



Sharing Matters

THE CHRISTIAN SHARING CENTER, INC.

SPRING 2009

Leadership Seminole Leaves Legacy Footprint



Wow! What tremendous changes around here since Leadership Seminole Class 18 adopted The Sharing Center for its legacy.

Logging over 800 volunteer hours, these community leaders raised over \$7,500 by holding a special drawing for gifts they arranged to be donated, installed a \$20,000 security alarm system with monitoring for a full year, and enabled a new phone system to increase our 4 lines to 21 lines! Result: you can reach us now!

Awesome! But wait! There's more: they organized drives that netted 4,000 non-perishable food items — enough to fill three pick up trucks and feed 75 families for a week — and three tons of donated clothing that class members sorted to stock our thrift store, where the clothing will be sold to raise more funds or given away to those in extreme need. Incredible teamwork, Class 18!

John and Karen were having a tough time financially before John lost his job. With three teenagers, Karen told The Sharing Center "We are not eating healthy or sometimes skipping meals so my kids can eat." The food pantry has been a blessing as they try to hang on to their home, Karen said, "and I appreciate the way the volunteers treat me. It makes having to ask for help much easier."

Giving Thanks for Our Young Leaders

Joshua Mowery, The Sharing Center's first Junior Ambassador, dreamed up a "Read and Feed" drive this winter to creatively address two different areas of community concern: getting kids to read more and feeding the hungry. The 11-year-old launched his "Read and Feed" program at Tuskawilla Presbyterian Church, where he and his family are members. First, Joshua told kids in the Sunday School and God Deeds Christian Service Club about these issues and asked for their help. More than 20 students

signed up for a 6-week program. Here's how it worked: each student asked people to sponsor their reading by donating a can of food for every two books they read. Result: Hundreds of cans of food were delivered to The Sharing Center at the end of the 6-week drive, and hundreds of books were read.

Joshua collected 57 cans of food for the books he read, but another reader out-read him to collect 87 cans. Now Joshua is thinking summer will be a good time to have another "Read and Feed."



When school's out, kids have more time to

read just for fun, and families struggling with financial hardships need more food on hand to provide a mid-day meal for their children who normally eat lunch free or reduced at school.

Joshua was nominated for Disney's Dreamers and Doers awards this year.

Interns Intend To Make A Difference



Interns James Wesley and Danielle Devine were shepherded by Social Worker Frankie Marcano (standing).

This year two interns from University of Central Florida have gained valuable on-the-job experience and also initiated and carried out a special Easter drive that provided toiletries for 152 children.

Both have a plan to focus on helping youth as they pursue their Master's degrees in social work. Danielle Devine says she wants to work with troubled teenagers and

help them realize their path and potential.

James Wesley plans to work in rehab counseling & therapy. In a wheelchair since a car accident just three days shy of his 24th birthday, James believes that "when other young men come to rehab and see me in my chair, I think they'll be more open to focusing on what they can do, not what they can't."

MISSION STATEMENT

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

Wish List

Call 407.260.9155 x136 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
- Plumbers, electricians, handymen to do odd jobs quarterly.

Golf Classic Scores An Eagle

The Sharing Center's 2009 Golf Classic at Timacuan was right on target - perfect weather, great fun and friendships, delicious food, and a net of \$26,024 to help children and families in need!

Special thanks to the event organizers for an outstanding job in a difficult economy: Matt Clark, Chairman; Bob Kohl, co-chairman, and Timm Godby.

In a close contest, a Citizens Bank team scored by one stroke to win over a team from Community United Methodist Church. In third place was a team from Seminole Masonry. Playing for the

winning teams were:

First Place - Todd Cluxton, Tim Slattery, Nick Frontero & Nick Franze. Second Place – Ron Wilbanks, Per Lund, Jimmy Green & Oren Geri. Third Place – James Hodges, Chip Keliata, Cris DeRojas & Steve Hittel.

Nobody won the car donated by Bill Ray Nissan for a hole-in-one, but there were other winning shots: Longest Drive: Nick Frontero, men; Ashley King, women. Closest to the Pin: Al Floegel, men; Sylvia Pond, women.



Special Thanks for Chipping In:

Tournament Sponsor: Community United Methodist Church.

Gold Sponsors: Florida Business Interiors, Wekiva Presbyterian Church, Fast Signs, Casselberry & Sanford.

Silver Sponsors: Embarq, Citizens Bank, Heintzelman's Truck Center, MWH Americas, Inc., New Traditions National Bank, Seacoast Bank, Seminole Masonry, Waste Pro.

