



The Mustard Seed

Social Apostolate of Savannah



From the Desk of the Director

Each year on October 4, we celebrate the life of St. Francis of Assisi. Though he died in 1226, he remains a significant figure for the world and for the Social Apostolate, because, since its founding in 1968, four Franciscan Sisters, followers of St. Francis, have served as Director. His spirit and example continue to inspire us in our ministry here.

I find one of the many stories about him especially meaningful. One day Francis asked a group of his followers to accompany him and go preach in the city. They walked through the city but never stopped to preach, in fact, they never spoke a word. They just walked silently through the city and returned home. Puzzled, the Brothers asked when they were going to preach, and Francis' responded, "Preach always and when necessary use words." At the Social Apostolate, we do not preach because, like St. Francis, we believe that our loving service to those in need is "preaching" enough, and speaks volumes about our beliefs.

This second edition of "The Mustard Seed" gives us an opportunity to share with you, our donors and supporters, our sacred ministry of service. Thank you for being an essential part of that service. And, may God bless you and your loved ones.

Sincerely,

**Sr. Julie Franchi,
Director**

Meet our Clients: Maria, Robert, and Tommy Young

During the nine month period from January to September, 2014 the Social Apostolate has helped 385 clients get their Birth Certificates, and 499 get their Georgia ID. These brief stories, using false names to preserve clients' privacy, illustrate how personal determination, joined with necessary documents help people begin to achieve economic independence and gain more control over their lives.

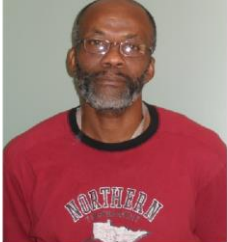
Maria had just turned 18 when she came to the Social Apostolate in May in need of a GA ID to find employment. By September she had found a job. We also assisted her with bus passes for two weeks until her first paycheck.

Robert was twenty-three when he came to the Social Apostolate with all the documentation he'd need to obtain his GA ID. We gave him a bus pass to go to Driver Services for his GA ID. With that

Did you know?

More than **5000** birth certificate requests have been processed by the SA.

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Tommy Young, a success story for the Social Apostolate, said, "I'm tired of existing. It's time to live."

he was able to get a job within a few days. To begin it we gave him work clothing, slip resistant shoes, and two seven day bus passes.

Tommy Young first came to the Social Apostolate in mid-September, 2014 in need of a GA ID. He returned with all of the required documentation and has obtained his ID. On October 27 he returned to pick up his eyeglasses, which we had helped him get through our Prevent Blindness Program. He has been at Men's Residential for three months, and has been working at a good job for two weeks. We're proud of his success.

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2 Golfing for Good!

Our biggest fundraiser each year, the Golf Open, took place Monday October 20, at the Oakridge Golf Course at the Landings. 96 eager golfers gathered for a day of exercise,



Sylvia Morrison and Michael Ann Jakuc share a golf cart.



Ann O'Heaney, Vicky Haggerty, Patti Hoagland and Diane Gannon made a great foursome.

Thanks to the hard-work of the committee, headed by Kate Haase, the generosity of many people, and the wonderful weather God gifted us with, the event was a wonderful success.

competition, enjoyment and to support the work of the Social Apostolate.



Smiles from Tom Rood and Walter O'Leary at the start



Walter Asche, John Fitzgibbon, Bob Kraft and Don Schoenwald joined the other golfers.

Through people's generosity and the hard work of the committee, over \$34,000 was brought in, before expenses. You may see some familiar faces among the attendees in these photos.



The course was beautiful.

This is the only fund-raiser planned by the SA this year. We'd like to thank all sponsors and golfers.



Barbara and Joe Grispo and John and Marianne Kosiewicz enjoyed the golf and lunch.

We Remember ...

"... We are surrounded by such a great 'cloud of witnesses'... let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus." (Hebrews 12:1-3)

The Cloud of Witnesses inspires us by their lives of generosity and service. These donors, volunteers and supporters of the Social Apostolate have completed their journey on earth and have gone home to God. We extend our sympathy to their loved ones, and we rejoice in the goodness of their lives, as we remember them with love and gratitude:

Bishop Andrew J. McDonald
Doug Cheatham
John DeLollis
Charles Smith
Edward Sokolowski
Bill Stimson

Jim Arnold
Robert Cunniff
Mary Maloney
Susan Caudle Smith
Jimmy Stephens
Mrs. Freddie Tilton

Well done, thy good and faithful servant. (Matthew 25:21)

