

By
Mark J.
Goldstein

One day, as The Sharing Center in Longwood was about to close, a single mother with eight hungry children entered. One of the long-time volunteers said a prayer, as she always did, to ask God's guidance in selecting foods that the family would enjoy. She began picking out breakfast cereal, powdered milk, noodles, beans, rice, and the largest cans of tuna and soup she could find. As she stepped into the walk-in cooler to get bread and rolls, she saw a big half-sheet cake air-brushed with the words "Happy Birthday." Reasoning that with eight kids a cake would always be welcome, she put the cake on top of the cart and brought it to the waiting family.

A Center for Sharing

As the mother walked towards the cart, she suddenly stopped and stared. Fearing she had put something offensive in the cart the pantry worker asked, "Is everything all right?" Tearfully, the mother whispered, "Today is my birthday. I didn't think I'd get a cake this year." Later, sharing the story with the other volunteers, the pantry worker said "I felt a shiver run up my spine — the kind of shiver that comes from walking in the way God has planned."

Since 1985 when a group of church leaders met with social workers to determine how they could work together to better assist the poor in their community, The Sharing Center has been walking in the way that God has planned. The South Seminole Christian Sharing Center opened its doors in May, 1996 with sixteen churches that pledged to provide food, finances and volunteers. Today, though the name has changed, the mission is still the same and over sixty congregations participate.

The Sharing center offers a wide range of services to help keep families functioning. According to ministry president and CEO Angie Romagosa, the majority of their clients are "working poor" whose paychecks won't stretch to cover emergencies. Often, assistance from The Sharing Center is what keeps a family from losing a home or a car. From serving five hundred families in 1986 to over seven thousand families in 2006, The Sharing Center has been a beacon of help and hope for Central Floridians. To learn more about this ministry and ways you can help, please visit www.thesharingcenter.org. LU



Rose of Sharon MINISTRIES



Offering the message to women that
"You can get there from here"

Ministries Include:



- Web Design
- Graphic Design
- Web Hosting
- Search Engine Optimization

LOOK UP

ORLANDO

A Magazine for the Central Florida Christian Family

Volume 2 • Number 3

March 2007

Keith Tower

On Fire
For God!

See Inside

