



SHARINGS

Volume 1, Issue 2

Christian Service Center

October - December 2011

CHILDREN'S SUMMER FOOD PROGRAM

By Janice Moss

Gulf Shores United Methodist Church was the Center's partner to extend, past the school year, the weekend "backpack" program for area elementary schools. Thanks to Project Rebound funding awarded to GSUMC, we were able to provide qualified children with easy to prepare foods for breakfast, lunch and



a snack for four days each week.

Eligible families were identified by teachers and counselors at Orange Beach and Gulf Shores elementary schools as well as Swift School. The program ran from mid-June

through the first week of August, with the food distributed weekly at these schools. Twenty volunteers worked to assemble and distribute the food bags. There was an average of 36 bags given out weekly in Orange Beach and Gulf Shores, while 40 bags were given out for three weeks at Swift School.

Parents were appreciative and thankful for the assistance.



*Amelia Fletcher,
GSUMC Director of
Servant Ministries and
Project Rebound*



By Mary Ann Bousquet

There are many programs at the Christian Service Center that are a real joy. Children's Christmas Cheer is one of these. The project begins with volunteers making paper

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS CHEER

angels. Once completed, these angels contain the age, gender and fondest wishes for Christmas gifts of each child whose parents have registered them in the program.

This registration begins in October and once completed, the angels are distributed to churches, businesses, and civic organizations with a request to help make a child's Christmas wish come true. Then, as the toys and gifts start coming in, the real fun begins. Volunteers get busy filling the wish lists of every registered child. Last year, 2,600 gifts were

provided for 655 children, not including the twenty-six used and refurbished bikes and the twenty-two new ones. There were thirteen churches, twenty-nine business or civic organizations, and several individuals who adopted specific families helping support the efforts of the forty volunteers who put in endless hours to make sure the children's Christmas wishes are fulfilled.

Experience has shown that wishes for the eleven year and older group are the hardest to fill. There is always a need for more purses, wallets, watches,

MP3 players, make-up kits, jewelry, and music gift certificates. The second greatest need is with the 0-2 age level. Needs for this group include toys with light and sound, small books (that a baby can hold), puzzles, building blocks, and other early learning toys.

The children have no idea how many "angels" it takes to give them a happy and memorable Christmas, but that doesn't matter because all the "angels" who help do so with a glow in their hearts and they are poised to do it again this year.

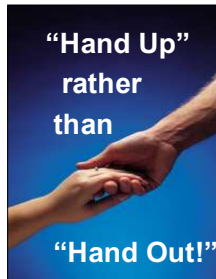
CSC "HAND UP" TO COMMUNITY

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN



By Linda Chappelle

The Christian Service Center is a "Hand Up" rather than a "Hand Out" Agency. This means that sometimes we act as a "Band Aid" while we try to show clients the way to a more permanent solution to their problems. The process begins with a caseworker assessing financial information provided by the client. Once the information is verified by checking income against expenses, the case worker will explore work history, family situation, and resources otherwise available to the client. When a true need is identified, we will provide limited emergency financial assistance with past



due rent or an overdue power bill for example. We also act as a referral agency to other resources such as Ozanam Charitable Pharmacy, the Health Department, the Area Agency on Aging, Department of Human Resources, and food stamps as well as mental health and Catholic Social Services for counseling. Often our client's expenses exceed their income, so we have to talk about tough choices such as moving in with family, moving to a less expensive residence, or moving back to a previous location in another area. Unfortunately, we see a lot of folks in the service industry who do well during tourist season but can't afford to live here the rest of the year on income from 20-30 hours of work a week. Project Rebound has been a life-saver since the oil spill, giving us much needed funds and providing counseling for our clients. This financial help has ended. One of our volunteers is a professional social worker to whom we may refer special needs clients for further

assessment. We also have case workers who will help with financial counseling. Many of our clients have more far-reaching problems than emergency aid and we try to do what we can to help them. Unfortunately, many of our clients suffer from psychosocial deprivation and are unable to function in what may be termed "normal" circumstances. We must be careful not to judge.

MEMORIAL GIFTS



DON MOORE

Jack & Louise Taylor
Tom & Barbara Giles
Jim & Jackie Dahlman
Gertrude Marra & Denise Trentham

