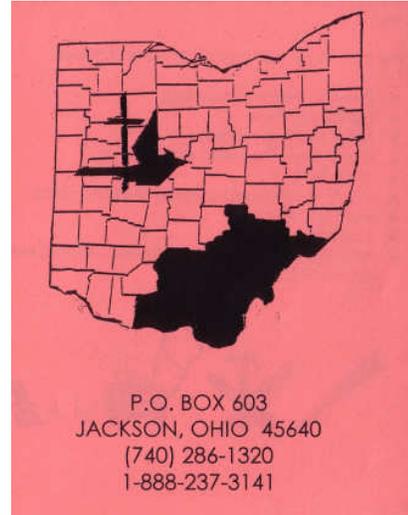


Community Project for CWC Members Ken Koch & Earl North

October 26, 2006

About 5 years ago Ken Koch and Earl North began providing used furniture to Jackson Area Ministries, or JAM. JAM is a mission activity of the United Methodist Church(UMC). It is about 33 years old and headquartered in Jackson, Ohio. The area served is the counties from Adams to Washington along the Ohio River and those counties two tiers above the river counties, as shown in the photo. The area is largely the western side of the Appalachian mountain range in the state of Ohio. In years past this was mostly a coal mining region, now there is some logging and farming, and low, low income. About 50 percent of families' incomes are below the federal poverty line. About 60 percent of families are single-parent. Most of the younger adults leave the area simply to find work.



JAM is headed by Rev. Robert Davis, a retired UMC minister. The only salaried person involved is the part-time office manager. A major annual event at JAM is a seed and plant giveaway. This year they supplied 45,000 pounds of seed potatoes, 10,000 tomato starts, and hundreds of pounds of vegetable seeds to residents of their ministry. In the fall they provide canning support to anyone who needs it. Another ongoing, as available, event is furniture and clothing giveaways. Earl and I found that we could make a small difference there by repairing furniture and taking it out to Jackson for these giveaways. One of our sources of furniture is Montag's Furniture Mall in Blue Ash; others are friends, and friends of friends who hear of the work. When new furniture is damaged during shipment to Montag's and the manufacturer does not want it returned, it is written off and Earl and I collect it. When used furniture is available, we collect it as well. A cabinet, originally part of an entertainment center, is shown here. Crown and side molding were cut to



match the shape of existing molding on two sides, then stained to match (with a lot of help from Steve Meckly). About a year ago we repaired three large mirrors and held a silent auction at our church, Sharonville UMC, where we made \$750 for JAM. Again, the Montag Furniture Mall supplied the mirrors. Recently a friend of ours connected us to two persons who were moving from their homes into retirement



centers and willing to donate furniture not wanted by their families to JAM. We took two 16-foot rental trucks full of things to JAM. Now we have a beautiful cherry bedroom suite from Montag's with modest damage that will go into another silent auction along with a table that needs legs, a dresser, two chests of drawers, a chair, a pie safe, a night



stand and three mirrors that will get repaired and make the trip east.

We get the opportunity to make a small difference and learn a lot of new skills in the shop – matching finish color and gloss is just one. We would welcome any of the CWC members to join us, either literally, or on their own, to support the Jackson Area Ministries. You can reach me at home, 513-683-0338, or through Sharonville UMC, 563-0117.

Ken Koch