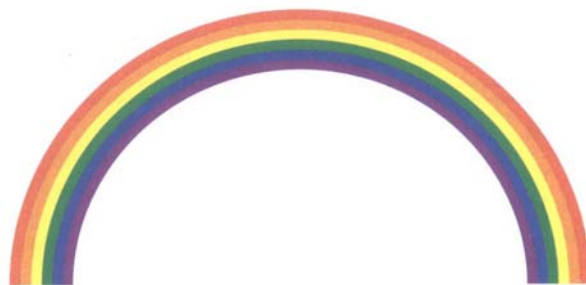


e-mail us your comments
cservice@shreve.net



visit our website

www.christianserviceprogram.org

JUNE 2009

CHRISTIAN SERVICE

XIV, Issue 2

The Good News

Volunteers Needed: Full-time or Part-time



Greetings Friends and Contributors of the Christian Service Program. Thank you for your prayers and your continued support, we could not have accomplished much without your assistance. In that same spirit, I would like to make an appeal to you or anyone you know that would be interested in volunteering with this ministry, to do so this year. We are in need of skilled maintenance men, bookkeepers and generally all kinds of people persons. If you are interested in just keeping in touch with elderly people in our community this summer, we can use your help.

For those who are retired or semi-retired, this is a great way to stay active and make a difference in people's lives. What is even better is that it does not require a lot of time. If you are interested in helping us reach out to this community one day a week that would be a big help to us.

Making use of all our resources means getting people motivated to take part in their community. All skilled people are in a great position to be of service to those less fortunate this year as the case load for social services organizations increases. This is especially true as the weather turns so hot this summer.

Sometimes all it takes is a few minutes to drop by the homes where some of the poorest people will be spending the summer months. It is to just make sure they are ok. If they need food, clothing, or have fallen behind with their utilities, Christian Service will do what we can to be part of the solution. Sometimes people just appreciate knowing someone is interested in their well-being.

We welcome anyone who is interested in volunteering to work with Christian Service Program. Whether you are interested in serving food at the Hospitality House, helping with the lawn, or keeping in touch with the elderly and the poor, we are here to help you organize your volunteer time with us. Whatever your area of skills and experience, we are sure that helping others is what Christ's example instructs us all to do.

To Volunteer Contact
Business Office – 221-4857
8:00 am - 4:30 pm

Franciscan Order Celebrates 800 Year Anniversary

Founded in 1209, the Franciscan Order traces its 800 years of history back to Saint Francis of Assisi. Brother Giovanni, O.F.M., says that there will be different types of functions going on all year to mark this historic anniversary. There are about 10 Franciscan friars in North Louisiana. Some live around the Monroe area. Three of the four Franciscans in Shreveport reside at the Christian Service Program's parsonage. All of these men are part of the *Order of Friars Minor* (OFM), which is another name for Franciscans. They are part of the mendicant order which preaches the Gospel, and serves the poor.

Father Andre' McGraff Celebrates 69th Birthday and 50 years as a Franciscan



Father Andre McGraff celebrated his 69th birthday April 20, 2009. Also, August 16, 2009 will mark 50 years of his service as a Franciscan for Father Andre. Father Andre held the Chairmanship with Christian Service Program from 1998 to 2008. He holds a Doctorate degree from Catholic University and a Master's degree in English literature from the University of Detroit.

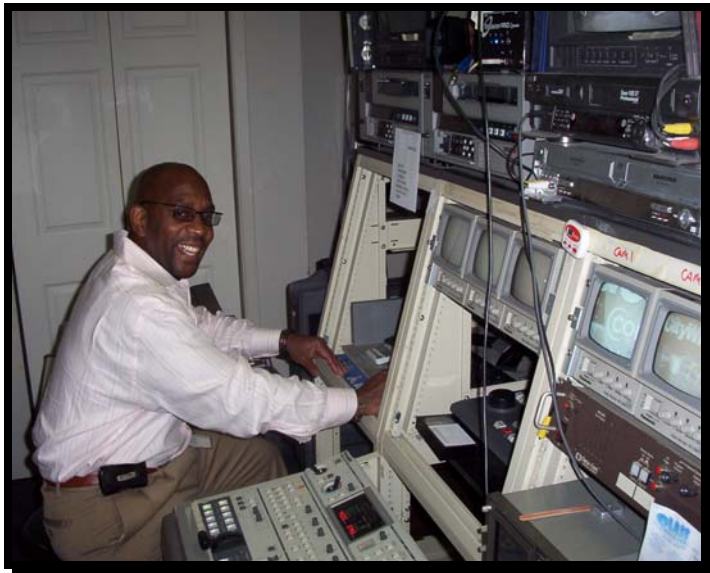
Comcast’s Al Moore Makes a Difference

A member of our Board of Directors, and a Production Coordinator at COMCAST, Mr. Al Moore, produces the recorded segments of our telethon event for us each year. This process usually begins about 6 weeks ahead of the scheduled “live telethon.” He organizes the submissions from churches and organizations who wish to be included in the 6 hour telethon event. High-quality recordings are reviewed by Mr. Moore and broadcast throughout our telethon, which takes place on a Sunday just a few weeks before Christmas.

One of the largest family-owned cable networks in the world, COMCAST, provides the cable access, the facilities, and the technical staff for our yearly Christian Service Program telethon. They have been doing so as COMCAST ever since they began operation in Shreveport. Although the telethon does not include live music, we encourage churches and Christian organizations throughout the area to submit DVD’s or Super VHS quality recording of their songs and testimonials for inclusion in the year-end telethon.

