



Sharing Matters

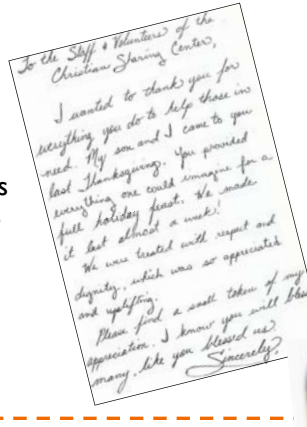
THE CHRISTIAN SHARING CENTER, INC.

AUTUMN 2009

Savor a Taste of Thanksgiving

A year ago, an out-of-work mother in Longwood was among the hundreds who needed your help during the holidays, and you provided. She won't be back for assistance this year because she has found employment and joins you in sharing with others in need.

We learned her new status last summer when she sent this note with a generous check:



"My son and I came to you last Thanksgiving. You provided everything one could imagine for a full holiday feast. We made it last almost a week!

"We were treated with respect and dignity, which was so appreciated and uplifting.

"Please find a small token of my appreciation.

I know you will bless many like you blessed us."

It was one of those days when the phone just kept ringing . . . so many people needing help, so many voices filled with despair. Then one more call:

"I just wanted to say thank you for helping me. My pastor came by and got a car seat for my baby. I've got 4 children, and their dad went to jail. But I've got a job now, and I just want you to know I thank God for The Sharing Center.

"I appreciate it so much because I didn't know what I was going to do."

3,200 More Families to Feed at the Holidays

June has lost her job. Charles, her husband, unable to work with cancer and a heart condition, was turned down for disability aid. They came to The Sharing Center for help with an electric bill, but no funds were available for them.

Said Chris Lutz, Director of Social Services: "Try to imagine what it is like not to have any power in your home and not to know when you will be able to have a job again or get some kind of help to be able to pay that power bill again."

When our fiscal year ended Sept. 30, The Sharing Center caseload had leaped 40% over last year — most are people like June and Charles, newly jobless, many with health problems, never been out of work before.

At Thanksgiving and Christmas, we expect to serve 3,200 families through our Longwood and Sanford pantries — 30% more holiday groceries

needed than last year.

Also at Christmas, our goal is to give 1,000 needy children new shoes.

You can see why your prayers are especially needed now. Please mail gifts to The Sharing Center, 600 N. Hwy. 17-92, Ste. 158, Longwood, FL 32750, or drop off at Longwood or in Sanford at 515 E. 25th Street. Needed are checks in any amount, plus \$20 gift cards for New Shoes for Kids and \$10 supermarket gift cards for turkeys.

How You Can Share Holiday Blessings



Happy Day To Friends I Don't Know

Katie Heintz celebrated her 9th birthday with lots of gifts — and they were all for children she doesn't know. She asked her friends to bring items for The Sharing Center pantry instead of presents for her. Since the gifts weren't for her, Katie was allowed to invite a lot more guests to her party than usual. Twenty girls gleefully crammed her Mom's car and trunk full with so much food and snacks that Katie had to hold some on her lap on the trip to deliver them to our food pantry. "This was really fun!" she said. Katie attends St. Stephen Lutheran Church.

Pharmacist Has Prescription For Caring



The Sharing Center's Daisy Rivera,, MedNet Navigator (left), and TSC President Angie Romagosa, shown with TruValu Pharmacist Donnie Read, helping to celebrating his 30 years of service in September.

Eddie can't afford health insurance on his income, and he also can't afford the \$3,316.07 that he needs for his diabetic supplies and five prescription medicines he takes in order to stay alive and stay working to support his family.

Connie's prescriptions for medicines that help her live with a hole in her heart run \$18,000 every three months.

Every day, Daisy Rivera, our MedNet Navigator, meets and helps people like these — your neighbors who rely on extraordinarily expensive medicines to live. When she needs local help for a suffering patient, Daisy knows just where to turn: Sanford Pharmacist Donnie Read, owner of TruValu Drugs, has been helping those in need all the 30 years his shop has been open. "He is such a blessing to us and to the people," said Daisy. "He helps with medical supplies and always gives something more than I ask. He and his staff care so much about people. It was wonderful to help celebrate Donnie's 30 years of 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.

