



# Sharing Matters

THE CHRISTIAN SHARING CENTER, INC.

WINTER 2009



## CROP-Walk Sunday, March 8

Sponsored by Church World Service, two walks to fight hunger in Seminole County and around the world will benefit The Sharing Center.

Walks will begin at 2 pm at Cranes Roost and in Oviedo on the Florida Trail. For information on walking or donating call 407.260.9155 ext. 13.

## Help Meet Feinstein's Challenge

Each year, Rhode Island Philanthropist Alan Shawn Feinstein divides \$1 million among hunger-fighting agencies nationwide to help raise funds.

All checks dated and received March 1 - April 30 at The Sharing Center will help us get a share of this money.

Food drives during this time also count! Food is valued at \$1 per item or pound, so plan a food drive in your congregation, business, or small group and count those cans!

Call 407.260.9155 ext. 14 to schedule food drives.

## Rolling Into a New Year

It was Christmas week when the 13-year-old Toyota was brought to rest in a parking space at The Sharing Center, turned over by its owner to "help someone who needs a car for work."

It was the same day, in fact, that a widowed grandmother called to ask if she might qualify for some food. She cleans houses for a living, she explained, and her faithful old car had finally given out.

Lourdes' work barely covers expenses in good times, and last year was not so good.

She could not afford all the work her car needed, and knew it wouldn't be worth the expense if she could afford it. A small cleaning service she worked for had gone out of business, and some of

her own clients had canceled because of economic woes.

No wheels made it hard for her to get to the customers she still had. Lourdes knew she'd lose more clients if she couldn't get to their homes.

By the time Lourdes called The Sharing Center, her monthly income was about half what her monthly bills cost. Even before this, she had just enough to pay expenses. Her twin sons, just out of their teens, still live with her, and one contributes

*'God has always been good to me'*

to the household income as much as he can from erratic hours at a restaurant job. His brother, brain-damaged at birth, is unable to work.



Lourdes gives an exuberant thumbs up as she rolls back to work

Lourdes was amazed when The Sharing Center offered not only food for her family but help with some other needs: "But, when they called and told me I could pick up the car, was I surprised! I was crying! God has always been good to me. Whatever I've been going through, He's been there with me, so I always have faith, but I never expected this!"

## Tee Up for a Good Cause at Timacuan Golf Club

### Golf Scramble Friday, March 27

Shotgun start at 12:30 pm. Registration opens 11:30 am.

This Ron Garl-designed, par 72 championship course is ranked #14 out of over 1,400 golf courses in all of Florida. No wonder it was voted best in Seminole



County by readers of *Orlando Sentinel* and *Seminole Herald*.

Gold Sponsors will get 2 four-somes and loads of FREE TV time on Channel 13, thanks to FastSigns of Casselberry and Sanford.

Silver Sponsors get 1 four-some and a hole sign.

Hole Sponsors may display corporate logo on their sign.

Golfers get a box lunch and buffet dinner! Prizes, contests and awards abound.

Special thanks to Bill Ray Nissan for donating a 2009 Nissan Maxima Hole-in-One prize, and to Community United Methodist Church, our tournament sponsor.

To play or sponsor, call Bob at 407.333.4384 or go to [www.thesharingcenter.org](http://www.thesharingcenter.org).

# They're Back! Lake Mary Gift Market



Sweet Maralyn's Chocolates were a delight at the November Gift Market

Mark your calendar for this special By Women For Women Gift Market Thursday, April 23, 11 am to 7 pm at Timacuan Golf Club.

In time for Mother's Day, you'll find original artworks, jewelry, handmade candies, candles, children's items and much more, all made "By Women For Women."

Claudia Wickham (Photos by Claudia) and Liz Wincup (Liz Wincup

Designs), local artists who arranged the first market in November, are putting together another showcase of "must haves."

\$2 admission at the door and proceeds from drawings for all the wonderful items donated by participating vendors will benefit The Sharing Center.

Check for updates at our Web site [www.thesharingcenter.org](http://www.thesharingcenter.org).

*"It's exciting for me to give my kids something they couldn't have."*

## Wish List

Call 407.260.9155 x36 to help with:

- New box truck \$30,000
- New freezer for Sanford Site \$15,000
- Ceiling tiles & flooring in Thrift Store \$15,000
- New flooring, clothing rack, lighting, paint in fitting room \$300
- New cabinets & sink in volunteer break room \$3,500
- POS system in thrift & boutique \$3,500
- Plumbers, electricians, handymen to do odd jobs quarterly.

## Working and Praying As Future Unfolds

Going back to school isn't easy for a 30-something mother of three, but Dorothy knows "life will be better for us once I have a good job with a future."

For now, she's maneuvering some bumps in the road. She was divorced last summer. At first, her ex-husband made child support payments but then stopped. Dorothy was laid off. She qualified for food stamps, but they don't pay the bills.

Chris Lutz, Director of Social Services, says "There is little that can be adjusted about her budget."

Because Dorothy has never missed a payment, her landlord allowed The Sharing Center to help with a rent payment, waiving a \$10 a day late fee.

Her family would have a nice Christmas dinner thanks to The Sharing Center, but Dorothy had prepared the children not to expect Christmas gifts.

What a surprise when she learned that an anonymous donor wanted to "treat" a struggling family like hers—but the \$500 gift must be used for special things, not bills. "I can't believe someone

would do this for me!" Dorothy exclaimed. "It's exciting for me to give my kids something they couldn't have!"

