

Your



MID-AMERICAN

VOLUME 14 NUMBER 2

September/October, 2005

EXCHANGE

FROM THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR

Hello to all Y's Men & Women's club members in our great Mid-America Region. Here is the news, and it's all good...

...September 16-18 saw more than 50 persons attending an exciting, enthusiastic and exhilarating convention in Kankakee, Illinois. This total represents an increase of 25 percent! Thanks to **CRAIG COPPER, JIM MARCHANT, KAY LINDNER**, and other members of the Kankakee Club, as well as friends and relatives who were involved. Wow!

...The Indianapolis club has agreed to host the convention in September 2006. Do you think we can increase 25% again next year? We're urging everyone to remember..."September is Convention Time in our Mid-America Region!"

...We've won **THE AL JONGEWAARD MEMORIAL AWARD!** This award goes to the region that had the largest percentage increase in giving for the Brotherhood Fund. Congratulations to **VIRGIL LUCAS** (of the City North St. Louis Club) who is the RSD for this fund. He did a great job and says "We're going to win it again next year!" Let's all work with him to make it happen.

...Congratulations to our newly elected Mid-America officers. Regional Director Elect is **BENNO FRIEDRICH** (B. R. Ryall - Glen Ellyn, Illinois). **CHARLOTTE FISCHER** (Vincennes, Indiana) is treasurer once again. **DEBBIE REDMOND** (Carondelet, Missouri) is the new secretary. Thanks for service rendered by last year's secretary **LORI BAUER** and regional director **PHYLLIS MITCHELL**. Phyllis was honored at the convention with a cut glass plaque and a Past Regional Director pin.

...Do you know who your District Governor is? There are three of them. **VIRGIL LUCAS**, (City North Club, St. Louis) represents The Heartland District, which includes Arkansas, Illinois, and Missouri. **DAVE REES** (Indianapolis) represents Indiana and Kentucky. **JUDY MOORE** (Washington, Iowa) is DG for Iowa and Kansas. She recently replaced **STAN CARLSON**, who did a good job this Summer and Fall. The DGs will be undergoing training later this year under the tutelage of the RSD for Training **JOEL FRIEDL**.

...Has your club adopted a soldier yet? This program was started last year in the Mid-America region and is being headed up this year by **MCKINLEY JOHNSON** (City North Club, St. Louis). Under the plan, a club pays the full cost of a regular membership for a service man or service woman. The club members keep in touch with their adopted soldier at least once a month during the year. The club should write to the service man or woman regularly as well as keeping in touch with family and friends of the "adopted soldier". For more information, get in touch with McKinley at 4115 Washington Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63108 (phone) 314-652-7871 (e-mail) mc_johnson@sbcglobal.net. Everywhere we go we see

News and Views from the Heartland

Fred L. Leonard,

Editor

408 Cedarwood St
Hot Springs, AR 71901

Phone and Fax:
(501) 262-3566

Cell: (501) 520-8766

E-mail --
fleonard@Cablelynx.com

bumper stickers that say "I support the troops." Do we really? This is a way to more than just posture. Get in touch with McKinley and let him know information about the soldier your club has adopted.

...a new Power Point presentation was given and explained by **RACHELLE REEG** at the convention. This will aid dramatically our ability to better work with YMCAs so they can see the advantages of having a Y's Men & Women's Club in the YMCA.

...Two youth initiatives were introduced at the convention. I was happy to share at a workshop a program we're about to try out at the B. R. Ryall club. This program is called THE CLEARING HOUSE, and it involves a way our Y's Men and Women's Clubs can help youth in their volunteer service and get credit and scholarships for it.

The second initiative was presented by **FRED LEONARD** Fred discussed the "Abundant Assets Alliance" which is a major initiative of the YMCA of the USA and YMCA Canada. More to follow later in this MAX.

PHIL LANDRUM, Regional Director
2025 North Main #202A
Wheaton, IL 60187 (630) 653-4588
lophillandrum@aol.com

YMCA Liasion - YMCA Hurricane Katrina and Rita Relief Efforts

We have all heard of the devastation from Hurricane Katrina in the Gulf Coast area. There are many heroic stories in the relief effort, but I am proud to be part of an organization that continues to build strong kids, families and communities, even in their time of greatest need. Here is a brief summary of what the YMCA of the USA is doing to support the relief effort:

The YMCA's national response plan has four phases:

1. Attend to the needs of YMCA staff in the region and their families
2. Address the operational needs of Ys in the region
3. Assist affected Ys in serving their communities
4. Help affected Ys raise capital to support rebuilding efforts.

