



SHARINGS

Volume 1, Issue 1

Christian Service Center

July-September 2011

CSC CELEBRATES 20 YEARS



Gulf Shores Mayor Robert Craft, CSC President Linda Chappelle, and Orange Beach Mayor Tony Kennon

"It is with great joy that I stand before you on this 20th Anniversary of the Christian Service Center," said Rev. Deral Rollings of St. Jude's by the Sea Lutheran Church. Speaking during the celebration on Thursday, June 16th, Rev. Rollings recounted a lunch conversation with Rev. George Meyers, former pastor of Gulf Shores First Baptist Church and Rev. Charles Sims, pastor of Gulf Shores First Presbyterian Church.

The three pastors, during the summer of 1988, formed the

Pleasure Island Ministers Association with two goals in mind. One goal was to unite churches to recognize important dates for the Christian community, and the other goal was to form a united group of congregations and individuals to help with the social needs of residents in the area. From this



Lois Brown

initial meeting, the CSC officially began its work on June 17, 1991.

Pleasure Island Mayors Robert Craft of Gulf Shores and Tony Kennon of Orange Beach were on hand to present the Proclamations from their respective City Councils declaring June 17, 2011, as Christian Service Center Day. Upon accepting the Proclamations, CSC President Linda Chappelle thanked the mayors on behalf of the more than 200 volunteers who work year-round to provide hope for families in crisis situations. Chappelle shared with attendees that over the past twenty years, the CSC has served 16,288 clients or 42,469 individuals. The Center serves all people regardless of race, creed, nationality or gender.

Chappelle also acknowledged leaders from the past who made the Center a reality. Early leaders in attendance at the Celebration were Rev. Deral Rollings; Rev. George Meyers; Sister Patricia Langan of Catholic Social Services; Lois Brown, the Center's first Treasurer who served for 13 years; and Chan

West, who has continued her volunteer service since the Center's opening.



Rev. George Meyers

The event, hosted by the Pleasure Island Ministers Association, featured a *Litany of Thanksgiving* introduced by Rev. Steven Kurtz, President of the Association and Pastor of Gulf



Sister Patricia Langan and Rev. Deral Rollings

Shores First Presbyterian Church. Also taking part in the Litany and celebration were many of the pastors from the Association.

CSC IN EXISTENCE FOR 20 YEARS

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN



By Linda Chappelle

As of June 17, 2011, the Christian Service Center (CSC) has been in existence for 20 years. It was a vision of the Pleasure Island Ministerial Association to provide food and emergency needs for the residents of Gulf Shores, Orange Beach, and Fort Morgan. In 1991, our first six months in operation brought in 170 clients representing 420 individuals. In 2010, we saw 1,718 clients representing 5,052 individuals.

Beginning in a store-front Sunday School Room provided by Gulf Shores United Methodist Church, the CSC has since expanded into a permanent home on Dolphin Avenue. This home includes private offices for

client interviews and an accessory building which houses the food pantry, a medical equipment closet, and space to accommodate gifts for children on their birthdays as well as Christmas.

With over 200 volunteers to provide the services made possible by churches, individuals, and businesses along with clubs and organizations in our communities, the Center is a virtual beehive of activity. As might be expected, a dramatic increase in needs was created by Hurricanes Ivan and Katrina, followed by a down-turn in the economy and more recently, the Gulf Oil Spill.

As needs have grown, so have our services and we are constantly looking for additional resources to help our clients by giving a "Hand Up" rather than a "Hand Out".

The community has always come forth to help the CSC provide for needs as they occur, and we know we must rely on that support as we continue to evolve to meet the changing needs of our community.

MEMORIAL GIFTS



DUKE ROBINSON

by Judie & Sissy Flanigan

NEDRA WEST

by Karen & Charles Brown

MINDY MARIE WALKER (Bibles)

by Steve & Melanie Walker

DORIS PILGREEN

by Jean & Ed Cicci

WILLIAM COVEY

by John & Elizabeth Sherk

ANNA BOYKIN

by Eula Myers

EVELYN GREEN

by Herb & Bessie Malone

MICHAEL MALONE

by Carolyn Doughty

POLLY ULMER

by Stan & Janice Moss

CAMP HAPPY SANDS *By Kay Palmer, Case Worker*

Children ages 6-11, identified by Christian Service Center Case Workers, had a wonderful chance to attend Camp Happy Sands during the week of June 13-17. This year marked the fourth year the opportunity has been provided by the Holy Spirit Episcopal Church. The Church sponsors the campers both financially and by providing all their food for the week.

