

Christian Community Service Center
P. O. Box 27924
Houston, TX 77227-7924

Connections, CCSC's quarterly newsletter, is designed to keep you in touch with CCSC's mission, ministries, events, member churches and volunteers.

www.ccschouston.org

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ALTERNATIVE GIVING FOR SPREADING CHRISTMAS JOY!

Are you looking for a gift to give a loved one or friend that will truly make a difference this holiday season? Holiday Honorarium/Memorial gifts are a wonderful way to honor those you love while supporting your neighbors in crisis who visit the Christian Community Service Center.

To give a gift, send in the remittance envelope included in this newsletter or go to www.ccschouston.org and click the green "I Want to Donate" button. Once we receive your gift(s), CCSC will send a Christmas card to the recipient(s) you designate in the "Memory/Honor/Christmas Acknowledgement" section. Please make sure to include your recipient's full name and complete address for proper acknowledgement.

Honorarium/Memorial/Christmas Acknowledgement gifts are recognized in the Connections newsletter and gift amounts remain confidential.

GIFT GIVING GUIDE

- | | |
|---|------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Supply an entire classroom of students with school supplies and uniforms | \$1,350.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Empower 10 JobNet job seekers with computer supplies & services | \$200.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Help keep the lights on, the rent paid or a prescription filled for a family in need | \$125.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Feed a hungry family of 5-6 people for 5 days | \$84.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Equip a Martha's Way housekeeping graduate with a bucket of cleaning supplies | \$67.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Start one pre-K to 8th-grade student out right with school supplies & a uniform | \$45.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Give a box of diapers to a mother and child in need | \$26.00 |

MANY WISHES FOR A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

CONNECTIONS

A quarterly publication of the Christian Community Service Center

Fourth Quarter 2018

Dear CCSC Friend,

Did you know we've flooded three times since 2015? All three floods damaged our building and impacted the organization's ability to serve. In addition, we are at capacity: CCSC cannot fulfill its dreams to expand and help more people without additional space.

After the first flood in May 2015, the Board of Directors created a Discernment Committee to determine how best to respond to the damage. Should we do a mini-campaign and repair that one damaged building? Should we sell and move to a new location? What would be best for the clients, volunteers, and member churches? Ultimately, we determined it would be best to have a capital campaign to position CCSC for the next 25 years, just as the Board of Directors did in the early 1990s. The plans that board put into action gave the organization 25 years of expansive growth.



For the last couple of years, we have methodically and thoughtfully hired architects, a project manager, and fundraising consultants. The Capital Campaign is called *A Time To Build* and the total goal is \$14 million, which builds the new building and provides a maintenance fund within the endowment. CCSC's leadership is all in: 100% of the staff, board, and endowment board have made a pledge toward this campaign. The Agee Family Foundation, led by CCSC Capital Campaign Chair Judy Agee, began the campaign with a \$1 million challenge that has been completed and formed the initial base of support. In the next issue of this newsletter, we will be listing our early supporters who have now gotten us to \$8 million in cash and pledges.

We also have a challenge grant from the J. E. and L. E. Mabee Foundation in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Their board issued a grant of \$500,000 if we are able to reach \$9.5 million in cash and



pledges by April 10, 2019. To help CCSC reach this goal, The Hildebrand Foundation has committed to giving us the last \$250,000 of this challenge grant, therefore moving the goal to \$9.25 million.

The new building will allow CCSC to integrate and grow the organization's programs as well as facilitate further collaboration with community partners. Specifically, our goals are:

- Better integration of the emergency services and employment programs
- Expansion of vocational training initiatives to increase household incomes
- Increased impact guiding clients to achieve goals, such as completing a GED program, becoming banked, budgeting effectively, and other goals that would help stabilize a family
- Collaborative space for other nonprofit organizations
- Greater volunteer engagement

We hope you will prayerfully consider making a gift to CCSC's Capital Campaign. We would love to list you as an early supporter! Please call or email me (mshonbeck@ccshouston.org) or Major Gifts Officer Traci Boccock (tboccock@ccshouston.org). We would be happy to answer your questions, give you a tour or simply thank you for all that you've already done to make this ministry so superb.

