



SHARINGS

Volume 2, Issue 3

Christian Service Center

July - September 2012

BAY AREA FOOD BANK HARD AT WORK

By Robbie Kecip

It's Wednesday morning and a full crew of volunteers staff the Food Pantry at the CSC. Wednesday is a heavy work day at the CSC; it's the Bay Area Food Bank delivery day.



Produce is donated from various grocery stores in Baldwin and Mobile Counties to the Food Bank in Theodore; which then is delivered to several agencies including the CSC in Gulf Shores. The CSC then shares their delivery with

several area food ministries.

When the call "The Methodist are here!" rings through the warehouse, that means that Reverend Richard Brooks and Tommy White from Morgan's Chapel United Methodist Church in Bon Secour have arrived. Bon Secour, a nearby fishing village, has suffered greatly because of the oil spill. In 2010, Swift Elementary School had the highest percentage of subsidized lunches in Baldwin County. Reverend Brooks credits the food the CSC shared with the Morgan's Chapel UMC with sparking the beginning of their food ministry. Church members now volunteer and contribute food and money to supplement the

CSC donation. He says, "You don't go wrong giving people groceries."

Mr. White says that we are "just a little small fishing village trying to take care of our own" and tells a story of the day the cookies ran out before a young boy could get any. A lot of people cried that day, and now Mrs. White and all the volunteers make sure there are always plenty of cookies and treats for the kids; the kinds of things that the family budget just doesn't stretch to cover.

Grace Lutheran member Earl Janssen says he retired to Gulf Shores to sit



L-R: Earl Janssen, Tommy White, and Rev. Richard Brooks

at the beach and relax, but he found a higher calling instead. Now he picks up donations to share with their small congregation. Mr. Janssen says that without the CSC donations, many of their congregation wouldn't eat. He loves to see the "joy in the eyes of the toddlers" when they get foods they don't get at home.

CHILDREN'S SUMMER FOOD PROGRAM

By Janice Moss

A Children's Supplemental Summer Food Program is being funded and implemented through the Christian Service Center this summer. The purpose is to extend the weekend "backpack" program of Gulf Shores and Orange Beach elementary schools, in which food is sent home on Fridays for the weekend.



(L-R) Robbie Kecip, Marinda Barbaree, Shirley Paulus, and Jane Hanners.

When school is out children who received breakfast and lunch at school and had weekend backpacks, lose that source of nutrition. To help fill the void, easy-to-prepare food for breakfast and lunch as well as a snack for four days is provided. An estimated 100 children are expected to

benefit from this supplemental food each week. The food is purchased through the Bay Area Food Bank.

Eligible families were identified by teachers and counselors at the schools. The program runs from the first week of June through the first week of August, with the food distributed weekly at the Center.

REFLECTIONS OF SERVICE TO COMMUNITY

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN



By Linda Chappelle

Anniversaries are a time for reflection so as I begin my eleventh year as your President, it's only natural to look back over those years to see how we have grown. Our continuing challenge has always been to meet the needs of families in times of crisis. Sometimes those needs have been overwhelming, sometimes heartbreaking, sometimes frustrating. But with the tremendous support from our



churches, many businesses, organizations and individuals, the work has continued and remains true to the mission set forth by the Pleasure Island Ministerial Association when it began the CSC initiative 21 years ago.

Sometimes numbers help tell the story. In our first full year of operation (1992) records show that we served 301 clients representing 744 individuals including 357 children. In our 20th year (2011), we served 2,170 clients representing 6,269 individuals. Of these, 2,486 were children.

So, as I think back over the ten years I've served as your President, it is always with gratitude for the opportunity to serve others in a meaningful way. It is with gratitude, too, that I think of each of the more than 200 volunteers who add their own unique skills to keep the many facets of this very busy organization running smoothly.



