



President's Corner

by:
Linda Chappelle



This past year, we have continued to deal with the fallout of COVID. Rents have gone up, and there has been a housing shortage. Seasonally, our clients have experienced a reduction in work hours, though some have worked two jobs.

We had scheduled our Spaghetti Dinner for February 22, 2022, and had sent out sponsorship letters in December. With the recent increased covid risk due to the omicron variant, our Board made the decision to cancel once again. We cannot safely and responsibly have this event where several hundred people gather inside for dinner.

Since the Christian Service Center opened in 1991 through December 31, 2021:

**38,655 clients have been seen;
44,574 children have been served;
Over 2,000,000 meals have been provided.**

Ninety-one cents of every dollar given to CSC is put back into the community giving those in need a "hand up." This high rate of return on your gift is due to the Center being an all-volunteer organization, which means there are no salaries.

We are always so thankful for the way our communities bless the Center's mission to serve families in need. Even though we will not have the spaghetti dinner, we hope you will use the enclosed form to continue your valued support.



Cancelled Again!

Just as we were going to press with the newsletter, the difficult decision was made to cancel the Spaghetti Dinner, our major fundraiser, again this year. The cancellation is due to continuing Covid and Omicron variant concerns.

Thus, we again face the loss of \$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 last two years have been unprecedented with respect to the level of client needs during a pandemic and hurricane. The latest problem has been a 30—35% rise in rental rates. We are also currently in a period where hours are reduced in many service occupations.

The Christian Service Center strives 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?



On October 14, the CSC hosted a 5,000-pound food drop supplied by Feeding the Gulf Coast. The event was sponsored by **Orange Beach United Methodist Church** whose volunteers also worked at the distribution. Clients who participated, received more than 50 pounds of food. Thanks to OBUMC for partnering with the Christian Service Center to bless families in our communities.

THANK YOU to the **City of Orange Beach** for loaning 25 tables to CSC for preparing Christmas gift bags of toys to be picked up by grateful parents in Orange Beach, Gulf Shores, and Ft. Morgan.

THANK YOU, as well, to the **Island Church** for their continued strong support by providing the large space needed for our Christmas Cheer program.



Thank you to **The Hangout** for their recent donation of 3,400 pounds of ground beef. What an enormous blessing! We appreciate having the Hangout partner with us in our mission to feed families in need.

Pictured L to R: Omer Ramon, Hangout Director of Operations; Stan Moss, CSC Food Pantry Chair; Linda Chappelle, CSC Board President; Ashley Haeusler, Hangout Marketing Manager



For the eighth year in a row, the **Church of God, a Worldwide Association**, met at the Orange Beach Events Center. The group desires to bless the communities where they meet, and again chose the Christian Service Center as the recipient of their outreach. Each day of their meeting, the group collected food, household supplies, personal hygiene items, baby supplies and cash donations for the CSC.

Their generous cash donation of more than **\$8,000** will allow the CSC to purchase more than 65,000 pounds of food from the Feeding America food bank! This contribution will be used to aid families in need in Gulf Shores, Orange Beach, and Fort Morgan and will provide thousands of meals.

Eight years ago, when the Church of God, a Worldwide Association, held their first meeting here, they were pointed towards the CSC by a city official. We are grateful for the generosity of everyone in the group meeting here, and we are also grateful to our community officials for supporting us.

Pictured left to right: Don and Debbie Daugherty, Festival Volunteers; Phil Sandilands, Pastor and Festival Coordinator; Stan Moss, CSC Food Pantry Chair.

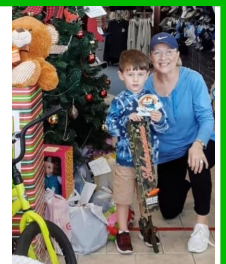


THANK YOU, J & M TACKLE!

Christmas Angel Tree Shout Out!

A special moment today between a man and his grandson. The man brought his grandson to the register and said we'd like to buy this fishing pole to place under the tree. His grandson put the pole on the counter to be paid for. He then told him to go ahead and put it under the tree. While holding both shoulders, he told his grandson... "God likes when you do good things to help people." His grandson's smile was priceless - as he placed the gift under the tree with a huge happy heart.

Thank you both for making our day feel special at J&M!



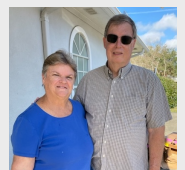
PANTRY

BEHIND THE SCENES

If you volunteer with the CSC, or have toured the Center, you are familiar with the work of food pantry volunteers stocking the shelves, refrigerators, and freezers, and packing food orders for waiting families. Their work is the M-F, 9-12, daily operation of the pantry.

However, few people are aware of the valuable behind the scenes workers who make all this possible. Over twenty people make up this hard-working team. They are the volunteers who work outside of Center operation hours seven days a week, often unseen by anyone else. They handle the seventeen plus weekly food pickups from various retail locations in Gulf Shores and Orange Beach. Food pickups at local stores vary from daily to once a week. We have someone picking up from one store every morning at seven o'clock. Other volunteers work in the afternoon organizing the latest pickups and moving goods from stock to prep areas. And some clean the pantry, power-wash the floors, and defrost the freezers.