The plan's immediate focus is to provide assistance to YMCAs and their staff so they can resume their mission service to their communities. Those wishing to support this effort can do so in two ways: 1) make a monetary contribution and/or 2) pledge other resources and support.

As of October 14, contributions and pledges to the YMCA Hurricane Relief Fund stand at nearly \$1.38

million, which means that they secured the \$1 million match from YMCA Fund, Inc. in less than one month. Y-USA wishes to extend a most heartfelt thank you to all who have contributed or pledged to the fund. However, more is needed. We anticipate the need for approximately \$2.5 million for immediate relief and an additional \$3 million to \$5 million for long-term capital support.

To view more up to date information and an online video, visit http://www.ymca.net/hurricane_katrina.

On www.ysmenusa.com there is also a section for any related Katrina news to keep up to date with related happenings and what the US Area is doing to support and respond to this epic disaster.

Even through the Hurricane relief is not as prevalent on the news any more, please continue to keep the families of those affected in your prayers and continue to find ways to support them in their ongoing daily challenges.

DAN SCHULZE, Executive Director
YMCA of Greater St. Louis
Carondelet Family YMCA branch:

314-353-4960
600 Loughborough Avenue fax: 314-353-3350
St. Louis, MO 63111-2796 cell: 314-740-2581
www.ymcastlouis.org email: dschulze@ymcastlouis.org

STEP

Our Mid America Region has established a goal of getting one student under the Short term Exchange Program (STEP) of having at least one student to live in our region and for our region to have a student from our region to visit and live in another country for three to a maximum 11 weeks. Remember a STEP participant will not have to attend school. The focus is on participation in activities of interest to both the student and the host family, club and community.

MCKINLEY JOHNSON, RSD/STEP

YEEP

The purpose of the Youth Educational Exchange Program (YEEP) is to arrange exchanges of son's and daughters of Y's Men on an International basis. Each candidate lives in a family, receives education at a local school and generally takes part in the normal everyday life of the community.

Our regional goal is for one student from our region to become an exchange student in another country.

Hopefully, restriction will be eased somewhat to allow foreign students to live and attend school in America.

MCKINLEY JOHNSON, RSD/YEEP

Y's Menettes

bumper stickers that say "I support the troops." Do we really? This is a way to more than just posture. Get in touch with McKinley and let him know information about the soldier your club has adopted.

...a new Power Point presentation was given and explained by **RACHELLE REEG** at the convention. This will aid dramatically our ability to better work with YMCAs so they can see the advantages of having a Y's Men & Women's Club in the YMCA.

...Two youth initiatives were introduced at the convention. I was happy to share at a workshop a program we're about to try out at the B. R. Ryall club. This program is called THE CLEARING HOUSE, and it involves a way our Y's Men and Women's Clubs can help youth in their volunteer service and get credit and scholarships for it.

The second initiative was presented by **FRED LEONARD** Fred discussed the "Abundant Assets Alliance" which is a major initiative of the YMCA of the USA and YMCA Canada. More to follow later in this MAX.

PHIL LANDRUM, Regional Director
2025 North Main #202A
Wheaton, IL 60187 (630) 653-4588
lophillandrum@aol.com

YMCA Liasion - YMCA Hurricane Katrina and Rita Relief Efforts

We have all heard of the devastation from Hurricane Katrina in the Gulf Coast area. There are many heroic stories in the relief effort, but I am proud to be part of an organization that continues to build strong kids, families and communities, even in their time of greatest need. Here is a brief summary of what the YMCA of the USA is doing to support the relief effort:

The YMCA's national response plan has four phases:

1. Attend to the needs of YMCA staff in the region and their families
2. Address the operational needs of Ys in the region
3. Assist affected Ys in serving their communities
4. Help affected Ys raise capital to support rebuilding efforts.

The plan's immediate focus is to provide assistance to YMCAs and their staff so they can resume their mission service to their communities. Those wishing to support this effort can do so in two ways: 1) make a monetary contribution and/or 2) pledge other resources and support.

As of October 14, contributions and pledges to the YMCA Hurricane Relief Fund stand at nearly \$1.38

million, which means that they secured the \$1 million match from YMCA Fund, Inc. in less than one month. Y-USA wishes to extend a most heartfelt thank you to all who have contributed or pledged to the fund. However, more is needed. We anticipate the need for approximately \$2.5 million for immediate relief and an additional \$3 million to \$5 million for long-term capital support.