She brought pictures showing the kids unwrapping new winter jackets, pajamas, and games. Even with all that shopping, including a \$4.99 disposable camera to take the pictures, Dorothy had a few dollars left. She turned that back to The Sharing Center, along with receipts for the items purchased at discount stores, and "a thank you card for the person giving this money, just to return the blessing.

"I hope it won't be too far down the road before I will be able to do the same for someone else in need. I am planning for it!"

The upside to the present struggle, Dorothy says, is "When the children and I gather 'round the kitchen table to do homework together, it seems to help the kids appreciate the effort I'm making and to study harder themselves.

"This whole experience has caused me to grow closer to God. My church helps keep me on track, too. I just thank God for what He's done."

## Planned Gifts Keep on Giving

The Christian Sharing Center is happy to accept all gifts that will help rescue children, elderly and families from financial crises and assist them to a more stable future. By including The Sharing Center in your permanent plans, you ensure the continuation of this work and a tax-deduction for your family. Here are some ways to help:

- Charitable Gift Annuities
- Stocks and Bonds
- Certificates of Deposit
- Real Estate
- Automobiles, Trucks, Vans

Contact Angie Romagosa, President/CEO at 407.260.9155 x12 or Mark Romagosa, Director of Development at 321-945-2895.

# Maritza Delfi New Disabilities Caseworker



*Maritza Delfi does "whatever it takes" to assist clients with disabilities to a stable life*

Maritza Delfi has joined our staff as Disabilities Caseworker, helping disabled adults into training for new careers, to find an accommodating place to live, help with living expenses or medical costs, or "whatever it takes" to assist her client in adjusting to a new way of life in our society.

Maritza brings a wonderful smile and enthusiasm to the ministry, as well as a long career of helping others. She held a similar position with Center for Affordable Housing as Assistant Hous-

ing Manager, and prior to that was a medical assistant in a Florida Hospital critical care unit.

At presstime, Maritza was excited about the progress of her first client with The Sharing Center: an elderly gentleman she said "had been abused financially." In his younger years, he was highly educated, had earned a PhD, and held a respected position. But when a caring pastor brought the man to The Sharing Center a few weeks ago, he was unable to care for himself, had

been taken advantage of financially, and was homeless.

Maritza helped him to "get his health affairs and his financial affairs in order, moved him into transitional housing, and now – praise God – he's in permanent housing." As far as Maritza's job description goes, this would mark the end of her involvement with "Peter." But, she says, "He has no family around. I'll check up on him."

## 1,128 Kids Get New Shoes

What a wonderful response to our Christmas Shoes program this year! Our goal was to provide new shoes, socks & underwear for 1,000 children in need. Thanks to all who contributed, 1,128 children received these special items. An extra-special thanks goes

to the George Halliday Foundation, Payless Shoes, Firehouse Subs, and the many volunteers and staff members who gave up two Saturdays in December to make sure the children got this much-needed new clothing, so important to their health and self-esteem.



*Food pantry volunteers packed holiday groceries for 3,129 people at Christmas and 3,089 people at Thanksgiving*

*"Thank you!  
My daughter,  
age one,  
had no  
shoes."*

## A Birthday Surprise Multiplied

*Mattie's in the middle, circled by 4 friends on either side*



Mattie Hinz's friends weren't surprised when she told them what she wanted for her 15th birthday party. Best Friends since grade school, the nine girls know each other well, staying close even as they attend different schools and churches. So when Mattie said she'd like her friends to use the money they planned to spend on birthday gifts for her to

buy something for people who need help at The Sharing Center instead, they matched her caring request with their own generous response: they went on a shopping spree that filled a grocery cart with food, toiletries, and a lot of heart.

### MISSION STATEMENT

*"Sharing the reality of God's love with those in need by providing material assistance and promoting Christian generosity."*



The Christian Sharing Center, Inc.  
600 N. Hwy. 17-92, Suite 158  
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www.thesharingcenter.org

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#### We Love Volunteer Groups

A group from St. Stephen Lutheran Church sorts mounds of clothing to be put on sale racks. A group workday is a great team-building exercise for your company or church group.

**Tuesdays are Customer Appreciation Days—20% off** at The Sharing Center Thrift Store. Tuesdays formerly were Senior Days, but we want to let everyone know you are appreciated. So, whether you are young or young-at-heart, shop our non-profit store on any Tuesday and get 20% off your entire purchase!

#### Drop off household items at our Distribution Center tel 407.260.0270

Call 407.332.0925 for furniture pickup.

9:00 am-4:30 pm Mon-Sat at 747 Commerce Circle, Longwood. From 17-92, go west on Longdale, right on Commerce Circle.

**Volunteer Opportunities** — Call Michael Kenyon 407.260.9155 ext. 14 Morning & afternoon receptionists; boutique cashiers; thrift store sorters and food pantry workers. Group activities available. We need more help every day!

#### Client Assistance and Food Drop-Off Locations:

600 N. Hwy. 17-92, Longwood 32750 ▪ 515 E. 25th Street, Sanford 32771

**Thrift Store Location** — next to the Longwood client assistance office on 17-92, approx. 1/2 mile north of Hwy. 434.

100% of your contribution goes to The Christian Sharing Center, Inc. A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Division of Consumer Services by calling toll-free within the State 1-800-HELP-FLA. Registration does not imply endorsement, approval, or recommendation by the State. Florida State registration # SC-05583.