Dear Supporters & Friends:

Integrity. Passion. Respect. Love. Justice. These are the core values of Back Bay Mission that guide and ground our work day in and day out. They characterize our interactions with those we serve and those who invest in our work. They drive our decisions about what new programs and initiatives we undertake. And they compel us to be mindful of shifting needs and changing times, that what we do might always have fresh relevance and meaning for the communities we serve.

2011 was a year when paying attention to new demands and evolving needs was of paramount importance. Though it would be inaccurate to say that recovery from Hurricane Katrina was fully complete, it was certainly winding down, and this context in which we serve was once again different than it had been before. Just as it was critical that Back Bay Mission adjust its services and priorities after the overwhelming changes introduced by that devastating storm of 2005, we needed to take a fresh look at our modified context in 2011. Impacts of the persistently troubling economy and lingering effects of the 2010 oil spill were two factors among many facing our community. How could Back Bay Mission best respond to the urgent needs of this new day, staying ever true to our core values and our statement of mission?

One of the greatest accomplishments of Back Bay Mission historically is that it has never been content with the status quo -- either of our community or of our own ministries and operations. Decade after decade, we have shown tremendous capacity to approach our mission with fresh perspective and innovative models of service. We know that if we simply do things “the way they’ve always been done”, we will have failed to recognize that ever-changing communities and ever-shifting needs demand dynamic responses. A “status quo” mentality simply won’t get it done.

This 2011 Annual Report will lift up some of the ways we sought to provide a dynamic service response in the midst of changing times, keeping our core values and purposes always front and center. Thank you for your investment in what we do!

Sincerely,

Rev. Shari Prestemon, Executive Director

Mission Statement

Back Bay Mission, a community ministry of the United Church of Christ, serves the Mississippi Gulf Coast and the wider church community by faithful witness for social justice and compassionate service to the poor and marginalized.

Vision Statement

Back Bay Mission shall embody with integrity and truth the prophetic mandate of Micah: “…to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God.”

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In 2011, Back Bay Mission provided services to thousands of individuals through its proven programs assisting low-income, homeless, and at-risk populations. Homes were extensively rehabilitated or newly constructed in traditionally low-income neighborhoods, providing safe, decent & affordable housing to residents and preserving these neighborhoods for future generations. Food insecure families were given food supports. People at risk of eviction or power loss were prevented from experiencing these traumatic events. Medically fragile individuals received life-saving assistance to purchase medications. And persons who had been experiencing homelessness for far too long were housed and empowered. All in all, Back Bay Mission entered into the most vulnerable moments of people’s lives and brought strength, stability, and hope to bear.

**Emergency Assistance**
- 4,197 total individuals served
- $116,278 distributed in emergency aid
- 3,608 food pantry supports
- 447 Utility assistance supports
- 147 Critical medications purchased

**Housing Recovery**
- 21 housing projects completed
- $183,505 expended on housing projects
- $505,728 worth of volunteer labor donated
- 878 volunteers hosted
- 28,096 volunteer hours donated to projects
- 2 homes newly constructed at 32-unit Bethel Estates development; property transferred to new developer for completion

**Permanent Supportive Housing & Outreach to Homeless**
- 14 apartments managed
- 15 homeless people housed on “permanent” basis
- 267 homeless individuals served by street outreach
- 679 services provided to homeless individuals

**Transformational Service Learning**
In 2011, Back Bay Mission remained a signature site for providing transformational service learning experiences to hundreds of individuals from across the nation. 878 youth and adults participated in the Mission’s “workcamping” program, combining authentic service to community with cross-cultural learning, faith development, and heightened social awareness. In addition, the Mission was the host site for 3 young adult summer internships in the Summer Communities of Service program of the United Church of Christ and Alliance of Baptists, two year-long AmeriCorps volunteers, and multiple long-term volunteers.

