

MALTA

Bridging the Gap for the Homeless in Crisis

From the President

Another summer has flown by, and really, it did not seem much like summer. But I can tell you that those who must stay outside during the days were grateful for the respite of lower humidity and lower temperatures. One thing that always remains the same, however, is that summer is hard on our financial situation at Malta. We do appreciate those of you who donate on a regular basis year round. We also realize that people are vacationing, spending time outdoors, having fun with their families, and so the homeless and poor are not generally on the mind. May I ask you to consider sending your support in any amount that you can? One way to do that AND support an upcoming fundraiser is to either participate in the event, Motorcycle Poker Run to Benefit Malta, or just send the fee you would pay IF you were to ride. That fee is \$25.00. Please make a note on your check that it is for the Motorcycle Run. The event will be held on Sept. 20th. Please find more information elsewhere in this newsletter.

2014 will be a year of familiar events and some new ones. The first familiar event was The Samaritan Swim on New Year's Day. It was great to be back at the Zbierski House. It is time for us to think about being involved in that again. Please find enclosed a sponsor sheet for those who are willing to take the cold dip. If you can't use it, please pass it on to someone else. If someone you know is going into the waters at Eastern Point on New Year's Day

2015, and they ask for your support, please be as generous as you can.

I have been noticing that so many people are taking the ice bucket challenge for another charity, and I am wondering if we can make the same challenge for Malta. Pay to NOT go in, ask your family and friends to do the same. Those that take the dip for Malta will be rewarded with a free tee shirt when they bring in as little as \$25.00. This is our major fundraising event each year. We hope to attract a lot of new 'dippers' this year. Our shirt motto is: This Dip Does A Lot of Good.

*"Happy is he who is
gracious to the poor."*

**Proverbs 14:21b
(Open Bible)**

The second familiar event was the Malta Annual Meeting, which was held in June. This is always a wonderful opportunity for the Board of Directors to thank our volunteers, and to share memories of the past year. Our volunteers of the year were Chase and Connor Brown. These young men have been faithful and are able to lift the spirits of the homeless with their love of Jesus Christ. Malta also recognized long time faithful servants Marilyn Robinson and Beverly Dougherty. These ladies just make you feel good to be around them, and they know the homeless by name. We are blessed to have such wonderful volunteers.

In addition to the upcoming Motorcycle Poker Run, another new event was an auction of goods and services which was held at Great Neck Country Club (Langley's Restaurant) in April, and we shared this event with Community of Hope, which is a home for needy and recovering women. This event was well attended, and each organization received over \$5,000. We are so thankful for the many businesses and private individuals that donated items for the auction. Thanks also to those who came to enjoy the fabulous dinner and the entertaining bidding wars. Look for another auction next year.

Someone asked me recently why we continue to go out to the streets when sometimes we see some of the same people over and over. My answer is this: God has not told me to stop doing so. In fact, I am sure He would want us to continue and even increase our presence. We do see some people changing. We see new faces along with the familiar faces and they all have the same need: They need to be touched by Jesus. Oh yes, there are other needs, and we meet those needs as best we can. Handing out clothing and food is important, and it is a way to bring the homeless to us, so we can pray with them and give them hope and encouragement. I would like to personally invite some of you to come out with us and see for yourself what love accomplishes. Contact me if you would like to see and hear what Jesus is doing through this ministry. hope@maltaministries.org

Blessings,
Dick

“God’s Been Good To Me”

This was one of Pete Vine’s favorite sayings, and another would be “God’s been good to you.”

One of the ways God has been good to me, and there are many, is that He has blessed my life in that I have been able to get another motorcycle after getting out of the ‘gang’ for a few decades while the girls were growing up. The lifestyle just was not conducive to raising a family as a new Christian with an old life as a (somewhat) hard core biker. God used an incident that confirmed to me that I had chosen the right path.

