



SHARINGS

Volume 3, Issue 2

Christian Service Center

April - June 2013

200 + VOLUNTEERS: PRICELESS!



By: Bebe Gauntt

A wise, but unknown, author penned these words: "Volunteers are seldom paid; not because they are worthless but because they are priceless." This is true of the 200-plus unpaid volunteers who give of their time and talents to the Christian Service Center.

From those who staff the food pantry; serve as case workers and administrative assistants who treat each client with respect and dignity, to the fund-raisers and friend-raisers; those who deliver meals and pick up

food donations, coordinate toys at Christmas, cook and serve at the annual spaghetti dinner; those involved with writing grants, public relations, maintaining the website, bookkeeping and statistics; to those who keep up the property and see that a child's birthday is celebrated with gifts; and the many other jobs, **thank you!**

Some might say that the CSC is a melting pot where people from various backgrounds, locales and experiences come together to volunteer their services. There are military retirees, college professors, coaches,

social workers, accountants, attorneys, bankers, sales executives, teachers, librarians, marketing professionals, engineers and homemakers in this unselfish group.

The volunteers will tell you they get paid for their work – they just don't get paid money. They believe what they are doing can make a difference in someone's life and are willing to do what it takes to accomplish that goal. Hats off and thank you to all the volunteers who believe in the CSC mission of "giving a hand up, not a hand-out" — **you are truly priceless!**

BACKUP PANTRY - NEW SERVICE FOR SENIORS

A designated fund from the Erie Meyer Foundation is providing a new service for older, disabled adults in our community. Known as the Backup Pantry, it provides a box of non-perishable food with 16+ meals for those individuals who have no support system and have no family or friends on whom they can depend. Some are even caring for each other when they, themselves, need to be helped. In some cases, they are part of the Meals on Wheels program, five



days a week but in the event of a natural disaster, that program is suspended and some recipients are left with no food source.

The Backup Pantry is available to individuals after they have been regis-

tered in the program by counselors at the Christian Service Center. There are currently 30 individuals or couples in the CSC service area who qualify for the program. Regular participants of the CSC food bank are not eligible for this service. The food boxes can be refilled every other month and are delivered to the homes by volunteers.

Requests for this service may be made directly to Terry Fowinkle at 968-2377, Coordinator of the Program or to the Center at 968-5256.

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN



By Linda Chappelle

The Christian Service Center wishes our Snowbird friends a safe journey back home. Several faithful winter guests volunteer yearly working in our food pantry.

Snowbirds are essential to the success of our Spaghetti Dinner



Fundraiser. Two gentlemen always take our flyers to all the condo buildings. Others help with preparations for the dinner, such as the group of

ladies who cook noodles for us. We are grateful to the many snowbirds who support and attend the dinner.

Snowbird clubs and organizations are very generous with monetary donations and food drives for the Center. Some leave us medical equipment, and many leave their unopened food when they leave for home. We appreciate their generous support of CSC, and we look forward to seeing everyone next year.



Linda Chappelle and Gulf Breeze RV Church representative, Beverly Soenksen, celebrate the church topping \$10,000 in donations to the Christian Service Center this year.

Thank You

Spaghetti Supper Sponsors

PRESENTING

Holy Spirit Thrift Shop

PLATINUM

Sam's Orange Beach

FWC Gulf Shores Woman's Club

Gulf Shores United Methodist Church

The Mullet Wrapper

GOLD

Airport Safe Storage

Boots and Phil Bass

Gulf Breeze RV Church

Lagoon Baptist Church Women

Longhorn Steak House

St. Andrew by the Sea Men

St. Andrew by the Sea Women

South Baldwin Regional Medical Center

Wells Fargo

SILVER

Judie & Sissy Flanigan in memory of Matt Flanigan

Flora-Bama Worship by the Water

Gulf Shores United Methodist Church Men

Our Lady of the Gulf Catholic Church

Our Lady of the Gulf Altar & Rosary Society

Precision Imaging, Inc.

Sirens of the Sea

Villadsen Family

BRONZE

Beach House Boutique

Brett-Robinson Realty

Carney Realty

Chocolate Corner

DeSoto's Seafood Kitchen

Pati Marra

Don Meghreblian

M&M Bank

Wal-Mart

RAFFLE SPONSORS

Bungalow's, DeSoto's Seafood Restaurant, Terry Fowinkle, Ginny Lane, Bente Howe, Pati Marra, Mikee's/Shrimp Basket/Steamer, Original Oyster House, South Baldwin Regional Medical Center, Sunset Cork Room, Villaggio Grille, and Zen Restaurant



Church

Our Lady of the Gulf Catholic Church



Under the leadership of Father Robert Fulton, who became pastor in 2001, Our Lady of the Gulf Catholic Church has made the Christian Service Center a high priority. Donating food to the Food Pantry ten months of the year, Father Fulton's desire is for the parish to be a real help to the community.