MINDY MARIE WALKER

(Bibles)
Steve & Melanie Walker

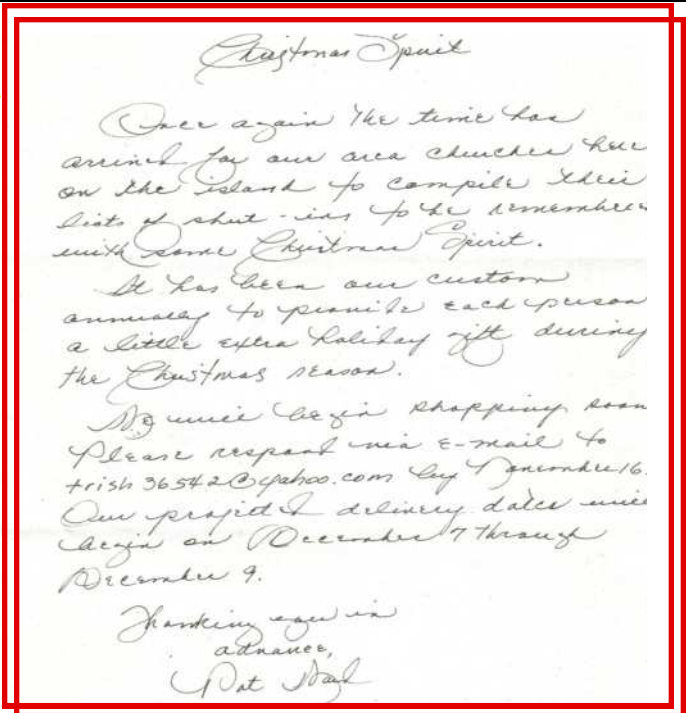
MEALS ON WHEELS



By Pat Campbell

The Gulf Shores Meals on Wheels (MOW) program provides hot nourishing meals five days a week for homebound persons unable to prepare their own meals. Not only do the volunteer drivers, (10 full-time and 10 substitutes) deliver to private residences, but they also deliver 12 meals to the GSUMC's DayBreak Senior Adult Day Care on Mondays and Wednesdays. Meals are also provided to individuals who are unable to pay for the

service. It is estimated that 536 meals are delivered in a month. There are three volunteers who are responsible for the smooth operation of this endeavor. They are Dolly Crewes, Wayne Villadson, & Russ Berver. If you are interested in becoming a substitute driver or know of someone who would benefit from this service, contact Dolly Crewes at 968-3634 and cell: 205-531-8374. For the Meals on Wheels in Orange Beach, call OBUMC at 981-6751.





By Sandy Fisher

Blessings abound at the Christian Service Center. Most obvious are the volunteers, the dedication of our leaders, and the support of Island churches, communities, schools, businesses, civic organizations and winter visitors. But there is one blessing we have that is just across the road –



Gulf Shores First Presbyterian Church.

Rev. Steven Kurtz, who is also President of the Pleasure Island Ministerial Association, and the church staff are always ready to help and to support the Center.



Rev. Steven Kurtz

Having their parking lot open to the volunteers is a definite blessing. It allows us to park in a safe place and to use the limited parking spaces at the Center for our clients, hopefully eliminating fender benders.

Every month the Church opens its doors for the CSC Board of Directors to meet, and yearly, the church hosts our annual In-Service training. Special committee meetings may also be held there, as well, when there is not enough room at the Center. While in the building, we are offered full use of the kitchen facilities. All of this is provided with no charge.

So, on behalf of all the CSC volunteers, a heartfelt thanks to the staff and members of Gulf Shores First Presbyterian Church for all that you do for the Center. We are truly blessed to have your support for the work we do.

Sponsors

By Jennifer Jackson

LongHorn Steakhouse, in Gulf Shores, has been a devoted supporter of the Christian Service Center since March 3,



2008, a few

days before the restaurant opened. They have donated 23, 153 total pounds of food since then, putting them at an average of 127 pounds per week for the 182 weeks of service. Most of the donations consist of rib-eye and prime rib trimmings, baked potatoes, sweet potatoes and bread. They have also donated whole cut fillets, NY strips and Rib-eye fillets, as well as chicken, fish, soups and sauces.

LongHorn is also a major contributor to our annual Spaghetti Dinner fund raiser. They donated 600 salads to each of the last two dinners, and have again offered to donate 600 more for the dinner in February, 2012. This donation is not only a food donation, but LongHorn employees must come in early to wash, cut and prepare the salad fixings.

Manager, Michael Pippin, says they are so happy to help the Christian Service Center make an impact on our local community, and



Michael Pippin, LongHorn Manager & Volunteer Stan Moss

they look forward to helping in any way they can.

The Christian Service Center is grateful for our partnership with LongHorn Steakhouse.

Volunteers

By Bill Martin

In our last newsletter, mention was made of the food donations given by Publix. Our many regular "Gleaners" make it possible for the Center to receive these donations. Gleaners who pick up weekly include volunteers Stan Moss, Tim Jackson, Rod Chappelle, Harriet and Joe Slaughter, Charles and Janice Runnels, Bob Owen, Tom and Mary LaHaye, and Merrill and Will Webb.

These volunteers arrive at the Publix grocery stores around 7:00 AM where they transfer the donated items

into large plastic containers (think heavy). They then deliver them to the Center. During the school year, school traffic may cause delay. Once at the Center, the containers are placed inside the building to sort and pack for the many agencies that distribute these goods to their clients. It should be noted that the pickup and handling of the donated food goes on rain or shine, hot or cold, every day of the year except Christmas.