MEMORIAL GIFTS



LOIS BROWN

Bob Jones
Carolyn Vines
Jayne Mackey
Marion Williams

DR. WILLIAM NESSET

Patti Marra & Denise Trentham

LARRY RICE

Thomas Bruce
Rex & Kathleen Rice
Leon Royer

BRYAN VENN

Patti Marra & Denise Trentham

DOROTHY WORD

Patti Marra & Denise Trentham

CHRISTIAN SERVICE CENTER HAPPENINGS

Papa's Pizza Hosts Fundraiser



Papa's Pizza of Gulf Shores, owned by Chuck Webster, sponsored a special night for CSC friends and volunteers in late May with \$125 (a portion of the sales) being donated to the CSC. To illustrate how important this \$125 is, Food Pantry Chairman, Stan Moss, reports that the Center was able to purchase the following items that same week:

24 3 lb. hams	\$15.00
96 cans potatoes	21.60
96cans green beans	19.44
96 cans carrots	19.44
96 cans mixed fruit	19.44
72 1 lb. pkgs. rice	<u>32.55</u>
Total	\$127.47



Gulf Shores Elementary School Gives the CSC a "Souper Summer"

At the end of the school year, the Gulf Shores Elementary School held a "Souper Summer" food drive for the Christian Service Center. The drive (organized by the Student Council and the PTO) donated hundreds of canned goods to the Center.

Accepting the donations for the CSC are (L-R): Shirley Paulus, Toni Turner and Marinda Barbaree.

Camp Happy Sands

Twenty-seven smiling faces boarded a bus headed for Camp Happy Sands in early June. The week-long day camp is sponsored by Holy Spirit Episcopal Church which provides the financial support needed as well as food for the week. In its fifth year, this cooperative effort gives children identified by volunteers at the CSC an opportunity for a summer camp experience which includes swimming, games, crafts and nature activities.





Church

Grace

Lutheran Church



By Amy Pujol

Grace Lutheran Church, located at the corner of West 23rd Avenue and West 4th Street in Gulf Shores, is led by Pastor Jim Korzun. This Church recently celebrated its 10th Anniversary on December 4, 2011. For the past seven years, Grace Lutheran has hosted a Free Pancake Breakfast and Yard Sale to benefit the Christian Service Center. This year they provided over 500 free breakfast plates as well as raised \$1,825 for CSC. Grace also expects Thrivent Financial to make a monetary donation on their behalf based on funds raised.



(L-R) Joanie Moore and Bob Bergman present Pancake Breakfast proceeds check to Linda Chappelle, CSC President.

Grace Sunday School children got into the spirit of giving as well by participating in the nationwide Souper Bowl of Caring. After church service on Superbowl Sunday, the children collected donations in pots for either the New York Giants or New England Patriots. Members put their donations in the pot of the team they were rooting for. In all, the children were able to donate \$211 to the Center.

Sponsor

By Judie Flanigan



The GFWC Gulf Shores Woman's Club (GFWC) was chartered in 1948 and became federated in 1949. The club flower is the

Magnolia, the color is sand and the mascot is MaggieNolia.

In September, 1948, a group of ladies met at the home of Mrs. George Salley while their husbands were attending the area Lion's Club meeting. These women continued to meet during the winter months and decided to form a club led by Mrs. Salley. There were seventeen charter members which became an affiliate of the Alabama Federation of Women's Clubs in 1949, later becoming a part of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, a world-wide organization. One particularly proud accomplishment is that of being active in the formation of the Thomas B. Norton Library in Gulf Shores.

GSWC members continue to play an active role in the community by aiding several local agencies. Many members of the organization are volunteers at the Christian Service Center – some working both in the office and in the food pantry, as well as serving on committees and the Board of Directors. Among activities benefitting the Center, the Club is a regular sponsor of the annual Spaghetti Dinner. It also supports the Birthday Club and Christmas Cheer projects, and in recent years has made generous cash contributions to the Center as a result of its annual Style Show.

The Club's motto, "Unity in Diversity" guides the membership as it seeks to provide help to worthy organizations like the Christian Service Center in its service to the community.

Volunteers

By Sandy Fisher

Meet two of the busiest and most reliable volunteers at the CSC—Russ and Mary Jo Berver. Russ and Mary Jo retired to Gulf Shores from Oswego Il in October 1998. A year later they started their volunteer work at the CSC and haven't stopped since.

Mary Jo started at the Center as an Administrative Assistant and shortly thereafter was tapped to head



Team Berver: Russ and Mary Jo

the food pantry. Russ quickly became her second in command and together they ran the pantry for more than three years.

Russ became the Center treasurer in 2001 and currently serves as the assistant treasurer. He is also the treasurer for Meals on Wheels, a CSC sponsored program. Mary Jo volunteers as an administrative assistant three times a month and is always willing to step in to fill a vacancy.

Together Russ and Mary Jo started Christmas Cheer for the children who live within the CSC jurisdiction. This has evolved into a major program and Russ and Mary Jo now assist by interviewing parents who want to sign their children up for Christmas gifts. They also volunteer at the annual CSC Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser.