It takes ten to 12 volunteers to man the cameras and audio equipment during the telethon. These volunteers are all coordinated by Mr. Moore. They are recruited from area churches, Bossier Parish Community College, and Southern University in Shreveport. The telethon reaches “53 to 55 thousand households,” in Caddo Parish estimates Mr. Moore, of COMCAST.

Broadcast on Cable Channel 6, the public access channel, our telethon is on the same channel as City Council meetings. Also broadcast on Channel 6 are the Parish Commission meetings, and public interest shows such as “Citywide TV Presents” and “Dateline Shreveport.” Additionally, there is a community bulletin board with text about various topics.



Mr. Al Moore at Comcast Cable in Shreveport

The Shreveport division of COMCAST provides cable television, high speed internet and cable telephone service to Shreveport and much of the surrounding area west of the Red River. The area which is reached by the telethon, says Mr. Moore, “includes Shreveport, Gilliam, Stonewall, Keithville and other areas.”

Without such instrumental volunteers as Mr. Moore, the technical aspects of having such a telethon would be enormous. Christian Service Program is blessed to have such talented individuals that are willing to make our telethon a reality each year.



Perry Beautifies Christian Service Program Campus

A Herbert House resident, Perry Renard, plans to go into business as a landscaper. At 48 years old, Perry, has been spending his time this spring planting flowers and shrubs around the houses on Sprague Street. The project beautifies the area. His volunteer service is essential to the operation of the Program. Each summer we need people who are interested in doing things outside. The manual labor required to keep the lawns cut is no small job and is very important. Perry has done this each week and went the extra mile in establishing four flower beds and maintaining them.

Perry says now that he has found how concerned and helpful people are here at Christian Service Program; he says he is “no longer afraid of what people might think about me.” He says his main goal is to move on and to be more independent again.

He is one of many residents who express grateful appreciation for the opportunity we give through the Herbert House and Mother Stewart House. They often find the key to success is the willingness to volunteer to help others.



Perry at work

Debra Thomas Turns 59, Receives Goods from Christian Service Program

On Tuesday May 26, 2009, Debra Thomas celebrated her 59th birthday. She lives in low income housing and is on Social Security and Medicaid. She can't work because of a severe nervous condition she has had since her childhood. Christian Service Program recently gave her basic furniture, clothing and food. Debra says we also gave her much appreciated “love and respect.”

Debra told me in a recent interview that she lived in California when she was a fifteen. She was married for about 6 years, she said. When she separated from her husband, she moved back to Shreveport where she was born, and lived in the Stoner Hill area. Debra still is in contact with her sister-in-law, who also lives in this area.

Ms. Thomas first met Sister Margaret about 22 years ago, when Debra was 37 years old and suffering from poverty and hunger. She says, “Sister Margaret had a lovely personality and sure helped me.”

Debra is in good spirits and is thankful for all the blessings in her life these days. She is happy to be living independently. She says she is glad to accept the gifts of food, clothing and furniture from Christian Service Program. These days she no longer suffers from the degree of poverty as she had when she was younger.

Keeping in touch with people like Debra is an essential part of the Christian Service Program. People from this community need someone who can take time to help people like Debra. It allows us all to feel respect and encourages independence and hope. It's a great feeling to help people when they are in need of basic necessities of life.



Debra Thomas

Two of Residents Recovering from Surgery

A Herbert House resident, Roland Orgeron, had open heart by-pass surgery on April 20, 2009 at LSU Health Science Center in Shreveport. The surgery was successful. He spent only six days in the hospital. He said after the operation, “It was painful coughing but that was all.” He is able to stay at the Herbert House where he is in the process of returning to his pastime as one of the volunteer handy-men.

Thelma LeBlanc, a Mother Stewart House resident had surgery for cervical cancer. She says, “it is very painful, but I look forward to getting back on my feet and finding some work to do.” She plans to use the Learning Center to search for a job which will not require her to stand all day.

Brother Bill Spond, O.F.M. Says Farewell Shreveport

Brother Bill Spond, O.F.M. will be leaving for a St. Anthony Friary in Pennsylvania in July. A Franciscan volunteer at Christian Service Program for the last two years, Brother Bill has spent most of that time working closely with the Hospitality House on Pete Harris Blvd. Hospitality House is where homeless and poor are feed breakfast and dinner for free each day by the Christian Service Program.

Intake Specialist Returns to Christian Service Program

Christian Service Program is always in need of skilled volunteers.



Kelley Clancy first volunteered with Christian Service in the early 1980's. He worked with Sister Margaret McCaffrey before her death in 1998. Kelley said, "When I met Sister Margaret, I felt like I was in the presence of someone who was truly doing God's work."

Kelley says he was motivated to volunteer by, "a moral choice to help those less fortunate." Kelley enthusiastically relates how he grew up near this part of Shreveport and says he has known hard times in his life. His story is one of perseverance, determination and faith. Kelley says he likes being able to help people "get back on their feet."

Charitable Giving

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

Leave a Legacy, through your will, life insurance, retirement plan charitable reminder 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 _____ .

Learning Center _____ .

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

THE GOOD NEWS

JUNE 2009

VOL XIV NO. 2

The Good News is published at no cost to Christian Service through the courtesy of:

CARL LIBERTO - BULK MAILING
KATHY NIDEY - LAYOUT
STANDARD PRINTING - PRINTING
TIM SNELL - WRITER

Christian Service thanks all of these people



CHRISTIAN SERVICE

Post Office Box 21

Shreveport, LA 71161-0021

Return Service Requested

NON-PROFIT ORG.

US Postage

PAID

SHREVEPORT, LA

PERMIT NO. 1341