There are also substitute drivers -



Rod Chappelle

Tom Gauntt and Terry Miller. Bill and Suzan Martin were substitutes for several years. In addition to our partnership with Publix, Stan Moss picks up meat and potatoes

from LongHorn Restaurant, Don Meghrebian picks up donated food from Barg'N Chevron, and various volunteers pick up from Pizza Hut and Lulu's Homeport as requested. Without the gleaners who donate their time, their vehicles, and the fuel required, the Center would not have these thousands of pounds of donated foodstuffs each year. Thank you to all present and past "Gleaners".

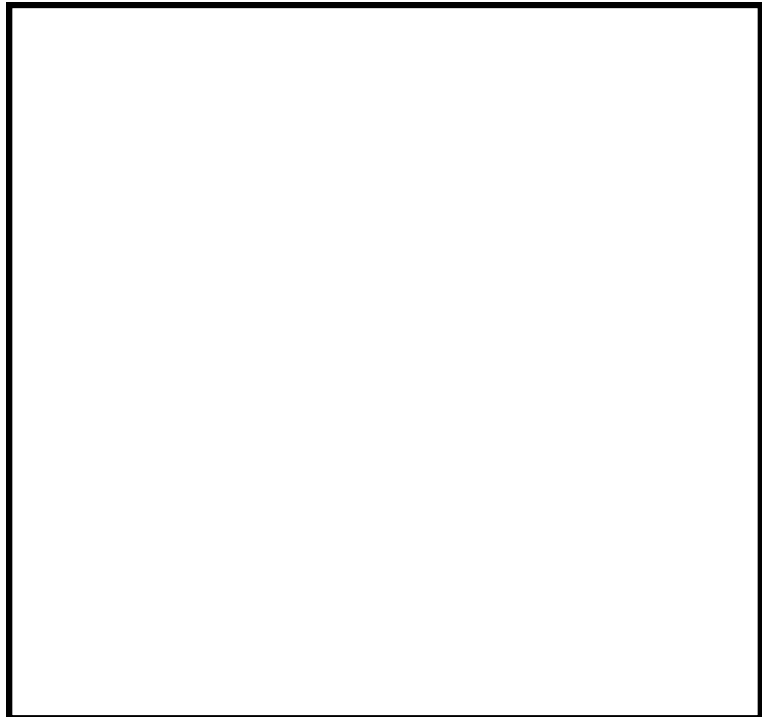
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If you prefer to receive the CSC Newsletter by email, please furnish your email address to cscenter@gulftel.com.

◆ CALENDAR OF EVENTS ◆

2011

October 10 - Board Meeting - Noon*
November 3 - GS Woman's
Club Style Show
November 14 - Board Meeting - Noon*
November 24, 25 - Office Closed
December - No Board Meeting
December 22, 23, 26, 27 - Office Closed
December 31 - New Year's Eve
Event - TBD

2012

January 2 - Office Closed
January 9 - Board Meeting - Noon*
January 16 - Office Closed In-Service
February 13 - Board Meeting - Noon*
February 21 - Office Closed-Mardi Gras
February 27 - Spaghetti Dinner
GSUMC Connections
March 12 - Board Meeting - Noon*

**Board Meetings are held at The
First Presbyterian Church of Gulf Shores.*

◆ WISH LIST ◆

General Needs

Adult bicycles
Color copier
Newsletter sponsor (approx. \$500. qrtly.)
Pink copy machine paper
White copy machine paper
HP 56 Black printing cartridges

Medical Needs

Wheel Chairs (in good condition)
Shower Chairs

Food Pantry Needs

Canned meat; i.e. tuna, chicken
Ramen noodles
Saltine crackers
Oatmeal (individual packets)
Grits (individual packets)
Boxed dinners; i.e. Hamburger Helper
Jelly – any flavor
Peanut butter
Mac and cheese
Plastic shopping bags
Bar soap
Shampoo
Toothbrushes & Toothpaste
Feminine hygiene products
Miscellaneous toiletries
Clothes detergent (small package)
Dish washing detergent (small package)
Disposable diapers
Baby wipes

Client's handwritten note of thanks!

To all of the wonderful and compassionate
people that make up Christian
Service Center.

You all will forever hold a
special place in my heart.
☺

You will never truly understand the gift that
you all gave me on June 13, 2011, I will never be
able to put into words how grateful I am.
I thank God for such a wonderful, caring,
loving group of people you are. Everytime I think
of you, my eyes fill with tears of joy. My
challenges aren't as heavy any more. My God
I am in awe of His grace and mercy and
how He uses His people. Thank you! I just
not strong enough for what you did, I am
eternally grateful!