



# SHARINGS

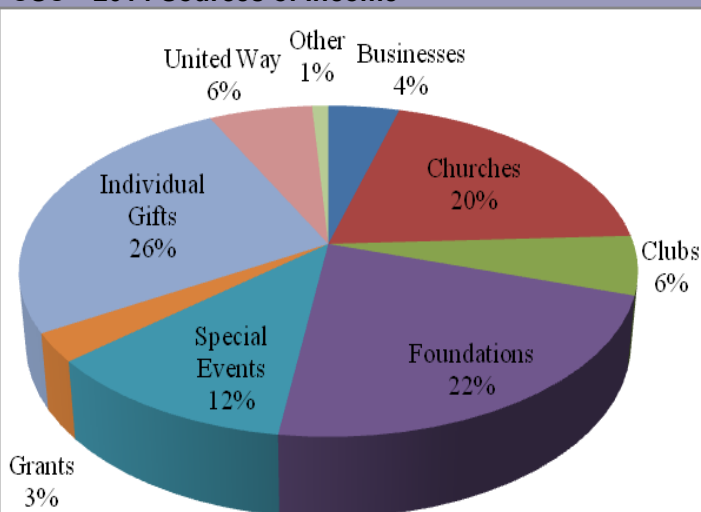
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Christian Service Center

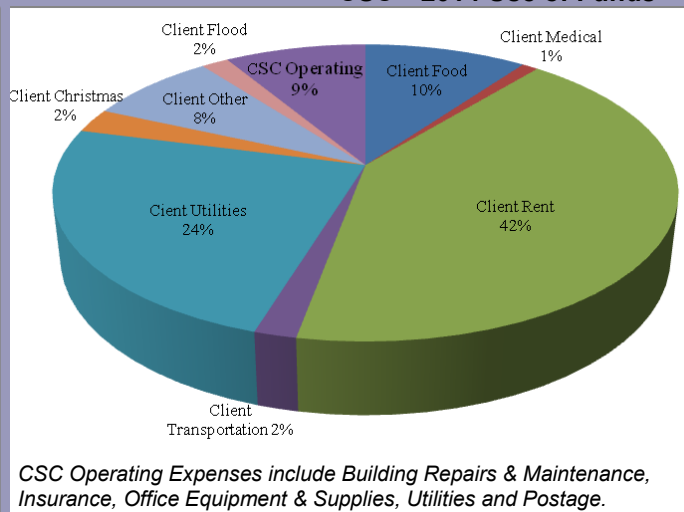
Spring 2015

## Who Knew..... by Barb Fitch

**CSC—2014 Sources of Income**



**CSC—2014 Use of Funds**



**We all want to help...** If someone falls down, most of us would want to help him get up. When someone is hungry, most of us would want to give her food. If a child is cold, very few of us could turn away. Most of us are good people trying to do the right thing to help others. The problem is that we don't know how to help. We might like to contribute to a charitable organization, but which one? How can we invest our hard earned money to get the biggest bang for our bucks? If you are in the Gulf Shores/Orange Beach/Fort Morgan area, the answer to that problem is the Christian Service Center.

Not-for-profit agencies don't always give us the return on investment that we expected. By the time they pay their administrative costs, many wind up serving clients with as little as 20% of the dollar. That doesn't necessarily mean that they are a bad investment. If you are determined to help the victims of a disaster in another country, they may be the only way you can reach them. If however, you

want to help those nearer home, looking at the return on your investment is a smart thing to do.

**Here's a smart return on your investment...91%** Yes, that means that for every dollar you give, the Christian Service Center returns 91 cents worth of service to our community. Last year, that meant helping more than 5,000 individuals! These are our neighbors! Maybe we don't see them every day, but there are plenty of people in our community who are struggling to find enough to eat, clothes to keep themselves and their children warm, and homes with electricity and heat to keep themselves and their families safe.

**What is the magic?** How can the CSC manage to return this much of your charitable dollar to the community? There are two kinds of magic at work. One is area churches, businesses and individuals recognize the quality service being provided by the CSC and donate with generous hearts and wallets.

The other really amazing magic is an army of more than 200 volunteers.

