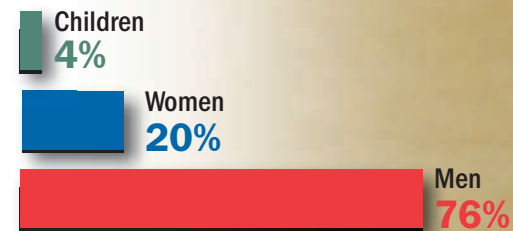


Where Does Your Support Go?

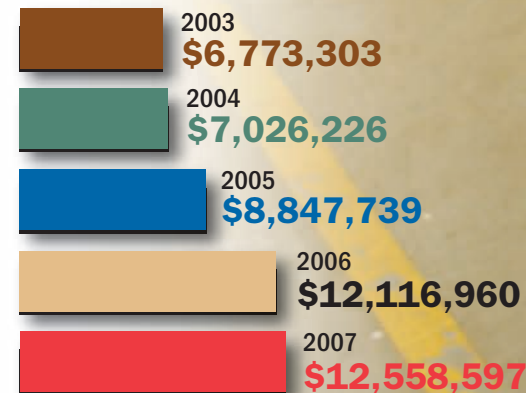
Who Supports Mel Trotter Ministries?

*A complete audited financial statement is available upon request.

Who Does Mel Trotter Ministries Help?



Our Annual Income





MEL TROTTER

MINISTRIES

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*A higher standard.
A higher purpose.*

**Mel Trotter Ministries exists to restore lives
and rebuild families in Jesus' name.**