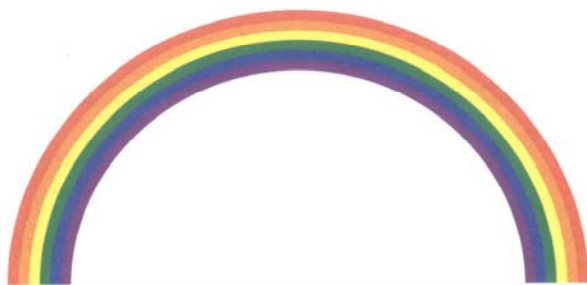


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OCTOBER 2006

CHRISTIAN SERVICE

XI, Issue 1

The Good News

I would like to start by expressing my deepest apologies for the delay in the Newsletter. Keeping you informed is a top priority for the staff and me and hopefully we are now back on track. This and other newsletters is our way of raising much needed funds to keep the programs going without having to turn anyone away who needs help. We do not receive United Way funds nor federal incentives so rely solely on benefactors and without your continued generosity we could not exist.

It has been a challenge financially to maintain our feeding and housing programs with the two major hurricanes and the gas prices elevating to a level where families have to choose between providing food or having as to gas to get to work. We see more people living in the abandoned houses in Shreveport than ever before therefore we must prioritize what needs to be done to meet the needs of the homeless. This simply means, we try to help everyone we can even when our funds are at an all time low.

In our area alone, we have tried to work with the City of Shreveport in obtaining boarded up houses that could serve families with no possible way of being independent without the help of others. The area around our facilities continues to deteriorate with no cooperation from the city on abandoned and burned out buildings. We're keeping our fingers crossed.

As of this date, we are unsure about the telethon, as Time Warner is now Comcast. We have not been able to speak to anyone concerning the December's annual fundraiser. This would be a huge blow to our organization as this event raises the majority of our annual budget. So pray for us that we work this out.

We are in the process of renovating the Old Hospitality House into a Learning Center. We are proud to say that this project is being funded by the **Community Foundation of Shreveport -Bossier** for which their support made this dream a reality. "**A Second Chance at Learning**" is the name of this project with benefactors being senior citizens, grade school children, and literacy challenged adults. We are excited about this project but again we need your help in going forward.



Giovanni Reid, ofm

ANNOUNCEMENT



**Poorman's
Supper
November 12,
5:30pm**

Our Annual Poorman's Supper will be held November 12, at the First United Methodist Church at the head of Texas Street.

We invite you to join the Board of Directors and myself for a bowl of soup and a glass of water.

Thank You Oak Terrace Middle School Enrichment Program . . .



Christian Service needed a sign replaced and who but a Caddo Parish School principal and her students to engage in showing off their talents. Margaret Brown, board member and Principal of Oak Terrace Middle School and children in need of enrichment made this project for the summer 2005. This project involves teachers and adults coming together to make this huge success for Christian Service and the kids.

Ms. Brown tells us the kids were just delighted with the project's outcome and it helped with self worth being apart of a kid's community project. Approximately 34-40 kids from K-12 worked on this with each and every child contributing. The kids will be dedicated to expanding the signs until all signs be replaced.

Clothing Store gets new Management



Danny Williams

In the past, I have worked just for the money”, now I know I will be paid spiritually and have my physical needs met also”.

Our new Clothing Store Manager is Danny Williams. Danny came to Christian Service as a referral from Father Andre’ McGrath. Danny needed employment and was hired after serving as a volunteer.

Danny checks shoppers in as well as donations, he considers this part of his job as getting ready to help someone. He has worked in customer service where the job description was to make the employer look good. “I need to help someone else,” he states, “and this was perfect for me”. “I used to struggle to go to work because there was no commitment to helping others, now I have found the most gratifying position I could ever want.” “This position came into my life when I needed and wanted to find a way to help provide for those living in poverty.

