



Middleton Outreach Ministry

## For Immediate Release

### CONTACT

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### **Youth Volunteer opportunities available through new Youth Summer Service Camps** Middleton Outreach Ministry and Middleton Dept of Parks Collaborate on Opportunity

To increase awareness of poverty and social needs, Middleton Outreach Ministry (MOM) has joined forces with the Middleton Department of Parks and Recreation to offer area youth a chance to serve those living in poverty in their very own communities.

“MOM realizes that part of our larger mission is to educate our community about the real effects living in poverty has on everyone living in our community,” said Cheri Farha, MOM Distribution Center manager. “By reaching out to the youth in our community, we hope to instill a belief in the younger generation that helping those in need is a responsibility we all share.”

MOM helped develop the camp after seeing that the City of Madison holds similar camps but doesn't offer opportunities for Middleton-area youth to serve in their own backyards. “The reality is that we have enough need in our service area (Middleton/Cross Plains and parts of west Madison) to keep youth busy five days a week!”

Three one-week sessions will be offered to youth entering Grades 6-8 as of the 2011-2012 school year. The full day camps will include daily service work that may include: working in the MOM Food Pantry Garden, stocking shelves at the Distribution Center, working at one of MOM's mobile food pantries and doing chores for seniors and the disabled at Voss Haus and Segoe Terrace. The camps will also incorporate daily recreational opportunities such as bowling, trips to the Middleton Aquatic Center and a local state park.

“MOM's mission is to end hunger and prevent homelessness in our community. By getting everyone involved in this mission, especially youth, we hope to move one big step towards achieving our goals,” said Jackson Fonder, MOM Executive Director. “The service camps are just one way we can lay a foundation of just how serious the issue of poverty is locally and how we all must come together to solve it.”

Fonder added that MOM also is offering poverty simulation workshops to groups who would like to understand some of the challenges those living in poverty face. More information on the workshops can be obtained by calling the MOM main office at: 608/836-7338.

The Middleton Department of Parks and Recreation will handle all registration, administration and logistical details of running the camps given their experience in youth programming. MOM will coordinate the daily service projects.

Camps are held: June 27-July 1, July 11-July 15 and July 25-29. Cost per child is \$150 per session. Scholarships may be available through the Recreation Department. Registration begins May 1<sup>st</sup>. For more information about the camps and to register, call 608/821-8360.

### **About MOM**

MOM is a local non-profit organization that leads a community-wide effort to prevent homelessness and end hunger for our neighbors throughout Middleton, West Madison and Cross Plains. Through our business partners, affiliated churches, area schools, community service clubs, and numerous individuals, we provide food, clothing, housing assistance, emergency financial assistance, and special services for seniors. All programs are provided free of charge to neighbors in need. To learn more about the programs and people helped by MOM, log on to [www.momhelps.org](http://www.momhelps.org).

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