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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

January X, 2011

**MERCY STREET EXPANDS MINISTRY LAUNCHING SECOND  
NON-TRADITIONAL CHURCH SERVICE  
NEAR DOWNTOWN HOUSTON**

***“Super Sunday” Community Kick-Off Event at The Council On Alcohol  
And Drugs Houston Auditorium on Sunday, February 6, 2011***

Houston (January X, 2011)—Mercy Street ([www.mercystreet.org](http://www.mercystreet.org)), a ministry of **Chapelwood United Methodist Church**, will expand its ministry and outreach into central Houston with the launch of a second service beginning **Sunday, February 6<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m. at The Council on Alcohol and Drugs Houston**, located at 303 Jackson Hill.

The football-themed **“Super Sunday” Community Kick-Off Event** invites people from all walks of life to “come-as-you-are” to a special pre-service gathering followed by Mercy Street’s trademark non-traditional church service designed “for people who hate church.” The service features live music, a message and more in a casual setting. A post-service party will include refreshments, live music, giveaways and the opportunity to interact with members of the community and Mercy Street ministry program.

“We’re excited to be able to expand our outreach into a new area of Houston,” said Gregg Taylor, Mercy Street pastor. “Our Saturday night service at our Greenbay church campus is well attended and has grown over the last 13 years, but our location is difficult to reach for individuals who don’t have transportation available. The Jackson

Hill location is centrally located and is easy to reach by public transportation, so we are looking forward to going into an area where we feel we can have an impact and bring our non-traditional, community-focused program to more people.”

Introduced in 1997, Mercy Street has expanded its following year after year, welcoming people from all walks of life through their doors. The program has been embraced by families, recovery programs, individuals who have struggled with their faith, those who have previously not experienced a relationship with God and many more.

“Our community reflects Houston’s diversity,” commented Taylor. “Our members include individuals from different religions and faiths, as well as those recovering from addictions or bad church experiences.”

The Mercy Street Jackson Hill location will continue with regular services every Sunday at 10:30 a.m. in the auditorium of The Council on Alcohol and Drugs Houston building.

Mercy Street’s mission is to create a safe harbor for the hurt, the lost, the seeking, so that we might experience the radical grace of God. Our community forms a mosaic of people diverse in experiences and backgrounds but common in a desire to seek a closer relationship with God. Many of our community members are involved in recovery from addictions or bad church experiences. Saturday night at Mercy Street Greenbay and Sunday mornings at Mercy Street Jackson Hill is filled with live music, authentic faith journeys and practical messages set in a casual “come-as-you-are” environment. We extend a gift of Christian community to everyone, no matter what faith, religion, addiction or experience. For more information, please visit [www.mercystreet.org](http://www.mercystreet.org).

**WHAT:        Mercy Street Jackson Hill Super Sunday Community Kick-Off Event**

**WHEN:        Sunday, February 6, 2011  
                  10 a.m.**

**WHERE:        Mercy Street Jackson Hill  
                  303 Jackson Hill  
                  Houston, Texas 77007  
                  713-354-4487**

**TICKETS:** *FREE event every Sunday*

**INFO:** For more information, visit [www.mercystreet.org](http://www.mercystreet.org).