



SHARINGS

Volume 2, Issue 1

Christian Service Center

January - March 2012

HOLY SPIRIT THRIFT SHOP SPONSORS DINNER

By David Saunders

For the third consecutive year, Holy Spirit Thrift Shop has been named Presenting Sponsor for the Christian Service Center's annual Spaghetti Dinner. With its \$20,000 commitment, the Thrift Shop has set a new standard of support for this annual fundraising event. The Thrift Shop is an Outreach Ministry of the Holy Spirit Episcopal Church.

The Mullet Wrapper has made an early commitment for Platinum Sponsorship while St. Andrew Women, and Contorno, Inc. (DBA Sam's) are gold sponsors.

At the Silver Level are St. Andrew Men, Our Lady of the Gulf Catholic Church, and Alice and Wayne Villadsen.

Six hundred tickets are available for this year's dinner. The dinner is scheduled for Monday, February 27, from 4:30 to 7:00 p.m. Building B Auditorium on Gulf Shores United Methodist Church's South Campus (Winn Dixie Shopping Center) is the site for the dinner. Take-out service is also available. Tickets are \$8 each and may be purchased at the Center between 9 a.m. and 12 Noon, Monday thru

Friday. The Jubilee Pickers will once again be the featured entertainment

during dinner, and a Silent Auction is planned as well.



(L-R) Linda Chappelle, CSC President; Alicia Gattenio, Thrift Shop Manager; Dick Reid, Thrift Shop Board Chairman; and Father Chris Coats, Rector, Holy Spirit Episcopal Church.



CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS CHEER PROJECT

away empty handed; therefore, the increase when comparing 2011 to 2010 is sure to climb!

Thanks to all who helped with this year's project.

The Christmas Cheer Project is proving to be a huge success. As of December 16th, 298 families and 709 children had been served (up 5 families and 54 children from last year).

Families entering the Center after December 16th will not be turned



Bikes donated to Christmas Cheer project.



Volunteers are pictured with the mounds of toys contributed to the Christmas Cheer Project. They are L-R: Mary Ann Bousquet, Nancy Hietanen, Susanna Lax & Betty Oliver.

COMMUNITY NEEDS INCREASE

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN



By Linda Chappelle

Over 15.1% of Americans are living below the poverty line with unemployment at 9.1%. Unemployment in Alabama is 9.3% with 27.47 % of children living in poverty. Baldwin County unemployment is 8.2%.

Many people, who are employed, get so few hours at their workplace, that they cannot pay their bills. The price of groceries and gas has escalated. People are under increasing stress causing more personal problems, substance abuse, spousal abuse, and divorce or abandonment



of family, etc. We are seeing the results of this at CSC. The number of clients we are seeing are in line with last year; however, the needs are far greater. Over the past year, we had Project Rebound money which we were able to spend generously if a Project Rebound counselor recommended we do so. There is no more PRB money.

Donations are down, while our clients' needs are greater. Our case-workers are making difficult decisions. We have cut our limits on the amount of money we can spend on a client for a year, and we are only helping established clients who have been in our service area for 6 months. We will also help relocate someone to another area by buying gasoline or a bus ticket.

Of course, we can generally help with food. We are using Project Rebound staff to counsel clients, help them with their resume', and help them find a job. We continue to look for other resources to help our clients. We continue to offer a caring "hand up" to clients, and we refer them to other community resources as well.

We get thanks!

I want to thank you for all your help today. When I came in I was worried and nervous. You made me feel like someone who just fell on hard times and needed a little help. I left knowing tomorrow is another day with people who care about me.

MEMORIAL GIFTS



**VALERIE BITZER
MCDONOUGH DAVIS**
Judie & Sissy Flanigan

MARY ELLEN LUEPKE
Kay Palmer

CLARA V. GRAY
Janice & Stan Moss

SANDRA BIEDEKAPP
Malcolm Biedekapp

SUNNY 105 JOINTLY SPONSORS "SANTA'S HELPER" TOY DRIVE



Shown making the presentation to Mary Ann Bousquet of the Christian Service Center, is Don Brown, General Manager and Kevin Keith, Program Director of "Sunny 105" Radio.

The 4th Annual CSC "Santa's Helper" Toy Drive was jointly sponsored by "Sunny 105.7-FM" radio and the following businesses in the Orange Beach/Gulf Shores Area: Canal Road Animal Hospital, GN'G Hardware, P&D Marine, Hope's Cheesecake, Island Drug, The Emporium, Hunter's Furniture, Jellyfish Bar, Woodson's Barge N, Salon Fahrenheit, Airport Storage, Merrill Miller Interiors, Infinity Bicycles and Gulf Coast Tool.

Sunny 105.7-FM publicized the toy drive on the air and posted the locations of collection boxes on their website. The drive collected 22 boxes of toys which the station employees collected and presented to the CSC for distribution in their Christmas Cheer program. The program ensures that children who would not otherwise receive a Christmas gift are very happy on Christmas morning.

