



## God has made a way!

### HOW GOD CONTINUES TO USE THE GENEROSITY OF OTHERS TO BLESS THIS MINISTRY...

In 2003, The CornerStone Initiative moved its offices to a little red brick house at 2702 Holmes Avenue. The house is owned by another Christ-centered nonprofit, Second Mile Development. As an act of extreme generosity and in with the spirit of collaboration, Second Mile has only charged \$400 per month in rent. As if that was not generous enough, they also covered the utilities, provided lawn care, and paid for service on a security system. We owe a huge debt of gratitude to the leadership at Second Mile. They have invested in the ministry of CornerStone by providing much needed, affordable space for over ten years.

Second Mile also owns the vacant lots on either side of the CornerStone office. In the near future, Second Mile has plans to build a new pre-school that will span the three lots. In other words, once Second Mile secures the funding, the little brick house will be demolished and replaced by a much-needed preschool. While we knew that was the plan all along, we had anticipated that we would have at least one, if not two more years in the building. That all changed this past March.

In March, we discovered that squirrels, chipmunks, and rats had taken over our attic and had literally eaten through all the ductwork to the point that it was beyond repair. We were encouraged to leave the building immediately after service workers not only became concerned about us breathing the air with all the excrement upstairs, but also because the rodents had built nests in the air vents, causing the air that blew through the vents to be filled with fiberglass from the insulation.

There was no way we could ask Second Mile to use donor dollars to repair something they were going to tear down in the next couple of years. We did not feel right about investing our donors' generosity in those repairs

**A place to meet God.  
A place to be met by God  
— is to create a space for God, then let God show up and do what God does.**



either. So, we left the office, worked from home and coffee shops, and only came in and out to grab needed items. Our team began looking for available office space and immediately had sticker shock. The bare minimum office space without any “common room” to host classes, studies, etc. was around \$1200 - \$1400 per month, plus utilities! Definitely not in our budget.

We continued to look while also turning to God, asking for His provision and His direction. We knew that He had to make a way where there seemed to be no way. And He did!

Our friends at Second Mile, who had already been extremely generous, suggested that if it was cost effective for us, that we pay for the repairs ourselves, but then remain in the office rent-free until they are ready to build on the lot.

While that was an extremely generous offer, we also knew the cost of repairs could be very high. At first glance, one HVAC company suggested that the duct work replacement alone could be around \$20,000.

But God!

After learning about the ministry of CornerStone, one very special HVAC company (who would like to remain anonymous) was moved to completely replace all the existing ductwork at cost! The bill went from \$20,000 to \$4,000. Then, 4T Wildlife came in and sealed up all points of entry where the critters were getting access to the attic. We are now happy to report that we are back in our office after investing just over \$5,000!

As far as “donor dollars” – we realized that 2 years in any of the offices that we looked at would have been around \$32,000 plus utilities. Instead, God used the generosity of Second Mile Development and an incredible HVAC company to provide us with a wonderful space for \$5,000 plus utilities for the next year or two – until Second Mile is ready to build on the property.

We are amazed at how God has gone before us and made a way when there seemed to be no way. Because of this, we believe that He has us where He wants us for a good reason. It is our desire to use our little red brick house for His glory for as long as we have the privilege of remaining there. We have a vision for how the space can be used based on where we are seeing God work within CornerStone right now.

Please read the “Volunteers Needed” section of our newsletter to learn more about how you can support that vision.