



# SHARINGS

## President's Corner

by:  
Linda Chappelle

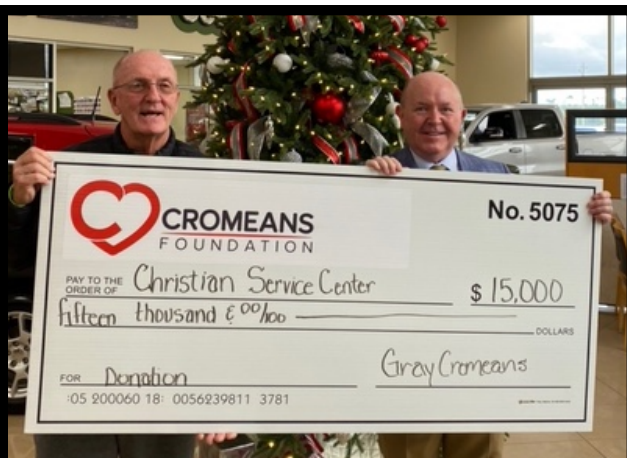


2020 was an unusual year for all of us. I would like to express my deep appreciation to all the volunteers at Christian Service Center. Due to COVID, we had to schedule fewer workers to maintain social distancing. Our volunteers are generally 65 years old and over with underlying health issues.

We haven't been able to train new volunteers for the office due to COVID.

Thanks to wearing masks and social distancing, we have been able to remain open thus far. We screen clients by telephone or go outside to talk with them.

We are so thankful for all of our Christian Service Center dedicated volunteers and will welcome everyone back once things return to normal.



Stan Moss accepts a check from Gray Cromeans for \$15,000. This brings the Cromeans Foundation total contribution to \$50,000. We are so blessed and thankful for their continued support.

## Spaghetti DINNER

# Cancelled!

**Due to COVID 19 safety concerns, we will not be able to have our annual Spaghetti Dinner, our major fundraiser, in February 2021.**

Thus, we face a loss of over \$40,000 in funding from that event. We are hopeful that we can count on you to help the Center continue to provide food and emergency aid to families in need in Gulf Shores, Orange Beach, and Fort Morgan.

Although the Center has always maintained a strong disaster fund, the overlapping nature of the pandemic and Hurricane Sally disaster has severely taxed our finances as we respond to the enormous need for help in our community.

**From March through November 2020, CSC had an astonishing 300% increase in expenditures for emergency aid compared to the same time frame in 2019.**

The Christian Service Center strives in these difficult times to serve those less fortunate and to do so while being good stewards of the funds entrusted to us. We humbly ask for your prayers and consideration for financial support.

## May we count on you?

# PANTRY



**The Christian Service Center's Food Pantry** has an amazing crew of volunteers. Pantry Chairman Stan Moss would like to recognize a special group he calls "The Pantry Gang." These retirees do the heavy lifting and have long given their time and energy to keeping the pantry warehouse stocked. Since the pandemic began, and now including the Hurricane devastation, the food pantry has seen a threefold increase in the number of families served. The warehouse group has been called upon anywhere from four to seven days a week to pick up groceries at various sites, deliver, and unload at the Center, sort and shelf, or stock in the cooler and freezer. They often come early and stay late on weekdays and show up to work on weekends as well.

CSC is open Monday - Friday, 9-12, but work in the pantry's warehouse cannot be confined to a set schedule, and these workers often respond on short notice. In recent weeks, the crew handled over 60,000 pounds of product. Moss says this group is invaluable as the pantry could not operate without their tireless efforts.

***Pictured (left to right): Don Olinski, Stan Moss, Don Harms, Don Kincade, Rodney Monroe, Jean Austin, Angela Peters***

## A Huge THANK YOU to the Erie Meyer Charitable Fund



**The Erie Hall Meyer Charitable Fund, Inc.** recently awarded a generous grant to the Christian Service Center. This donation will help the Center continue to help local families facing a financial crisis during these difficult times.

Due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic and the recent hurricane, CSC has seen a huge increase in the number of clients seeking help with both food and emergency financial aid.