"I'm so grateful for this place. I thank God for your existence."
- Emergency Assistance Client

"I can't believe how fast everything is falling into place! I love everything you all have done and are doing. Thank you so much from the bottom of our hearts!"
- Homeowner client, housing recovery program
Changing needs require innovative thinking and newly purposed programming. In 2011, Back Bay Mission reflected its capacity to address evolving needs in fresh ways by stepping forward in the following ways.

**Oil Spill Relief**
The oil spill of 2010 wreaked new devastation along the Mississippi Gulf Coast, as those dependent on the Gulf Waters for their livelihoods experienced loss of work and decreased opportunity. In 2011, the effects of this disaster continued to unfold, and Back Bay Mission determined to address the specific needs of those impacted.

With funding from the Gulf Coast Community Foundation, the Mission launched a special relief program targeting oil spill-related needs of local residents. From June-December 2011, special assistance was provided to 197 individuals, totaling $40,000 in rent, utility, and food supports.

**Micah Day Center for the Homeless**
2011 marked the first full year of operations for our new Micah Day Center for the Homeless. This multi-service program design served an average of 32 guests per day. Basic services such as showers, laundry, haircuts, mail, phone, and computer usage were a mainstay, while strategic collaborations with partners in the community enabled us to address the vast array of more specific needs of this population.

**Homelessness Prevention**
The economic downturn has forced increasing numbers of individuals and families into perilous housing situations. Many found themselves dangerously at-risk of homelessness for the first time in their lives; others in fact joined the ranks of homelessness with little hope of improving their situation. In 2011, Back Bay Mission completed a program funded by the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act (ARRA) designed to rapidly re-house those made suddenly homeless due to economic factors and to prevent others from becoming homeless. New and dedicated staffing provided critical case management services to 94 families over an extended period of up to 12 months per case. Financial supports totaling $170,000 accelerated re-housing efforts for homeless families and saved hundreds of others from the agony of life on the streets.

**Homeless Veterans**
Back Bay Mission took a proactive step in 2011 to address a growing reality nationwide and on the Mississippi Gulf Coast: homelessness among our country's veterans. With experts projecting alarming new rates of homelessness among veterans in coming years, as soldiers return home from several tours of duty in Iraq and Afghanistan, the Mission would take the lead in attending to the issue on the Gulf Coast. In 2011, Back Bay Mission was awarded federal funding to support a small demonstration project to provide permanent supportive housing to homeless veterans. Brokering strategic partnerships with the Biloxi VA and the local Public Housing Authority, the Mission was poised to break ground on this new project in 2012.

“This place gives me a sense of home even though I'm homeless. It's a safe place to come, where you welcome us in. You don't know how important that is.”
- Day Center guest
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AT DECEMBER 31, 2011 (Pre-Audit Figures)

**2011 Source of Operating Support & Revenue**
(Pre-Audit Figures)

- Public Grants/Contracts: 25%
- Individual & Congregational Gifts: 25%
- Program-generated Income: 8%
- Private Grants: 9%
- Wider United Church of Christ (denominational & Conference Gifts): 15%
- Investments: 7%
- Miscellaneous: 1%

Total Revenue = $1,394,775.99

**2011 Operating Expenses By Category**
(Pre-Audit Figures)

- Program Services: 78%
- Management & General: 11%
- Fund-raising: 11%

Total Expenses = $1,368,744.06*

* does not include Bethel Estates Project

**Assets**
- Current assets (cash & investments) ..................... $3,078,340.26
- Other assets ................................................. $600.00
- Property & equipment ........................................ $2,499,117.79

Total Assets ...................................................... $5,578,058.05

Total Liabilities & Capital .................................. $5,578,058.02

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"This is the ministry Back Bay Mission has been privileged to share for nearly 90 years. To see in the poor the precious image of God, to minister to them in their living and their dying, and to bear witness to the world that their lives matter no less than our own."

- Executive Director Reverend Shari Prestemon

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"I love Biloxi. I'm from Connecticut, but Biloxi is the place that I call my second home. It's hard for me to describe just how much Back Bay Mission and Biloxi mean to me."

- Workcamper volunteer