

Wayside Cross Ministries

News Release

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For Immediate Release
For News and/or Community and/or Religion Editor(s)

Walkers Needed for Feb. 9 Winter Walk to Help At-Risk Children, Mothers, & Families

• “Walk a Mile in My Shoes” Raises Funds for Urban Youth Ministry & Lifespring Center

Aurora, Ill., Jan. 25, 2008 (The Religion Wire™) —

Wayside Cross Ministries(WCM) is planning its second annual winter walk, “*Walk a Mile in My Shoes,*” **Feb. 9, 2008**, to help at-risk youth and the ministry’s transitional

living center for homeless women and children. The one-mile walk’s proceeds will benefit *Urban Youth Ministry and Lifespring Center of Wayside Cross Ministries.*

The winter walk **begins** and **ends** at the **Aurora Community Center**, 501 College Ave. The starting time for the **Feb. 9** walk is **9 a.m.** (8:30 a.m. onsite registration). A route map and other information about the walk is available at www.walk-a-mile-aurora.org. Individuals and walking groups are encouraged to register at the website. Call (630) 723-3408 or (630) 851-0187(ask for Lynda) for more information.

The walk’s goal is to raise **\$100 per walker** with several hundred walkers. Special appreciation gifts will be presented to each walker. Last year the walk raised nearly \$17,000.

Scot Thurman, director of *Urban Youth Ministry*, notes, “This year’s **Walk A Mile** event is Wayside’s second annual attempt. Funds raised for this event are essential in Wayside’s continued outreach to at-risk youth and homeless women and children. We are always thankful for those who come alongside us in our efforts to reach out to and share resources within our community.”



Lifespring Ministry:

Lifespring Ministry is a residential program for the woman in crisis, and her children.

Lifespring Ministry's 12-month residential program restores hope and rebuilds lives, woman by woman. The *Lifespring* program supports each woman through her crisis. She and her children are nurtured at *Lifespring Center*, a safe, loving "family" environment. Caring mentors help each woman effect positive changes in her life to benefit herself and her children. Each woman is encouraged to face her problems, plan for her future, and work toward self-sufficiency.

Urban Youth Ministry:

Wayside is building a stronger Kingdom by starting at the foundation-the children. The *Urban Youth Ministry (UYM)* has programs for at-risk kids to help them stay on the right track.

Urban Youth Ministry programs and initiatives help kids to grow physically, mentally and spiritually. The after-school Kids Clubs, academic tutoring, sports programs and day camps nurture hundreds of kids in the Aurora area throughout the year.

Urban Youth Ministry programs:

- provide positive alternatives to street gangs and drug use
- teach Christian moral values through adult mentorship
- encourage positive relationships between peers
- promote tolerance for diversity
- build and strengthen a youth's relationship with Jesus Christ

UYM programs include: Sports, R.E.A.D. "The Homework Club," and Kids Club.

For more information on the other various ministries visit www.waysidecross.org and learn about Master's Touch Ministry, New Life Corrections, Hope Outreach Ministry, and Wayside Center in Elgin.