



# Sharing Matters

THE CHRISTIAN SHARING CENTER, INC.

SUMMER 2009

## 'Now I Am Truly Functional Again'

Anxious and discouraged, the 47-year-old woman had been living in her car for a month with little money left even for food. The one bright spot was a job interview she'd lined up day after tomorrow. She really had nothing nice enough to wear for the interview — it was hard to keep the few clothes she had packed in a suitcase in the trunk of the car looking fresh. Still, she was hopeful.

Rochelle turned to The Sharing Center for food and was thrilled to also receive an "interview outfit" to help her make a good impression. She landed the job and a month later exuberantly moved into a small apartment: "Now I am truly functional in this world again!"

In all, help given to Ro-

chelle totaled only a pantsuit from our thrift store, limited food from our pantry because there was no kitchen in her car, a \$10 gas card, and a re-

treated with respect and compassion at The Sharing Center . . . the people were very caring."

When she was homeless,

**Client  
Caseload  
Jumps  
36%**

A 36% increase in number of families seeking help in just nine months means TSC Volunteers who formerly worked a four-hour shift weekly assisting clients now set aside a block of 5 or 6 hours to help people like Rochelle, stunned victims of our faltering economy who thought being out of work and homeless could never happen to them.

ferral to get help with a deposit to turn on electricity in the small apartment she had found for herself.

It was enough, though. Enough to lift her out of a frightening situation and set her on the road to a stable life again. Most important, Rochelle says, was the boost to her spirits because "I was

Rochelle said "I was not able to purchase a nutritional meal, my mental state and physical energy were very low. Receiving food from here helped improve my well-being in all areas.

"Just knowing someone cared enough to share with me during this time improved my whole attitude."

*'I've never been in this situation before in my life.'*

*"It was very hard for me to come and ask for help," read a recent thank you note from a single Mom.*

*I would just like to thank every one for being so nice, kind and for your help. I thank you for the food and paying for the class I needed for a job interview. I just thank God for all of you."*



**Fun for the Whole Family!**  
> Kids' Activities  
> Vendor Booths  
> Music & More!

## FOX TROT WALK-A-THON

Sat., Sept. 26 | 8 am – 10 am at Cranes Roost Park  
Uptown Altamonte, behind Altamonte Mall  
Registration 7:30 am—7:55 am



**HONORARY CHAIRMAN  
GREG FOX, WESH TV-2**  
Winner of Walter Cronkite Award for Excellence in Television Journalism, 2009 & 2007!

**Come and walk to provide new shoes for children & assist struggling families with basic needs**

To walk or sponsor, call Mark: 321.945.2895 or go to [www.thesharingcenter.org](http://www.thesharingcenter.org)

# TSC Board Members Honored



TIMM GODBY

Three members of TSC Board of Directors have been honored for their personal contributions to



MIKE MCLEAN



DENNY BOWMAN

bettering our community.

Seminole County Regional Chamber of Commerce honored **Board Chairman Timm Godby** and **Board Member Mike McLean** at the Chamber Choice Awards in May.

Timm, President/Owner of two FastSigns franchises in Casselberry and Sanford/Lake Mary, was chosen Community Champion of the Year — Small Business for personal and professional

efforts helping people in need in our community.

Mike was named Public Servant of the Year. President of McLean Insurance Group, he also serves as a Seminole County Commissioner.

**Board Vice Chairman Denny Bowman**, Senior Vice President of Florida Business Interiors, was featured in the July/August issue of *Lake Mary Life Magazine* as one of Lake Mary's "Power Volunteers" for leading his company and employees to join him in community service.

## 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:

- Gently-worn clothing for men, women & kids of all sizes
- New box truck \$30,000
- New freezer for Sanford Site \$15,000
- Ceiling tiles & flooring in Thrift Store \$15,000
- New cabinets & sink in volunteer break room \$3,500
- Plumbers, electricians, handymen to do odd jobs quarterly.

## UCF Intern Gains 'Real Life' Experience in Social Work

UCF grad Stephanie Cohen is interning at The Sharing Center as she works toward her Masters in Social Work. As she works one-on-one with clients, Stephanie says her internship has made her feel that she definitely has chosen the right career path.

"I've learned how to apply what I learned in class," she said. "Here at The Sharing Center I've been encouraged—actually,

empowered—to use my knowledge in real life situations."

Stephanie said she's always enjoyed helping people, even when she was a kid begging her Mom to let her go and feed the homeless on holidays and school breaks, or later working with a large group of volunteers to build a home. "It's a good feeling to help people help themselves to make things better."



