



SHARINGS

Volume 5, Issue 1

Christian Service Center

Winter 2016

Optimizing Resources by David Saunders

Among charity organizations, the Christian Service Center (CSC) is very efficient in its ratio of operating cost to financial aid for needy families. In fact, many well-known charities have extremely high operating cost ratios. This is attributed to employee salaries and advertising to attract donations.

Conversely, the CSC is a 100% volunteer organization (no salaries) and no advertising. Operating Expenses are limited to utilities, building insurance, security and office expenses. Therefore, only about nine cents of every dollar contributed goes to overhead with ninety-one cents going directly to the cause.

Financial aid to needy families is only a part of what CSC provides. For example, in 2014, CSC provided service to 1,697 clients, representing 5,162 family members. Of that number, 1,310 clients received a total of 4,011 food units from our pantry. One food unit contains enough food to feed one person for one week. That's three meals per day for seven days, for a total of 21 meals in each food unit. Food units are given in accordance with family size.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has published national statistics on how much it costs on average to feed various size families



CSC Stretches a Dollar

for one week. Their chart, titled "Official USDA Food Plans: Cost of Food at Home at Four Levels, U.S Average", is downloadable from their website at: www.cnpp.usda.gov

Their weekly food cost figures are divided according to age and family members. This chart shows how much money those 1,310 families receiving food from CSC

would have had to pay if they purchased the same items at local food retailers.

Adjustments were made for family size, and after adding local sales tax to the food cost, CSC saved those families \$183,113 in food cost.

So, in addition to the financial aid provided to families in 2014, there was an additional benefit of food cost avoidance.

When factoring in CSC expense for groceries purchased, an overall operating cost to client benefit ratio is about eight and one-half (8 ½ cents) on the dollar. In other words for every eight to nine cents CSC spends to run the Center, clients receive ninety-one to ninety-two cents in benefits.



I am a 69-year old female, single, and on disability, so I do have insurance. A while back I had open heart surgery. Until that time my income had been sufficient to get by. Although I have insurance, additional expenses above and beyond my income brought me to the point of asking for help. I was unable to pay my power bill after meeting my other expenses. I was told by a friend about the Christian Service Center.

It was hard for me to ask for help, but the caseworker who met with me made me feel at ease immediately.

I explained my situation and needs to her and she explained that the Center had a medical pantry from which I could borrow a shower chair. This was a great relief since I was doing without because I didn't have the money to purchase one. She also took care of getting my past due electrical bill paid. I honestly believe I will be fine now. The caseworker was so kind and caring and the CSC was the answer to my prayers.

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

**Linda Chappelle**

Even after being President of the CSC Board of Directors for 15 years, I continue to be overwhelmed at the number of dedicated people who support the work we do. Churches, clubs, organizations, and individuals are always raising funds or running food drives.

It really does “take a village” to accomplish what we do. There are so many volunteers, including Board members, doing different programs like Emergency Aid, Food Pantry, Medical Pantry. Birthday Club, Meals on Wheels, Christmas Cheer (toys), Christmas Spirit gifts (for the elderly), and Summer Backpack for children,

Behind the scenes volunteers write thank you notes, file for grants, compile statistics, do data entry and accounting, maintain the property, create a newsletter, raise funds, handle publicity, make daily food and bread pickup, toy pickup...the list goes on and on.

All of the things that we accomplish are made possible through the generosity of an incredibly charitable community. We are truly blessed and ever so grateful to be part of such a dynamic organization.



Susan Shaw of Compass Media with a few of the toys they gave for a CSC family.



A big thank you to Gulf Shores Fire Department for their help with the Christmas Food Box give-out on December 15-16.

Two hundred fifty boxes with turkey and all the fixings to prepare Christmas Dinner were distributed.

PARTNERS IN ACTION

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Chris Basile, Managing Partner of the Longhorn Steakhouse in Gulf Shores, presents a check for \$1,000 to CSC President, Linda Chappelle.

The Grant was part of Restaurant Community Grants program from the Darden Restaurants Foundation, the charitable arm of Darden Restaurants.

The annual grants program empowers each of the Longhorn Steakhouse locations to make a \$1,000 donation to support local community programs. In addition to the award, Longhorn Steaks has been an active in-kind sponsor of the Center's annual Spaghetti Dinner for many years.