In Christ,

Michelle Shonbeck

Michelle Shonbeck

DONORS

Gifts received July through September 2018

GLORIFY \$50,000+

United Way of Greater Houston

EXULT \$25,000+

CCSC Memorial Endowment

HALLELUJAH \$10,000+

Carbaugh Family Fund
John S. Dunn Foundation
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James and Linda McCartney Congregation of the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word

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Continued on page 7

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Gifts received July through September 2018

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Continued from page 2.

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Just Google “Amazon Smile” and sign in with your Amazon credentials. Then, shop as usual, with one very big difference: Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible Amazon Smile purchases to CCSC!

SAVE *the* DATE

THURSDAY, MAY 2, 2019

CCSC


Azalea Dinner

HILTON POST OAK

Celebrating the groundbreaking
volunteer work of Emily Griffin and
CCSC’s vision for the future



CCSC WISH LIST	
EMERGENCY SERVICES – CENTRAL	
Utility Cart for Food Pantry – 1 needed	\$140
Heavy-duty Doormat – 2 needed	\$85/each
Gallon-size Ziploc Bags (continuous need)	\$5/box
Can Openers for Food Pantry Clients (continuous need)	\$1/ea.
EMERGENCY SERVICES – SOUTHWEST	
Gallon-size Ziploc Bags (continuous need)	\$5/box
Can Openers for Food Pantry Clients (continuous need)	\$1/ea.
CCSC GARDEN	
WaterRight 400 Series Gardeners Hose	\$100
Suncast 175 Foot Garden Hose Reel Cart	\$45
Garden Sprayer – 1 needed	\$35/ea
YOUTH SERVICES	
Portable P.A. System with Wireless Microphone	\$115
SUNSHINE RESALE SHOP	
Acrylic Mirrors – 4 needed	\$30/each
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES	
Retractable Banner Floor Stand for CCSC Events	\$340
Copy Paper 8.5 x 11	\$50/case



You can make a donation on our secure website at
www.ccschouston.org
Black Friday. Cyber Monday.
#GIVINGTUESDAY™
November 27, 2018

THANKS TO IN-KIND DONORS

A donation of goods or services is an excellent way to help Christian Community Service Center achieve its mission. Here is a list of CCSC’s recent in-kind contributors. (If we missed your group, please let us know so we can recognize you in the next newsletter.)

Baker Botts, L.L.P.
 Bellaire UMC Hospitality
 Brookfield Office Properties
 Crosspoint Church
 Dr. John Robert Strawn
 Duane Smith
 Faith Lutheran Church
 Frost Bank

Griffen Kindle – Eagle Scout project
 Haltmar Family
 Kathy Shearer
 Kiwanis Club
 Kolache Shoppe
 Panera Bread #4114
 Robert Mueller
 St. Anne Women’s Guild

St. John the Divine Episcopal Church
 St. Philip Presbyterian Church: Kids Against Hunger
 St. Vincent de Paul Hospitality Guild
A special “Thank You” also goes to all churches and organizations that provide CCSC with gifts from organized food, clothing, hygiene, and/or shoe drives on a regular basis.

Michelle Shonbeck Receives Women Who Mean Business Award



CCSC Executive Director Michelle Shonbeck is honored with a Women Who Mean Business Award.

Christian Community Service Center Executive Director Michelle Shonbeck was one of eight nonprofit honorees chosen by the Houston Business Journal (HBJ) for its 2018 Women Who Mean Business Awards.

The Women Who Mean Business Awards recognize Houston's most successful women business leaders in for-profit and nonprofit industries. HBJ and a panel of independent judges reviewed 250 nominations before naming 56 honorees in nine categories: energy, finance, health care, hospitality and retail, law, nonprofit, professional services, technology and IT services, and real estate.

The criteria for selection included career achievement, contributions to company and city success, community involvement, and leadership.

