



President's Corner

By:
Linda Chappelle



CSC CELEBRATES THIRTY YEAR ANNIVERSARY

The Christian Service Center was founded June 17, 1991, starting in a storefront provided by GSUMC, and serving 203 clients through December of that year. After operating from several locations, the Center found its permanent home on Dolphin Avenue in 2001, serving 553 clients that year. Last year, in 2020, we served 2,306 clients. No one could have anticipated the huge growth in services provided and in number of clients seen over the years.

In 2019, the Erie Hall Meyer Charitable Fund gifted the CSC with the acreage adjoining our current location. The plan for this property is to build an all-purpose building to better serve our clients. We would have space for clients to meet with representatives of various agencies providing needed services, space for meetings and conferences, much needed storage space for the food pantry, and space for our programs such as Christmas Cheer and the Birthday Club.

The past year, with Covid 19 and Hurricane Sally, was unparalleled in both client numbers and the amount of money needed for emergency aid. The Center has never before been called upon to help to this extent, not even with previous hurricanes. During the 12 month period from April '20 - April '21, CSC responded to 2,605 client visits by providing food, rent, and utilities assistance to serve 7,110 individuals.

Thankfully, client numbers are currently down and people seem to be doing well in most circumstances. Our food pantry continues to be blessed with an abundance of food, and we are able to share the bounty with other agencies and ministries in south Baldwin county.

Looking toward the future, we strive to serve the needs of those who are less fortunate and to be good stewards of the funds entrusted to us. We feel so blessed, and we are grateful for the strong support in our communities.

Linda Chappelle
Board President and Center Director

Erie Hall Meyer Charitable Fund Awards \$100,000 Matching Grant to CSC

October 13, 2020, the Board of Directors of the Erie Hall Meyer Charitable Fund, Inc., established a Matching Grant for the Christian Service Center agreeing to deliver \$1.00 for each \$1.00 CSC raised, up to \$100,000.00, by Oct. 13, 2021.

That amount has now been raised through donations from individuals, businesses, and other grants. Thus, on April 21, 2021, a check in the amount of \$100,000 was presented to the Center by Erie Hall Meyer Charitable Fund Chairman Herb Malone.

The Christian Service Center is immensely grateful to the Board Members for this matching grant. Due to COVID 19 and Hurricane Sally, the last year has been like no other in terms of the level of funding needed to meet the needs of families in our community. At times, both the number of clients and the amount of expenditures for assistance have been two to three times greater than any previous year. These funds will enable the Center to continue serving families in need in Gulf Shores, Orange Beach, and Fort Morgan. We are truly thankful for the Board's financial blessing and continued support of CSC.

Pictured (left to right): Stan Moss, CSC Food Pantry Chairman; Linda Chappelle, CSC Board President/Center Director; Herb Malone, Chairman, Erie Hall Meyer Charitable Fund.



Luncheon Contribution from South State Bank



Pictured are Marsha Jernigan, Retail Specialist and Wade Bradford, Community President of Center State Bank who brought



lunch on March 30, 2021 to the Christian Service Center for Monday volunteers in appreciation of service to the community. The Christian Service Center is a 100% volunteer agency funded by churches of Pleasure Island, various community organizations, including United Way of Baldwin County and interested individuals. For more information, please call the Christian Service Center at (251) 968-5256 or visit www.cscgs.com

Summer/Fall 2021



November 13, 2021
Wildflowers Boutique
TOYS FOR KIDS
Fundraiser
Perdido Beach Resort
to benefit
Christian Service Center
Christmas Cheer Program

WHAT A YEAR!

2020 was unprecedented for the Christian Service Center in terms of the huge number of clients served and the astounding amount of financial assistance needed.

When the COVID 19 pandemic struck, and condos, restaurants, and shops shut down, the Center responded with both food and emergency financial aid. Thankfully, during the summer, things did start to slow down as many people either received benefits or returned to work.

When Hurricane Sally struck in September, we were already fearful of leaner times to come following the summer season. Then we were immediately operating in disaster mode again, serving storm victims at an incredibly high level.

Although the Center has always maintained a strong disaster fund, the back to back nature of these two disasters severely taxed our finances as we responded to the enormous need for help in our community. We are grateful to all who answered the call and donated so generously in support of our mission to serve in difficult times.

We are dedicated to being the hands and feet of Christ, following scripture in Matthew 25:40 "...whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Folks on Spokes, a bicycle riding group and other area Snowbirds, held a food drive Feb. 5-6 at the Gulf State Park Campground to benefit the Food Pantry of the Christian Service Center. Approximately 2,000 pounds of food were collected during the event. Pictured (from left): Lynn and Jim Burns, Rusty and Karen Robbins, Steve Benda, and Donna Driver. Not pictured: Andy Hendrix.



Thank you GSUMC ReSale Heaven for the

recent donation of \$6,000 to the Center. We are so appreciative of our ongoing support of CSC. We value our partnership with the church, through the thrift shop and the bread ministry, in serving those who are in need.



The Men's Snowbird Coffee Club made their annual donation to CSC before leaving their winter home. We are so thankful for their faithful support of the Center's mission to provide food and emergency aid to those less fortunate. The group is a wonderful blessing to the community. Pictured left to right: Larry Cole, Mike Culverson, CSC Board President Linda Chappelle, Dale Orchard, and Tom Williams.