After our daughter Jennifer was born, we were living in an apartment (which was located in an apartment building that is now the Malta House on Hynes Ave. Groton) and we were sharing one of the garages with a fellow biker. Our car at that time, a 1962 New Yorker, died from my neglecting to fix the radiator. Well, I tried really hard to hang on to my nice fairly new Harley Davidson, but God had different plans and I had to sell the bike to afford another car. A three month old baby and just a Harley for transportation didn’t cut the mustard. I sold the bike and bought a used Honda Civic (ouch). The very next night someone broke into the garage and stole my friends’ bike. It would have been mine that was stolen had it been there. I knew right then that God was watching over us.

As I mentioned, a few decades passed without a motorcycle, but the desire to ride never completely left me. Somehow I knew that when the time was right, I would get another one. Well a few years ago the itch got scratched and we bought another bike. This was about the time that Pete was diagnosed with cancer and he went out and bought a Harley of his own. Sadly I never got to ride with Pete because he passed away that fall.

Recently my wife Donna and I joined the ranks of the Malta Board of Directors and God gave us the desire to plan a fund raiser for Malta. The Motorcycle Poker Run was approved by the Board of Directors and this confirmed to me that we are on the right path. To those not familiar with the biker life, a poker run is a ride with five stopping points (including the starting and ending points) where each participant draws a card which is recorded. At the ending point the rider with the best hand wins prizes that are donated by local businesses. The registration to play the game is \$25.00 which is how the receiving charity (Malta) profits from the fundraiser. There will be tee shirts available, and a great picnic at the end point.

I was thinking how blessed I’ve been for God to allow one of my passions in life, riding my motorcycle, to fit into His plans to help the homeless and poor and at the same time honor the memory of one of our friends who shared some of the same passions.

Here’s thinking of you Pete! **God’s been good to me.**

Dave Miller, Malta Board of Directors, and Chairman of the Motorcycle Poker Run 2014



Pete Vine and his Harley





MALTA WELCOMES NEW BOARD MEMBER

Jerry Mataya has accepted a position on the Malta Board of Directors. Jerry is currently one of our Malta House residents, and is the house representative to the Board. Jerry is very active in his church where he preaches on Thursday nights sometimes, and is a small group leader. He also volunteers as a hall monitor for the children's wing. In addition, Jerry is a member of the Malta street outreach teams and he volunteers at the Care and Share Soup Kitchen and at other functions where his expertise as a chef comes in very handy. The Malta Board is very pleased to have Jerry as part of the decision making team.

Thank you Community Foundation of Eastern

Connecticut for the grant which helped us purchase food, clothing and toiletries for the street and shelter outreach.

Thank you Savings Institute Financial Group

Foundation for the grant which helped us with the purchase of food, clothing, and toiletries for the street outreach, and also helped with the cost of providing transitional housing.



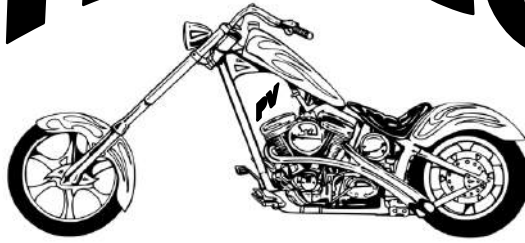
Thank you Pleasant Valley Community of Prayer and Praise for supporting us with space to store our supplies, the use of the kitchen to prepare foods, and the covering of prayer.

Thank you Groton Heights Baptist Church VBS for collecting 230 pairs of socks for Malta this past summer. 222 of those pairs were filled with treats. God bless the little ones for their giving hearts.



Our heartfelt prayers and love go out to Board Member Marcia White on the passing of her son Ronny. May the Lord bring comfort and strength that surpasses all human understanding.

malta



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POKER RUN 2014

This Ride Does A Lot of Good



In Memory of Pete Vine -
All proceeds will benefit the
homeless in Southeastern CT.

Saturday, September 20th

(rain date: September 27th)

Registration is from
10:00 to 11:00 AM

At Seaport Community Church
28 Great Brook Road
Groton, CT 06340
\$25.00 per hand

**The ride will finish at 3:00 PM
With a BBQ and Poker Prizes**

For more information please contact
David Miller : 860-535-2329
E-mail: DM-Miller@att.net
www.facebook.com/maltapokerrun

