



President's Corner



WHAT A HUGE SUCCESS!! WILDFLOWERS and PERDIDO BEACH RESORT

hosted the

BLOSSOMS OF HOPE GALA

fundraising event which blessed the Christian Service Center with a record \$394,000 raised to help provide food and emergency financial assistance to low income families. This is amazing support from the generous people of our local communities. We are so grateful for the blessings.

Unfortunately we set new records in 2024 at CSC as inflation continued to plague families, often leaving them unable to make ends meet. The Center is also being challenged by rising food costs. Thanks to strong community support we go forward into 2025 continuing to serve as the hands and feet of Christ.

See our "By the Numbers" box on page 3.

We are very thankful for all of the blessings that flow our way!

Blossoms of Hope Gala 2024



Epic best describes the 2024 edition of the Wildflowers/Perdido Beach Resort Blossoms of Hope Gala. The Saturday, November 16, fundraising event for the Christian Service Center totaled \$394,000 in donations. An epic fundraising accomplishment indeed. Special recognition goes to Gray Cromeans and the Cromeans Foundation for the beyond generous gift of a \$125,500 matching grant. During the event there was

a call for contributions to the building fund for a much needed storage building. This effort accounts for \$74,350 of the total funds.

Funds raised will be used by the Christian Service Center to provide food and emergency financial assistance to low income families in the Gulf Shores, Orange Beach, and Ft. Morgan area. Children's programs, such as Christmas Cheer, Birthday Club, and Summer Backpack Food, will also be funded. The building funds raised will help turn the dream of a storage building into a reality.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who sponsored a table, purchased tickets, made a donation, contributed items for the silent or live auction, or otherwise helped through the gift of their time and talents. It is the generosity of the community that makes the event such a huge success.

You are a blessing to those who are less fortunate in our community.

*****UPDATE***SINCE THE CHECK PHOTO WAS MADE, ADDITIONAL FUNDS WERE RECEIVED RAISING THE TOTAL BEYOND THE \$400,000 MARK!**



Gray Cromeans and the Cromeans Foundation

gave a \$125,500 matching grant to the Blossoms of Hope Gala fundraising event to benefit the Christian Service Center. The matching grant served first as an incentive for others to give, and then as a beyond generous gift to CSC. The Foundation was central to the success of the fundraising effort.

Pictured: Terri Long, Stan Moss, Janice Moss, Gray Cromeans, Jen Blanchard, Linda Chappelle

thank
you!

thank
you!



**LOOK INSIDE FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE
SPAGHETTI DINNER TO BE HELD
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2025**



THE PANTRY



The morning starts around 8:30 when the van returns from picking up donations from area stores. It's an all hands on deck time! The warehouse unloads, sorts, and delivers goods to the pantry where they are then stocked on shelves and in refrigerators and freezers. Included are nonperishable, frozen, refrigerated, and fresh goods. At 9:00 the Center opens to clients and the food orders begin. This is often a busy, non-stop, hectic time until after noon. It takes several volunteers coordinating to load baskets with a weeks worth of food, take it out and help load it in vehicles. Then do it all over again and again. It is an opportunity to serve others and have a positive impact.

Pantry workers in their own words:

We all have the same mission to serve people and provide what they need. It is this spirit of camaraderie that makes volunteering at CSC a vital and special part of our lives.

Many of us who volunteer are older and retired and find the CSC is a place we are truly needed and useful.

When I think of volunteering at CSC I think of hard work because it is! I think of helping people with a hand up.

I think of a million laughs and some tears; friends and friendships that will last a lifetime. I think every now and then God looks down and smiles.

Friday crew pictured left to right: Deb, Kay, Judy, & Mary Claire



Craft Farm Ladies Golf Group

put together birthday bags filled with cake mix, frosting, candles, and other items. Thank you for your continued support of our Birthday Club!



Sirens of the Sea Mardi Gras Krewe

members collected cereal and other food items for CSC. Cereal is always a special blessing.

Pictured are members Kathy Braune, Becky Drouillard, and Jennifer Jackson.



Christian Service Center

Presenting Sponsor: Holy Spirit Episcopal Church and Thrift Shop

Spaghetti DINNER

Monday, February 24th, 2025

Serving 4:00 to 6:30 pm

Gulf Shores Methodist Church

Building B - Auditorium
1720 Gulf Shores Parkway

RAFFLE

Join in the fun!

Ticket: \$10

Dine in! —or— Drive through!

Advance tickets are available at the
Christian Service Center.
9am-Noon, Monday-Friday



CANNED SOUPS
CRACKERS
CEREAL
PEANUT BUTTER
JELLY
GRITS/OATMEAL (individual packets)

BUILDING PROGRESS

We're pleased with fundraising efforts and moving along with the paperwork. **THANK YOU** to everyone helping with our storage



The Christian Service Center

is humbled by the dedication of the many volunteers and supporters that allow us to support those in need. We look forward to this year with hope and determination to continue the mission of CSC.



BICYCLES

We need used, adult bikes in good, ready to ride condition!!

Used for transportation to work!

Calendar

January

- 6 - Monday - Office Reopens
- 13 - Board Meeting 12:30 PM
- 20 - Inservice

February

- No Board Meeting
- 24 - Spaghetti Dinner

March

- No Board Meeting
- 4 - Tuesday, Office closed for Mardi Gras

April 14 - Monday - Board Meeting 12:30 PM

- 18 - Friday, closed for Good Friday

May

- No Board Meeting
- 26 - Memorial Day - Office closed

June

- No Board meeting

July

- 4 - Tuesday - Independence Day - Office closed

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. Please check out our Facebook page!

Christian Service Center

317 Dolphin Avenue
P. O. Box 882
Gulf Shores, AL 36547
Phone: 251-968-5256
Fax: 251-958-5252
Email:
cscenter1991@gmail.com
www.cscgs.com



Thanks!
PRINTING
"We Don't Just Make Copies - We Make Friends"
ZONE
3817 Gulf Shores Parkway, Suite 3
Gulf Shores, AL
251-968-7901
printing@printingzone.com



HELP STAMP OUT SNAIL MAIL COST!

If you receive our Newsletter by mail, please consider switching to email. Just contact us at cscenter1991@gmail.com asking that we make the change and save the stamps. (Be sure to include your name)

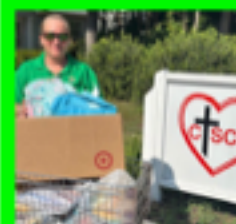
We love sharing our news with you!



THANK YOU Auroras Mardi Gras Krewe

for donating diapers to CSC. This is a huge need and something that we can not buy at a discount.

What a blessing!



Thank you, Michelle Mackovic for delivering a load of school supplies given as part of **Chance's Tribute!** New shoes were given to 18 children of CSC clients! **BLESS YOU!!**



PLEASE SCAN to access our website and to **DONATE!!**