Gifts to the Christian Service Center

In Memory Of

Bobbie Jean Calloway
by Richard & Betty Allen

Thomas F. Jorden
by Glenn Jorden

Mike Bell
by Ellie Heinrich

Carole Dunderman
by Bradley Dunderman

Sam Loftin
by Evelyn Loftin

Mike Bell
by Elaine Dusenbery

Nellie Billman
by Bradley Dunderman

Mary Patricia Mahone
by Jerri May

Mike Bell
by Donna Nelson

Marty Elizabeth Berzett
by Jackie & Kimberly Johnson

Margaret Harkness
by Sunrise Covenant Group

Mike Bell
by Karen Sabatino

Alva Diane Banik
by Ruth Dunnavant

Kathleen Donaldson's sister Mary
by Diane Urban

Meals on Wheels

In Memory of Wayne Villadsen by

Jack & Laurie Nichols, Pilston & Mary Ann Lafayette,

Linda & Rod Chappelle, Bob & Jamie Davidson, Pat Steele,

Kathy Van Cor, John & Kathy Elbers, Betty Waite Zoller,

Steve & Judy Sholtis, Dr. Gene & Shirley Barbour,

Gary & Elizabeth Woodham, Eileen M. Sylvester,

Forrest & Susanna Lax, Randy & Ginger Houston,

Sandy Schuchardt, Keith Thomas Cole, A. Lane Merchant,

Charles Miller, Mac Taul & friends at Merchants Transfer Co.,

Bob & Pat Young, Jan Weaver, Tina Allen,

Charles & Janice Runels

Gary, Hank, Angie and the Stettlers

In Honor Of

Her Sons
by Sharon Kelley

Linda Chappelle's birthday
by H. Eula Myers

CANCELLED FUNDRAISER STILL A SUCCESS!

Our annual Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser had to be cancelled in February due to COVID 19 safety concerns. Thus, we faced a loss of over \$40,000 in funding for 2021 from that event.

We asked our spaghetti dinner partners and sponsors for their prayers and consideration for financial support, even though we were unable to actually hold our much anticipated event.

The Question we asked was "May we count on you?" The resounding answer was YES! We were so blessed by the outpouring of concern expressed and financial support given to CSC.

Thank you to all who made the fundraiser a success in spite of the circumstances.



Christmas Cheer Begins in Early October

Lots of planning, busy hands, and generous hearts make the Christmas season brighter for many families in our service area. The joint effort by area churches, local clubs, businesses, and community members continues.

One of our most rewarding programs at the Christian Service Center is Children's Christmas Cheer. It is a program supported by local church congregations, businesses, schools, individuals, and civic organizations which make our program possible. In 2020, the CSC gave bags full of gifts to 190 families which included 556 children. Each child receives gifts of their choosing, and an age appropriate educational gift.

Children's Christmas Cheer registration will begin October 5, 2021 and ends November 23, 2021. This year, we are asking any Angels with their unwrapped gifts to be returned to the Center, or wherever the Angel is picked up, relatively quickly, so we have a short turnaround time.

You can pick up your Angels at most of our area churches, many of our area restaurants and businesses, along with the Christian Service Center. We thank all of our many friends who pick up Angels and purchase gifts, and also all of our volunteers who help with this project. Thank you.

Pictured left to right: Betty Oliver and Mary Lee Harms, Christmas Co-chairs.



CSC SERVING CHRIST BY SERVING PEOPLE IN NEED

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 cscenter1991@gmail.com, or visit www.cscgs.com

Christian Service Center

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Calendar

July

5 – Monday – Office Closed – Independence Day

No Board Meeting

August

9 – Monday – Board Meeting – 12:30 PM

September

6 – Monday – Office Closed – Labor Day

13 – Monday – Board Meeting – 12:30 PM

October

11 – Monday – Board Meeting – 12:30 PM

November

8 – Monday – Board Meeting – 12:30 PM

24, 25, 26 – Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday – Office Closed for Thanksgiving

December

No Board Meeting

Office closed Monday, December 20, 2021 – Friday, December 31, 2021

Office Reopens Monday, January 3, 2022

JAR PROJECT UPDATE

Thank you **David Saunders** for your inspiration with the jar project! The total raised currently stands at \$12,317.09. A big thank you as well to Gulf Shores United Methodist Church for collecting \$2,058.07 with their jars. Contact the Center if you would like jars for your church, business, or family.

Remember "Your Change Can Make a Change in Someone's Life!"



Tri City Community Foundation Grant to CSC

CSC has received a grant from the **Tri City Community Foundation**, an affiliate of The Community Foundation of South Alabama. The funds will be used for providing emergency aid to families in need in our community. The Center is appreciative and thankful for The Foundation's generosity in support of our mission.



I AM...

My husband and I moved down to Gulf Shores this winter. We did everything we could to stay in Northern Alabama, but with Covid, we lost our house, we lost everything. Our elderly Mama didn't want us to move in with her. She owns her house in Gulf Shores and is very particular. But we were desperate, so she finally let us move in rent free. We do have to help with groceries and the other bills except housing. But, shortly after arriving, our starter broke in our old truck. We knew there were lots of jobs available, but we had no way to apply for any jobs. And Mama would not let us borrow her car nor drive us to interviews.

A neighbor, who was coming to the CSC for food, told us about the Christian Service Center. We have always taken care of our financial needs before Covid, it was so hard to come ask for help. We came just asking for food.

After explaining our situation to the caseworker in the CSC, they purchased us a new starter for our truck, which my husband could put in himself. We could not believe their generosity, that someone would do something so life changing. We can now both look for jobs. The women also gave us job opportunities, and a food pantry list. We feel so blessed by the Christian Service Center and the caring volunteers there.

Thanks!
PRINTING ZONE
"We Don't Just Make Copies, We Make Friends!"
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