



The Mustard Seed

Social Apostolate of Savannah

Spring, 2017
Volume 4, Issue 1

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From the Desk of the Director

We read in the gospel (Matthew 25:40) "whatsoever you did for one of these least brothers or sisters of mine you did for me." That is, when we feed hungry people in the soup kitchen or give groceries to hungry families, we are feeding Jesus Himself. When we provide a shower for a homeless person, it is Jesus who is served. When we give clothing to someone in need, we are clothing Jesus Himself. When we help someone get the vital documents they need to become more self-sufficient, we are helping Jesus. When we listen non-judgmentally to someone, give hope to the doubtful, give the information a person needs, give comfort, and are patient and caring, we are extending these supports to Jesus. Each donor, volunteer and staff member helps make the services we provide possible. As Christians, it is our calling to serve those in need. This is what we will be judged on at the Last Judgement. This is what we have the privilege to do each day here at the Social Apostolate.

Sincerely,

Sr. Julie Franchi,
Director

Volunteer of the Year

By Marianne Kosiewicz

Originally from Rochester, New York, Diane Gannon spent her career working for Eastman Kodak in organizational development. She and her husband of 40 years moved to Savannah 12 years ago. While cycling with a friend, Diane learned about the Social Apostolate and almost



immediately began working on the annual golf tournament. Besides continuing on the golf committee, Diane also processes donation checks, prepares deposit slips, maintains the database, and prepares the acknowledgement letters for mailing. Then she does errands, which includes picking up food at the Food Bank and at local stores – (for the soup kitchen and/or food pantry), and purchasing office supplies or work boots and shoes for clients who have found a job.

When asked why she stays at the Social Apostolate, Diane recalled a moment which exemplifies how rewarding the work is. She was in the checkout line at a very large store when the cashier realized that she was making the purchases for the Social Apostolate. The cashier volunteered that long before, she had made a big mistake and was

in "dire straits." In her words, the Social Apostolate "saved my life" and she now has a full-time job with benefits. That moment lingers with Diane.

In her private life, Diane loves to cycle, to golf, and to travel to exotic places such as the Galapagos Islands and Africa. Her next trip will be to Antarctica. Diane is also an accomplished photographer who donates the proceeds from the sale of her work to the Social Apostolate. No wonder Diane was selected as **the Social Apostolate Volunteer of the Year!**



Meet our Staff!

Sondra Burns was working at “E-Connect”, a United Way Agency in Effingham County, when she met Latacia Avila, Assistant Director of the Social Apostolate, who was setting up a site for the Social Apostolate in that county. It was the first-time Sondra had heard of the Social Apostolate....and the beginning of the next step in her career. She was hired late in 2014 and currently works full time as a case manager at the Social Apostolate's Crisis Intervention Office. In that role, she assists clients in obtaining vital documents such as birth certificates, which help people find employment and stabilize families. She also is involved with providing emergency prescription services, school uniforms, emergency baby needs, and emergency grocery assistance. Sondra represents the Social Apostolate to clients in Effingham County who go to our office there by appointment for their service.



This job is perfect for Sondra, who says that she just loves helping people. Anyone who observes Sondra at work already knows that about her. As Sondra said, “When you make an impact on someone's life, you really do what God requires us all to do.” Sondra is a graduate of St. Leo University. She grew up in Effingham County, the second of three children. She has been married to Mark, for more than twenty years, and they have a 19-year-old son. In her free time, she enjoys shopping and spending time with her family. One of Sondra's new interests is baking sweets, an interest the men in her family enthusiastically encourage!



Barbara Simmons joined the Social Apostolate staff as the Manager of Food Services in July 2016, after completing almost 20 years at Greenbriar Children's Center, an emergency shelter for children and youth. Barbara has a passion for food, is a gifted cook, and is a trainer in food safety and handling. She is a lifelong resident of Savannah, who has been married to Benjamin for over 50 years. They raised 4 children, are now raising a grandchild, and have 5 other grandchildren.

