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An Evening to Remember

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mother who wants to do right but doesn't know how?" Prior to the events of June 2003, Rev. Hester played a central role in the establishment of the Benton Harbor Socrates Project, which involves Andrews University science, math and engineering faculty and students in mentoring Benton Harbor Area Schools students at three different sites in the city.

What Can You Do?

Andrews University has made and continues to make a significant impact on Benton Harbor. But challenges remain, more help is needed and alumni can become involved. Larry Ulery, director of the Andrews University Service Learning Center, believes that "a task force should be set up to determine how the Andrews community, including alumni, can be better neighbors not only in Benton Harbor but throughout southwest Michigan." Further, Ulery states that "our efforts in Benton Harbor can become more effective by having some central coordinating structure, that at the very least can allow communication between groups currently involved or planning to be involved in our extended community."

I support Ulery's view as a step towards Andrews University intentionally embracing and institutionalizing the two-part legacy of J. N. Andrews—scholarship and mission. One creative way to blend scholarship with faith and mission might include assigning students research projects on issues involving Benton Harbor, with class bonus points awarded for actually serving in the city. Faculty and staff could also collaborate with agencies and individuals in Benton Harbor to write grants and develop programs to provide internship and service opportunities for Andrews students.

Faculty might also arrange for Benton Harbor community leaders and business people to attend relevant classes on leadership, educational administration, and business management. Also, the university could play a role in establishing an Urban Renewal Scholarship Fund that would provide financial aid to deserving Benton Harbor High School students.

What can you do? Serve with humility. Serve with one agenda: to love as God loves us, unconditionally. Our service to others, including Benton Harbor, is a feeble, faltering thank offering for God's amazing grace. And as we set forth in generous service with a shared history and shared geography, Andrews University and Benton Harbor will also be inseparably united by the promise of a better day and a better place.

Desmond Murray, PhD, is assistant professor of chemistry at Andrews University. He is also editor of the *Benton Spirit Community Newspaper*.

People and Organizations Helping Benton Harbor

Support Citizens for Progressive Change, which addresses areas identified in the Task Force report. Contact Mrs. Rose Hunt-Redd, executive director, at (269) 925-2357.

Contact Larry Ulery, director of Andrews University Service Learning Center, at ulery@andrews.edu and (269) 471-3296, about potential community-service initiatives.

Support the *Benton Spirit Community Newspaper* through subscription, advertising, writing and submitting articles and news releases, volunteering your expertise and services in journalism, business, photography, and layout. Contact Princella Tobias at bentonspirit@aol.com and (269) 926-4241.

Support the Benton Harbor Socrates Project through donations of books, computers, science videos and funds to subsidize Andrews students' transportation costs. Alumni and retired Andrews employees who live in the area can volunteer as mentors in this after-school program. Contact Desmond Murray at murrayd@andrews.edu and (269) 471-6087.

Contact City Commissioner Etta Harper, (269) 926-4063, who is involved in establishing a family institute to proactively address many of the social ills in Benton Harbor.