Michelle has been deeply committed to CCSC's mission since she first began volunteering at CCSC in 1988. In 1993, Michelle

was hired as a CCSC program director and in 1995 she became CCSC's executive director.

"I feel grateful to have been able to find, 30 years ago this year, a place that aligns my skills, interests and values with my professional life," Michelle said. "I've worked with so many extraordinary people and I've learned from all of them, including our clients."

Before coming to CCSC Michelle worked full time in corporate human resources. She says the biggest challenge of her career was making the decision to leave the corporate world and enter nonprofit industry. "My gut told me it was the right thing to do," Michelle said. "I'm grateful to my husband for encouraging me to listen to that voice because that decision changed my life in wonderful ways."

The other Houston Business Journal 2018 nonprofit sector honorees are: Wafa Abdin, executive director of Houston Volunteer Lawyers; Claudia Aguirre, president and CEO of BakerRipley; Patsy Chapman, CEO of the Houston Ballet Nutcracker Market; Sonia Corrales, chief program officer of the Houston Area Women's Center; Jennifer Hazelton, CFO of the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo Inc.; and Rhonda Smith, CFO and deputy director of the Houston Police Department.

In Remembrance

The Christian Community Service Center has a tradition in conjunction with All Saints' Day in which we honor those volunteering in our community who have passed away over the previous year. It was our privilege to serve alongside these caring, hardworking, faithful individuals. They made a discernable difference in our community.

This year we remember the following **CCSC Saints**:

Bill Akers
Sandy Blakely
Bill Borgsteadt

Evelyn Dillard
John Kirby Ewing
Anne James

Myrtice Hazee
Hugh Parsons
Gene Peoples

Mardy Thomas
Helen Viereck
Joe Westertage
Pat Wilson

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Christian Community Service Center (CCSC) is to serve the poor, hungry, disabled and otherwise needy while respecting their religious, ethnic or cultural differences. CCSC was created out of faith, and founded in the belief that we are called to help all God's children heart to heart and hand in hand.

VOLUNTEERS

Volunteer Spotlight: Manju Monga



Neil, on the right, with his sister, Sonia, and brother, Sean.

CCSC's Jingle Bell Express program holds a special place in Manju Monga's heart, she was introduced to Jingle Bell Express through her oldest son, Neil, and she honors his memory today by continuing to volunteer with the program.

Manju and Neil first participated in Jingle Bell Express with Neil's St. Theresa Catholic Church confirmation class. Parents were encouraged to work beside their children and Manju enjoyed watching Neil interact with the children he was helping.

"Neil loved escorting the families through their gift selection and I enjoyed watching him interact with them in Spanish," Manju remembers. "My husband and I don't speak Spanish and we were amazed that he had become fluent during a mission trip to Nicaragua the prior summer. It was a memorable, heartwarming morning. He and I volunteered again together at Jingle Bell Express the following Christmas."

But by the next Christmas, Neil had passed away from a brain tumor that was diagnosed his sophomore year in high school. "He lived a joyful life until his death on October 11, 2016," Manju said. "That Christmas (2016) I volunteered during Jingle Bell Express Move-in and Set-up Week and in 2017 I went back to Distribution Saturday, all in memory of Neil."

Manju continues to honor Neil this year by sitting on the Jingle Bell Express Committee. "Advent is my favorite season—filled with joyful anticipation, prayerful reflection, goodwill and generosity," Manju said. "Volunteering with the Jingle Bell Express Committee helps me to keep that close to my heart all year long."



5413 Bellaire Blvd., Bellaire, TX 77401
Monday – Saturday 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
713-665-4000 | www.ccschouston.org



TACKLE HUNGER



Does your church participate in the Souper Bowl of Caring food drive? Consider choosing the Christian Community Service Center (CCSC) for your Souper Bowl of Caring collection. This will help replenish both food pantries after the holidays and continue to feed the hungry in our community!

CCSC Christian Community Service Center

Jingle Bell
Express



With your assistance,
2,500 kids in need will receive new toys,
books and a holiday food package
for their family.