Currently serving 350 full time Pleasure Island families, the Church had its early beginnings in 1948 when Father Philip Lambert convinced Bishop T.J. Toolen that he should be celebrating Sunday Mass for the few Catholics in Gulf Shores. Beginning as a mission from St. Matthew's Church in Elsanor, AL, Mass was celebrated at Romero's Restaurant at the corner of AL 59 and East Beach Boulevard. Confessions were heard before Mass in Father Phillip Lambert's car.

Once land for a new church was donated by pioneer realtor George C. Meyer, Father Lambert, working with Robertsedale contractor, Alex Lennick and a Sears catalog, the original building was completed in 1951 for \$19,000. The Church had several pastors between Father Lambert and Father Barry Desmond who took over in 1981. Believing that further education for the children of the parish was needed, Father Desmond started a building fund to create a larger sanctuary. So, in January 1989, a notable improvement came to fruition when a new sanctuary was dedicated and the former church was renovated into a parish hall in Father Lambert's memory.

And more recently, a new parish hall was completed to meet the growing needs of the Catholic Community in Gulf Shores. Father Fulton says five week-end Masses and has daily Mass at 8:00 a.m.

Sponsor

Baldwin EMC

By Toni Turner

The Christian Service Center would like to recognize a good friend of ours — Baldwin County Electric Charitable Foundation.

The mission of the Baldwin County EMC Foundation is the accumulation and distribution of funds for charitable purposes, to organizations, and to individuals located in our County. The disbursements of these funds are for needs related to food, shelter, clothing, health, education, and the environment. These gifts reflect Baldwin EMC's goal of being customer focused. Money for these projects is collected from Baldwin EMC members "rounding up" their electric bills. Large monetary gifts are rewarded to individuals and clubs. CSC is so proud to be a recipient of these funds. There are very comprehensive guidelines that both individuals and organizations must follow in order to apply for these funds.



Scholarships for college students are a special project of the EMC Foundation. Most college students apply every year for their four years, which is a compliment to the foundation.

One of the newest projects at EMC is Star-Light. School teachers from Baldwin County may apply for a project that the teacher creates. It must benefit the learning of many students, and hopefully this project will be continued in the schools for years. The projects submitted are very creative. Outreach from these projects is far reaching.

CSC wants to thank EMC for all the help they have given to us through the years. As we band together — we move people in our area forward.

Volunteer

Hope Becklund

Moving to the area 12 years ago from Memphis, TN, Hope Becklund soon found a home for her unique talents and skills. Her first job at the CSC was in the Food Pantry where she was

Assistant Chairman. When the Treasurer at that time retired 6 years ago, Hope offered her services to fill the position. Managing the finances of the Center is every bit as detailed and



Hope Becklund

demanding as any other business. Documentation of expenditures is essential to the Center's operation as is every source of revenue. Hope's background, organizational skills, and business acumen have prepared her well to handle the myriad facets of the job.

After her employment with the US Department of Justice in the White Collar Bankruptcy Section, she joined a software company to design a program that would help detect and deter fraudulent bankruptcy. That company partnered with a national bank which wanted to provide the same kind of service to their nation-wide customer base. Later, that bank bought the software company and Hope and her husband, Bill retired to the beach.

On a personal note, the Becklunds were educated in Virginia and are parents of two daughters and grandparents of two grandsons. They enjoy international travel and have three trips on their schedule for this year: first to South Africa, then Japan, and later, on to Thailand. Of her work as Treasurer, Hope said, "It is rewarding to be able to provide my skills to the Center which helps so many people in so many different ways".

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 ◆

APRIL

8 - Board Meeting - Noon*

MAY

13 - Board Meeting - Noon*
27 - Office Closed - Memorial Day

JUNE

10 - Board Meeting - Noon*

JULY

4 - Office Closed - Independence Day
No Board Meeting this month.

AUGUST

12 - Board Meeting - Noon*

SEPTEMBER

2 - Office Closed - Labor Day
9 - Board Meeting - Noon*

OCTOBER

14 - Board Meeting - Noon*

NOVEMBER

11 - Board Meeting - Noon*
28 - Office Closed - Thanksgiving

DECEMBER

9 - Board Meeting - Noon*
25 - Office Closed - Christmas

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



◆ GIFTS ◆

MEMORIAL GIFTS

ELLIE RYAN
Betty & John Sherk

HONORARIUMS

TOM GILES' 75th Birthday
PATI MARRA'S Birthday
Elaine I. Durmer

MR. & MRS. RICHARD PUGH
Michael & Karen Hughes

This issue of the
CSC Newsletter is dedicated
in loving memory of
John O'Day

by his wife, Mary.

◆ 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
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