Pastor Fred Franks (l) of Christian Life Church, recently presented a check to Stan Moss, Food Pantry Chair at the Center. The donation was part of the Church's Missions giving program.



Children attending Vacation Bible School at Gulf Shores First Presbyterian Church this summer donated canned goods to the CSC Food Pantry carrying out the theme of "Missions at Camp Discovery". Pictured with the children are Rev. Steven Kurtz and VBS teachers.

VISITING ANGELS



Members of The Church of God Worldwide Association (l to r) David Pierce, Jerry Walters, Jace Miller, Olivia Pierce, Stefanie Rochelle and Chris Rochelle helped with contributions.

For the second year, members of The Church of God Worldwide Association, meeting at the Orange Beach Events Center, have made a substantial contribution to the CSC Food Pantry. During their October 2014 visit, members collected more than two tons (4,000 lbs) of food, household supplies, hygiene items and baby needs. This year, the group exceeded their set goal of three tons (6,000 lbs) of goods for the Center. They also supplemented those contributions with monetary donations.

In accepting the donations, CSC Vice President Janice Moss said, "Our community has been richly blessed by the kindness of these members of The Church of God Association. These goods will be used to aid families in need throughout our Gulf Shores, Orange Beach and Fort Morgan communities."

PARTNERS IN ACTION



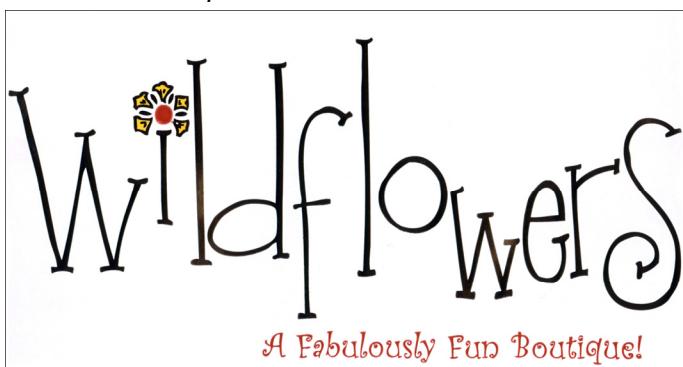
SUPPORT FOR SUMMER BACKPACK PROGRAM came from many areas last summer. A grant from Walmart of Orange Beach in the amount of \$500 and another \$400 from The Ono Island Women's Group kicked off a successful start to the annual effort. The program provides easy to prepare food for breakfast, lunch and two snacks for five days a week for ten weeks during the summer to qualified children. These are children who receive breakfast and lunch through school program during the school year. In addition to the cash donations, five grocery carts full of items were provided by Girl Scout Troop #8290. The items were raised through a Fun Run organized by the Scout Troop and Gulf Shores United Methodist Church.



Pictured with donations to the Backpack Program are (l-r) Jill Borden, Gulf Shores United Methodist Church, Linda Chappelle, CSC President and Sun Balgord, Girl Scout Troup #8290



Wells Fargo Service Manager, Robin Nelson (l) presents a \$1,000 check to CSC Vice President, Janice Moss. This gift was the result of a grant request to the Wells Fargo Foundation. A consistent supporter of the Center's work, Wells Fargo's Days of Giving previously produced a \$1,600 donation.



Wildflowers Boutique in Orange Beach hosted two fundraisers to benefit CSC in recent months. First, the "Cruise 4 a Cause" Motorcycle Ride on Saturday, October 10. The second event on Thursday, November 12, was the 3rd Annual Toys 4 Children Locals Night, hosted by Wildflowers and Fisher's Restaurant. This wildly successful event raised \$9,000 for the Christmas Cheer program.



GFWC Gulf Shores Woman's Club members (l to r) Shirley Colin and Carol Ann Owen join Club President Kathleen Donaldson with some of the toys donated by Club members at their November meeting for Christmas Cheer. The Club's Fall Style Show provided an additional \$4,000 to support the program.

PARTNERS IN ACTION

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Orange Beach Marlin Ambassador Peer Helpers hosted an Auburn/Alabama food drive challenge November 16-20.

Students, teachers, families, and community members donated about 750 non-perishable food items. Both teams were strongly supported but when the final count was made, ALABAMA came out on top.

Pictured are: Luke Smith, John Kellon Pope, Baylee Grace Taylor, Courtney Florzyk, Ava Tobiassen, Olivia Annan, Makenna Claypool, Sydney Barnett Brooke Gober, and Jud Keel.



