

## The Response

The Beth's response strategy addresses nine ministry elements\* by focusing on **three key areas** of ministries and programs: **Spiritual Development, Education** and **Economics**.

Everything the Bethlehem Center does includes **Spiritual Development** and normally one or both of the other two focus areas. **But why focus on these three areas? Because...**

- ◆ **Spiritual development** is essential to the inner transformation of people's hearts.
- ◆ **Education** replaces the hopelessness and fear embodied in ignorance with the empowering hope and courage arising from knowledge.
- ◆ **Economic empowerment** transforms people and families from a state of dependency and consumption to a state of self-sufficiency and production.

**More...**



**Each of the Bethlehem Center's focus areas is essential in transforming people and communities from brokenness to wholeness.**

## About the Beth

The Bethlehem Center is a non-profit, faith-based agency providing educational, economic, spiritual development, and other social services to low-income families and people of all ages in the inner city of Chattanooga.

### Our Mission

**“We are God’s people, called to empower inner-city youth and families to model responsible behavior through discipleship, education and leadership development.”**



2009 Bethlehem "V-TEAM" Summer Literacy & Leadership Academy

### Bethlehem Center

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# BETHLEHEM



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**Transformations  
for Whole  
Communities**  
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**CFC # 95275**

## The Needs

The Beth serves a **community in transition**.

- ◆ Low to moderate income homes
- ◆ Below average reading level in some schools
- ◆ Low to moderate employment income levels



More than half the households in the community are **well below federal poverty standards**.

**Employment** opportunities for residents are virtually **non-existent** within community boundaries.

Childcare, transportation and education are major **barriers to adult employment** elsewhere in Chattanooga.

The entire community, including the large, relocated population of McCallie Homes is undergoing an extended period of unprecedented **disruption, stress, and turmoil** associated with a major community revitalization project.



[The Villages at Alton Park](#)

# Three Ministry and Program Focus Areas

## 1. Spiritual Development



The core objective of the Bethlehem Center is to share—through service and action—**God’s promise of abundant life** for His people. People need hope, but people in despair also need something to hang onto while hope finds its way into their lives. The **Beth offers “hope with handles”** by combining God’s promise with **empowering ministries** that give people the tools and means to **change their own lives and break free** of the despair of poverty and hopelessness.

- ◆ **Bible classes and worship sponsored by local churches**
- ◆ **Progress Toward Wholeness” Tours** — Community Outreach Programs consisting of Gospel Concerts, messages of hope and Missions for change.

## 2. Education / Literacy

The primary goal of the Beth’s education programs is to **cause dramatic, positive changes in the lives of children** trapped in situations of poverty, illiteracy, violence, substance abuse, brokenness, and hopelessness through no fault of their own. The secondary goal is to **provide older youth and adults with “second chances”** to make the same dramatic and positive changes in their lives. The Beth serves all students in the inner city—regardless of the school they attend, public or private—with educational ministries to equip them for success and fulfillment in life.

- ◆ **Bethlehem Literacy and Leadership Academy (After School Program)** – an intensive, year-around literacy development experience for inner city youth, emphasizing reading, academics and character development.

- ◆ **Bethlehem Literacy and Leadership Academy (Summer Program)** – an intensive 6 week program offers six-weeks of literacy education for elementary and middle school boys and girls. Certified and highly dedicated educators focus on spelling, vocabulary, and overall comprehensive skills.



## 3. Leadership - The V-TEAM Leadership Academy

The V-Team Leadership Academy invites aspiring leaders ages 13 - 18 from our targeted demographics who are interested in improving their leadership skills to impact social change. The V-Team Leadership Academy is year-round, with emphasis during the summer, along with follow-up weekly and monthly meetings to track project assignments of each participant throughout their school year.

### Goals:

- .. Increase the number of **VOICES** with positive messages of HOPE
- .. Increase the number of youth to have a **VISION** for their future
- .. Highlight **VICTORIES** and increase success stories for a winner’s attitude
- .. Promote the benefits of being a part of a positive group