There is no paid staff. Those providing service are people who are neighbors of yours and mine. Some of them get up early to drive to local grocery stores to collect bread. Some work in the food pantry helping hungry people get food. Some deliver hot, nourishing "meals on wheels" to people who might not eat that day without them. Others meet with clients to help determine if they need emergency aid for medical expenses, aid with housing, utilities, budget counseling or the loan of durable medical equipment. Still others provide children birthday parties where there would not have been one. Some prepare Christmas boxes filled with food and toys. This army of volunteers is what makes it possible to return an unheard of amount of every one of your dollars to help our neighbors.

**Who knew?** We all want to help each other. To help our neighbors get back on their feet is a smart investment for many reasons. But who knew that giving to the Christian Service Center was also a smart move for your pocketbook?

## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN



**Linda Chappelle**

We pride ourselves on being good stewards of the money given to CSC.

When a client comes in for assistance, they fill out an intake form, provide a photo ID, Social Security number, and show proof of residence. Catholic Social Services helped devise our forms and procedures when CSC was established in 1991. The client is then interviewed by a Case Worker to determine what the needs are and how we may help.

Questions a case worker might consider are: If we help, will the client be able to pay their rent or utilities next month? Are there family members who can help? Does the client need to move to a less expensive place? Is the client getting enough hours at work? Do they need to find a second job or are they qualified for a better job? Once each situation is evaluated resources, along with referrals to other agencies, are provided as appropriate.

Families who have financial needs are encouraged to accept food from us and we give enough food for three meals a day for a week. Sometimes they are able to pay a bill if they can feed their family. There are guidelines on how often we will give a client food. We do not want anyone to go without

food so clients are also informed about bread ministries and advised to apply for food stamps if we think they may be eligible.

If the client needs help with utilities or rent, the case worker determines how much the client can pay and then CSC will determine how much we are able to assist. There are yearly guidelines on how much we should spend on a client every six months or during a year.

In addition, the resources we provide are reported through Wise Hope, a software program created to increase communication and accountability within the community of assistance organizations in South Baldwin County.

We are grateful for the strong community support we receive and make every effort to insure that the trust placed in us is well deserved.

I am a 32-year old single mother of two children, a boy 8 and a girl 6. Their father and I divorced four years ago and I receive no child support. Prior to getting married I lived with my father. My mother died when I was ten, leaving just my Dad and me. After I finished college with a degree in accounting, I continued to live with my father but was unable to find an accounting job in the rural community where we lived. After I was married, we moved to another small town in the same county but I still could not use my degree and my husband never held a job for very long.

After my divorce, I visited a friend who had moved to Gulf Shores. While on that visit I looked around for work and found a supervisor job with one of the large condo rental companies in the reservation department.

### I AM.....



I thought this could lead to a future with this company and would give my children and me a fresh start. Well, we moved here. I signed a lease for an apartment and started my job. Things were great. The children loved the area and their new school.

I did not understand the seasonal nature of the work here.

Once rentals slowed, my work hours were cut. Fortunately, I had enough savings combined with my short hours to get through the first off-season but as the second one approached, I had no money to carry us through until spring. My dad could not help me financially but could give us a place to live.

After discussing my situation with one of your case workers, I decided my best option was to return to my father who had already encouraged me to do just that. In order to avoid breaking my lease and have that on my credit score, the Center helped me with a utility bill and food for a month. On the day I was packed and leaving for home, the Center also provided a full tank of gasoline – enough to get me the 200 miles home to my father's house.



### Church



**St. Andrew by the Sea**  
*by Bebe Gauntt*

St. Andrew by the Sea has long bought into the credo "Everyone is called to ministry." In the 16 years St. Andrew has been in existence, the members of the church have tried to live up to that principle. The members have been active in every facet of the Christian Service Center and have supported it with their time and talents. They believe in the CSC's mission of "Giving a hand--up, not a hand-out."

The church supports the Center with monetary gifts also. From contributions through the Outreach Committee, communion offerings, member contributions, to collecting food, the church remains faithful to the needs of the Center. Both the St. Andrew Women and St. Andrew Men contribute in many ways and both groups are sponsors of the Center's Annual Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser.

Rev. Dr. Lawrence Wood, senior minister of St. Andrew by the Sea, is a strong supporter of the Center's mission and is active on the board and in the Pleasure Island Ministerial Association.

Rev. George Myers, St. Andrew associate minister, was of one of four founding PIMA clergy members of the center in 1991.

Linda Chappelle, also a St. Andrew member, serves as president of the board for the Center and works tirelessly on its behalf.

