



The Mustard Seed

Social Apostolate of Savannah



From the Desk of the Director

"The Mustard Seed", the title of our newsletter, points to the fact that, often in our work with clients, we plant a seed and trust that the seed will grow. But, we don't always see if it flourishes or not. As the Zen master says, "No seed ever sees the flower".

This is especially true in our Employment Support Program, where we provide clients the services and support they need to obtain meaningful employment. We do this by helping them get the legal documents they'll need and by providing them with appropriate clothing, footwear, and gas cards, bus passes and/or donated bikes. Our hope is that, with the client's determination and hard work and with God's help, this person will be able to find and keep a good job. We plant the seed, then hope and pray the seed will one day grow. "We may never see the end results, ... we are ministers, not messiahs. We are prophets of a future not our own." (Archbishop Oscar Romero).

Sincerely,

Sr. Julie Franchi,
Director

Birthday Party Packs

By Marianne Kosiewicz

For the last few months, the Social Apostolate has been able to surprise some of its clients when they have come for occasional, emergency grocery assistance. For those with young children, we have been able to give them a birthday kit, which includes



everything one might need to throw a great children's birthday party: a cake mix, coordinated icing, and a baking pan; a paper tablecloth and matching napkins, and candles which spell out "Happy Birthday." All these items are design and color coordinated. The birthday kit program has brought more than one client to joyful tears. A young mother of three who was caring for her dying father

Fall, 2016
Volume 3, Issue 2

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at home came for grocery assistance and was given a birthday kit as well. She began to say thank you, but she was so choked with emotion, all she was able blurt out was that her oldest child had a birthday in two weeks. Overcome with appreciation, she reached out to hug the volunteer who had packed her groceries. Suddenly, she stopped short and asked if that would offend the volunteer. With tears of her own, our volunteer embraced the young mother with an enthusiastic bear hug!

This program was initiated (and funded) by Bill and Eileen Holden, who for many years were volunteers in our soup kitchen. Unable to continue that work, they now contribute in another way. Many, many thanks to Bill and Eileen for a gift which has provided joy beyond necessity.

Biking to Work

By Ruth McMullin

Tom Fregeau, formerly a Social Apostolate volunteer, is now a dedicated staff member. He explains how difficult it is for Social Apostolate clients to get a job. They need so much: valid identification, transportation to the job when they have one, work shoes, work clothes . . .

Tom and the other case managers try to help with all these needs. The easy ones - steel-toed boots for construction jobs and non-skid shoes for kitchen workers - are given, thanks to generous donors. Transportation is also relatively easy. When someone presents proof of employment indicating the date of their first paycheck, the Social Apostolate will give them the bus passes needed for their commute until that date.

But Tom, a cyclist himself, realized that a bus pass isn't always the best way to get to work. He connected with a local organization, The Savannah Bicycle Campaign. Through their New Standard Cycles program (<http://newstandardcycles.org>), they donate reconditioned bikes that the Social Apostolate can give to a client whose job isn't right on a bus route. The client can put the bike on a bus, get off at



the closest point, then ride the bike to work.

The identification needed to apply for a job is a more difficult challenge. Frequently, clients don't have the required documentation to get a state of Georgia ID or driver's license which employers must see. Homeless people don't have a proof of residence. Clients often don't have a birth certificate, or their name may have changed. It is often difficult to help these people, but the Social Apostolate perseveres, assisting clients to find birth certificates, marriage certificates, motor vehicle records, proof of their Social Security number, court orders, and divorce decrees. Clients are enabled to jump start their lives with meaningful work, with the hope that they will be more economically self-sufficient.



Annual Golf Tournament Brings in Much-Needed Funds

The sun shone brightly on October 31 as 79 eager golfers met at the Palmetto Golf Course at the Landings for the Social Apostolate Golf Open. This sixteenth annual golf open fundraiser earns over \$30,000 for the Social Apostolate to further its mission of service to the homeless and struggling people of the Savannah area.

Thank you to the committee that works diligently with attention to every detail (see photo). Thank you also to every donor, sponsor and player for your generosity, which helps us make a significant difference in people's lives! May God bless each of you!

Photos: Top left: Tournament committee members

Bottom left: These five people have played in every Social Apostolate golf tournament.

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 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>		

“You Are Always a Part of Our Lives”

Since our last newsletter, many people who were part of the Social Apostolate have completed their earthly journey. These words come to mind: “You are ever a part of our lives. The good you have done will live on in our lives.” (Benedictine Monks of Weston Priory, Vermont.). May each remain in God’s presence, and may their loved ones know peace and consolation.

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|
| Ottavio Aliffi | Brian Bergkamp |
| Leo DeLollis | David Freeman |
| Wayne Hickox | Ronald Long |
| Monsignor Frank Nelson | Doris Romagosa |
| Chris Salien-Rogmans | Charles Story |
| Anthony (Tony) White | Ellen Woodside |
| Deborah Ann Wheeler Wilkowski, MD | |

Did You Know?



After Hurricane Matthew, in three days we served 136 families in need of grocery assistance, a number that exceeds what we usually do in an entire month. Our Food Pantry was very well stocked thanks to many generous people, especially Cub Scout Pack # 7 and Boy Scout Troop # 7.

Newsletter Committee: Sister Julie, Melanie Brooks, Peter Koch, Ruth McMullin, Marianne Kosiewicz



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A Future Not Our Own

Excerpts from a prayer/poem
 by Archbishop Oscar Romero

It helps, now and then, to step back
 And take the long view.
 The Kingdom is not only beyond our efforts,
 It is beyond our vision.

We accomplish in our lifetime only a tiny
 fraction of
 The magnificent enterprise that is God's work.
 Nothing we do is complete,
 Which is another way of saying
 That the kingdom always lies beyond us.

Special Events



Nov 22 Thanksgiving dinner served
 Nov 23-24 Closed for Thanksgiving
 Nov 28 Job Fair at the Apostolate,
 9:00-12:00, Masis Staffing



Dec 12 Eye Clinic, no other services
 Dec 22 Christmas dinner served
 Dec 23 Closed for Christmas vacation
 Jan 3 Re-open after Christmas vacation

Current Needs:

- We always need non-perishable food in small cans to help us keep our food pantry well supplied. The need for groceries is always great after Christmas when those who splurged at Christmastime run out of essentials like groceries. We most need: canned hams, tuna, any protein food, and jelly.
- We also always need diapers in all sizes, but especially larger sizes and baby wipes.
- But, what we most need is your financial support. Please consider responding to this newsletter by making an end of the year contribution.