Additional Support: Metrovista Corporate Printing Solutions for golf flyers; Firehouse Subs for a wonderful box lunch; Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, and Leadership Seminole, organizers of a drawing that added to the fun and profit.

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 ext. 112 or Mark Romagosa, Director of Development, at 321-945-2895.



A 'Real Feisty Lady' Retires After 23 Years

She knew he was eligible for veterans' benefits, but the burly construction worker was sure

his Army years didn't count "because I wasn't in long enough for a career."

He needed financial help with medical problems and finally agreed to apply for veterans' aid "only to prove he was right," Le Pertl recalls with a chuckle.

Was he surprised to learn that *she* was right. He came back to The Sharing

Center and announced: "I need to see that little lady again — I don't know her name, but it was that real feisty one!" Everyone knew he meant Le, and it wouldn't be the last time they heard that description of the tiny, white-haired lady with twinkling blue eyes.

When Le retired April 3 as case manager on her 88th birthday, she had been involved in The Sharing Center 24 years. But TSC is just 23 years old, you say? Yes, but Le was here first. She served on the organizing committee of 16 churches that met to plan how they could work together to better help people in need. The Sharing Center is the result.

When TSC opened, Le volunteered to

help one day a week, then two days, then three, then five days, packing bags of food, answering phones, doing paperwork and more.

"I'll do anything but casework," she remembers telling Angie Romagosa, the part-time director who is now president/CEO.

Quick to jump in wherever needed, Le not only wound up doing casework but later joined the staff as Case Manager, training volunteer caseworkers and overseeing disbursement of monies to move families into housing, keep their lights on, or pay a prescription. Compared to her work in Washington, DC, Le declares: "This was a lot tougher than my job at the Pentagon!"

She's 28 years old with one child of her own and her teenage sister to support. A big load for a single young woman, but Crystal's income is just enough to cover their expenses, and she is grateful for supportive family members who help care for the children.

She cannot afford health insurance and didn't know that heart disease is the #1 killer of women in the U.S. If she had known, Crystal still wouldn't have worried about it—she figured she was too young for that. Tall, slim and youthful-looking despite her burdens, Crystal felt as healthy as she looked. She was as sur-

prised as everyone else when the heart attack punched her right into a hospital bed.

The Sharing Center paid a month's rent, and our MedNet Navigator helped Crystal to receive financial aid with her prescriptions. She is back at work, although on light duty for awhile. This experience has forever changed Crystal's life. Now, she's always aware of the beating of her own heart and secure in the love of people she's never met — people who donate to The Sharing Center to make sure help is available when someone's heart is hurting.

Heart Attack Surprises Young Woman

Volunteers Receive Jefferson Awards



Elsie Kania and Richard Martin show off their Jefferson Awards certificates. Elsie volunteers in Longwood and Rich in Sanford.

The Sharing Center honored six of our long-time volunteers with Jefferson Awards at the annual Volunteer Recognition event held April 19 at Sanford Civic Center.

Special thanks to Sponsors Park Avenue Insurance and Matthews Battery Assemblers, and to Albertson's in Longwood for a wonderful cake.

Receiving Jefferson Awards were Elsie Kania, 10 years service, member of St. Augustine Catholic Church; Rich Martin, over 20 years, New Creation Lutheran; Lois Burns, 23 years, and James Pierson, 6 years, both members of Annunciation Catholic; Ron Clayton, 13 years, First Presbyterian Maitland; and Nancy Brown, 10 years, Holy Cross Lutheran.

THANKS FOR HELPING
A total of \$95,017 and 36,000 lbs. of food were donated in the 2-month Feinsein Challenge to insure we get a share of Feinsein's \$1 million to help stock our food pantry.

142 walkers raised \$13,702.75 in the CROPwalk sponsored by Church World Service at Cranes Roost. The Sharing Center will receive 25% .



The Christian Sharing Center, Inc.
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www.thesharingcenter.org

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Meet our new Distribution Center staff: Walter "Sarge" Rios, DC Manager, and Matt Ducat, Processor of incoming goods, are ready to serve you. Drop off clothing & household goods 9:00 am-4:30 pm Mon.-Sat.

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!

Call 407.332.0925 for furniture pickup.

Drop off household items at our Distribution Center tel 407.260.0270

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 407.691.3114

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 — in Fairmont Plaza, next to the Longwood client assistance office on US Hwy. 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.