



The Mustard Seed

Social Apostolate of Savannah

Spring 2015
Volume 2, Issue 1



From
the Desk
of the
Director

What's your favorite Scripture passage? One of mine is Matthew 25:40 "Whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me." I love it not because I find it consoling, but because it's such a challenge, and because I believe that every day here at the Social Apostolate we live this Scripture. As we clothe the naked through the thrift store; get birth certificates and GA IDs to help folks find employment; feed the hungry in the soup kitchen and food pantry, we are helping Jesus in the people we serve. And, as we serve each person with respect and kindness through our many programs, we are serving Jesus himself, and that is a great honor.

In this newsletter we will offer some glimpses of daily life and service here at the Social Apostolate, a truly sacred place. But, we who work here, the staff and volunteers, could not do the service we do without the financial support of our generous donors. In the name of all the people we serve (4,279 last year, an increase of 13% over 2013!), thank you for helping us help others, and giving us the chance to live the gospel in a very concrete way.

Sincerely,
Sr. Julie Franchi, Director

Meet our Clients

Jim, a 38 year old male, was released from prison in January 2015, after serving 3 years for a drug offense. On 2/2/15, he was referred to the Social Apostolate by a shelter for homeless men, for assistance with obtaining a Georgia ID for employment. His only form of identification was a prison release ID card, discharge papers, and a social security card. That same day, a case manager assisted Jim with the application for a certified copy of his Florida birth certificate. He was told the processing time for Florida birth certificates is 2 weeks. Jim returned to the Social Apostolate on 2/16/17, exactly 2 weeks later – no reminder call was necessary. He was issued a voucher to get his GA ID and given a bus pass to DDS. During his visit, he informed the case manager that he had gotten a job, but the employer would need to see his GA ID before he could begin working. He also asked for assistance with work shoes and work clothing. He was given an employment verification form and was told we could assist with work supplies, if he returns with his GA ID and provides proof of employment. The next day, Jim returned with his temporary ID card issued by DDS and the completed employment verification form. On 2/18, this client began working full-time for a concrete company, earning \$10/hr. Client was issued a pair of new steel-toed work boots, a voucher to the thrift store for work clothing, and was given enough

bus passes to help him get to work until he receives his first paycheck. He is still employed and seems to have turned his life around.



Direct cost of services provided = \$77.00. Cost of In-Kind donations (thrift store) = \$50.00. Immediate access to a case manager during a client's time of need = priceless!

Did you know?



Over 260 children have received vouchers to buy school uniforms.

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2 The Very Best!

The Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon was held on Saturday, March 28, in the Cathedral Parish Center. Attending were 46 volunteers, 25 guests, and 5 staff members. Creative Catering served a delicious meal.



Sr. Julie hosted the event and presented each volunteer with a copy of the Prayer of St. Francis. Fran, Ms. Edna, and Latacia introduced the volunteers who work in their areas. Below are the Thrift Shop volunteers pictured with manager, Ms. Fran.



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)

Since 1968, the Social Apostolate has been "reaching out to and trying to empower the poor, homeless, disabled and at-risk people of the Savannah area." Many donors, volunteers, and supporters make this possible. We thank God for the lives of these donors, clients, volunteers, and those in whose memory donations have been made to the Social Apostolate. We pray for the consolation of their loved ones. May they rest in peace in God's presence!

Michael Davis
Vivian Kenny
Elvira (Mac) Powers
Virginia Vine

Imogene DeLoach
Eddie Maxwell
Maryann Ridgway



Volunteer of the Year

This year we have chosen Jeanne Zittrouer as our "Volunteer of the Year". Jeanne has volunteered at the Social Apostolate for about six years. She excels as a receptionist, especially during the Eye Clinic days, when keeping the great number of clients organized is especially challenging.

Jeanne has also served on the Advisory Board for 5 years, first as president and now as secretary. She has been on a fundraising committee and often does extras beyond her responsibilities. Her loyalty, faithfulness and love of the Social Apostolate are outstanding and inspire all of us!

Moments of Joy

Many of our clients are chronically poor. It is difficult to help them pull out of the poverty cycle but the rewards for each successful step are rich.



- A volunteer related that a client came in to pick up her birth certificate, and cried because she saw on it her mother's signature, which she had never seen before.



- A volunteer observed that when clients come in to pick up their eyeglasses, they are in awe at all the details they can now see. ... 'I can see your eyes!'



- A volunteer remembered a Dad who came in to get clothing and diapers for his kids. When he left he said, "My two-year old is going to love these pink pants!"



- Every day Ms. Edna, our cook hears: "Ms. Edna, we appreciate you!" ... "Thank you, Ms. Edna for that delicious hot meal!"



- Bennie, the shower manager, notes that after a shower he often hears "I feel like a new person!"



- Fran in the Thrift Store has a customer who was once homeless and now has a home, a car, a job, and comes to shop at the Thrift Store to pay back the SA for helping her when she needed help.

**YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS
HELP MAKE OUR [YOUR] CLIENTS WHOLE**

**A majority of our operating funds come from friends like you
who care about the forgotten people.**

<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100	<input type="checkbox"/> \$500
<input type="checkbox"/> \$50	<input type="checkbox"/> \$250	<input type="checkbox"/> Other \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

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- ..

Make your check out to: Social Apostolate of Savannah
 Mail to: P. O. Box 8703
 Savannah, GA 31412-8703

Thank you for helping

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

Turkey and Dressing, Gifts, and Stockings – Christmas 2014

We served the Social Apostolate Christmas dinner to 230 very delighted clients on December 19. Many generous donors and volunteers made it possible! The donors for the delicious turkey dinner included the Daughters of Ireland, the Knights of Columbus Ladies Auxiliary # 631, Mrs. Wilkes Restaurant, and the MacLeod family. The gifts were provided by the people of St. Peter the Apostle, Blessed Sacrament and the Cathedral parishes. The CCW of the Cathedral parish organized the gift-giving. Each client received a Christmas stocking, filled with practical, fun, and necessary goodies, and gift cards to fast food restaurants. Then they chose either a "Love Bag", made by the people of Sacred Heart Parish or a gently used coat



Pictured: Social Apostolate staff celebrating Christmas

from the many that were donated by our supporters. The youth groups at St. James made Christmas cards and placemats. And Our Lady of Lourdes in Port Wentworth donated diapers, which are always needed. It was a wonderful day because many people helped to make it all happen. Many thanks to these very generous people!



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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 shoes, eye glasses) is open Mon - Fri 9:00-12:30 and Mon - Thurs 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

Food Pantry:

The Food Pantry is overflowing thanks to the generosity of our parishes. In January, during a period of critical shortage, our Savannah priests addressed the urgency during mass. The incredible response filled our shelves with good food and our hearts with gratitude. We are so thankful for all of our friends.

Volunteer Needs:

Volunteers to help fill vacation gaps are needed during the summer months when many of our regular volunteers are out of town. This is a great opportunity for students who need community service hours and adults who would like to "try us out." If you're interested, please call Sr. Julie at 912-233-1877 X 104.

Newsletter Committee:

Sister Julie, Melanie Brooks, Peter Koch, Peter Paolucci

Special Events

MAY

- 25 Closed for Memorial Day
- 26 Catholic Night at Grayson Stadium –for tickets and information, www.diosav.org. Benefits the Social Apostolate



- 28-29 Effingham Prevent Blindness Eye Clinic

JULY

- 3 Closed for Independence Day
- 11-26 Closed for Annual Vacation

SEPTEMBER

- 7 Closed for Labor Day



OCTOBER

- 19 Annual Golf Open, Palmetto Course The Landings