



SHARINGS

Volume 3, Issue 4

Christian Service Center

October - December 2013

WISEHOPE: COORDINATING EFFORTS

By Mary Lee Harms

Often found sitting in the back room with file folders surrounding her, a volunteer is sitting at a computer.



She doesn't greet clients, doesn't make decisions about client needs, nor does she hand out food. She inputs information into a computer database on

each client the Christian Service Center helps. It's time-consuming, detail oriented, and a valuable asset these volunteers contribute to the Center.

Our computer program is WiseHope, a benevolence software program created for organizations to view needs of agencies charged with helping needy and poor in their community. It was established in June,



2009, as a direct result of speaking with Benevolence Leaders who saw a need for accountability and communication within the community of assistance organizations. WiseHope has over 146,000 names in its database from Kentucky to Texas, covering a large area of the South Baldwin County. WiseHope particularly helps

the CSC as a means to share information with other area non-profit help-up organizations in Southern Baldwin County.

Presently, there are eight of us inputting this data. We enter the giving of gifts, services, sharing of resources, alerts, and communication of vital information. This includes how many individuals per family receive food, how much money we give for utilities, rent, and other needs, and the names of all the individuals in the family unit, among other data. And, sadly, this program helps recognize individuals who seek to abuse or undermine our giving.

Basic computer literacy is all that is required. These volunteers don't get a lot of attention, work on their own, and are invaluable to the CSC.



JUST AROUND THE CORNER CHRISTMAS CHEER

By Mary Ann Bousquet

In 2012, Children's Christmas Cheer served 738 children a memorable and toy-filled Christmas. Each year we are asked to serve even more needy children in our area - somehow we do it! We couldn't without the generosity of both individuals and companies alike. Bless you for



your Christmas Cheer support in the past. Hopefully you and your company will consider helping us financially to make these children's Christmas dreams of 2013 a reality.



CHRISTMAS SPIRIT

By Hope Becklund

Once again, the time has arrived for our area churches to compile their lists of shut-ins to be remembered with some Christmas Spirit. It has been our custom to annually provide each person with a little extra holiday gift during the Christmas season. We have completed our shopping for this season and we are very excited about the gifts that we will be providing.



**CAMP
HAPPY SANDS**

By Kay Palmer

Swimming, crafts, games and nature activities made up a week-long adventure for over 30 children

at Camp Happy Sands this summer. Identified by Christian Service Center volunteers, the children boarded a bus at the Center each morning for the day camp which has been funded by Holy Spirit Episcopal Church for the past six years.

The Camp's location is on Johnson's Beach just across the Florida line and was founded in the early 1960's by Ida Roose. Along with traditional camp experiences, this camp also included activities which contribute to the development of good character, core values and group dynamics in a faith based environment.

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN



Linda Chappelle

For the past 22 years, the Christian Service Center has been instrumental in meeting the emergency needs of people in Coastal Alabama. Founded in June of 1991 to carry out the message in the parable of the Good Samaritan, CSC has met the emergency needs of over 54,700 people. So far this year, we have helped 2,764 individuals with food, financial assistance and guidance.

Our Food Pantry is the largest on the Alabama Coast and is supported by donations of food and funds from local churches, businesses and individuals in the Gulf Shores-Orange Beach area. This year, we have been able to supply food for a week to 2,234 people. That's 46,914 meals.

In addition to food, the Center has given over \$96,000 to help families with living expenses in emergency situations. And, the beauty of it all is that it's done totally with volunteers – over 200 of them.

You, too, can be a volunteer through your service or through donations of food or funds to the Christian Service Center where all of your donations get to the cause. Let CSC help you be a Good Samaritan to those in need.

Volunteers

Many will be shocked to find
When the day of judgment nears
That there's a special place in heaven
Set aside for volunteers.

Furnished with big recliners,
Satin couches and footstools,
When there's no committee chairmen,
No group leaders or car pools.