To view more up to date information and an online video, visit http://www.ymca.net/hurricane_katrina.

On www.ysmenu.com there is also a section for any related Katrina news to keep up to date with related happenings and what the US Area is doing to support and respond to this epic disaster.

Even through the Hurricane relief is not as prevalent on the news any more, please continue to keep the families of those affected in your prayers and continue to find ways to support them in their ongoing daily challenges.

DAN SCHULZE, Executive Director
YMCA of Greater St. Louis
Carondelet Family YMCA branch:

314-353-4960
600 Loughborough Avenue fax: 314-353-3350
St. Louis, MO 63111-2796 cell: 314-740-2581
www.ymcastlouis.org email: dschulze@ymcastlouis.org

STEP

Our Mid America Region has established a goal of getting one student under the Short term Exchange Program (STEP) of having at least one student to live in our region and for our region to have a student from our region to visit and live in another country for three to a maximum 11 weeks. Remember a STEP participant will not have to attend school. The focus is on participation in activities of interest to both the student and the host family, club and community.

MCKINLEY JOHNSON, RSD/STEP

YEPP

The purpose of the Youth Educational Exchange Program (YEPP) is to arrange exchanges of son's and daughters of Y's Men on an International basis. Each candidate lives in a family, receives education at a local school and generally takes part in the normal everyday life of the community.

Our regional goal is for one student from our region to become an exchange student in another country.

Hopefully, restriction will be eased somewhat to allow foreign students to live and attend school in America.

MCKINLEY JOHNSON, RSD/YEPP

Y's Menettes

I will pass on for your information news about Y's Menettes that I received from International and the US Area.

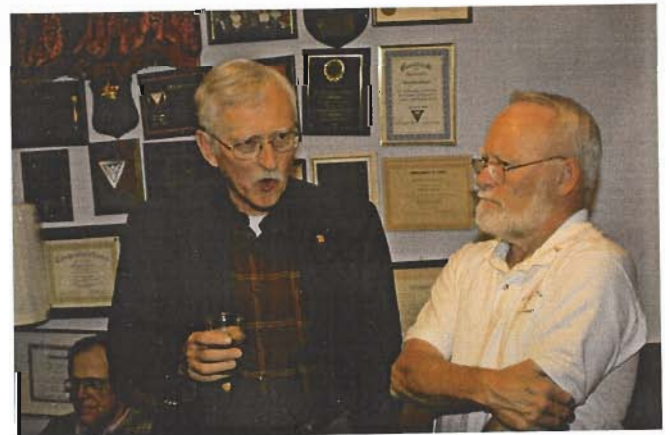
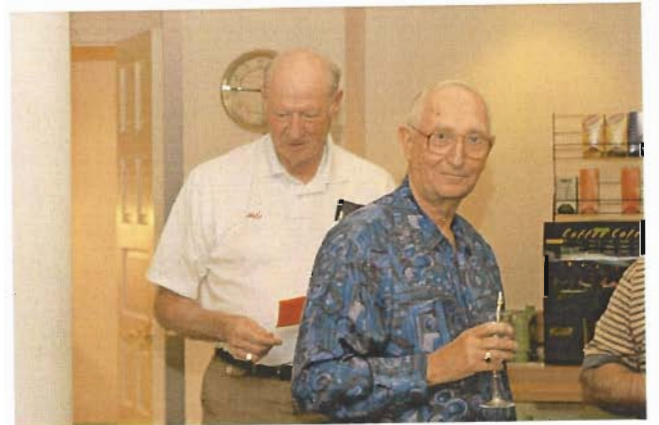
MCKINLEY JOHNSON, RSD/Y's Menettes
4115 Washington Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63108
(phone) 314-652-7871
(e-mail) mc_johnson@sbcglobal.net.

AREA RDE TRAINING IN ST. LOUIS, NOVEMBER 10 - 13

RDE training for the US Area, Area Canada and South Pacific Area was held in St. Louis at the Mayfair Hotel. Attending were, **ROB WILBY**, AP-US Area, **RON PERRY**, AP-Canada, **ROLANDO DALMAS**, ISG, **BENSON WABULE**, IP, **KEVIN CUMMINGS**, ISD-LT, **DAVID CRAYTOR**, US Area CFO and **FRED LEONARD**, APE along with **ARLO PANNKUK**, PAP, **WAYNE** and **GRACE SMITH**, PAP AND PAS respectively and **RACHELLE REEG**, PIP and **MCKINLEY JOHNSON**, PAP.

