



# SHARINGS

Volume 2, Issue 4

Christian Service Center

October - December 2012

## BAY AREA FOOD BANK SHARING GOD'S LOVE

By Robbie Kopic

The Bay Area Food Bank is a shining light to many residents of Gulf Shores and Orange Beach. And with the dedication of many CSC volunteers, this ministry is an important part of the CSC and its mission. Through this food bank, the CSC helps supply a number of food ministries in our service area. We wrote, in our last newsletter, of the great amount of produce that the Bay Area Food Bank supplies.

Produce isn't all the Center shares with the area food ministries. Publix donates their leftover bread to the CSC 363 days a year. Volunteers pick up bread at the Orange Beach and Gulf Shores Publix Supermarkets by 7am each day that Publix is open. Whatever the CSC cannot immediately use is divided and picked up by volunteers from many outreach groups. In addition to those mentioned in the previous newsletter, other groups included are: Youth Reach Christian Home, Foley Ecumenical Ministries, Robertsdale Catholic Social Services, Foley First Baptist



Volunteer Mary Lee Harms coordinates bread distribution.

Church, Gulf Shores United Methodist Church Bread Ministry, Alabama Sheriff's Boys Ranch, and Mary's Shelter. A loaf of bread is provided to Meals on Wheels recipients and desserts are provided for Daybreak Senior Adult Daycare at GSUMC.

The CSC can't forget the food pantry for their clients. Between January 1 and July 31, 2012, 728 families received food for 2,145 individuals. The produce and bread came

from the Bay Area Food Bank and Publix Supermarkets.

A comment frequently heard by volunteers running the various food ministries is that the recipients are embarrassed to be there. One volunteer was overheard telling a recipient that "this isn't charity; we are sharing God's love." So, every day there is a lot of coming and going from the CSC Food Pantry. We are busy "sharing God's love."



## CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS CHEER

By Mary Ann Bousquet

One of the most rewarding programs at the Christian Service Center has to be Children's Christmas Cheer. It is a program supported by local church congregations, businesses, schools and civic organizations which made it possible in 2011 for the CSC to give bags full of gifts to 714 of our

community's least-fortunate children. The approximate monetary value of the gifts can be translated to \$71,400. Yes, we are more than a little proud to be a part of such a caring community.

Each year these organizations request a number of angel ornaments. Each ornament has a gift request from a client's child. Each child may make three requests, although they will find more than they asked for on Christmas morning. Last year, over 2,000 angel request ornaments were distributed. Unfortu-

nately, not all of the angels given out resulted in a gift being returned so we are always looking for additional distribution points. Also, each year the number of families requesting help to give their children Christmas gifts has increased.

Children's Christmas Cheer registration begins October 16th and persons, businesses or organizations interested in helping to make a child's Christmas morning brighter are encouraged to contact the Center at 968-5256.

## "IT'S A BIG DEAL" DEPENDS ON . . . !

### PRESIDENT'S COLUMN



**By Linda Chappelle**

Knee surgery is not a big deal when you think of the big picture. But to me, it is a big deal. That's because it's happening to me. It's a big deal because I hurt, can't walk, have no balance, can't get out of chairs, have to depend on somebody else to do things for me that I'd normally be able to do for myself – like fix my own food or drive myself to physical therapy. And, it's a big deal because it's expensive.

All of this has made me think about our clients and the issues facing them. For example, being cut back from 40 hours' work per week to say, 20 hours per week is a big deal. It's especially hard when you are already doing your best to make ends meet – to buy groceries, to keep a

roof over your family's head, to be able to pay the power bill. All of these are big deals when it becomes personal. And that's not saying anything about unexpected expenses like medical emergencies when there is no health insurance or much needed repairs to the car so you can just get to work to put in those 20 or so hours.

Or, how about the grandmother, living on a fixed income, who is suddenly faced with taking care of two school age children because their parents can no longer do so?

All this is to say, when it's not happening to us **personally**, it's not a big deal. But, at the CSC, it becomes personal; it is a big deal! That's why we exist – to help ease the helpless, frustrating, exhausting situations facing clients caught in circumstances beyond their control. So, as I am going through this process called knee surgery, it has caused me to have a new appreciation for the work we do and for the many volunteers who recognize that the big picture is made up of smaller vignettes each having a story of their own – each one personal.