Leaving the Center

each morning at 8:30 a.m., the children climbed aboard vans and were transported to Johnson's Beach just over the Florida line for a day of fun-filled activities.

The camp experience included activities that contribute to the development of good character, core values, and group



**CAMP
HAPPY SANDS**

dynamics. Along with swimming, games, crafts, and nature activities, the sun and sand provided a great get-away for the children

and is sure to be remembered as a highlight of the summer for many of them.

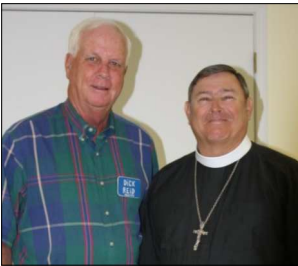
Founded in the early 1960's by Ida Roose,

Camp Happy Sands' mission is "to provide a cost-free, weeklong day camp experience for children of lower income families in the area, conducted in a faith-based environment among a natural setting of God's creation." Mrs. Roose's son, Charlie, is the current Executive Director and is ably assisted by Allison Sanchez, Camp Operations Director.



By Ami Childers Pujol

Holy Spirit Episcopal Church, lead by Father Chris Coats, has always been a



Dick Reid and Father Chris Coats

strong supporter of the Christian Service Center. In addition to sponsoring children for Camp Happy Sands mentioned in

another article, the Center enjoys a close working relationship with the church's Thrift Shop which is an outreach ministry of the Church.

The Holy Spirit Thrift Shop, under the direction of a Board of Directors led by

Dick Reid, was the \$20,000 Presenting Sponsor of our most recent Spaghetti Dinner. Additionally, the Thrift Shop provides qualified clients with vouchers which may be used to select clothing and household items.

Many times during the winter season, when the Center has more volunteers for the food pantry than there are positions to be filled, they are referred to the Thrift Shop. Being open Tuesday-Saturday from 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. each day provides extended opportunities for those wishing to donate their time to help others while they are visiting our area.

Holy Spirit Episcopal Church and its Thrift Shop are truly a dual blessing to our community, and the Christian Service Center cherishes the partnership we enjoy.



Grace Lutheran Church is lead by Pastor Jim Korzun. With a very small local congregation, Grace continues to surprise the community with it's presents. They host an annual Pancake Breakfast and Yard Sale with all proceeds benefiting the CSC. Rev. Korzun recently presented a check to Janice Moss, Vice President of CSC, during the church's annual Church at the Zoo service.

Sponsors

By Bill Martin, Food Pantry Chairman

PUBLIX grocery stores in Orange Beach and Gulf Shores are among the CSC's greatest supporters. Each Monday thru Friday from 7-8 a.m., committed



volunteers find filled carts of food waiting at the stores for transport to the CSC. Publix employees have loaded

these carts with day-old bread, pastries, and other surplus items to be taken to the Center. There it is processed for delivery to other agencies or put into our freezers for distribution to CSC clients.

The number of carts varies according to demand on the Publix bakery but the average is three or four carts daily. There have been as many as 16-20 carts on some occasions such as just before or just after holidays like Christmas and Thanksgiving. Because the supply sometimes exceeds the Center's needs, a network of Bread Ministries has been developed to use the excess. As a result, bread is provided to the Gulf Shores and Orange Beach United Methodist Churches, First Baptist and New Life in Christ in Foley, Grace Lutheran in Gulf Shores, along with several other smaller churches in Elberta and Lillian.

In addition, Catholic Social Services, Ecumenical Ministries, and Mary's Shelter as well as Meals on Wheels recipients benefit from the generosity of our local Publix grocery stores.

Since Publix began this program in September 2008, the CSC has not had to purchase any bread, cake mixes, sugar, flour, or corn meal. This has meant that the money saved can be used for other food needs for our clients. Publix is truly blessing the needy in our community and the surrounding area. They are wonderful partners, and we are grateful for their continuing support of the work we do.

Volunteer

"JUDY, will you un-jam the copier?" "Judy, please send an email to the churches about ..." "Judy, my computer isn't working right!" "Judy, what was the latest information about how we should ..?"

