



SHARINGS

Volume 3, Issue 1

Christian Service Center

January - March 2013

CSC SPAGHETTI DINNER FEBRUARY 18, 2013

More than seven hundred hungry folks enjoyed a sumptuous spaghetti meal at last year's CSC Spaghetti Dinner. This year's dinner promises to be just as tasty and is scheduled for Monday, February 18, from 4:30 to 7:00 p.m. Building B on the Gulf Shores United Methodist Church South Campus (Winn Dixie Parking Lot) will once again be the location for this evening of food, fun, and fellowship. Tickets for the dinner remain at \$8 each and may be purchased at the Center between 9 a.m. and 12 Noon, Monday through

Friday or at the door the day of the dinner. Take-out service will be available for those wishing to use this convenience.

And, for the fourth consecutive year, Holy Spirit Thrift Shop is the Presenting Sponsor. The Thrift Shop is an Outreach Ministry of the Holy Spirit Episcopal Church, where Father Chris Coats serves as Pastor. Several levels of sponsorships are available for those wishing to help meet the growing needs of clients seeking help through the Christian Service Center.



Pictured (l to r) Thrift Shop volunteers, Hy Gurney and Yvonne Jones; Christian Service Center President, Linda Chappelle; Thrift Shop volunteer, Judy Fraser; Store Manager, Alicia Gattenio, Associate, Kyle Mattes; and volunteers Mike Jones and Karen Anderson. The Holy Spirit Thrift Shop is located at 3865 Gulf Shores Parkway.

5TH ANNUAL NEW YEAR'S EVE BASH

All the birds attending the fifth annual Brent Burns Early Bird New Year's Eve Bash weren't Snowbirds. Lots of locals joined the fun to raise funds for the Christian Service Center at the Erie Meyer Civic Center to welcome in the New Year. In its fifth year, the Bash has become a popular way to celebrate as acquaintances are renewed and friendships enhanced.

Adding to the ever-popular Brent Burns entertainment style was the opportunity to win a brooch which had been owned by Erie Hall Meyer, the lady for whom the Civic Center is named. Given to the Center for this purpose by Pat and Wade Ward, the handmade brooch by Schreiner Jewelry of New York, was won by Melanie Davidson. The reverse settings of the large colorful rhinestones (point up instead of point down) make it a truly unique treasure.

Awards were given for the "Most Elegant", "Most Outrageous" and "Most Original" table decorations. Susanna Lax accepted the award on behalf of the Christian Service Center's table for Most Elegant. The Most Original award went to Tom Bruce, while Bebe Gauntt carried away the award for the Elvis-themed "Most Outrageous" table decoration.



Brent Burns entertains the crowd at the Fifth Annual Early Bird New Year's Eve Bash



Melanie Davidson proudly displays her handmade brooch once owned by Erie Hall Meyer



(L-R) Susanna Lax, Bebe Gauntt and Tom Bruce show off their awards for table decorations

PROVIDING A HAND UP...

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN



By Linda Chappelle

The Christian Service Center has experienced a huge expansion since it was formed in June of 1991, It has grown from a one room facility with a couple of volunteers, to a three-building complex with over 200 volunteers. In 2012 alone, over 4,000 units of food were provided to families in need. One food unit is food for one person for one week. At three meals per day times seven days, that's 84,000 meals – and food is only one part of the CSC service.

Many families are experiencing tough times, but rent, utilities and medical expenses must still be addressed even during tough times. It's a blessing that the CSC is here to help meet those critical needs.

While people in need depend on

the CSC for help, the CSC depends on our Christian friends, and businesses for the funds, food, and volunteer time to keep our work going. Many supporters include the Center as a regular recipient of a portion of their Christian giving. Unlike many charities, CSC is an all-volunteer organization. No one receives any pay, so the funds received go directly to the cause. This makes CSC a most effective place for charity dollars. So please continue to support the work we do with your prayers, your funds and your time. Those in need depend on the CSC and the CSC depends on you.



The Cotton Creek Men's Golf Association holds an annual golf tournament to raise money for "Arnie's Army for Prostate Cancer". A portion of the proceeds from this tournament is always given to local charities. Pictured presenting the donation to Janice Moss of the CSC are Terry Peeples and John McCoy.