STEPHANIE COHEN

Stephanie is helping to coordinate a Back-to-School Safari with Community United Methodist Church on Aug. 22 to provide books, school supplies, lunch boxes, haircuts, and a day of fun activities for children in need.

**You can help Stephanie with her Back to School Safari project** by donating some new or gently-worn clothing for boys and girls in grades K-5. School supplies also are needed for grades K-5. Drop everything at The Sharing Center in Longwood 9 am—5 pm Monday-Friday today through August 21.

## 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.

# Improving Job Skills and Options at The Sharing Center



## Workforce Central Florida's Summer Job

**Connection interns** worked in our Distribution Center, Sanford pantry, Longwood Client Reception and Thrift Store office areas.

Collaborations with other community agencies have allowed The Sharing Center to provide valuable job skills training and experience while benefiting from enthusiastic help in all areas of our operation—at no cost to the center this spring and summer.

**Experience Works** sent us accomplished office workers for six months who now are ready to offer their skills to full-time employers.

(Top right) Lenore Tavella, uses her background in retail management and accounting to assist in the thrift store office with scheduling, organizing, and a variety of office needs.

Donna Berdick (far right) assists Isabel De La Cámara, Sanford Site Director. A former computer tech, Donna helps clients navigate a computer for help with food stamps and other aid.



## An 8-Hour Work-Out

He wears out a pair of thick-soled shoes about every other month and has lost 27 pounds in the 18 months he's managed The Sharing Center food pantries.

On a hot July day, we tracked Michael Kenyon, Director of Volunteer and Pantry Services, with a pedometer. He walked 2.843 miles and burned up 295.5 calories in 6 hours. The figures would have been higher except for a 2-hour meeting when his only movements were taking notes and fidgeting.

When he took the job, he didn't guess he'd have a personal gym. Besides continual dashes across the pantry all day, there are crates of cans to lift and carry, and lots of bending and stretching.

The sitting down part of the job challenges the workout benefits because he must take time on phone or computer to set up food drives, and he drives his big green Ford truck all over to pick up fresh produce in Geneva, eggs in Ocoee, anywhere he can get a free or "best" deal.

It's a race to keep the pantries in Longwood and Sanford filled, especially with the increased need, but Michael says "A lot of people burst into tears when they see how much food we give them,

so making sure we have enough food for everybody makes me feel good at the end of the day."

Food pantry volunteers donate about 1,935 hours of free work every month, working from 9 am til 2:30 or 3:00 pm each day to make sure every one who needs food gets it.

**Think you can keep up with Michael and his crew? Call 407.260.9155 ext. 114 to learn about volunteer opportunities in pantry, reception, casework, and other areas.**



Volunteer Judy Bagley is one of Michael Kenyon's "regulars" in the food pantry. "Tell everyone," she said, "we need mesh shopping bags for families that don't have cars—the plastic and paper ones don't work so well when you're walking. And we need sleeping bags and small tents for homeless people."

## Experience The Sharing Center With a Tour

Has it been awhile since you've been inside The Sharing Center? Know someone who may be looking for a way to be involved, personally or professionally, in community needs? The Sharing Center Experience Tours are designed for you.

For your convenience, we have set aside 2 times every month this year when tourists will have an opportunity to meet key staff and learn more about why we do what we do. "Experience Tours" last 30 minutes. *Please call 321.945.2895 to schedule your place on one of these tours:*

8:30 am the Third Thursday— we'll share coffee, tea & pastry;  
11:30 am the Fourth Tuesday— join us for a sandwich & soda.

Check out our new interactive Web site: [www.thesharingcenter.org](http://www.thesharingcenter.org). Created by Joe Philippelli and Traci Ilardo at Mantis Creative Group, it's designed for quickly updating you on the latest news and happenings at The Sharing Center.

While you're at our Web site, be sure to watch our stirring new video, produced by Bob Ducat, courtesy of Holy Cross Lutheran Ministries. The video is easy to see on the home page.



The Christian Sharing Center, Inc.  
600 N. Hwy. 17-92, Suite 158  
Longwood, FL 32750-3638  
www.thesharingcenter.org

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*We celebrate the life and gifts of Janey Avila, vivacious "cheerleader" for The Sharing Center and a cashier at our Thrift Store, who passed away on June 3. Janey made it her merry mission to bring joy into everyone's day, and the music of her laughter is greatly missed.*



**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.

**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!

**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.