

# Gleanings

MAY 2010



## Trapped In Fear

Mary was terrified if she was away from her mother's side for even a moment. She wanted her mom within reach at all times, even during the school day and throughout the night.

The other children made fun of Mary, taunting her lack of independence. But Mary was a captive to her fears and anxiety, and her mother didn't know how to help except to stay by her side. The situation seemed hopeless.

Mary's mother was exhausted and troubled. Like any healthy parent, she wanted to see her child lose her fear and dependence. She wished for so much more for her daughter.

## When Everything Changed

Not long ago, all of this changed when The Leaven reached out to Mary.

At the Leaven center, Mary began developing important character traits, including self-confidence. She kept track of her progress on a daily chart, until she earned enough points for one of The Leaven's many field trips – a visit to an ice cream shop.

To everyone's great delight, Mary felt brave enough with her new friends to go on the trip without her mom! You can just imagine Mary's happiness as she earned her reward and took a step toward independence, all at once.

Some might say this was just a small step, but for Mary, it represented a giant leap of courage, confidence, and freedom.

And this particular milestone came with a cherry on top

*(Continued on back)*



Photo by Cindy Ruffner Photography



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## Our May Project: Food for Children in Need

Mary and so many other kids from low-income neighborhoods are benefitting from The Leaven's programs that help children grow to their full potential. You, too, can help these children by providing nutritious food for our centers. Children who are hungry or living on a diet that is mostly junk food won't achieve their God-given potential. Your gift this month will help us have plenty of good-tasting, good-for-you food for the children this summer.

To give a special gift of \$5, \$10, \$15 or more to fill our cupboards with food for the kids, please visit [www.TheLeaven.info](http://www.TheLeaven.info).

## How Can You Pray For The Leaven?

Please make prayer for The Leaven a daily habit. Ask the Lord to guide and direct the families of our students through financial struggles, indecision, and personal struggles. Pray that God will equip our students and families to be people of trust and to live according to his plan for their lives.

## Freedom and Independence: Security For a Lifetime

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Mary has not been alone in her struggle. Children and families in low-income communities often share a sense of fear and distrust. To combat this trend, The Leaven dives in to show love, care, and compassion, while teaching the children to put their trust in the Lord.

Leaven staff and volunteers helped Mary find self-assurance, self-reliance in new situations, and self-discovery of her own capabilities. They are also teaching Mary and the other students to claim integrity as they pursue a trustworthy life.

II Timothy 1:7 promises us that "God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power, love, and self discipline." At The Leaven, we seek to empower children to overcome their fears and distrust, and to live in power and love—as God desires.



## I Can Make A Difference: Leslie Faye

As President of the Chamber of Commerce, Leslie Faye knows well the needs right here in our neighborhoods. In addition to her professional work, she wanted to make a personal, lasting investment in the community through a faith-based organization. Leslie chose to become a member of the Harvest Society, which gave her the opportunity to sponsor a child at The Leaven.

Leslie appreciates the many positive aspects about The Leaven, and she most deeply values our focus on responsibility, mentoring, and offering children the necessary extra attention they may not receive elsewhere. She believes that the children of The Leaven may become leaders in the community, and she is helping ensure that their leadership skills begin today.

It only costs \$25 a month to sponsor a child through The Leaven. Please join Leslie and many others in the Harvest Society by visiting [www.TheLeaven.info](http://www.TheLeaven.info) or by calling 707.422.KIDZ.



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