

Report on C R & D Grant to Convention, 2008

St Thomas Church, Plymouth, Indiana

The Yellow River Community Café

In the spring of 2007, the CR&D committee granted St Thomas \$10,000 for start-up costs related to an outreach project in the community called the Yellow River Community Café. This project came about as a result of a poverty study group hosted at St Thomas but including a small representation of other parts of the community. The project consists of daily week-day meals in the late afternoon and early evening for a very low cost so that the poor can take advantage of nutritious food that is affordable. We hope to be able to be as "green" and "local" as we can with the ingredients, paying food costs as we go along with fees. For the rest of the expenses of the café, we need grants and donations.

The purpose is eventually to get middle class people and poor people working together and developing the kind of friendships across class lines which could lead to mentoring relationships and the beginnings of a bridge out of poverty for some. In the meanwhile, those who need the meals will have access to them.

In the 17 months since this grant was received we have laboured to prepare a building for the café and put in many hours of volunteer work. We have found quite a few donations but the magnitude of the task nearly defeated us. Nevertheless, on Memorial Day 2008, the café opened and during the month of August, even being closed the last week, served over 150 persons. The program has grown nearly every open week and we anticipate a larger program. We have by now secured a second smaller CR & D grant, a large grant from the UTO and just recently a local businessman made

a large donation. As community people realize that the café is going to work, we anticipate more local and ecumenical support.

This is the way the first \$10,000 grant was spent.

<u>Receipt</u>	
CR&D grant	\$10,000
<u>Expense</u>	
Rent	\$5950
Liability Insurance	\$240
Initial Food Purchases	\$1050
Trash Service	\$60
Bank Charge	\$35
IRS food sales tax	\$65
Legal filings—IRS & State	\$875
Printing	\$250
Supplies	\$1550
Total	\$10,075