Thirteen Regional Director Elects attended the training. RDEs attending included **MARTIN DAND**, Central Canada; **AL KINGSTON**, Maritimes Canada; **COLIN LAMBIE**, Australia Region; **PHIL SAMMER**, Hawaii Region; **BENNO FRIEDRICH**, of our own Mid America Region; **DAVID HASENFUS**, North Atlantic; **DARYL SOLTAU**, North Central; **BUCK COX**, Pacific Central; **LEE WOODARD**, Pacific Northwest; **WILLIAM PORTER**, Pacific Southwest and **CLARENCE LUCKETT**; South Atlantic Region.

On Saturday evening, **JOHN MASON** and **BOB DANIELS**, Presidents of City North Y's Men's Club and Carondelet Y Service Club, along with Rachelle and McKinley and their clubs hosted the group at a dinner at the Sisters of St. Joseph's Mother House. Bob Daniels took the following pictures:



Indian Boundary Y's Men's and Women's Club

We enjoyed our traditional summer Steak Fry on August 27. Judy Ellertson, Indian Boundary YMCA Executive Director, and her husband, Kurt, graciously hosted this event again this year.

On August 6 we finished the floor tiling job for the Leaning Tower YMCA Teen Center (Niles, IL). That was a very large job that required 4 Saturdays to complete – the finished product looks great, if we do say so ourselves!

September 10 was a busy day for our club. We operated a concession stand at the annual Downers Grove "Hummer Park Flea Market" from 7 am – 2 pm. Then we helped cook hot dogs and hamburgers, and made popcorn and snow cones at the DuPage County "Day of Volunteerism" barbecue event at the Indian Boundary YMCA from 3 – 9 pm. Now we're gearing up for Christmas Tree Sales, our biggest fund-raising event each year.

Submitted by **LINDA DEAN**, Club Secretary



This club's bulletin is now on the US Area Website so all can see it.

This club is working on the PumpkinPatch at Camp Abe Lincoln. Sounds like a great time each Saturday during October. They're collecting entry fees, leading horses around the corral for the kids rides, working with the hay-rack ride, corn maze, kiddie straw bale maze and giving a pumpkin to each one to take home.

The club is examining whether or not to continue their booksale project.

They reported a tragedy when a child drown in the YMCA pool attached to North High School. It wasn't a YMCA class but one run by school staff under the sharing arrangement when the Y and school joined together to build the facility. A constant nightmare for any YMCA director or volunteer.



Only one newsletter to report from. Hope things are well in Washington.

At the first meeting of the year, 12 members attended

and "Bones" was busy collecting fines. A contribution of \$100 was donated to the Area Baseball Association in memory of **DICK SOJKA**.

Most of the meeting was spent working on the budget - Income projected at \$15,169 and expenses at \$17,205. (Sounds like my household budget, ed) Additional donations were made to the Y for a dishwasher, \$1429 and an contribution to the New County Fair Building in memory of **WAYNE KNUPP**.

CITY NORTH Y'S MEN AND WOMEN'S CLUB

On Saturday, August 20, 2005, founding club member **JOHN DITTO** briefed the new Vice President of Urban Affairs, Executive Director Monsanto Family YMCA **MICHAEL JOHNSON** on the history of City North and its relationship with Monsanto. John pass on some of our service organization International and US Area local history.

John presented CEO Michael Johnson two checks. Both in the amount of \$1,000.00. One of the checks was payment for our Partner with Youth Partnership pledge and the other for our pledge toward our Back-A-Youth pledge.

CEO Michael Johnson informed the club of his vision for Monsanto Family YMCA and how he plan to achieve his goals. He asked for the continued support of City North. Most of all Michael indicated that he would join our club.

Our Club City North normally meet on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of each month at 11:00 AM. On several of our meeting dates this past summer we opted not to meet such as over the 4th July and Labor Day weekends

During the month of August we participated with Monsanto Family YMCA In their annual open house. Thanks to **VIRGIL LUCAS, JR, DELORES MITCHELL AND PHYLLIS MITCHELL** for their dedicated effort to tell our Y'sdom story.