No eager team that needs a coach,
No bazaar and no bake sale,
There will be nothing to staple,
Not one thing to fold or mail.
Telephone list will be outlawed,
But a finger snap will bring
Cool drinks and gourmet dinners
And treats fit for a king.

You ask, "Who'll serve these privileged few
And work for all they're worth?"
Why, all these who reaped the benefits
And not once volunteered on Earth.

~ Copied



PARTNERS IN ACTION

CHICO'S



Chico's opened its doors to help the CSC on July 27, when it donated 10% of all sales during the 4-8 pm time period. Giving back to the community it serves is not unusual for Chico's according to store manager, Rhonda Clifford. They participate in several national campaigns including support for Children's Miracle Network and National Network to End Domestic Violence. Pictured (l-r): Janice Wilcox, Pati Marra and Mary O'Day.

Team STYLE



Continuing a tradition begun four years ago, Team STYLE of Reflexions Hair Salon, once again provided hairstyles for students identified by CSC staff as they entered a new school year. Owner Deborah Davis estimates that close to 300 haircuts have been provided during this time which also includes new haircuts for children at Christmastime. Pictured (l-r) front row: Heather Smith, Heather Brown, Lindsay Randles, & Katie Weldon; back row: Deborah Davis and Karen Jackson.

Sunny 105

CSC President Linda Chappelle received a generous check from Sunny 105's owner Lee Hagan and Kevin Keith, Sunny 105 program director. Keith chose the CSC as his charity when he won a recent contest sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce and Waterville. He had joined five other local personalities to race to the bottom of the chute in Waterville's newest attraction, the Dune Racer.

LongHorn Steakhouse



Another generous monetary contribution from LongHorn Steakhouse is an expression of the Darden Restaurant group's commitment to be a positive force in the communities it serves. In this photo Gulf Shores Restaurant Manager, Michael Pippin is shown presenting the latest donation to CSC President, Linda Chappelle. Additional contributions include an average of 128 pounds of food items per week since March, 2008. Food donations consist of rib-eye and prime rib trimmings, baked potatoes, sweet potatoes, bread, chicken, fish, soups and sauces. And, LongHorn has provided salads for the annual Spaghetti Dinner since 2011.

Grant, Sanders, & Taylor



Toni Turner (left), Christian Service Center volunteer for over 10 years, accepts a generous donation from Matt Taylor who is with Grant, Sanders, and Taylor, Certified Public Accountants.





Church



By Betty Ingram

"Love God. Love One Another." These are words on a sign at Peace Lutheran Church, which sits just off the Foley Beach Express. These are not just words, though. They are the credo and the command for this congregation.

Peace Lutheran, a Lutheran Church in Mission for Christ (LCMC) congregation, is only ten years old, having begun with just seven members. Today, the church has about 80 full time resident members and many, many more winter visitor members and friends. From meeting in a community theater and later in a house on property purchased by the church to now worshipping and working in a beautiful new building opened in 2011, the Peace family has put its faith into action in the community in many innovative ways.

Peace has worked closely with Christian Service Center over the years to serve those who need help. Member Stan Lieser is Assistant Food Pantry chairman for the Center; and his wife, Joan, is a caseworker. Esther Nance is Peace's CSC Board representative.

One ministry of the Peace family is the school uniform and school supply program, begun in 2008, and now has provided school uniforms and school supplies to more than 8,000 children in Baldwin County. Christian Service Center is one of the most active referral sources for this program.

The Rev. Michael Bonham recently celebrated his tenth anniversary as the beloved Pastor of Peace Lutheran Church. Pr. Bonham is always in the trenches with the congregation when help is needed in the community.

This is a congregation that puts faith into action. Love God. Love One Another - more than just words on a sign.

Partner

WILDFLOWERS BOUTIQUE

By Janice Moss

Terri Long and daughter, Candice Osborne, owners of Wildflowers Boutique in Orange Beach, have long been strong supporters of the Christian Service Center.

Five years ago they learned of the Center's Christmas Cheer program for children and joined in with great enthusiasm to gather toys for area children. Wildflowers became the drop-off point for toys and several hundred have been contributed each year.