### MEMORIAL GIFTS



**BERNARD 'BERNIE' HEINRICH**

Ellie Heinrich

**LUCILLE KENNON**

Alabama Gulf Coast Chamber of Commerce

David & Helen Czachurski

Ernest & Caroline Mothershed

Herbert & Bessie Malone

John & Ernestine Hulen

Kathy & Horst Schapals

Marvin & Mary Hough

P.R. & Jeanie Daugherty

Pedro Mandoki

Robert & Judith Williams

Sol & Dot Clarke Fleming, Jr.

University of South Alabama

Kaiser Realty

Richard & Rhonda Vickers

Mystical Order Treasures or the Isle

Kathryn A. Scheldt

Philip L. & Connie Baker

**FRED WANNINGER**

Robbie Kecip

## LIONS CLUB HELPS



"Whenever a Lions Club gets together, problems get smaller. And communities get better," is the mantra of Lions Club International.

To that end, the Orange Beach Lions Club has been a regular supporter of the CSC. Recently, Club President Alyson Hinson presented the Center with a check and continued their history of service to the communities of Gulf Shores, Fort Morgan and Orange Beach. Receiving the check for the Center is Charles Larrimore, Lions Club member and CSC volunteer.

## TEAM STYLE IS BORN



(L-R) Karen Jackson, Heather Brown, Katie Weldon, Deborah Davis, salon owner, Ashley Dunn, Charlene McCardle, Lindsay Randles

Team STYLE (Stylists Teaching Youth Love and Education) at Reflexions Hair Salon gifts CSC child clients with hairstyles at Christmas and back-to-school time. Three years ago during the oil spill - business was down, folks were sad and feeling the pinch. The stylists at Reflexions wanted to help the community, but like many others extra money was hard to come by. Owner, Deborah Davis, said they decided, "We may not have money to give, but we can cut hair" and Team STYLE was born. When youths come into the salon, they are given a goodie bag with a new toothbrush, comb and hairbrush along with loving words and hygiene education.





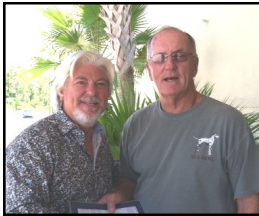
## Church



By Janice Moss

Christian Life Church (OB) proudly partners with the Christian Service Center to serve families in need in Gulf Shores and Orange Beach.

In July CLC focused on stocking the shelves of the Food Pantry, providing a large quantity of nonperishable food as well as a \$2,000 donation. At Christmas the church joins with the CSC's Christmas



(L-R) Pastor Fred Franks Stan Moss, Food Pantry Chairman

Cheer program providing gifts to area children. The Adults in Action group also makes an annual contribution to the Christmas program. At CLC's annual missions event, the CSC is featured as a local mission. Several members of the congregation are regular volunteers at the Center.

The CLC Share Stuff Store is currently putting a voucher system in place so that CSC clients may go there for needed clothing and household goods at no cost.

Pastor Fred Franks says, "CSC is a vital ministry helping to show the love of Christ in practical ways to our community."

## HONOR GIFTS

**FATHER ROBERT FULTON**  
**50<sup>TH</sup> JUBILEE**  
Our Lady of the  
Gulf Catholic Church

**JIM & MARY CLAIRE DOVER**  
Pamela J. Engstrom  
Thomas J. Caruso

## Sponsor



By Kay Palmer

David Janettas, owner of Airport Safe Storage, has long been a generous friend and supporter of the CSC.

Several years ago, when the Center was remodeled so that two more offices to see clients could be created, David inquired if we needed office furniture or file cabinets. We certainly did but had no place to store them until the project was completed. Instead of opening a storage space he could rent out, David stored all we needed until we were ready to house them. Thanks to David, the two offices were furnished with desks and chairs, chairs were added to the reception area and four large file cabinets now hold old files and records that we used to keep in paper boxes. These were generous gifts to the Center.

Again, Airport Safe Storage came to the CSC's aid last winter when we lost the use of the space where extra toys for Christmas Cheer and the Birthday Club were stored. When asked, David Janettas generously donated a climate controlled storage unit so all the toys had a safe home.

The CSCenter really appreciates all the assistance it has received from this very generous local business and businessman. A Big Thank You to Airport Safe Storage and David Janettas.