Chairman Phyllis Mitchell of our Founders Day committee advised the club of the tentative date of October 29, 2005 for our annual banquet and awards presentation

On October 1, 2005, City North adopted our annual budget and planning calendar for FY 05/06. In addition, tickets for our annual **CLARENCE E TEETERS** Scholarship Dinner/Dance were passed out. The date of the affair is December 3, 2005.

Submitted by **McKINLEY JOHNSON**, Club Member

CARONDELET Y SERVICE CLUB

Words to the Y's

President Bob Daniels reported that this year's annual book sale totaled more than \$112,000 in sales. He also noted that four club members attended the Regional Convention and encouraged the club to increase their participation next year in Indianapolis.

Carondelet Club donated \$1000 to the Katrina Fund which will be matched by the YMCA of the USA.

Other activities planned include a dinner meeting to discuss the budget, the dinner with the RDE training noted earlier in the MAX and working on Christmas Festivities.

INDIANAPOLIS INNER-CITY
Y'S MEN'S ... NEWS NOTES!

This club continues the high quality programs at their weekly meetings with a wide variety of groups such as "Second Helpings", a university professor on "Value of Older Workers," Scouting, and services at St. Vincent's Hospital.

ERIC ELLSWORTH, the new CEO of Metro YMCA was presented at the organization's Annual Meeting in November.

This club will be hosting the Regional Convention next year in Indianapolis.

KOKOMO Y'S MEN'S CLUB

Members seem to be very active in recruiting new members for the club and attendance seems to be rising with

They held an initiation on September 22nd. No listing of new members but they continue their recruitment.

They are also working on their Tree Lot with trees being delivered on November 15th and 16th.

Happy Thanksgiving

KANKAKEE Y'S MEN'S CLUB

This club hosted the Mid-America Convention and did a fine job with it ... fifty plus registrants, good programs, good food and great fellowship.

Service Club Olympics planning is underway with the date of February 12th selected.

KAY LINDNER announced that she received a brotherhood grant to Europe for next year.

CRAIG COPPER presented information on the club's continuing support of the Sioux Indian YMCAs. The club will be ringing bells for Salvation Army in mid-December.

JIM MARCHANT passed this information on: (I chose it because of the recent Veteran's Day Holiday. ed)

Captain Kangaroo passed away on January 23, 2004 at the age of 76. That seemed odd because he always looked to be that age. His death recalls another story.

Some people have been a bit offended that the actor Lee Marvin is buried in a grave alongside 3 and 4 star generals at Arlington National Cemetery. His marker gives his name, rank (Private) and service (United States Marine Corps).

Here's a guy who was only a famous movie star who served his time. Why does he rate a burial with such high-ranking officers?

Lee Marvin served at a time when many Hollywood stars in the armed forces often stayed in rear-echelon posts where they were carefully protected, only to be trotted out to perform for the cameras in war bond promotions, Lee Marvin was a genuine hero. He won the Navy Cross at Iwo Jima. There is only one higher military award...the Medal of Honor.

If that is a surprising comment on the true character of the man, he credits his sergeant with an even greater show of bravery.

Dialog from "The Tonight Show" with Johnny Carson: His guest was Lee Marvin. Johnny said, "Lee, I'll bet a lot of people are unaware that you were a Marine in the initial landing at Iwo Jima... and that during the course of that action you earned the Navy Cross and were severely wounded."

"Yeah, yeah...I got shot square in the bottom and they gave me the Cross for securing a hot spot about halfway up Suribachi. Bad thing about getting shot up on a mountain is guys getting shot hauling you down. But, Johnny, at Iwo I served under the bravest man I ever knew. We both got the Cross the same day, but what he did for his Cross made mine look cheap in

Continued on last inside page, second column.

