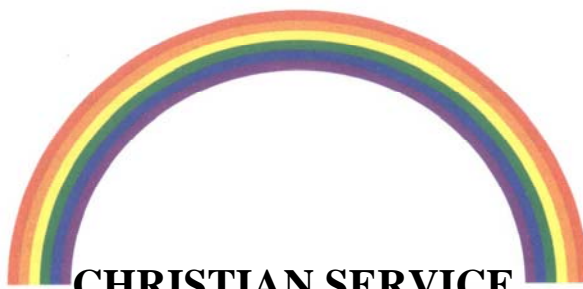


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CHRISTIAN SERVICE

Volume IX, Issue 1

The Good News

Facing the Future: **Executive** **Director** **Discusses Goals** **& Needs**

According to Brother Giovanni Reid, Executive Director of Christian Service, 2005 is a year for growth. However, with government grant money decreasing this year, meeting those goals will be a challenge. "Though the telethon was a success, we've seen a drop in funding overall due to grant cuts," Brother Giovanni said. "We still want to meet

several important goals this year, and we'll need help doing that."

Hiring counselors – Currently, the limited staff of the Herbert and Mother Stewart Houses also serve as counselors. Brother Giovanni would like to hire a dedicated staff person to provide counseling services, which are a vital part of the success of the Herbert and Mother Stewart Houses.

Establishing a new learning center – Plans to convert the former Hospitality House into a learning center have begun to take shape. The learning center would house literacy volunteers and a computer training

facility. "Many of the people we help only have grade school educations," said Brother Giovanni. "If they can't read, they can't get a job. We can change that."

Improving the Samaritan House program – The Samaritan House puts qualifying individuals and families in homes that would otherwise stand vacant. "There's no point in all of these boarded-up houses, when we have families living on the street," Brother Giovanni said. "We want to purchase more houses and fix up some of the ones we already have."



Anyone interested in providing financial support to these programs should *contact the Christian Service office at (318) 221-4857.*

Collaborative Program for Youth Pays Off

Jerrold Montgomery is 19 years old and not only is he the latest addition to the Christian Service Program staff, he's the youngest. Jerrold graduated from the **Job Corp Culinary Arts Program** March 2005, his case-worker, Jeannette Williams recaps that day;

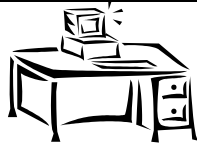
"Jerrold entered the Job Corp Program in January 2004 and he was one of those that you know is going to be a good one". I got a call from Christian Service regarding an employment opportunity for a cook, I immediately thought of Jerrold". I contacted him and explained that I may have something he may be interested in. Jerrold went down to look the place over and immediately jumped right in with his talents. A few days later I got a call from Jerrold, he was so excited about his experience, he told me, 'Ms. Williams I love it, I love working with children, serving the meals and working with Chef Allen'. Well, this went on about two more days

and he reported back to me that he was not employed yet but he wanted to volunteer his time because he was learning so much from Chef and the other cook working with the program and they need him". "His attitude had totally changed, volunteering, I would never had thought that of Jerrold or any young person this day and age", working for free never. Soon after that I got a call from a Christian Service representative to inform me that Jerrold was so efficient at his job and enthusiastic about the work he was doing, they had to hire him. They didn't really have the budget for it but she went on to explain that the cooks discussed among themselves that they would give up two days a piece in order that Jerrold could get some hours. I couldn't believe I, a dream come true.

Jeanette Williams, Job Corp

'We could not afford to lose such an eager and enthusiastic young man he shows such promise in his work, replies Br. Giovanni. We are very pleased to have Jerrold on board and excited to be a part of his first work experience'.

Christian Service Welcomes New Office Manager



Christian Service would like to extend a warm welcome to Odette Smith, our new Office Manager. Odette, a Bossier City resident who was born and raised in Shreveport, joined our team on December 15, 2004. She has had extensive experience working in offices, but has always yearned to work in the not-for-profit field.

A lifelong community volunteer, Smith has a special interest in community partnerships (she has volunteered with Shreveport Green and the Highland Area Partnership) and animal welfare. Currently enrolled in the American Humanics program at LSU Shreveport, her desire to help people led her to return to school and seek employment at a not-for-profit.

"Volunteering has always been a big part of my life," Odette said. "Other jobs haven't been completely fulfilling. I was interested in touching the lives of others, and I'm honored to have been given that opportunity at Christian Service."



Herbert House & Mother Stewart House Continue To Change Lives



From the outside, they don't look like much more than humble apartment buildings. But step into the Herbert House and the Mother Stewart House, located in the 1200 block of Sprague Street, and you'll find that these two transitional residence programs of Christian Service provide more than shelter – they provide hope, strength and motivation to residents. Both houses provide temporary shelter free of charge for qualifying individuals who exhibit a strong willingness to improve their lives.

The staff of both houses, led by Mr. Henry Rushing, also provides counseling services, career training and access to a network of potential employers.

Edwin, a 24 year-old resident of the Herbert House, doesn't think of Herbert House as a roof over his head. He thinks of it as a turning point in his life.

"This place is a blessing," Edwin said. "I feel like God gave the Herbert House to me, to help me get back on my feet."

And to hear him speak of his plans, it's obvious that Edwin is on the path to success. Before he came to Herbert House, Edwin admits that he'd had a troubled past and

he lacked the direction and motivation that he now has. By the time this story sees print, he will have begun training at a truck-

future include "driving trucks long enough to pay for college."

Next door at the Mother Stewart House, you'll hear similar stories. Ocie, a resident since August 2004, recently found employment with Goodwill Industries. Currently she's saving her money – as all employed residents of the Herbert and Mother Stewart Houses are required to do – in preparation for the day when she moves into her own home.