Judy Harland is the Center volunteer who responds to these and myriad other requests with enthusiasm and a willingness to help all who call on her. Self described as a multi-tasker who loves office and computer work, she is totally comfortable in her role as Office Manager at the Christian Service Center. Working at least two days every week, she provides updates for the "Read Me" file – a guide used in the office by Case Workers and

Administrative Assistants which keeps everyone aware of procedural changes as they occur. In addition, she receives and files all volunteer applications for easy access. She assists the President with correspondence, updates lists, maintains files, and comes to the aid of other volunteers when questions arise.

Prior to taking on the general office duties, Judy was volunteer coordinator for the Food Pantry for two years and before



Judy Harland

that, she worked in the Food Pantry for about a year. When the opportunity to become more involved with the

day-to-day operation of the Center presented itself, Judy eagerly accepted the challenge saying that she was glad for the opportunity to use her past work experiences in a meaningful way that can make a difference.

Before moving to Gulf Shores in December, 2006, Judy and her husband, Bill, lived in Hendersonville, NC where she worked in Financial Counseling at Park Ridge Hospital.

In addition to her volunteer service at the Center, she is active in her church, St. Andrew by the Sea, and Friends of the Library in Gulf Shores.

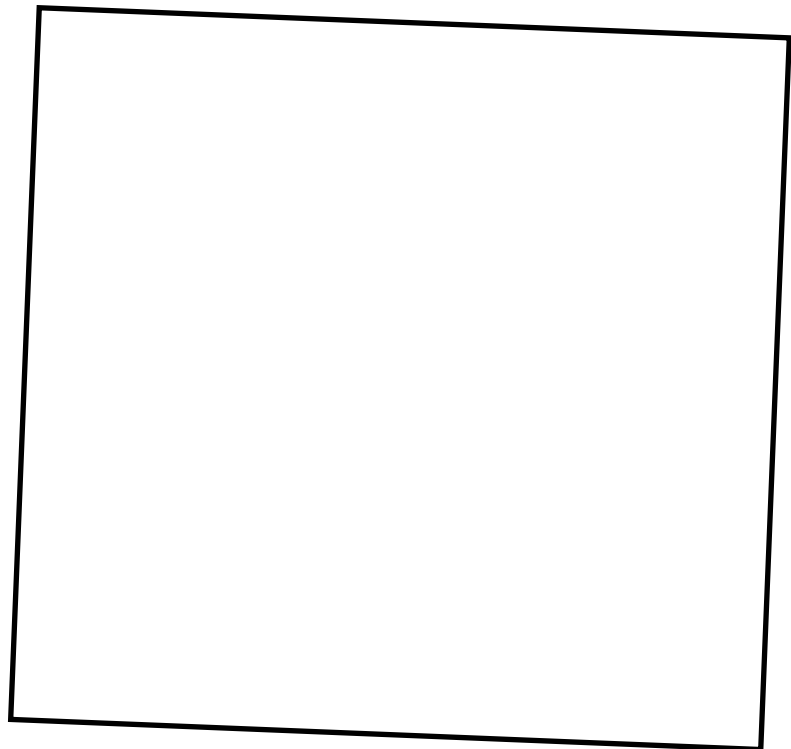
CHRISTIAN SERVICE CENTER

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

Telephone: 251-968-5256
Email: cscenter@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 cscenter@gulftel.com.

◆ CALENDAR OF EVENTS ◆

2011

July 4 – Office Closed
July – No Board Meeting
August 8 – Board Meeting - Noon*
September 5 – Office Closed
September 12 – Board Meeting - Noon*
October 5 - Office Closed
October 12 - Board Meeting - Noon*
November 14 - Board Meeting - Noon*
November 24, 25 - Office Closed
December - No Board Meeting
December 22, 23, 26, 27 - Office Closed

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

2012

January 2 - Office Closed
January 9 - Board Meeting - Noon*
January - Annual In-Service Training
February 13 - Board Meeting - Noon*
February 27 - Spaghetti Dinner
GSUMC Connections

Client's handwritten note of thanks!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR
TIME, UNDERSTANDING AND
THOUGHTFULNESS. YOUR
ASSISTANCE WITH MY RENT - WELL
IT WAS MY FUTURE. I NOW HAVE
AN OPPORTUNITY FOR SUCCESS, RATHER
THAN FAILURE. I CAN PUSH FORWARD
AND GAIN GROUND EACH WEEK TOWARD
BEING BACK ON TRACK - AND IT
STARTED WITH YOU. I WILL PAY IT
FORWARD.
GOD BLESS

◆ WISH LIST ◆

General Needs

Adult bicycles
Color copier
Newsletter sponsor (approx. \$350. qrtly.)
Refrigerator/Freezer

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