The Center is grateful to the Board Members of the Erie Hall Meyer Charitable Fund for this grant. It is a huge blessing and comes at a time of unusually great need. The grant will bolster the Center's mission to serve families in need in Gulf Shores, Orange Beach, and Ft. Morgan.

***Pictured: Herb Malone, Chairman, Erie Hall Meyer Charitable Fund, Inc.; Linda Chappelle, CSC Board President. Center Director.***

**THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!**

**Candice and Terri, owners of Wildflowers Boutique**, with a few of the toys brought to them by friends and customers for our Christmas Cheer program.

Wildflowers owners, Terri Long and Candice Duncan, have long been major supporters of CSC. Their big Christmas fundraising event has brought in incredible funding for the Center's program to provide Christmas gifts for children in Gulf Shores, Orange Beach, and Ft. Morgan. Last year's event at Perdido Beach Resort was amazing! In 2020, it has not been possible to have such a huge event due to COVID. Determined and dedicated to raising funds regardless of the circumstances, they have worked hard to include CSC in a number of local events. Their efforts have resulted in hundreds of toys being donated and an impressive number of monetary donations as well. Wildflowers Boutique is the Center's #1 fundraiser!



**A big thank you to Severance Security for their fantastic donation, and to Perdido Beach Resort for their ongoing awesome support of CSC.**



**THANK YOU Holy Spirit Episcopal Church** for your continued support of CSC as named sponsor of our Spaghetti Dinner, even in pandemic times when it is impossible to hold the event. You are an enormous blessing to our mission. ***Pictured above: John Butterick, Betty Lisle, Linda Chappelle, Father Will Lowry***

## Gifts to the Christian Service Center

### Memorials

PAM HOWARD by Richard H. & Betty Allen

GEORGE MATTHEWS by Robert Town

SAM MILLER by Faith Sunday School Class

BOB WILMERT by Linda Fuschino

TIM JACKSON by Jennifer McEvoy

JOHN DAVIS by Mark & Kathy Mitchell

KATHLEEN DREW by Laura Marie Caldwell

### In Honor Of

PAM ALLEN by Bill & Hope Becklund

MARY LEE HARMS by Julia Dean

ANDI & CHRIS CARSTENS by Felicia L. Macaleer

CLAUDIA MCDADE by Laurie McDuff

DENISE GELDERNICK by Sandra Prinz

MARINDA BARBAREE by Toni Stetson

TOMMY SPINA by Mary Storms



### Your Change Can Make a Change in Someone's Life

The Christian Service Center is working hard to respond to the increased emergency situations caused by Covid-19. The number of people who have come to us for help has risen dramatically. Your help is sorely needed, and here is a painless way for you to give it. The Christian Service Center has a Jar Project where small jars are provided for you to drop your change in each day. You won't miss the money, it's just a penny or nickel here and a dime or quarter there, but over time, the jar will fill, and small change then becomes a significant amount. Just empty the jar into a plastic bag and start over. You can bring the coin bags to the Center or to your local church and have them call the Center, and we will have someone come pick it up. Your change can help us continue to respond. You can pick up your jar at the Christian Service Center, or just start saving your coins in a plastic bag now. You will be surprised at how easy and habit forming this can be and how good it feels to know that you are helping people in our community.

Mary Ann Bousquet has volunteered with CSC for 20 years - so far. She has long been a Caseworker at the Center and was Chairman of the spaghetti dinner for five years. The last 18 years she has been Santa in her role as Chairman of our Christmas Cheer program. The program has grown immensely over the years, and she has done an incredible job always.

**Below is Mary Ann's story in her own words.**

Love comes in many forms. It helps people to give wholeheartedly, and it also helps people to bravely accept gifts for their family members. That's Children's Christmas Cheer in a nutshell!