"The staff here are so supportive and encouraging," Ocie said. "Being surrounded by people like these has made my faith stronger, and made me stronger."



Mr. Henry Rushing invites anyone involved with Christian Service to visit the Herbert and Mother Stewart Houses, and see first-hand the great work they are doing with the aid of supporters like you.

Sheriff's Department Donates More Than 5,000 Service Hours In 2004

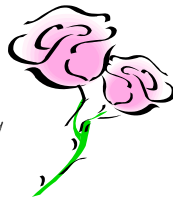


In 2004, the Caddo Parish Sheriff's Probation Office donated more than 5,000 service hours to Christian Service. Through serving in the Hospitality House kitchen and painting, moving furniture and cleaning at the Mother Stewart House, the labor provided by these workers made a huge difference. Deputy Jeanette Miller of the Caddo Parish Sheriff's Probation Office, who oversees the community service program, says that many individuals look forward to performing community service for Christian Service.

"I receive a lot of calls from individuals wanting to know where they'll be working, and they're always excited to hear that they'll be working with Christian Service," Deputy Miller said. "We look for ways that they can perform community service while enriching themselves, and Christian Service does that."

Anne Hayes Barberousse, 1927-2005

"For whatever you have done for the least of my brethren, you have done for me."
Matthew 25:45



Ann Hayes Barberousse, whose selfless example of caring for one's community was an inspiration to all who met her, died Monday, January 24 at the age of 77. Anne was a driving force in the Christian Service program from its earliest days, working closely with her dear friend Sister Margaret McCaffrey and becoming what Father Murray Clayton, former Chairman of the Christian Service Board, described as "Sister Margaret's right hand."

Father Clayton says that Anne was well-known for her steady, responsible method of addressing the many challenges and surprises encountered in the Christian Service program. She was also blessed with a sense of humor treasured by those lucky enough to serve alongside her.

Deputy Miller relates the story of a college student who was recently sentenced to perform community service. She placed him with the Christian Service program. By the time he'd completed his service hours, he'd also changed his college major.

"He changed his major to Sociology," Deputy Miller said. "He said that after working with Christian Service, he wanted to continue helping others."

Johnny Battle, Deputy Sheriff in charge of the community service program, has seen similar cases. Battle believes that working for the benefit of those less fortunate opens the eyes of his probation group, and may even reduce their likelihood to commit crimes in the future.

"I don't have many repeaters out here," Battle said. "I know that the work we do gives them the opportunity to do something good in the community. I feel like that makes a real difference."

The Christian Service Program will continue receiving the invaluable aid of the Caddo Parish Sheriff's Department as long as there are community service hours which must be worked off. Though they contributed more than 5,000 hours of service in 2004 alone, Deputy Miller understands the need for continued assistance.

"5,000 hours may sound like a lot, but I'm sure it's not enough," Deputy Miller said. "If there's more that needs doing, we'll help get it done."



"She would often deal with the most difficult situation by breaking out into wholesome, uncontrolled laughter, relieving all of our tensions," Father Murray said. "She was God's blessing to many."

Mary Blalock, a close personal friend, served alongside Anne for many years. Blalock relates that, while many individuals have served with Christian Service over the years, none have served in quite the way that Anne did. Whether making home visits to the families she served, transporting families to the doctor, dentist and hospital, or simply sitting and listening to senior citizens in "her territories" (Lakeside, MLK Drive and Allendale), a unique sense of compassion colored all that she did.

"If anyone was a living tribute to God's love, it was Anne Barberousse," Blalock said. "Serving the community was her calling from God, and she gave herself to it entirely."

Christian Service Wants YOU

Do you . . . or do you know anyone who needs . . .

- **To build confidence and self esteem.** *Volunteering can help you do things you thought you couldn't – even things you thought weren't possible!*
- **To make new friends.** *Volunteering can help you mix with new people who are into the same things, forming new friends on the way.*
- **To make a difference.** *Upset that there is nothing for young people to do in your community? Sign up to be a volunteer with CS and make a difference!*
- **To improve their chances of getting a job.** *Volunteering in your local community is something employers will respect and may give you another stepping stone towards your dream job.*
- **To gain new skills.** *Something you've always wanted to do? Go for it and gain valuable skills along the way.*

There are lots of interesting volunteering opportunities throughout the Christian Service Program. Join the Christian Service Volunteer Program TODAY!

Contact Br. Gio at 318-221-4857 or email us at cservice@shreve.net for more details.

Charitable Giving

You can help Christian Service in many ways with your support.

Leave a Legacy, through your will, life insurance, retirement plan charitable remainder trust, and other vehicles.

Gifts of stocks, bonds and mutual funds that have increased in value are good gifts. You can deduct the entire value from your taxable income to avoid capital gains tax.

Gifts in cash or by check are the most popular ways of making charitable gifts.

Movable property; a car or truck to help a family in need of transportation.

A charitable gift of annuity is a gift of cash, stock or some other security. In return for the gift, Christian Service pays you a fixed annual amount of money for the remainder of your life.

Share in the Ministry of Love

I would like to share in Christian Service's ministry by pledging _____ on a monthly basis.
I would like my money to be used for: Mother Stewart House ____: Hospitality House ____:
Herbert House ____: Samaritan Homes ____: Direct Service to families ____.

I cannot give money at this time, but I will support the ministry with prayers_____.

Name _____

Address _____

Fill out and mail to Christian Service, Post Office Box 21, Shreveport, LA 71161-0021

We take VISA/MASTERCARD/AMERICAN EXPRESS



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