



# The Mustard Seed

## Social Apostolate of Savannah



### From the Desk of the Director

For 50 years, the Social Apostolate of Savannah has been the arm of the Catholic Church serving the homeless and at-risk people of the Savannah area. It has been my privilege to lead it for the past 6 ½ years. However, on April 13, I was elected to the leadership team of my Franciscan Sisters community and have submitted my resignation as director, effective July 1. I will be relocating to Massachusetts.

As I prepare to move on, I offer a few reflections. The Social Apostolate can serve our clients' needs because of the caring, professional staff and dedicated volunteers who serve each client with respect and kindness. Our donors, each of you, with your monetary and in-kind donations, help make that possible. Together we are the hands of God, serving those in need as Jesus himself did while on earth.

My heart is sad at leaving, but, even more, is full of gratitude for the great blessing the Social Apostolate has been in my life. It has been a challenge, but it has helped me to grow, and I have seen the Social Apostolate grow. I know God will continue to be here, guiding the Social Apostolate into the future. I am so grateful for each person whom I have had the great joy of knowing here. Thank you for your support of me and of the Social Apostolate. May God bless each of you as you have blessed me!

Sincerely,

Sr. Julie Franchi, Director



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## VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR, 2018

Every year the United Way offers each agency the opportunity to choose its volunteer of the year. This year we selected Kate Wallington who has volunteered at the Social Apostolate for 3 years. She began in the thrift store, then served in the dining room, and has also managed the food pantry. This first-hand knowledge of a wide variety of Social Apostolate services helped her as she then accepted responsibility as volunteer coordinator a year ago.

Her responsibilities as volunteer coordinator include doing orientation and necessary paperwork for each new volunteer, assigning and scheduling volunteers in consultation with staff, keeping volunteer records current, communicating important information to volunteers, and organizing the Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon. Coordinating our approximately 100 volunteers is very time-consuming, and she has done it with dedication and care. She is passionate about our mission of loving service of the poor, and really cares about each volunteer. She is extremely dependable, well organized, and skillful in fulfilling a very necessary Social Apostolate responsibility.

## 2 Meet our Staff!

### Fran McCombs

*You are the light of the world . . . Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven. Matthew 5: 14*

As the Social Apostolate celebrates its 50th anniversary, there's one member of the staff who has known this agency for 45 years, Fran McCombs. Fran is the manager of the thrift store. She is also a live history of the Social Apostolate and is a light to every person who walks into "The Boutique on Liberty" either as a paying customer or as a client, needing a helping hand and free clothing.

Fran discovered the thrift shop in 1973, by chance, where she found clothing for her children. Seeing that the manager needed help, she volunteered until Sr Catherine asked her to become an employee. Since 1993, she has greeted customers and Social Apostolate clients, treating them with love and kindness, joking and making them feel



special. She has a talent for helping people find precisely the clothing and items that they need. The joy of life and the kindness that shines from her eyes and smile lifts the spirits of all who enter. Fran hasn't had an easy life. She lost her mother, whom she credits with being her mentor and life guide, at age 15. She married at age 16, was divorced, and raised 6 children on welfare. One of her 6 children was killed in a car accident. But Fran is strong and tough as well as loving and compassionate.

The entire Social Apostolate is a beacon of God's love in our community. At the street front Fran does indeed "let light shine before the world."



## Thank You, Volunteers! You Are Super!

The Social Apostolate relies greatly on the assistance of our volunteers. We officially thank them at the annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon, which took place this year at St. James Parish on March 24. 43 volunteers and 28 guests attended. In observation of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Social Apostolate volunteers enjoyed a PowerPoint of the history of the Social Apostolate. It was a day full of enjoyment and gratitude!



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](http://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.**

*The Social Apostolate is a [501 (c) (3)] charity recognized by the IRS*

## Staff and Volunteer Retreat

On April 27<sup>th</sup>, Fr. Liam Collins led about 28 staff and volunteers in a retreat day, held at Villa Marie Center, Isle of Hope. He spoke about silence, stillness, and prayer. He reflected on his own experiences of interacting with the poor, as he encouraged us to do the same. The wonderful presentations, sharing among participants, laughter, gorgeous weather and beautiful grounds contributed to everyone feeling refreshed spiritually.



### Did You Know?



Clients can come once a month for the food pantry, but 75% of our clients came only once or twice during the whole year!



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## Social Apostolate of Savannah Gets Defibrillator



Social Apostolate volunteer Catherine Schmitz holds a new defibrillator with agency client Robert Smith.

On August 30, 2017, the entire staff participated in a CPR/AED/First Aid training. Upon completion of the day-long training, we applied for and received a grant from the National Heart Council, a special program of the National Emergency Medicine Association, to purchase a wall-mounted unit. Our gratitude to them and to our volunteer retired nurse practitioner, Cathy Schmitz, who coordinated the whole process.

### Current Needs:

- Diapers, especially sizes 4 & 5
- Deodorant!
- Summer volunteers (age 18 or older)

### Special Events

**May 28:** Closed for Memorial Day

**June 5:** at 7:00 PM at Grayson Stadium, Catholic Night at the Ballpark Fundraiser. For tickets and information go to:  
<https://diosav.org/baseball-2018>

**June 18-21 & 25-28:** Prayer and Action - Youth Service Project,

**July 4:** Closed for Independence Day

**July 14-29:** Closed for vacation

### August 5: 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

11:30 AM Mass of Thanksgiving at the Cathedral with Bishop Boland celebrant.

Open House at the Social Apostolate following.  
 All invited!