Thank you to Whitney Echols and the Orange Beach Lions Club for a generous donation.



One of the many truckloads of food received during the Christmas Season. Thanks to all the participating schools and businesses for their food drives.



Some of the many gifts for the Christmas Cheer program from members of the South Baldwin Newcomer's Club.

MEMORIAL GIFTS



Dr. Willard Bogan
Terry & Cathy Hanner
Christine Cauthen
First Baptist Church of Orange Beach
Stanley & Mary Cauthen
Rudolph & Kay Ray
Donnie & Diane Cauthen
Ronny & Carol Landrum
Judy Connell
James R. & Verna B. Dahlman
Janet Crosby
Terry & Cathy Hanner
Frances Hasse
Paul W. Hietanen
Craig Hatcher
Terry & Cathy Hanner
Ken Herrin
W.R. & Hope Becklund
John W. & Sandra Fisher
Kay Palmer
Toni & Phillip Turner
Jerry & Faye Cook
Judith & Sissy Flanigan
Stan & Janice Moss
Shirley Paulus
Rod & Linda Chappelle
W.R. & Judy Harland
Tim & Jennifer Jackson
Joyce Pinnix
Duncan & Christine Ponder
Patsy Graves Father
Toni & Phillip Turner
Mickey Lawhon
Kay Herrin
Del Layne
W. R. & Hope Becklund
Jean McIvar
W. R. & Hope Becklund

Patti Marra Billy & Jean Adcock Dr. Bruce & Peggy Bleil Carolyn Boudreaux George Frederickson Thomas J. LaHaye Jack & Sandra Reagan Jo Cille Roberts Robert & Denise Trentham Frank Carpenter	Charlie Wilder John & Sandra Fisher Joyce Pod Anna Hall Francie Pizzitz Marie Stewart Shirley Paulus Jerry & Faye Cook Judith & Sissy Flanigan W.R. & Judy Harland Stan & Janice Moss Kay Palmer Marinda Barbaree George & Kathleen Donaldson Rod & Linda Chappelle Bill Sabatino Rod & Linda Chappelle Stan & Janice Moss Brook Taylor's Dad Toni & Phillip Turner Eileen Verville William & Betty Oliver Jane Wright Max & Jeraldine Watson
Charles Moss W.R. & Hope Becklund Shirley Paulus Raymond Terry, III George & Kathleen Donaldson Judith & Sissy Flanigan Tim & Jennifer Jackson Jerry & Faye Cook Toni & Phillip Turner Marinda Barbaree Rod & Linda Chappelle David Owen Toni & Phillip Turner Lil Pyburn Toni & Phillip Turner Ted Rempe Benjamin & Rosalie Johnson George & Lynn Carvell Rod & Linda Chappelle Peter & Judy Conroy Faye & Jerry Cook AJ & BJ Cunningham Jody Fidler Frances West Berkley & Judy Fraser Richard & Joan Hansen Calvin & Carol Hanson Don & Susan Kemp Melanie Sikes-Breckner John & Shirley Tucker Edith Waller Janet Zimmerman	HONOR GIFTS Dick & Betty Allen Ann H. Cox Jean Baughn Dorothy Stenberg Eula & Larry Patzer 60th Anniversary Shirley Paulus

Thanks! **PRINTING**
"We Don't Just Make Copies - We Make Friends"
ZONE
for your generous contribution
to the CSC newsletter.

SPOTLIGHTS

CHURCH



St. Thomas by the Sea by Priscilla McDonough

St. Thomas by the Sea grew out of a mission established in 1986 by the late Rev. Anthony Zoghby, then Pastor of Our Lady of the Gulf Parish in Gulf Shores. It soon became evident that both permanent residents and the many visitors would require a permanent place of worship. Construction of the current church started in the summer of 1999. It was completed and the church was dedicated on December 17, 2000. Rev. James Dane has been the Pastor since June, 2007. The Parish currently has about 200 full-time families.