Mid-America Region Convention – 2005 in Kankakee, IL



Pictures by **BOB DANIELS**, Carondelet Club

MID AMERICA REGION, U S AREA
Y's MEN INTERNATIONAL 2005-06

	Budget 2005-06	7-01-05 10-10-05
Beginning Balance	2,780.75	2,780.75
INCOME:		
Regional Dues, Oct 05	1,815.00	712.50
Apr 06	1,815.00	
New Club Gift	200.00	
Recovery Dues in Arrears	2,223.00	
Interest Income	10.00	1.40
Area Dues Oct 05	1,928.00	760.00
Apr 06	1,928.00	
Int'l Dues Oct 05	3,133.00	1,235.00
Apr 06	3,133.00	
Convention Offering		211.00
Beg Bal & Balance	<u>18,965.75</u>	<u>5,700.65</u>
EXPENSES:		
Regional Director	850.00	302.93
Regional Director Elect	300.00	
District Governor	400.00	
Regional Service Dir.	350.00	30.40
Secretarial Expenses	50.00	
Treasurer Expenses	75.00	10.00
Regional Bulletin	1,150.00	247.56
New Club Gift	500.00	
Region Conv & Cabinet M	3,000.00	1,765.34
Extension	200.00	
Mid Year Meeting	500.00	
Awards	50.00	53.70
Region Conv Seed Money	500.00	
Reg/Dist/Club Off Train	300.00	
RD Area-Intl Convention	575.00	
Int'l Dues Oct 05	3,133.00	
Apr 06	3,133.00	
Dues US Area Oct 05	1,928.00	
Apr 06	1,928.00	
Convention Offering		211.00
Misc	43.75	
TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>18,965.75</u>	<u>2,620.93</u>
Balance on Hand Oct 10, 2005		3,079.72
	Charlotte R. Fischer, Treas	

comparison. That dumb guy actually stood up on Red Beach and directed his troops to move forward and get the hell off the beach. Bullets flying by, with mortar rounds landing everywhere and he stood there as the main target of gunfire so that he could get his men to safety. He did this on more than one occasion because his men's safety was more important than his own life. That Sergeant and I have been lifelong friends. When they brought me off Suribachi, we passed the Sergeant. He lit a smoke and passed it to me, lying on my belly on the litter and said, "Where'd they get you, Lee?" "Well, Bob...if you make it home before me, tell Mom to sell the outhouse!"

"Johnny, I'm not lying. Sergeant Keeshan was the bravest man I ever knew. The Sergeant's name is **BOB KEESHAN**. The world and you know him as **CAPTAIN KANGAROO.**"

On another note, there was this wimpy little man on PBS, gentle and quiet. Mr. Rogers is another of those you would least suspect of being anything but what he portrayed to your youth. But Mr. Rogers was a U.S. Navy Seal, combat-proven in Vietnam with over twenty-five confirmed kills to his name. He wore a long-sleeved sweater on TV, to cover many tattoos on his forearm and biceps. He was a master in small arms and hand-to-hand combat, able to disarm or kill in a heartbeat.

After the war, **MR. ROGERS** became an ordained Presbyterian minister and, therefore, a pacifist. Vowing to never harm another human being and also dedicating the rest of his life to trying to help lead children on the right path in life. He hid away the tattoos and his past life and won our hearts with his quiet wit and charm.

America's real heroes don't flaunt what they did. They quietly go about their day-to-day lives, doing what they do best. They earned our respect and the freedoms that we all enjoy today.

From an email originated by **BRIAN SHARKEY**

THANK YOU VETERANS!

one of the leaders in poverty? Everyone can make a difference in their own life, why not extend it to others around us who can't seem to get ahead.

KAY LINDNER, RSD, Christian Emphasis
424 Valley Ave.
Bradley, IL 60915-1965
(815) 932-1603
NSConductor7@sbcglobal.net

CHRISTIAN EMPHASIS

This article will not take much time to read, but these notes from your Christian Emphasis Regional Service Director is well worth it. Reading them is just 1/2 of the task - doing it and believing that you do make a difference and following your Christian Principles is the other 1/2 of a task.

HOLD SACRED

- your Christian faith.
- your family.
- your good name.
- your given word.
- your moral code.
- your self-reliance.
- your positive attitude.
- your healthy lifestyle.
- your self-improvement.
- your love of learning.
- your love of God.
- your willingness to share.

COUNT THE TIME

- How long does it take to exercise?
- How long does it take to stay informed?
- How long does it take to be well groomed?

How long does it take to read your child a bedtime story?

How long does it take to say a kind word or deliver a compliment?

How long does it take to clean up after a meal at a shelter?

How long does it take to complete the next entry on your to-do list?

How long does it take to vote?

How long does it take to bring the family to Church?

Probably just minutes!

Make every minute count in your lifetime. Make every minute you live to live the kind of a life that makes you, your family, your fellow mankind, and God be proud that you exist on His earth

No matter where you live, you will find poverty. There are so many millions of people living below the poverty level. Living in cars, streets, and shelters. These people deserve our help. Little children do not choose to live this way, but many are forced to because their parents cannot rise above for one reason or another. Let's put our efforts to help stamp out this blight in our country. We are the strongest country in the world. Do we want to be

Continued on precious page