...WITH A LOT OF HELP FROM OUR FRIENDS



Baldwin EMC's Shred-A-Thon, Blood Drive and Food Drive netted approximately 500 lbs. of food for distribution through the Christian Service Center.

Pictured (l to r) Stan Moss, CSC, Mark Rishe, Baldwin EMC, and Food Pantry Volunteers, Marinda Barbaree, Diane Urban, and Bev Gorder.

CHIEFS FOR CHRIST



Chiefs for Christ (CFC), a student-led campus ministry at Faulkner State Community College, held a canned food drive to help the CSC meet increased needs during the Christmas season. Collection boxes were placed at Publix Orange Beach, First Baptist Orange Beach and on the Faulkner Gulf Shores campus. Canned foods were also collected as admission to Faulkner's Christmas play "The Fruitcake". Pictured delivering the canned goods (l-r): Kelly Kendall (Advisor), Holly Brock, Leslie Pope, Anna Gratham, Mackenzie Tobin, Bethany Harrison (Student Leader) and Stone Collins (Student Leader).

CHRISTMAS CHEER 2012



Individuals, Churches and civic organizations pooled resources to make Christmas a little happier for 738 children of 296 families who needed help this holiday season. Pictured are (l to r) CSC volunteers Paul Hietanen, Mary Ann Bousquet, Christmas Cheer Project Chairman, Betty Oliver, Jan Gorman, Susanna Lax, Richard Garcia, Shelby Garcia and Nancy Hietanen, who helped put the gift packages together.



Church



Orange Beach Presbyterian Church

By Esther Hellmich

You may have seen Beverly Gorder, or her husband Arnold, working in the food pantry.

You may have seen Esther Hellmich at some meetings. But there are many people behind the scene at Orange Beach Presbyterian Church who support the work of the Christian Service Center. For years, our church has been blessed to participate in the Center food drives. In January, and again in July, worshipers at our church are encouraged to take a brown grocery bag (remember those?) and fill with groceries. Attached to the bag is a list of basic items the CSC distributes on a regular basis to those in our community who are in need. For those who find shopping a challenge, members are encouraged to write a check because each dollar can purchase as much as five pounds of food when spend with the Bay Area Food Bank.

Throughout the year, a designated barrel is set aside in the Fellowship Hall to collect non-perishables and toiletries along with the many plastic bags needed in the food distribution process. Our winter visitors sometimes use this as a way to donate left-over items in their cabinets when they are ready to go north for the summer. No gift is too small. It doesn't matter whether it is a can of soup or a toothbrush.

At Christmas time, many of our members buy for area children through the Christmas Cheer arm of the CSC. In the weeks prior to Christmas each year, the faithful line up to select a gift idea from the Angel Tree, knowing their purchase will make some child's Christmas brighter. Smiles abound when the gifts are turned in as participants realize that someone will be blessed by their generosity.

Members of Orange Beach Presbyterian Church appreciate being able to play a role in meeting some of the needs in our community through the CSC.

Sponsor



Lee Hagan

By Robbie Kopic

About six years ago, Lee Hagan, owner of Sunny 105.7-FM, realized that there wasn't a toy drive for deserving children in this area. Hagan contacted Toys for Tots in Mobile and worked with them, but soon realized that many of the toys didn't stay in this area and the effort didn't generate a great deal of community support. Hagan contacted the CSC and worked with them to come up with the "Santa's Helper" Toy Drive to benefit deserving children in the Gulf Shores, Orange Beach and Fort Morgan area.

In 2012, Sunny 105.7- FM sponsored the 5th Annual Christian Service Center "Santa's Helper" Toy Drive along with businesses in the Gulf Shores and Orange Beach area. Sunny 105.7-FM publicizes the toy drive on the air to their 15,000 listeners and the toy drive grows every year. In early December, Hagan said he had already had to make some extra boxes to fill additional requests from businesses, for a total of 30 boxes.

Hagan and his wife moved here from Kentucky 14 years ago after selling his radio stations there, thinking he might retire. But he missed the business and started Sunny 105.7-FM in Gulf Shores and added stations in Fort Walton, Fairhope and Robertsdale. Sunny 105.7 now has the largest listener base in this area. Community service is a way of life for the Hagans. They believe it is "the right thing to do".

