



October 2009

Volume XIV, Number 3

CHRISTIAN SERVICE PROGRAM

The Good News



2009 Poor Man's Supper

First United Methodist Church of Shreveport will host the 2009 Christian Service Program's Poor Man's Supper. The event will begin at 6 pm on **Sunday, November 8, 2009** and end at 7:15 pm. Held inside the Hunter Activities Building, this annual event is a fundraiser and a conscience raiser for concerned citizens regarding the plight of local people who are chronically hungry and homeless. These people are the main focus of the Christian Service Program's outreach. Each year we hold the hour long dinner of soup and bread and water to help the community focus on the plight of less fortunate individuals and families who live here in the Shreveport / Bossier area, yet often go completely unnoticed.

The Poor Man's Supper is also the venue in which we present the annual Sister Margaret McCaffrey Award. This year's award will be presented to Dr. Robert Jackson and the Martin Luther King Health Center. It recognizes the many years of service provided by Dr. Jackson and his staff through the Health Center and their continuing service to the areas poor.

This year's event will feature prayer and music. The meal consists of soup and bread and water. It will be served by some of this area's well known clergy and public figures. Admission is \$5 per person. Tickets can be purchased at the door, or by calling the Christian Service Program at (318) 221-4857 for more information

Dr. Robert Jackson and MLK Health Center Receive Sister Margaret McCaffrey Award

The 2009 Sister Margaret McCaffrey Award will be presented to Dr. Robert Jackson and The Martin Luther King Health Center. Dr. Jackson, the medical director of the MLK Health Center, has been a key figure in its operation from the very beginning. Having served the poorest patients in the Shreveport / Bossier area since 1985, Dr. Jackson and the staff of the Center are being recognized by Christian Service Program as outstanding humanitarians.

According to Janet Mentesane, the Center's Executive Director, "the Martin Luther King Health Center was the first licensed free pharmacy in Louisiana. Now it is one of eleven such pharmacies operating in Louisiana." The Health Center has been located on Sprague Street since its start in 1986. Sister Margaret and Dr. Jackson worked together to address the need for health care for the poor. They are in the process of relocating to a larger facility to better serve the poor.



Janet Mentesane, Executive Director MLK Health Center

Bishop Michael Duca Visits Christian Service Program

October 26, 2009, Bishop Michael Duca toured the Christian Service Program facilities on Sprague Street in Shreveport, LA. His visit began at the Hospitality House and concluded by meeting some of our Directors at the CSP Learning Center.



Bishop Michael Duca

Sister Sharron Rambin, Christian Service's Chairman, presented a short slide show detailing the prevalence of poverty and homelessness in the Shreveport-Bossier City area.

During his visit to the Hospitality House, which is operated by the Christian Service Program, Bishop Duca made the time to meet with some of the people who depend on the free hot meal on a regular basis.



Bishop Duca and Brother Giovanni at the CSP Hospitality House

Bishop Michael Duca... (continued)

From Dallas, TX, and appointed bishop just last May, Bishop Duca told us that the purpose of his visit is to find out what can be done to support the efforts of the Christian Service Program. He said he is becoming more familiar with the needs of those who live in neighborhoods that suffer chronic poverty and homelessness, specifically in Shreveport and the surrounding areas.

Christian Service Program greatly appreciates the visit of Bishop Duca. Christian Service Program itself is not officially a part of the Catholic Church or any specific church. We are a non-profit organization created to address the basic needs of people suffering from homelessness and poverty. We accept support from a wide variety of caring people and organizations, which all work together in order to bring hope and love to those most in need.

Danny Remembers Walking with Bishop Duca

When asked how he felt about the bishop visiting Christian Service Program, Danny reminded me that it would not be the first time he has met Bishop Duca.

During the Way of the Cross last Easter season, the newly appointed Bishop Michael Duca, and Danny Williams, Christian Service Program's Clothing Store Director, carried the large wooden cross together along the first leg of the arduous faith-based tour of downtown Shreveport for social awareness.



Danny Williams

Help Christian Service Program's Free Clothing Store Prepare for Winter

Thanks to residents around Shreveport and Bossier City who donate their lightly used clothes to us, the clothing Store at Christian Service Program provides adequate winter clothing to our clients free of charge. Danny Williams, Sister Mag, and volunteers work tirelessly year round to sort and organize clothes of all sizes. We are especially grateful for donations of warm clothes as colder months approach. Because we are a non profit organization your charitable gift is tax deductible. You can have your clothing donations picked up from your home by calling us at (318) 221-4857, or you can stop by our office between 8:30 am and 4:30 pm Monday through Friday.



Louis Leritte, CSP Maintenance

Christian Service Program Welcomes A New Employee

Louis Leritte, is the newest member of the Christian Service Program staff. He was officially hired during the first week of October 2009. Louis is an experienced maintenance man. He is able to help us with carpentry, plumbing, electricity and vehicle maintenance.

There is plenty of work to keep him busy. The administration building, the Katy House where Bro. Giovanni and Bro. Cletus reside, the Hospitality House "Soup Kitchen" the Learning Center and CSP's vehicles all need regular upkeep that Louis is able to provide.

Christian Service Program Gets a New Email Address

Please note that the email address for the Christian Service Program has recently changed. The current email address is **cservice@christianserviceprogram.org**. Please update your address book with this new email address. Email sent to the old address will be returned to sender automatically. For additional information please contact us by phone at **(318) 221-4857**. The phone number is the same as it has always been. Only our email address has changed.

Brother Giovanni Reid Return from Cincinnati, OH Retreat

Brother Giovanni, the Executive Director of the Christian Service Program recently accepted the opportunity to attend a religious retreat in Cincinnati, OH. As a friar, he values the importance of activities like that. The Franciscan Order, to which Brother Giovanni belongs, is based in Cincinnati. He says that while he was there he also had a well-deserved chance to visit with his family.



New Car Shed for Christian Service

Brothers Giovanni and Cletus Get a New Car Shed

In recognition of their dedication and perseverance, the Franciscan superiors of Brother Giovanni and Brother Cletus were able to help them have a much needed car shed installed for them.

As winter weather approaches, both men are very happy to be the beneficiaries of this new structural addition to our property. Several of the male residents helped construct a sturdy foundation. They also removed a dilapidated wooden walkway and spread gravel to help provide traction in the parking lot behind the Christian Service Program office.

Mother Stewart House Resident Nears Graduation from Christian Service Program

Christie Haynes has made a lot of significant improvements in her life. Cathy Knighton, the women's resident supervisor says "Christie is nearing completion of our graduation requirements." She is steadily working toward completing her GED. She has been steadily employed for several consecutive months. She established an email account and has learned to use it. She has kept on top of the many service hours we require of capable residents and has not been in trouble of any kind.

When Christie leaves our program she hopes to resume raising her young daughter and continue her work providing care to physically and medically disabled individuals.

Christie has made lots of progress while she has been with us. We think she will continue to make progress towards her goals, including broadening her education and living independently.



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REMINDER: The Christian Service Program Telethon will be broadcast on Sunday, December 6, 2009 from noon until 6 pm. Comcast will sponsor this annual fundraiser for fighting hunger and homelessness in Shreveport and Bossier City.

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 ____ .

Learning Center ____ .

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

Name _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____ Email address _____

We accept CHECKS / VISA / MASTERCARD / AMERICAN EXPRES

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

You may also contact by phone at (318) 221-4857 or

Donate online at <http://christianservieprogram.org/donate.asp>