Barbara loves her ministry at the Social Apostolate because she feeds and brings joy to the less fortunate, spends time communicating with them, and feels a real calling to do that. She loves it when the clients say, “thank you”, which is a daily occurrence. She believes God gave her a gift for understanding those in need, and bringing joy and love into their lives. Her natural joyfulness is a gift to them! It has been challenging for Barbara to get to know the many volunteers who work with her, a different group with its own personality each day, but she loves and appreciates each group!

Barbara is certified in nutrition through the University of GA, and has taught low-income families to prepare and budget food. When not at the Social Apostolate, she ministers through her church teaching children, and doing youth ministry and street outreach. Because of this involvement, she already knew many of our clients before coming to the Social Apostolate. By her presence and her delicious food, Barbara adds joy, love and flavor to the Social Apostolate!

Send us your e-mail address so we can send the *Mustard Seed* at virtually no cost to us [saves \$0.40/piece]. Send your e-mail address to SocialSav@comcast.net. We will never give away or sell your e-mail to anyone. Thank you for helping us cut administrative costs so we can spend more on direct services.

Please consider making a financial contribution to the Social Apostolate to support us in our work! We are so grateful for all the help we receive. Donations may be made through the Pay Pal account on our webpage: www.socialapostolate.org or by completing the form below.

<input type="checkbox"/> \$25.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$500.00
<input type="checkbox"/> \$50.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$250.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Other \$ _____
Name _____		
Address _____		
City _____	State _____	Zip _____
Email _____		
Make your check out to:	Social Apostolate	
Mail to:	P. O. Box 8703	
	Savannah, GA 31412	
Thank you for helping.		
<i>The Social Apostolate is a [501 (c) (3)] charity recognized by the IRS</i>		

Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon

April 1 was a day of gratitude and joy as 49 Social Apostolate volunteers and guests gathered for the Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon at the Cathedral Parish Hall. Volunteers assist with every aspect of the services the Social Apostolate offers – soup kitchen, thrift store, receptionist. Some provide other much appreciated but behind the scenes services. We are grateful for each one! The delicious food was provided by Creative Catering. Most volunteers saw themselves in the traditional PowerPoint presentation.

One attendee, Wim Salien, commented: "I joined the Thursday soup kitchen team in October, two months after my dear wife, Chris, passed. I did it in her honor, as I know she would have loved to be part of your organization. But I have come to love my work at the Apostolate very much. In addition, I realize that the camaraderie I experience from the other volunteers and the staff, and the appreciation of our clients, help me cope with my grief. Not only am I helping needy people, but it helps me as well".



Did You Know?



In 2016, about **100** volunteers contributed over **4,900** hours of service, helped us provide **4,461** individuals, with over **24,000** distinct services.



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We Remember ...

Life is a journey, and death is the passage to the next phase of life. Because we believe in the resurrection, we have hope, even amidst our sorrow at the separation of death. Since our last newsletter the following clients, donors and/or volunteers have completed their earthly journey. We are grateful for their lives, for their part in the Social Apostolate, and we pray for those who grieve their passing.

Gregory Braswell
Ann Harper Carter
Zeline Foster
Waynard Hickox
Shirley Pierce
Marilyn Williams

Joseph Billings
Bernie Cleary
Catherine Heston
Margaret Mathews
Patricia Soles

Special Events

May 29: Closed (Memorial Day)
June 19-30: Prayer and Action - Youth Service Project
July: 3-4: Closed (Independence Day)
July 15-30: Closed for vacation
September 4: Closed (Labor Day)
October 9: Open (Columbus Day)
November 6: **SAVE THE DATE – GOLF TOURNAMENT**

Current Needs:

- **Groceries:** Thanks to the wonderful generosity of the people from - the Cathedral, Resurrection of the Lord, Our Lady of Lourdes Parishes, and the Pooler Catholic Community, we have a wonderful supply of food in our food pantry right now. But, we always welcome more because it can deplete very quickly.
- We always need **diapers!**
- **Volunteers** are needed in the Thrift Store, most shifts, and will be needed for both the Thrift Store and Soup Kitchen during the summer while regular volunteers are on vacation. To respond to this e-mail: SAvols@comcast.net.