### Partner



**Hazel's Nook**

For over ten years, owner Ray Tirador and the staff of Hazel's Nook have provided hot meals for sick or disabled citizens in the Gulf Shores and Ft. Morgan area through the "Meals on Wheels" program.

Under the general sponsorship of the Christian Service Center, the program is directed by volunteer Dolly Crewes". In 2014 alone, 6,418 hot meals were provided door to door through this extraordinary partnership. That's an average of 30 meals a day, five days a week which were delivered by more than 50 volunteer drivers.

Nestled between BB&T Bank and Walmart at 120 State Hwy. 180 in Gulf Shores, Hazel's Nook is an entirely appropriate name for this cozy, warm, and inviting restaurant. It is open seven days each week for breakfast and lunch. A generous buffet bar offers a variety of tasty dishes. Popular with workers and retirees alike, the restaurant opened in 1957 and has garnered several "People's Choice" Awards for Best Breakfast and Best Buffet in surveys conducted by local Radio Station Sunny 105.7.

The Christian Service Center is grateful to Hazel's Nook for its continued service to the "Meals on Wheels" program. The meals simply could not be provided without this extraordinary support.

### Volunteer



**Jennifer Jackson**  
*by Janice Moss*

Jennifer Jackson has been CSC Office Coordinator since 2010. She began volunteering at the Center in 2007, first as an Administrative Assistant, then Caseworker, and now she's the person in charge at the Center twice a week. She also applies for grants to support the Center's mission, prepares Board Meeting packets, and is invaluable with her computer savvy. She serves on the Executive Board and is part of on-going decision making at the Center.

Jennifer was Office Manager for a doctor's office in Birmingham for 15 years. She and husband, Tim opened T&J Electrical in 1981 and moved the company to Orange Beach in 2004. They had already owned a condo here since 1987. They have four children: Scott, Kelli, Matt, and Stephanie and three grandchildren: Austin, Lola and Claudia.

Jennifer is active in Sirens of the Sea, Gulf Shores Woman's Club, South Baldwin Newcomer's and Orange Beach Ladies Fire Auxiliary. She attends church at Worship on the Water.

Jennifer loves serving the Christian Service Center. Besides her many talents and skills, she is a ray of sunshine brightening many days with quick wit and humor.

# Thank You

## Spaghetti Dinner Sponsors

**682 Dinners Served**



*Pictured are, from left, Holy Spirit Thrift Shop volunteers Lee Reid, Dick Reid, Thrift Shop Board Chair Yvonne Jones, Christian Service Center President Linda Chapelle, Thrift Shop volunteer Judy Dyer and Thrift Shop Manager Alicia Gattenio.*

For the sixth consecutive year Holy Spirit Thrift Shop has been the Presenting Sponsor for the Christian Service Center's annual Spaghetti Dinner.

### PRESENTING SPONSOR

Holy Spirit Thrift Shop

### PLATINUM SPONSORS

Gulf Breeze RV Church

Gulf Shores United Methodist Church

### GOLD SPONSORS

Bancorp South

Billy's Seafood

Centennial Bank

Jubilee Pickers

Knights of Columbus

Lagoon Baptist Church

Longhorn Steak House

National Bank of Commerce, GS

Our Lady of the Gulf Catholic Church

St. Andrew by the Sea

St. Andrew by the Sea Men's Club

St. Andrew by the Sea Women's Club

South Baldwin Regional Medical Center

The Mullet Wrapper

Wal-Mart

Wells Fargo

### SILVER SPONSORS

Beach House Boutique, LLC

Judie & Sissy Flanigan In Memory of Matt Flanigan

Grant, Sanders & Taylor

GFWC Women's Club, Inc

Merchants & Marine Bank

Mary O'Day In Memory of John O'Day

Villadsen Family

### BRONZE SPONSORS

Bon Secour Fisheries, Inc

Carson & Company, Inc

### RAFFLE SPONSORS

Kathleen Donaldson

Drew Flanigan, CSW

Folio Fine Wines

Bente Howe

Bridget F. Shrader, CSW

United-Johnson Brothers, of Alabama LLC

Barb Suberi

Tacky Jack's—Gulf Shores

Tanger Outlet

Diane Urban





Filling plates for diners are Shirley Paulus, Sandy Fisher, Ruth Moran, Bente Howe and Betty McCoy.



Pictured preparing sauce are Betty Patton, Susan Coyne and Ruth Moran.