Current Needs



- Roasted, sliced turkeys for our Thanksgiving dinner on November 25: Call Sr. Julie for details.
- Diapers - especially the larger sizes

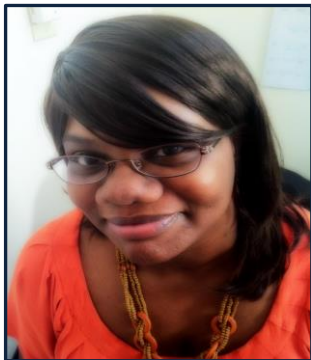
Volunteer Needs

Volunteers for the Thrift Store are needed. The Thrift Store is open Tuesday-Friday, 10:00-12:30 and 1:30-3:00. This involves a weekly commitment of 2 ½ hours (mornings) or 1 ½ hours (afternoons). Please call Sr. Julie if interested: 912-233-1877 X 104.

The Birth Certificate Program is a vitally important program, because with a Birth Certificate and GA ID, people are able to find employment and move forward with their lives. Also, a certified birth certificate is necessary to access many services in our society such as housing, food stamps, child support, disability benefits, to enroll a child in school and for identification purposes.

The Social Apostolate is recognized by the GA Department of Driver Services to issue "indigent vouchers" to pay for official Georgia Identification Cards. The program is principally funded by the United Way and other donors; costs vary by state from \$9-\$60.

Center staff members, Latacia, Tom, and Sondra, work with clients who request birth certificates.



Latacia Avila is the program manager/assistant director at SA and was interviewed for this article.

According to Latacia "We are providing people with documents they need to get a job. This helps them become self-sufficient. Since the E-Verify program came into effect, employers can't hire people without proper documentation.

We help the poor obtain that proper documentation so they can get work."



Tom Fregeau, case manager at SA, was also interviewed for this article.

"Getting a birth certificate is not as simple as people think. The process has become a lot more complicated by the REAL ID ACT which went into effect in July 2012. It establishes strict requirements on the states before an ID can be issued. Much more documentation is needed for driver's licenses and IDs. This change affects everybody, but it impacts the poor even more, as they struggle to comply with the new regulations. This past year we have seen a big increase in the number of birth certificates and IDs, and an increase in the total cost," Tom said, "If you want to work you must have an ID, but you need a birth certificate to get an ID and you need an ID to get a birth certificate, It's sort of a 'Catch 22'." Tom continued. "Since 2003 the Social Apostolate has helped over 500 people per year get a birth certificate and sometimes the number runs as high as 800; that's over 5000 in the past 11 years."


In June, the Social Apostolate, with the support of the United

Way, began offering this program one day a week in Effingham County.

In September, Sondra Burns joined the staff of the Social Apostolate as a case manager.

"When I give someone their birth certificate or ID, I feel relieved," Latacia said, "because people without ID live in anxiety. My sense of relief comes from seeing their happiness as their burdens are lifted from them. Once they have appropriate documents, they can focus on making progress in their lives. It gives us a sense of accomplishment to know we have made a positive difference in the lives of many people."


PLEASE REMEMBER US!



As we approach this holiday season, please consider making a year-end 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 through a check sent to: Social Apostolate, P. O. Box 8703, Savannah, GA 31412.

Like us on Facebook at Social Apostolate.





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What's Going on at the SA?

Regular Schedule:

The Crisis Intervention Office (to help people with groceries, prescriptions, birth certificates, IDs, baby needs, school uniforms, interview clothes, work clothing and special shoes, eye glasses) is open Monday - Friday 9:00-12:30 and Monday - Thursday 1:30-3:00.

The Soup Kitchen serves a delicious hot meal Tuesday - Friday 11:00-12:15

Showers Tuesday - Friday 9:45-12:30

Thrift Store - "The Boutique on Liberty Street" Tuesday - Friday 10:00-12:30 & 1:30-3:00

Regularly Scheduled Meetings:

The Advisory Board meets the second Monday of each month

The Staff Meeting is the second Tuesday of each month

Newsletter Committee: Sister Julie, Melanie Brooks, Peter Koch, Peter Paolucci

Special Events

NOVEMBER

11 Veterans Day - open



25 Thanksgiving dinner served

26 No soup kitchen; thrift store and crisis intervention office close at 12:30

27-30 Closed for Thanksgiving

DECEMBER



19 Christmas dinner served

22-23 Open, but soup kitchen closed

24-1/3 Closed for vacation

JANUARY

4 Reopen after Christmas vacation