In addition to their own commitment, they have influenced other businesses and organizations to get involved in the effort including "Locals Night in Orange Beach" and Mirams.

Through Terri and Candice singing the praises of CSC, several individuals have hosted parties to which guests brought toys. Upon learning of the need, another kind person was motivated to pay the power bill of a single parent client.

Full of creative ideas, the mother/daughter team is currently planning a food drive for the Food Pantry as well as a fashion show to benefit Christmas Cheer. They invite you to follow Wildflowers on Facebook for upcoming events involving CSC.



Terri and Candice are true friends and great partners with the Christian Service Center. Thank you, Terri and Candice, for your continued support and commitment to help the Center be a "hand up" for families and individuals in need in our community.

Volunteer

STAN LIESER

By Bebe Gauntt



While working as a general contractor in Oklahoma, Stan Lieser and wife, Joan, began looking for a place to retire. After visiting in multiple states and cities over a span of five years, they decided to make their home in Foley. Four and a half-years later both Stan and Joan have a busy life volunteering at the Christian Service Center, being active in their church, Peace Lutheran, and their community.

Stan, who obviously enjoys being busy, works four days a week at the CSC. He is the Assistant Food Pantry Chairman, handles the recycling of cans from the First Presbyterian Church, picks up food from Winn-Dixie and Longhorn Steakhouse, and also helps sort food for distribution to the churches. Being a jack-of-all-trades, Stan also helps with the maintenance of the center.

Stan says he and Joan, who is a caseworker at the Center, between them have 9 children living in 8 states. There is always someone to visit when time permits. Even with his busy schedule, Stan enjoys bike riding, reading, working puzzles and church activities.

Having volunteered with many different groups over the years, Stan says the Christian Service Center gets high marks for being a great organization. He says the Center volunteers always go out of their way to help people. He said, "I enjoy doing the Lord's work by serving people, and that's what we're doing at the Christian Service Center."

CHRISTIAN SERVICE CENTER

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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 ◆

OCTOBER

- 14 - Board Meeting - Noon*
- 18 - Pizza Hut Fundraiser
- 30 - Food Drop

NOVEMBER

- 7 - Wildflowers Fashion Show at Fishers
- 11 - Board Meeting - Noon*
- 19 - Mission in Motion 9 - 11:30 am
Flu Shots
- 28-29 - Office Closed - Thanksgiving

DECEMBER

- No Board Meeting
- 18 - Christmas Cheer Toy Distribution
- 23-27 - Office Closed - Christmas
- 31 - New Year's Eve Bash with Brent Burns

JANUARY

- Office reopens January 2, 2014
- 13 - Board Meeting - Noon*
- 20 - Office Closed - In Service

FEBRUARY

- 10 - Board Meeting - Noon*
- 22 - Annual Free Pancake Breakfast &
Giant Yard Sale - Grace Lutheran Church
491 West 23rd Avenue, Gulf Shores
- 24 - CSC Spaghetti Dinner - GSUMC

MARCH

- 4 - Office Closed - Mardi Gras
- 10 - Board Meeting - Noon

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

◆ GIFTS ◆

MEMORIAL GIFTS

RICHARD CROWER

Mildred Crower
Kyle & Betty Gay
Ann Louise Polaron
Jeff & Darcy Rittich
Margaret Walker

HONORARIUMS

DOUG EZELL

William & Beverly Dozier

REV. GEORGE MEYERS

Fred & Pat Faulkenberry

Thanks!

**PRINTING
ZONE**

"We Don't Just Make Copies - We Make Friends"
for your generous contribution
to the CSC newsletter.

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◆ WISH LIST ◆

General Needs

- Adult Bicycles
- White Copy Paper
- HP 56 Black Printing Cartridges
- Newsletter Sponsor - Appr. \$500 per qtr.

Medical Needs

- Wheel Chairs (in good condition)

Food Pantry Needs

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