## Volunteer

"How in the world does she do it?" That's a natural question when one learns that Mary Ann Bousquet coordinates two of the Center's major events – Children's Christmas Cheer and the annual Spaghetti Dinner – every year.

Certainly, her organizational skills and self-discipline are key factors in managing these back-to-back events.

Perhaps, too, her thirty-three years as an educator - first as an elementary school teacher for eight years, and then as a high school English, Speech and Drama teacher for another twenty-five years also contribute to her success.

Retiring to the area from Wisconsin ten years ago, Mary Ann quickly became involved in the community. As she met other CSC volunteers she became intrigued with the work of the organization and began giving her own time to meet its challenges. Believing that time is the greatest gift we've been given, she is loath to waste it. And, she believes that the greatest gift you can give someone else is your time.

Mary Ann met her husband, Ron, at Marquette University and soon discovered they have the same birthday (he being one hour older than she).

They are the parents of three children, a daughter and two sons. Their daughter and one son still live in Wisconsin while the other son lives in Louisiana. Their four grandchildren range in ages from four to fourteen.



Mary Ann Bousquet

With grandchildren far away during the Christmas season, Mary Ann finds that coordinating Children's Christmas Cheer helps fill the void of not being with them at that time.

She describes herself as one who is happiest when she is busiest and considers that being trusted to work with Christmas Cheer and the Spaghetti Dinner as a real blessing. While she also appreciates the opportunity to meet and work with truly remarkable people who she says constantly inspire her, Mary Ann should know that she, too, is considered remarkable and an inspiration to the many people with whom she interacts through her work with the Center.

## CHRISTIAN SERVICE CENTER

317 Dolphin Avenue  
Post Office Box 882  
Gulf Shores, AL 36547

Telephone: 251-968-5256  
Email: [csceneter@gulftel.com](mailto:csceneter@gulftel.com)  
Fax: 251-968-5252



WWW.CSCGS.COM



If you prefer to receive the CSC Newsletter by email, please furnish your email address to [csceneter@gulftel.com](mailto:csceneter@gulftel.com).

### ◆ Calendar of Events ◆

#### OCTOBER

8 - Board Meeting - Noon\*

#### NOVEMBER

4 - 4th Annual Harvest Festival of Gifts at GSUMC for MDO  
12 - Board Meeting - Noon\*  
22 & 23 - Office Closed - Thanksgiving  
27 - Sacred Heart Mission in Motion at 1st Presbyterian Church of Gulf Shores

#### DECEMBER

No Board Meeting  
24 thru 28 - Office Closed - Christmas  
31 - Office Closed - New Year's Eve  
31 - New Years Eve Bash with Brent Burns

#### JANUARY -2013

1 - Office Closed  
2 - Office Reopens  
14 - Board Meeting - Noon\*  
21 - Office Closed - In-service

#### FEBRUARY

11 - Board Meeting - Noon\*  
12 - Office Closed - Mardi Gras  
18 - Spaghetti Dinner - GSUMC Building B

#### MARCH

11 - Board Meeting - Noon\*  
29 - Office Closed - Good Friday

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

### ◆ WE GET THANKS ◆

8/1/12  
Dear Christian Services Center,  
I received assistance last month from CSC and would like to say "Thank You!" for all you did to help. Your assistance made it possible for me to cover the water and electric bills and, feed my family during this time. I don't know what I would have done without you. I received my first paycheck today from the job I started on July 2nd. I am looking for additional work and believe God will provide. It is difficult to raise a family of five in these hard economic times, however, I keep the faith that the Lord will see us through. If and when I am able, I will remember your help and hopefully return the favor one day. Thank you.  
God bless you,



### ◆ WISH LIST ◆

#### General Needs

Adult Bicycles  
Pink Copy Paper  
White Copy Paper  
HP 56 Black Printing Cartridges  
Newsletter Sponsor - \$500 per quarter

#### Medical Needs

Wheel Chairs (in good condition)

#### Food Pantry Needs

Stove Top Stuffing (or store brand)  
Turkey Gravy  
Canned Cranberry Sauce  
Canned Sweet Potatoes  
Canned Green Beans  
Canned Meat; ie Tuna, Chicken  
Ramen Noodles  
Saltine Crackers  
Cereal  
Oatmeal (individual packets)  
Grits (individual packets)  
Boxed Dinners; ie 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