This pair does not limit their volunteering to CSC. They help at the Gulf Shores Convention Center twice a month and are active in the Gulf Shores United Methodist Church where Mary Jo is treasurer of their Wesleyan Sunday School class. Together they act as greeters at the early Sunday church service on a monthly basis.

To quote Mary Jo and Russ, "We volunteer because we believe in what the Center's mission is and feel truly blessed to be able to participate in that fulfillment."

It was a great day for the city, particularly the CSC, when Russ and Mary Jo decided to spend their retirement from Illinois in Gulf Shores.

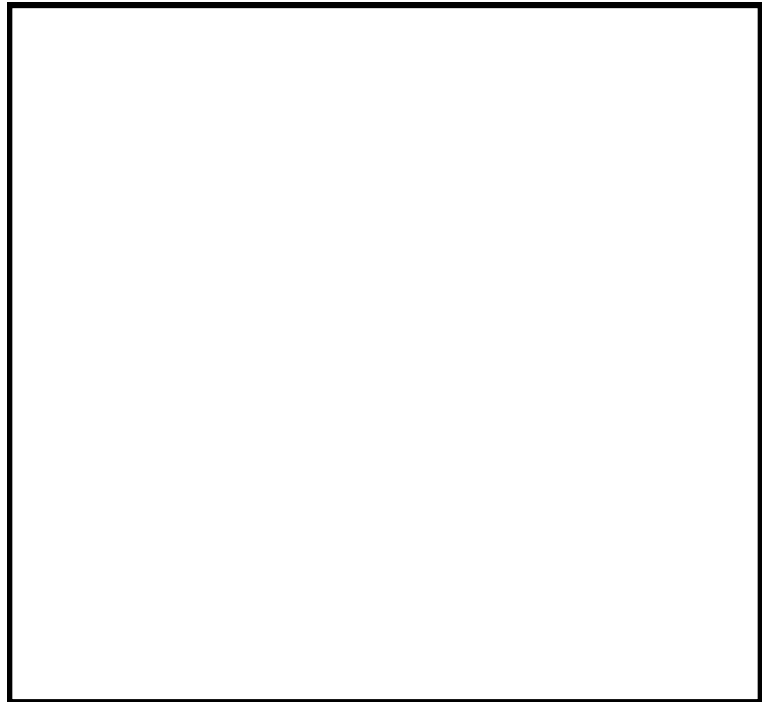
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If you prefer to receive the CSC Newsletter by email, please furnish your email address to cscenter@gulftel.com.

◆ THANKS! ◆



This issue of **CSC "Sharings"**
is sponsored by

Sissy and Judie Flanigan

in honor of

Father Robert Fulton

of Our Lady of the Gulf Catholic
Church on the occasion of his
50th Jubilee which was on
May 31, 2012.

◆ HELP! ◆

Christmas Cheer Angel Needed!



In order to fill the fondest wishes of the Center's youngest clients, a large vacant space (at no cost) is needed for November and December. This space will allow Santa's helpers to set up a "workshop" to store and organize toys for distribution at Christmastime. Last year, more than 700 children were served through the Christmas Cheer Program according to Mary Anne Bousquet, Children's Christmas Cheer Director. If you can help, call 251-968-5256.

◆ REPAIR BALDWIN ◆

By Rev. Steven Kurtz



Encouraged and partially funded by the Baldwin County Commission, a unique collaborative, **Repair Baldwin**, has been formed by several non-profit organizations in the County. In an effort to alleviate housing needs, its goal is to repair homes of low-income homeowners who cannot afford the repairs.

Several organizations including Eastern Shore Affordable Housing, Habitat for Humanity, Ecumenical Ministries, Inc., Community Action, County Churches, Baldwin Homebuilders Association, and the Baldwin Housing Alliance spent more than a year designing this ambitious, comprehensive, jointly-operated, county-wide home repair collaborative. The Christian Service Center Board of Directors recently voted to join this effort and will serve as a referral agency.

Additional information is available at <http://www.repairbaldwin.org/> or info@repairbaldwin.org.



CSC Installs 2012-2014 Officers

Rev. Deral Rollings of St. Jude by the Sea Lutheran Church installed CSC Executive Board Officers for a two-year term.

(L-R) Hope Becklund, Treasurer; Janice Moss, Vice President; Linda Chappelle, President and Mary Lee Harms, Secretary. Assistant Treasurer, Russ Berver is not pictured.