



News from the Edna Martin Christian Center

# CONNECTION

Empowering, encouraging, engendering a vision of hope.

## EMCC: The Training Ground for Generations of Strong Families

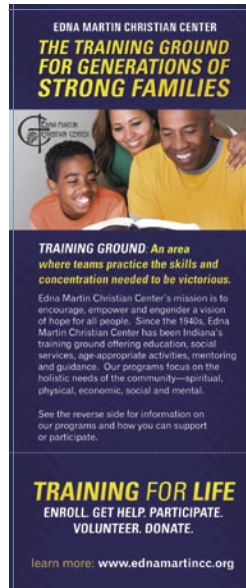


**Tysha Hardy-Sellers**

I've had the pleasure to work at the Edna Martin Christian Center since August. During this time, I've experienced just how special this place truly is to the many who enter the doors. As your home mission, we are serving as the hands and feet of Christ. Our service is not only given through our programs and services such as the food pantry, rent and utility assistance, youth or senior programming, but also the care we give to people who need someone to listen to them and help direct them in a path that will better themselves and their families.

I am not a stranger to the community we serve. I grew up in the Martindale-Brightwood neighborhood. It is where my mother, grandmother and aunt still reside. As a youth, I remember good and bad happenings in the area. However, one thing that always stayed with me was that I knew that God had so much in store for me and others if we believed and followed him. That belief didn't just emerge. It was taught and reinforced through my family and people in the community who cared for me. It is a belief that kept me going during great times and even when challenges arose. It keeps me going today. That belief is what I share with others when speaking about the Center and the basis of how I intend to help shape the work of the Center.

I am honored to lead the Edna Martin Christian Center. The vision I have for the center follows the guiding principles of our mission: Encourage, Empower and Engender a Vision



of Hope. We use these principals to provide holistic programs that address needs of the community—spiritual, physical, economic, social and mental. Therefore, our staff is working on developing new programs and transforming existing programs to ensure that they uphold these principles. Inside this issue you will find more information on the vision for Edna Martin Christian Center. Also, please go to the website to view our new marketing piece which talks about our role in developing lives as serving as the Training Ground for Generations of Strong Families.

This is not the only change in store. One of the changes you have already noticed is our newsletter. The new newsletter, Connection, serves as a link to you so you know what is happening at the Center. It is a quarterly newsletter beginning with this fall issue. Each newsletter will feature a person we served and their story about how the Center has impacted their life and that of their family. Additionally, we will include program and service updates, Edna Martin Christian Center events, devotions, and volunteer opportunities. You will also receive updates from us in between newsletter issues. Also, current news will be on our website at [www.ednamartincc.org](http://www.ednamartincc.org).

We want you to know what is happening with your mission and welcome you to experience the wonder of God working in the lives of many we touch. Please let us know if you would like to work with us. Your own gifts and talents are appreciated.

### Fall 2008 issue

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## A WORD FROM REV. EVELYN

# Summer was lots of fun

Summer was short and busy this year with a shortened seven week session instead of our usual eight or nine. All the children had a fun filled, educational and enriching summer. The children had many exciting things to do every-day swimming, crafting, bible study, singing, gymnastic and lots of field trips.

Let me thank all of you for the donations of flip flops, swim suits, and sun screen. A very big "Thank You" to the ABW group for the donation of \$1600 that enabled us to take all of the children swimming and on all field trips. This was a great blessing to the Edna Martin Christian Center summer program as no child was left behind. Thank you!!! To all who sponsored a child to the Indian Creek camping experience, we had a blast.

We ask your continued support as we go forward under new directorship and new vision.

**Rev. Evelyn Stewart**  
Assistant Executive Director

## EMCC Youth: sharing our thanks!

We are grateful for the 90 children that were able to attend our Summer Youth Program and Camp because of your support. The youth had a great time and would like to share their appreciation. Please see the thank you notes from summer program participants and campers:

"I learned alot and had fun. The Center is the best."

"I want the people who helped us know that I'm really glad they are there for us."

"Camp was so much fun."

"I told my friends about Edna Martin. Maybe they can come next year. It's great."



## EMCC E-news

Receive monthly email updates from Edna Martin Christian Center by signing up for our e-newsletter.

Go to our website: [www.ednamartincc.org](http://www.ednamartincc.org) and complete the form. Please send any comments or suggestions about our webiste to: [Ednamartincc@indy.rr.com](mailto:Ednamartincc@indy.rr.com)

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# Edna Martin: Putting away the lip service

In 1962, Edna Martin spoke to the congregation of Riverside Church in New York City. She stated that "The challenge to each of us in these trying times is to put away lip service and shallow worship."