A huge "Thank You" to the participating businesses from the children of Gulf Shores, Orange Beach and Fort Morgan!



SPOTLIGHTS

Church

Page 3

By Amelia Fletcher

Gulf Shores United Methodist Church has been a proud supporter of the Christian Service Center since the Center's inception more than twenty years ago. Working through the Church's Servant Ministries Office, numerous dedicated volunteers are active participants in the daily work of the Center and are keenly aware of how the Center provides aid for those in need.

Continuing projects supporting the Center include a bi-annual canned food/donation drive, collection of toiletries and basic personal items, the year-round Birthday Club, and the



Angel Tree project at Christmastime. Use of the Church's dining facility for the annual Spaghetti Dinner has provided a faster and more efficient way to serve people attending this popular event. Being able to serve the drive-through directly from the kitchen area is a big plus for workers and customers alike.

Working with the Coalition for Recovery from the Oil Spill, a unique opportunity for the GSUMC/CSC partnership occurred last summer. The program focused on children who qualified for additional food supplements while at home on summer break. This program ran for eight weeks. With an established relationship in place, both organizations are able to make effective use of the resources available. For that, and for all you do to support the work we do, the Christian Service Center is grateful.

Sponsor

By Pat Campbell

Known almost as much for its tasty fried chicken as it is for its automotive service, Woodson's Barge-N Chevron Station is chosen for this issue's Spon-



sor Spotlight. The station, located at 2105 E. 2nd Street in Gulf Shores, has been an important supporter of the

Christian Service Center for at least 16 years. Not only does Barge-N Chevron accept gasoline vouchers from our clients, for years they have donated chicken, fish, corn dogs, and other food to our food pantry.

A case-worker will determine that a client will need a gasoline voucher for a doctor's appointment, relocation, or an emergency. Sometimes this is all a client needs for a new beginning – just a “hand up” – an important part of the Center's mission.



L-R Employees Charlene Mink and Michelle Petirus with John Woodson.

The Center and our clients are very fortunate to have John and Melissa Woodson, owners of Woodson's Barge-N Chevron Station, as generous supporters.

Volunteer



Chan West

By Judy Fraser

Indefatigable Chan West has volunteered as a case worker on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month at the Christian Service Center since the Center opened 20 years ago.

Chan attended one of the first meetings of the Pleasure Island Ministerial Association which was held to organize the Christian Service Center. She was looking for an opportunity to fill the void in her life left by the death of her husband, whom she had taken care of during a 7 ½-year bout with cancer. Chan describes Sister Pat Langan's reading from Matthew 25, at that meeting, as a landmark moment leading to her volunteering at the Christian Service Center. Although her degree is in mathematics with two years of graduate study in physics, her experience as a crisis line

counselor during her husband's army career, plus her strong work ethic, transferred to case work at the CSC.

Chan feels her greatest satisfaction in working at the Christian Service is when she feels she has helped someone make a change in their life which will lead to a long term improvement.

In addition to her regular case work providing budget counseling to clients, Chan has been instrumental in implementing the Ozanam Charitable Pharmacy program. This helps clients with no insurance and limited incomes find access to the medications they need for chronic diseases as high blood pressure or diabetes. Her efforts don't stop there. She started the recycling program at the Center. And this independent multi-talented 81-year-old woman is the “go-to” person when maintenance needs additional help with repairs, painting, or mechanical projects in the building.

With her strong dedication to service and to helping others, Chan has also served as an interpreter at a medical clinic for migrant workers and the indigent. She has also travelled on medical missions to Guatemala and Honduras. Chan is a founding member of Holy Spirit Episcopal Church and is still one of its most active members. In addition to her charitable and church activities, Chan is a volunteer for the Bon Secour National Wildlife Refuge on Fort Morgan Peninsula conducting nature tours in the area where she spent her childhood summers and near where her home is located today.

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 ◆

2012

January 2 - Office Closed

January 9 - Board Meeting - Noon*

January 16 - Office Closed In-Service

January 28 - GSUMC UMW Annual
Marketplace Bazaar, 9 am—3 pm

February 11 - GSUMC UMM Annual
Yard Sale 8 am—1 pm

February 13 - Board Meeting - Noon*

February 21 - Office Closed for
Mardi Gras

February 27 - Spaghetti Dinner
GSUMC Auditorium

February 9 - Four Winds, OBUMC
at 7:00 pm

Date TBA - Annual Free Pancake
Breakfast & Giant Yard Sale, Grace
Lutheran Church

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 – quarterly –
cost: approximately \$350.00
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!

Thank you to all the Churches
and supporters that make this
Center happen. Your kindness,
compassion, and readiness
to serve is truly a
blessing. I pray you all
have a blessed and
merry Christmas. Again,
thank you!



Thank you so
much for assisting
me with my electric
bill recently.

Thank you for
the food I
have never seen
our cabinet so
full. Thank you!

Thank you
the shower
chair was a
Big Help!