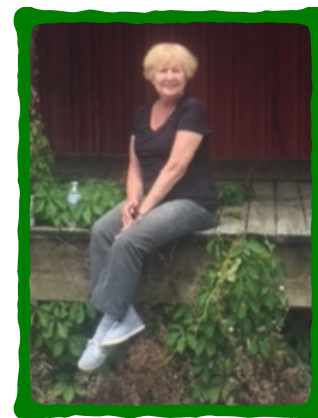
After eighteen years, I have seen many changes — from kinds of angel ornaments, to six Toyland locations. For the last several years, we have been blessed with space in The Island Church warehouse. Then there are the many faces of Christmas Cheer that have changed over the years; faces of people with enormous hearts who have embraced this program. I must mention Mary Jo and Russ Berver who ran this program before me, showed me the ropes, and dedicated so much time, and love to it.

Toyland is magical. Once a worker from the Church told me that every time he walked through Toyland, he thought he was in a Hallmark movie, with the volunteer elves working, Christmas music playing, and lots of joy within.

My whole family has helped through the years doing whatever was needed. One year, my entire family was able to help with toy distribution. My son saw grown men cry, and tears from many women when they saw the bags of gifts. He told me that day he really understood what Christmas was all about!

From ornament punchers and ribbon threaders to intake workers, to shoppers, delivery people and packers, distributors, and cleaners — I am grateful. Our gratitude continues to the churches, organizations, businesses, radio station, and fund raisers who made all this possible.

**Thank you for a wonderful eighteen years!**



**The CSC provides Christmas Cheer for families in the Orange Beach, Gulf Shores, and Ft. Morgan area.**

### Christmas Food Boxes

210 Families Served  
including  
789 Individuals Served



### Children's Christmas Cheer

190 Families Served  
including  
556 Children Served



**THANK YOU**  
To All The Angels  
Who Filled Angel Wishes  
To Help Make This  
A  
**VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS!**

**THANK YOU**  
**CHAN WEST**  
For 29 Years of Dedicated Service  
To The Christian Service Center  
  
**We Love You and Miss You!**



## Calendar

### January 2021

4 — Office Reopens

11 — Monday — Board Meeting — 12:30 PM

No In-Service this year due to COVID

### February 2021

8 — Monday — Board Meeting — 12:30 PM

16 — Tuesday — Office Closed — Mardi Gras

No Spaghetti Dinner this year due to COVID

### March 2021

8 — Monday — Board Meeting — 12:30 PM

### April 2021

2 — Friday — Good Friday

12 — Monday — Board Meeting — 12:30 PM

### May 2021

10 — Monday — Board Meeting — 12:30 PM

31 — Monday — Office Closed — Memorial Day

### June 2021

14 — Monday — Board Meeting — 12:30 PM

### July 2021

5 — Monday — Office Closed — Independence Day

No Board Meeting

The Christian Service Center is a “Hand Up” rather than a “Hand Out” agency. Clients are given immediate emergency aid as well as guidance on finding solutions to their problems. The CSC is a 501(c)(3) volunteer agency funded by the churches of Pleasure Island, various community organizations, including the United Way of Baldwin County, and interested individuals.

For more information, please call the CSC at 251-968-5256, email us at [csccenter1991@gmail.com](mailto:csccenter1991@gmail.com), or visit [www.cscgs.com](http://www.cscgs.com)



## THANK YOU! THANK YOU!



CSC volunteer Janice Moss thanks members of the **Mystical Order of Aurora** for their very generous donation to the Center.

*Pictured: Terri Long, Janice Moss, Donna Stump, Jane Sims*

Once again we are grateful to **“2 Angels Amongst Us”** for helping to provide Christmas Dinner Food Boxes to families in need in Gulf Shores, Orange Beach and Fort Morgan. ***This is eight years in a row — thank you Ronnie!***



Thank you to members of the **Cotton Creek Ladies Golf Association** for their generous annual donation of cake mixes, frosting, and candles for the **CSC Birthday Club**. The Birthday Club supports local families in need with birthday gifts and the trimmings to ensure their child has a memorable and happy birthday.



*Pictured: Debbie Wobman, Mary Tjeerdsma, Pam Minella, Gigi Roberts, Linda Houston*