The atmosphere here at Christian Service is about helping others who struggle to provide for their families and especially to their children and we do just that. It is heart breaking to see half clothed children when most of us have some much. “We can definitely see God at work here and I am so thankful to be on the Christian Service with God”.

Mary Stewart

God Bless Sister Bertran and Sister Mageline

New Orleans Evacuees come to service at the Christian Service Program

These two Women of the Cross come to Christian as evacuees from New Orleans last year. Both nuns were involved in helping the homeless before Hurricane Katrina and like others, had to leave their homes to escape the destruction. The Sisters are living in the rectory at the former Holy Cross Church with six other nuns. The church renovated and repaired the home site for them and it continues to serve all of them as they like others wait for the opportunity to return to New Orleans.

Sister Bertrand and Sister Mageline have been instrumental in our Clothing Store by restructuring the way the store operates. They receive all donations with a very humble heart and help each and every client in selecting the clothing sized and needs for their families. Their personal attention to every shopper has brought dignity and self-worth to the needy without the feeling of dependency.

There is joy in seeing their faces light up,” states Sister Bertran, and it gives us a humble heart knowing we have fulfilled a need”. At 87 years of age continuously working to help others and seeing her way of graciously helping little children with clothing melts the heart of Br. Giovanni, Christian Service Director. Sister Mag, as he is affectionately called, at 63 years, has worked behind the scenes for over 35 years and is shy when this newsletter writer asks for her thoughts on how she was helping others, she states that she gives God all the glory for all he has done in her life. Her continued gracious and kind spirit leaves no doubt where her commitment lies.



Sis. Bertran (top)

Sis. Bertran & Sis Mageline (bottom)





MEALS ON WHEELS – Meet Lestoria Pollard

Ms Pollard asked Christian Service for help when she became without food. We immediately provided for her nourishment and will continue the same until she can obtain her food stamps.

In an interview with Ms. Pollard, we learned she needed glasses and life-sustaining medications. At age 63, Lestoria suffers from diabetes, arthritis, congestive heart failure and high blood pressure. Ms Pollard needs a motorized wheel chair to help her get around her apartment and to gain her independence again.

A Word of Thanks from Denise Venable, Graduate

Two hot meals delivered to clients that are convalescing or confine to the home within the general living area

“The Staff was so helpful in encouraging me to obtain my goals and I have made some life-long friends at Christian Service”.



Christian Service pick-up and delivery van

These are the words of **Denise Venable**, former resident of the Mother Stewart House and Transitional Shelter for women 18 and older situated on the compound of the Christian Service Center. Mother Stewart House was home for Denise for ten months where she would engage in the routine of house chores, community service and her passion pursuit as a florist. Denise has a keen eye for floral arrangements and has obtained a position at the Downtown Florist, Shreveport. Much soul searching went into how she come to be in a homeless situation. Denise followed the program and did what she needed to do to be productive and self-sufficient. “I return occasionally just ot visit with the staff and receive the love they’ve always extended to me”.



Brenda Small



Graduates from the Christian Service Transitional Shelters Program



Denise Venable



Ocie Sadler



Edward White



Bro. Giovanni

These residents have successfully gone through our Transitional Shelter program and is now maintaining independent living. With the collaborative efforts of the Centerpoint Case Management System, we measure the success of our project not just by the numbers but the goals met - one person at a time.

Congratulations to all of these residents, we are proud of you. God Bless you in all your endeavors.



Randle Hendrix

Bro. Giovanni Reid, ofm



Suzie Laster joins the Christian Service Program

Gangway . . . Suzie's Here

One of Shreveport's most popular people, well among the non-profit agencies, **Suzie Laster** has joined the Christian Service Board of Director and is the Chairman of the Poorman's Supper Committee. Suzie comes to us after having served many years as Executive Director of the Oakwood Home for Women. She still serves on the board of Oakwood, her first love, and says that she has always wanted to be apart of the work of the Christian Service Program and is glad that she can become a part of this great family of givers.

We are **EXCITED** to have her

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 _____.

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

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