



Robbi and Stacey

# Downtown Ministries

## Newsletter

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Rev. Haskle P. Jones, Executive Director  
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**"My biggest trouble is that I'm a kid and can't do much about anything."**

Robbi

I suppose we all felt this way when we were kids. We weren't in control and couldn't do anything about the financial and familial circumstances in which we found ourselves. So much greater the angst in homeless or low-income children!

Robbi, a beautiful junior high girl, pictured above with her mother, Stacey, is very somber about life's ups and downs. She's just returned to her mom's crowded motel room apartment after living with relatives for over a year.

### Living on a Meager Disability Check

Stacey can't keep up with today's financial costs. She is on disability for a painful shoulder, arm and hand condition. So she and Robbi were both elated when groceries were offered. Stacey pointed out her small cupboard looked full, but it only held expired soups which were given to her by a friend. Stacey and Robbi were hesitant to eat the out-dated soups, but had little else.

So when we gave them a food basket, including a large ham, great jubilation filled the darkly lit and cramped living space!

**PICTURED RIGHT:** Robbi sits beside her mom on the bed, listening to Stacey recount losing their home and belongings and subsequent family problems. Stacey was attacked by teens in her room recently and has motherly concern for the rough neighborhood and Robbi's safety.



**ABOVE:** Michelle shares with us the problems and tribulations she and her girls endured in recent years.

**"Being a single mother is scary. You have to take care of everything and everyone!"**

These are the words of Michelle, a frazzled single mother who is raising three daughters (two in high school and one in second grade.) Also, she's currently caring for her baby niece!

Making ends meet is her biggest challenge. And, like Stacey above, she has no car. Getting three girls fed and to school on time is a major stressor. Homeless mothers worry about school attendance not just for the sake of their children's education.