Deb Darlson, Dick Reid and Peggy Hightower representing Holy Spirit Thrift Shop, Presenting Sponsor.



Janice & Charles Runels



Preparing plates for take-out diners are Chan West, Faye Cook and Jane Hanners.



Manning the beverage station. Pictured (l-r) Edward, Mary Jo & Russ Berver and Carole Clark



Rod Chappelle working the drive thru



Dinner volunteer coordinator, Betty Oliver



## PARTNERS IN ACTION



The Knights of Columbus, St. Thomas by the Sea Council, hosted a Wine Pairing and Dinner at Ginny Lane to benefit CSC. The result was a \$2,500 contribution presented to Center President, Linda Chappelle by Steve Nelson (l), Event Chairman and Bill Chambers, Grand Knight of the St. Thomas by the Sea Council.



Eight Kaiser Realty Employees participated in the United Way's Day of Caring at the Christian Service Center. Pictured are (l-r) Suzi Ingram, Tina Bearfield, Terri Johnson, Melanie Tremaine, Bonnie Eastman, Glen Kaiser, Tia Casey and Lee Ann Jones. Their services included pulling weeds, mulching, trimming shrubs and trees in the rain. They also hung utility cabinets and did some touch-up painting in the office.



HRH, a Gulf Shores gift & accessory store, hosted a "Jingle & Mingle" Open House with a percentage of sales from the day's event benefiting CSC. The event included a fashion show and refreshments. Pictured: CSC President Linda Chappelle, Project Coordinator Sue Boles and HRH Sales Associate Penny Christopher.



While meeting in Orange Beach for their Feast of Tabernacles, the Church of God, a Worldwide Association, selected the Christian Service Center as their designated local charity. They contributed an estimated two tons of food, personal hygiene items, baby supplies and a substantial monetary donation. Pictured are (l-r) Jerry Walters, Chris Teague, Rich Walters, Jack Miller, Stefanie and Chris Rochelle.



Center Coordinator, Jennifer Jackson accepts a \$500 check from Orange Beach Lions Club representative, Iris Ethridge.



Susanna Lax (l) and Mary Dover (r) with some of the toys for Christmas Cheer.



South Baldwin Newcomers President, Andrea De-Meyer is joined by CSC volunteer, Shirley Paulus as she accepts toys donated by the Club for the Center's Christmas Cheer Program.

## A CHRISTMAS STORY

by: Ron Bousquet

By the time the CSC completed its 2014 Christmas Cheer Program, 240 families received Christmas gifts for their 602 children. The gifts totaling a dollar amount of approximately \$69,000 were again supplied by generous members of the Gulf Shores/Orange Beach communities. This annual activity was accomplished through the help of 44 local sponsors and 80 Center volunteers.

Of special note this year, was the Mom who asked that her seventeen year old son be given tools so he might be able to continue his work in training to become a carpenter. One of our local angels recognized this unusual request and supplied us with a large number of expensive tools to meet the young man's request. When the Mom arrived to see what the Center was able to provide, she became very emotional explaining that her husband, who recently died, was in process of training their son for his adult profession as a carpenter. The most upsetting situation occurred during the time of the funeral. Their tool shed was robbed and the family was left without tools for this young man to continue his training.

Yes, Christian Service Center, Congratulations! You were able to do it again!

## CHRISTMAS CHEER SUPPORTERS

Sunny 105.7  
Canal Road Animal Hospital  
GNG Plumbing  
Gulf Shores Family Pharmacy  
Manning Jewelers  
McCarron Insurance  
Merril Miller Interiors  
Repeat After Me  
South Baldwin Regional Medical Center  
The Meat Mart  
Woodson's Barge In  
Khloe and Kate's  
Orange Beach Power Sports & Radio Controlled Hobbies  
Eagle's Talon  
Island Dollar Store  
Hollis Interiors  
Sugar Shack and Café  
Outlaw MMA  
Pensacola Pools  
Dec McClelland-Edward Jones  
GNC  
Pepper Palace  
Wolf Bay Lodge  
Stenz  
Pelican Place at Craft Farms  
Merle Nutrition & Smoothies  
One Cut Glass  
Students and Staff at Gulf Shores Middle School  
Wildflowers Boutique  
Fisher's Restaurant