Her statement in 1962 continues to be relevant today as we seek to increase the positive impact we can have in the lives of individuals we serve through the various programs at the Center. Our goal is to assist people both physically and spiritually, to nurture the entire family as they work to overcome the cycle of poverty

and experience the love of God.

Last year we were involved with a pilot program that worked to assess the needs of households in the areas of education, employment, housing, income management and health and safety. The enormous success of this program has inspired us to incorporate this approach to case management into our on-going ministry at the center. This self-sufficiency model has assisted participants like Shawna, a 28 year old single parent of five children. As a result of the support of the program, she was

able to obtain her CNA Certification and secure employment at a local hospital.

We are excited about the opportunity to reach more people and make a difference in their lives. In the trying times we face today, we are up to the challenge of "putting away lip service" and become the hands and feet of God as we reach out to minister to those who come to our door.

We invite you to join us in our ministry.

**Evonne Brown**  
**Outreach Coordinator**

## Devotional Thoughts: Today is your best day

In each newsletter, you will find a devotion. The devotions you see here are those we are using in our center to help encourage, empower and engender a vision of hope for ourselves and those we serve. The sources for the column will come from various places.

Please join me in reading: *Today is Your Best Day: Discovering God's Best for You*, by Roy Lessin.

*"In God we boast all day long, and praise Your name forever."*  
—Psalm 44:8 NKJV

I loved reading why today, no matter how the day has gone, is my best day. Lessin describes this by saying that it is our best day because of four simple reasons:

1. **We are here.** God has placed us in this moment of time for a purpose and the things that happen today are the

unfolding of that purpose.

2. **We are being prepared.**

What happens today, easy or challenging is getting us trained mentally and emotionally for what is in store.

3. **Our skills are being readied for use.**

God will use what happens today to prepare us with the skills we need to apply to future events.

4. **Our part in His plan is already laid.**

God has used the past and worked it all together for the good, and He will use this day to add to the good that He has already worked on our behalf.

By seeing today as our best day we can take in what happened and use it to grow in our faith. We learn so much by our experiences. We should treat each day as an education and move closer to our ultimate goals and deepen our relation-

ship with Christ. Sometimes difficulties arise, but it is the result of how we respond to those challenges in that we need to focus.

Having a difficult day should actually be rejoiced because God will use difficulty to produce precious things that would be treasured in days to come. Lessin gives wonderful analogies in the book:

- God uses pressure to form diamonds.
- Fiery trials to purify gold.
- Irritants to create pearls.

In all, today is our best day because we are loved by God. He comforts us and gives us what we need to make it through our day so we can share what we've learned with someone tomorrow.

Peace & Blessings,  
Tysha



**Today is Your Best Day: Discovering God's Best for You, by Roy Lessin**



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## A Hand Up: Monique McGruder

Monique McGruder's story is an example of how Edna Martin Christian Centers offers people a hand up so they can get on their feet and become successful. Monique moved from Chicago to Indianapolis three years ago.

Through our youth programs, her children, now 5, 8 and 11 years old, introduced her to the full scope of services we offer. With our job training help, Monique received the resources and encouragement she needed to gain employment and work to the level of Assistant Manager of a Dr. Tavel optometry branch. She is considered a rising star in the company. Additionally, through our Outreach Center, she and her children are enjoying a

home they can call their own.

"Edna Martin Christian Center and the Edna Martin Outreach Center is a blessing to me and my children. They provided me with school uniforms for my kids and taught them so many things. They also helped me with job resources and placed us in a beautiful home. Edna Martin Christian Center is a great asset to the community," Monique said.

So many who cross our paths just need a little help to get on their feet and spread their wings—just like Monique. That's why your help is vital all year long, but especially during the upcoming months.

We are already experienc-

ing a 30% increase in people in need of temporary rent and mortgage assistance. We are also experiencing a 50% increase in food pantry needs. We expect this trend to continue. Your support will help us meet the critical needs of families and give us the opportunity to work with them on a plan for stabilization and self sufficiency. With your help will be able to help many more reach their potential.

### **Driving for Dreams Golf Outing in October**

A big thank you to all who participated in our annual Driving for Dreams Golf Outing. We raised \$2,000 from this year's event. Rain or shine, we hope to see you next year.