The Mission Statement of St. Thomas by the Sea is to live and to witness to the values of the gospel. The Parish "feeds the hungry" by collecting food several times a year for the CSC and Catholic Social Services (CSS) in Robertsdale. The Parish Knights of Columbus donated hams for Christmas meals to CSC families. The Knights also sponsored a Wine Tasting this year at Ginny Lane Restaurant with \$2,500 in proceeds going to CSC. Parish members "clothe the naked" through their volunteer work in the CSS Thrift Shop. Every year parishioners provide Christmas toys to CSC and CSS families. The Parish provides ongoing spiritual and financial support to St. Benedict School in Elberta and Mary's Shelter.

The Parish continues to grow in its loving concern for the needy in our community and the world. St. Thomas by the Sea's beachside marquee reminds all that ride by that "God is madly in love with you".

PARTNER



Sunny 105.7

Once again, the Christian Service Center was the recipient of toys collected in the "Santa's Toy Drive" effort co-sponsored by Sunny 105.7 FM in cooperation with many local businesses that serve as collection locations. For the tenth year, the two organizations have joined together to help give children in the area a better Christmas. Lee Hagan of Sunny 105 pointed out that the toys are specifically distributed within the Center's service area of Gulf Shores, Orange Beach and Fort Morgan.

New, unwrapped toys were brought during normal business hours to the following locations: Manning Jewelry, Gulf Shores Family Pharmacy, Canal Road Animal Hospital, Moe's Original Bar B Q, McCarron Insurance, Franco's Restaurant, Merrill Miller Interiors, The Hardware Store and GNG Plumbing, Wildflowers Boutique, Gulf Shoes Insurance, Riviera Tire, Silver Seahorse, Orange Beach Power Sports & RC Hobbies, The Meat Mart, Woodson's Barge N, Printing Pros, and the Sunny 105.7 FM Studio.

The 2015 drive produced more than 55 boxes of toys



VOLUNTEER



David Saunders by Bebe Gauntt

Having lived and worked in exotic places such as Panama, Hawaii, and Okinawa, David Saunders and wife, Anne, natives of Mississippi, retired to Gulf Shores about 19 years ago. David's involvement with the CSC began soon after they moved here.

David's career in the personnel field involved information gathering and computer usage, providing a solid background for statistical analysis.

About 10 years ago, David was writing grants for the CSC. He discovered more information was needed to send to prospective donors regarding the service and efficiency of the CSC. His information gathering expanded and is now furnished monthly at the Board of Directors meeting. (See article on Page 1).

Before David became the official statistician for the CSC, he served as a Meals on Wheels driver, Administrative Assistant, Medical Supply Coordinator, Grants Coordinator and Vice-President. David said, "I cannot think of a more worthy cause than giving a hand up to people in our community who need emergency assistance. As a total volunteer organization of over 200 people donating their time and effort, CSC is able to give .91 cents of every dollar directly to client needs. The other 9 cents goes for paying utility bills and office supplies.

David is also known throughout the area for his gorgeous singing voice and dry sense of humor. He is a beloved charter member of St. Andrew by the Sea where he is considered a treasure.

CHRISTIAN SERVICE CENTER

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WWW.CSCGS.COM



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

Christian Service Center

Presenting Sponsor: Holy Spirit Thrift Shop

Spaghetti DINNER

Tuesday, February 23rd

Serving 4:30 to 7:00 pm

Gulf Shores United Methodist Church

Building B - Auditorium

1720 Gulf Shores Parkway

(located in the Winn Dixie Shopping Center)

Join in the fun!

Ticket: \$10

Dine in! —or— Drive through!

Advance tickets are available at the

Christian Service Center and

GSUMC's Office

9am-Noon, Monday-Friday



2016 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January	1	Office Closed
	11	Board Meeting – Noon
	18	Office Closed – In Service
February	8	Board Meeting – Noon
	9	Mardi Gras
	23	Spaghetti Dinner
March	14	Board Meeting
	26	Office Closed – Good Friday
April	11	Board Meeting – Noon
May	9	Board Meeting – Noon
	30	Office Closed – Memorial Day
June	13	Board Meeting – Noon
July	4	Office Closed – Independence Day
	14	NO BOARD MEETING
	27	AA Meeting – Noon
		CW Meeting – Noon
August	8	Board Meeting – Noon
September	5	Office Closed – Labor Day
	12	Board Meeting – Noon
October	10	Board Meeting – Noon
November	14	Board Meeting – Noon
	24, 25	Office Closed – Thanksgiving
December		No Board Meeting
	24-January 1, 2016	Office Closed for Christmas and New Year
January	2, 2017	- Office Reopens