## WE GET MAIL

STRANGERS? Not so much!  
What has your life been like  
over LAST YEAR? LAST MONTH?  
- maybe a fabulous trip to a  
much-longed-for destination OR  
no transportation to buy groceries  
OR much needed doctor visit;  
Home filled with friends and  
family OR no home or family to  
spend time with; table filled  
with fresh baked goods OR not  
knowing where your next meal  
will come from; lots of gifts  
OR not having money to buy a  
single gift for your child...  
ARE we (you + I) really so  
different? Our needs - food,  
shelter, clothes, warmth, love!  
I am grateful and thankful  
for the volunteers at the  
Christian Center; for donors  
who make this mission possible;  
and thanks to GOD who loves us  
all every day!  
Much love and  
appreciation  
from a client

Christian Service Center Volunteers,  
Thank you so much for what you do in  
this community. It is so awesome to see  
a group of people doing such great work!  
All of you have been such a blessing to  
me and my staff at Longhorn. I will  
be very fortunate to find another group  
so willing to serve and help in my  
next town. Chris Basile will be taking  
over for me and will do whatever I  
would do for you all. I will miss  
you all very much!

- Michael Pippin  
Longhorn Steakhouse

LONGHORN  
STEAKHOUSE



## CHRISTIAN SERVICE CENTER

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Gulf Shores, AL 36547

Telephone: 251-968-5256  
Email: [csccenter@gulftel.com](mailto:csccenter@gulftel.com)  
Fax: 251-968-5252



[WWW.CSCGS.COM](http://WWW.CSCGS.COM)

## MEMORIAL GIFTS

**Joan Berry**  
Russell Muldoon  
**Judy Connell**  
Clarence & Pairzetty Bauer  
Glenn & Sherry Butler  
Judith & Sissy Flanigan  
Caryn Martin  
**Kathryn Ellen Curtis**  
Annetta K. Stevens  
**Dale Harris**  
Kay Palmer  
**Bernie Heinrich**  
Ellie Heinrich  
**Fred Herr**  
W.R. & Hope Becklund  
**Pati Marra**  
Billy & Jean Adcock  
Dr. & Mrs. Bruce Bleil  
Veronica Bohlman  
Carolyn Boudreaux  
Frank Carpenter  
Elaine & Bill Durmer  
George Frederickson  
Billy Hancock  
Kenneth & Sandra Ketzler  
Fran Kinsella & Family  
Tom & Mary LaHaye  
Jack & Sandra Reagan  
Jo Cille Roberts  
Kitty & Tommy Simpson  
Wayne Sawyer  
Sam's Club, Hudson, NH  
Louis & Robin Silva  
Robert & Denise Trentham  
**Wayne Sawyer**  
Pati Marra  
**Mother Simpson**  
Pati Marra  
**Irene Turner**  
Fran Kinsella & Family

## HONORARIUMS

**Mr. & Mrs. Dave Anderson**  
**Mr. & Mrs. Gene Anderson**  
**Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Askins**  
**Mr. & Mrs. Joe Fucci**  
**Mr. & Mrs. Bob Garland**  
**Judy Hamby**  
**Mr. & Mrs. Jeff Hitson**  
**Mr. & Mrs. Jim LaFoy**  
**Mr. & Mrs. Lamar Nicholson**  
**Dr. & Mrs. David Reed**  
**Jody Roberts**  
Mr & Mrs. Terry Peeples  
  
**Nancy & Paul Hietanen**  
Gregory Bell

**Jean Hover**  
Women and Men's Coffee at the  
Plantation

**Dr. Jerry R. McGhee**  
Mable A. Anderson

**Texie Morgan**  
Oren & Susanna Lax

**Craig & Gloria VanderNoot**  
Neil VanderNoot

## WISH LIST

Canned Meat (Tuna, Chicken)  
Ramen Noodles  
Saltine Crackers  
Peanut Butter  
Mac & Cheese  
Cereal  
Oatmeal (individual packets)  
Grits (individual packets)  
Hamburger Helper (Any Variety)  
Jelly  
Disposable Diapers  
Baby Wipes  
Feminine Hygiene Products  
Toothbrushes/Toothpaste  
Bar Soap  
Dishwashing Detergent  
Clothes Detergent

## SHARINGS

This issue is sponsored  
by  
**Mary O'Day**

In loving memory of John O'Day

*Thanks!* **PRINTING**  
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**ZONE**

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to the CSC newsletter.