All these volunteers are the unseen, unsung heroes of the food pantry operation. They are behind the scenes, but their work is vital to the Center. These volunteers deserve a big shout out! **Chris & Mike Haley** pick up bread for the Center from Publix every Friday morning about 7 a.m. They also help with other Center projects. **Well Done and Thank You!**



Gifts to the Christian Service Center

IN MEMORY OF

CHAN WEST

By
R. L. & Linda T. Chappelle
F. L. and T. Currie
Julia Dean
Sandra Kay Palmer
Judith N. & Sissy Flanigan

MARY ANN ROYER

By
Elaine & Bill Durmer

ROBERT THOMPSON

By
Darlene M. McQuen

ALICE OWENS

By
Robert F. Owens
Stan & Janice Moss

M. J. VANDER NOOT

By
Richard H. & Betty J. Allen

FRANK USSERY

By
Richard H. & Betty J. Allen

JOHN MCCORMICK

By
Thomas R. & Diana L. Bruce
Elaine Durmer
Sandra Reagan
Danny & Nancy Vogelgesang
Nell Harris
Ellie Heinrich
Clifford & Robyn Johnson
Donna McCarley
James Nelson

IN HONOR OF

JEAN COBERLY

By
James R. & Verna B. Dahlman
Patrick & Donna McCormick
Virginia Thompson
Elizabeth Reinking
John W. & Sandra Fisher
Gulf Shores Ladies League
Gulf Shores Ladies Tennis

MAC DAVID MCKINNEY

By
Mark Pavey

MIKE & ANNETTE DAVENPORT

By
Virginia Thompson

ROSEMARY STEELE

By
Linda Steele

IRENE & TUCKER DURMER

By
Elaine & Bill Durmer

CDG ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN

MR. & MRS. JEFF DURMER

By
Elaine Durmer

By
Melvin Ulmer

I AM

I am a 36-year-old single mom with two children, and I'm working hard to provide for my family. I want to share my experience with the volunteers at the Christian Service Center.

The period of time with Covid 19 and Hurricane Sally aftermath were extremely difficult. First, I was laid off my job, without pay, and struggled to support us. I experienced much hardship. I was terrified of being homeless, without utilities, and hungry.

The Christian Service Center was there to help me without judgement, but with caring, compassion, and prayers. They were there with open arms and open hearts to help us through this difficult time in our lives. I feel blessed and thankful that they were there for us when we had no other resources.

Thank you for caring. You are truly God's angels on earth!

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

Christmas Food Boxes

178 Families Served

Christmas Spirit

29 gifts Given to Shut-ins

Children's Christmas Cheer

196 Families Served

including

591 Children Served



Christian Service Center Thanks Community for Christmas Response

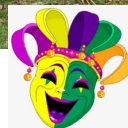
Each year, the Christian Service Center provides gifts and Christmas food boxes to members of the Pleasure Island community. Thank you to the many, many individuals and businesses that opened their hearts and their wallets. You made a difference. (L to R: Chuck and Pat Kolotka)



The ladies of the

Mystical Order of Aurora

recently made an outstanding donation of \$12,000 to the Christian Service Center. Thank you to the Auroras for so generously helping the Center provide for the less fortunate families in Gulf Shores, Orange Beach, and Ft. Morgan. Pictured (L to R) members of the Mystical Order of Aurora with CSC volunteers. Donna Stump, Jane Sims, Stan and Janice Moss (CSC), Terri Long, Eva Keesee, Marlene Lowe.



Calendar

January

3 - Monday - Office reopens

10 - Monday - Board Meeting 12:30 PM

No InService this year

February

14 - Monday - Board Meeting 12:30 PM

22 - Spaghetti Dinner

March

1 - Office closed for Mardi Gras

14 - Monday - Board Meeting 12:30 PM

April

11 - Monday - Board Meeting 12:30 PM

15 - Good Friday - Office closed

May

9 - Monday - Board Meeting 12:30 PM

30 - Monday - Office Closed - Memorial Day

June

13 - Monday - Board Meeting 12:30 PM

July

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

Christian Service Center

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Thanks!

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



The Cotton Creek Ladies Golf Association collected cake, icing, and gift bags for the Christian Service

Center Birthday Club at our annual Christmas luncheon. The ladies donated 105 cake mixes and cans of frosting and 64 gift bags. They have been delivered to the pantry/birthday club and will make many of our birthday club children very happy.



Thank You! Thank You!

Your Change Can Make A Change In Someone's Life!



Thank you David Saunders

for your inspiration with the jar project! Simply keep a jar in a convenient spot and put your change in it every day. When the jar is full, give the money to the CSC and start saving again. The total raised currently stands at an amazing \$13,115.00.

Contact the Center if you would like jars for your church, business, or family.

Lisa Christian shows off a bike donated to the CSC Christmas Cheer program!

Sunny 105.7 helps provide toys for local children annually through its Santa's Helper Toy Drive. Collection boxes are placed in local businesses throughout our communities, filled by supporters, and then collected and delivered to the Center's Toyland location. Thank you, Sunny 105.7, for your valued support over the last 15 years!



Thank You!