You're Invited: Holiday Gift Market Nov. 19

**By Women For Women
Holiday Gift Market
Thurs., Nov. 19
11:00 am - 7:00 pm
Timacuan Golf Club
Lake Mary**

Drawing for fabulous gift baskets made up of unique gifts will be at 6:30 pm, but you don't have to be present to win.

Come after work, and enjoy special treats of light and cakes served from 5 to 7 pm.

The \$2 admission and drawing proceeds benefit The Sharing Center.



Volunteers ready to present Gift baskets to drawing winners at last year's holiday gift market are, left to right: Emmita Schmit, Carol Ingrassoa, Nicole Rawlins.

Here's a sampling of handmade and unusual items you'll find:
jewelry, cigar purses & more handbags, gifts for baby, accessories for pets,

handmade chocolates, soaps & lotions, gourmet food, candles, florals, teddy bears, photography ... bring a friend and come see it all!

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 per-

manent 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.

With Faith and Wheels, She's Moving Forward

Debra has been treated for a kidney disease for the past 11 years but from the day of her diagnosis, she always wanted to keep a positive outlook. "Keeping positive keeps me going," she said.

She graduated from college, married and had a couple kids, got a job she loved, so in spite of that kidney problem she felt very blessed. Domestic problems surfaced, and she moved out of state to be nearer to her family for support until her husband convinced her to move back with him. Again, the couple split. His support check bounced, causing

Debra's check for the rent to bounce. Still, she had her girls and her job and a car. Then she was hit by a rental truck and was still limping about on crutches when her car caught on fire – a short in the wiring. Her job required her to travel, but now she had no transportation.

"After my car burned up, my friends all asked 'What are you going to do?' and I said, 'First, I am going to pray because I believe in the power of prayer,' Dawn said. The next thing she did was to seek help at The Sharing Center. "And my friends couldn't believe it when I told them The

Sharing Center was giving me a car!" Dawn could scarcely believe it herself—the car had been donated just the day before her visit.

"I didn't know what to expect at The Sharing Center, but I was waiting outside because the office was so crowded, and someone came out just out of the goodness of their heart and offered us water and a snack while we were waiting."

With her "new" car, Debra looks forward to being rehired by her former company and being back on the side of giving assistance rather than needing it.

*Thank You
everyone who helped
make this walk a
success!*

Sept. 26 was a great day for a walk in the park! Our annual Walk-a-Thon at Cranes Roost Park in beautiful Uptown Altamonte raised over \$31,000! Many thanks to all our Footprint sponsors and the walkers who hustled to get pledges from friends and family and co-workers to raise much-needed funds.

WALK SPONSOR: Blackadar Insurance Agency
HONORARY CHAIR: Greg Fox of WESH TV-2
Undercover Alien provided music, and the kids loved **PJ the Clown** from Funny Bone Entertainment & his balloon animals!
BRONZE SPONSORS:

Anonymous
Baskets and Beyond Online
FASTSIGNS, Casselberry
FBI - Florida Business Interiors
Heintzelman's Truck
Park Avenue Insurance
Rotary Club of Longwood
St. Luke's Lutheran Church



Walk-a-Thon Photos
by SARA PURCELL

W a l k - a - T h o n



Experience The Sharing Center Tours

If you haven't been inside The Sharing Center in awhile or know someone looking for a way to be involved in community needs, The Sharing Center Experience Tours are designed for you.

For your convenience, we have set aside 2 times every month 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.



The Christian Chamber of Commerce enjoyed networking at an "Evening of Sharing" dessert we hosted after work on Oct. 26.



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

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For the second year in a row, The Sharing Center Thrift Store has provided formal gowns for residents of Winter Park Care & Rehabilitation Center's "senior prom." Here, the prom queen (seated) models one of our gorgeous gowns.



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.