**DONATE NEW (NONVIOLENT) UNWRAPPED
TOYS OR BOOKS FOR CHILDREN,
AGE NEWBORN TO 15 YEARS OLD. PRIMARY
GIFTS (VERSUS STOCKING STUFFERS)
ARE ESPECIALLY APPRECIATED.**

Christian Community Service Center is spreading holiday cheer through Jingle Bell Express 2018.

Please bring donations straight to the program site
Bellaire United Methodist Church, 4417 Bellaire Blvd. (77401)
between December 3 and December 5, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Note that we can also receive items on the days of Distribution
(December 7 & 8 from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m.) BUT earlier delivery is strongly preferred.

IF YOU NEED TO DELIVER ITEMS EARLIER THAN DECEMBER 3,
we can receive them at two locations:

Sunshine Resale Shop
5413 Bellaire Blvd., Bellaire 77401
(Monday–Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.)

Emergency Services-Central
3434 Branard, Houston 77027
(Monday–Friday, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., and Saturdays, 9 a.m. to Noon.)

For additional information contact
Cathy Brown at 713-961-3993, x215 or seasonal@ccschouston.org

EMERGENCY SERVICES—CENTRAL



Volunteering at Emergency Services—Central can be a humbling and powerful experience. Clients often tell us what positive interactions they have with our compassionate volunteers. In turn, volunteers often express the rewards they feel from serving. Volunteer Imelda said, “I just enjoy listening to people and helping relieve their pain. It gives me a sense of connection with them.” CCSC appreciates all its volunteers who show up with a smile, ready to serve and encourage. If you are interested in being part of this dynamic team of volunteers, please contact Erin Donohue at volunteer@ccschouston.org

EMERGENCY SERVICES—SOUTHWEST

A young father recently visited Emergency Services—Southwest in search of financial assistance to pay his rent. “Reggie’s” apartment flooded during Hurricane Harvey and his family was only recently allowed to move back into its unit.

After so many unexpected expenses and life-altering changes, the family was struggling to make ends meet.

Reggie is hard-working but under-employed. Many community members like Reggie who work minimum wage or part-time positions often need assistance filling in the gaps when all types of unexpected expenses come their way. In September, Emergency Services-Southwest was able to keep a roof over the heads of 15 families like Reggie’s. We thank our supporters for making this pivotal aid available to our neighbors in need.

MARTHA’S WAY

“Mary” graduated from a Martha’s Way fast track class in 2017. In the weeks following graduation, CCSC offered her two job leads from homeowners seeking cleaning service professionals. Several months later, Mary had six customers utilizing her services twice monthly.

Mary prides herself on quality of work and attention to detail. Her customers appreciated those qualities and referred her to their friends. One of those referrals was curious if Mary had always been a housekeeper and inquired about her former career in her native country.

When Mary explained that she had previously worked as an accountant and had a college degree in that field, the customer connected her to a friend with an accounting business.

Mary started her new position as an accountant in August 2018. She is thrilled that the Martha’s Way experience helped her with an alternative career, and even more excited that it also led her back to a vocation she loves—accounting. Mary plans to continue accommodating her current clients on weekends after she begins her new position.

JOBNET

JobNet is encouraging job seekers to take advantage of its new mock interview services conducted by experienced career coaches. Registrants must participate in the Art of Interviewing workshop prior to signing up for a mock interview.

A mock interview gives job seekers a chance to see how they will do in a pressure situation. Constructive feedback builds confidence and reduces stress when it comes to the real interview.

Recently Sonya, a JobNet client, prepared for common interview questions that could possibly be asked in a panel interview.

According to Sonya, the preparation she received at JobNet and the mock interview she did was just the confidence builder she needed and one that yielded an immediate offer. Sonya got the job!

JobNet supports job seekers with job search strategies, resume development, and workshops on attitude and communication—all necessary tools needed for a job interview. For more information on JobNet contact Mickey Hammond at jobnet@ccschouston.org