Volunteer

Papaw, Pepop, Dad, Coach, Son, Athlete, Sweetie – all of these are Stan Moss. But at the Christian Service Center where he is Food Pantry Chairman and husband of CSC's Vice President, Janice Moss, he can also be called 'Ambassador'. In these roles, he is keenly aware of the many challenges facing those who seek assistance through the Center and is able to present those needs in a meaningful way.



Stan Moss

Whether he's spreading the word about bargain prices for turkeys to fill Christmas food baskets, stocking shelves in the Food Pantry, or repairing a bike so a client will have a way to go to work, he finds joy in the work and easily shares that joy with those around him.

On one recent occasion however, he had to say "no" to a fund raising opportunity too physically demanding for CSC volunteers but came away with a new CSC friend along with a handsome check and an offer for additional help. Whether interacting with suppliers, volunteers, or potential donors, Stan tells the Center's story with a song in his heart and smile on his face.

Growing up in Bibb County, AL, Stan graduated from the University of Alabama where he played both baseball and football 1965-67. (Yes, he played for "the Bear".) After a long career in education, first as a high school football coach and later as principal, he retired to the Gulf Coast in 2005. Soon thereafter, his work with the Center began. The Center and the clients it serves are fortunate to have Stan Moss as one of its greatest Ambassadors.

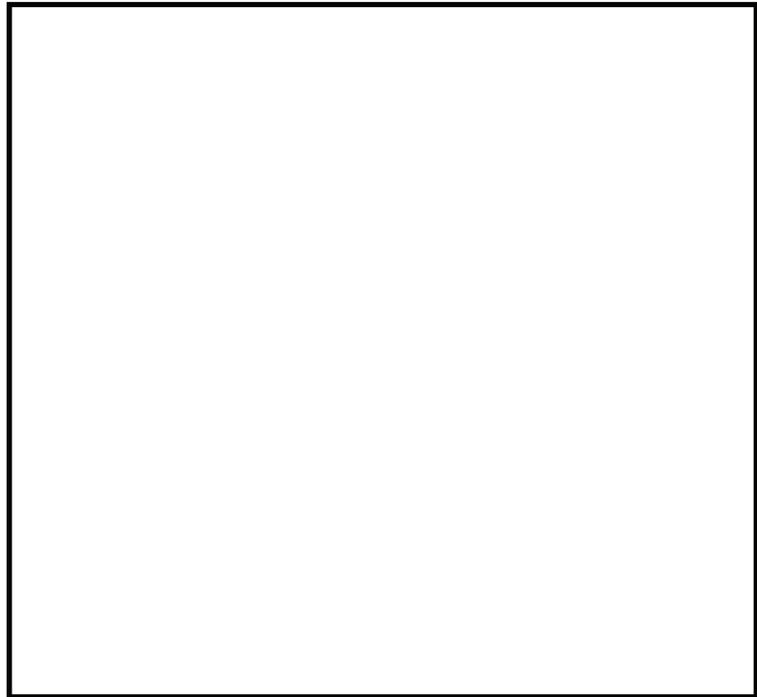
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If you prefer to receive the CSC Newsletter by email, please furnish your email address to cscenter@gulftel.com.

◆ **Calendar of Events** ◆

JANUARY –2013

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.*

◆ **HONOR GIFTS** ◆

**CSC Volunteers from
GS 1st Presbyterian Church**

Richard & Betty Allen

Joan Hayes

Gary & Carol Ann Owen

Paul & Nancy Hietanen

Laurie Stewart

Dr. & Mrs. Mike Hughes

Duane & Martha Pugh

Betty & Richard Pugh

John McAtee, MD

Susan J. Seacat

◆ **MEMORIALS** ◆

MEMORIAL GIFTS



Doug Ezell

R. Wayne Gaddy

Hilda Fields

Annette K. Stevens

Carolyn Harris

Phillip W. & Nell B. Bass

Michael Malone

Carolyn M. & Michelle L. Doughty

Ramona Jayne Morgan

Rita C. Morgan



◆ **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

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

