

NEWS & NOTES

A monthly newsletter to keep you informed.

Families, Volunteers Share Spirit of Giving at Jingle Bell



Volunteers help a mom pick out toys and books for her children at Christian Community Service Center's annual Jingle Bell Express event at Bellaire United Methodist Church.

It's the smiles that strike you most when you walk into Christian Community Service Center's Jingle Bell Express event. Children, parents, volunteers--everyone is happy, everyone is smiling.

"This is my first year here. It's beautiful. I love it," said Mavis R. "My children have been looking forward to it. After Harvey we experienced a lot of losses. It means a lot to have people so caring and giving help us.

"Normally, we are the ones volunteering, helping others," Mavis added. "This time we needed help. It's been a beautiful experience coming to Jingle Bell Express. I'm happy we came."

Mavis's children were among the 2,865 youth (newborns to 15 years of age) who received toys, books and food this year. CCSC's program is unique in that it offers multiple layers of service to meet important childhood needs--play, literacy and hunger--while allowing parents to select items for their own children, providing dignified choices and personal involvement to each family.

"This program is very helpful for needy people," Marisol G. said. "For us this is so important because my husband is a

construction worker and he has not worked much with all the rain. With payments, and bills and rent at this time of year, working in construction, it is hard for my family," Marisol added. "This is what my children will get for Christmas. This is it. It makes me happy and them happy. This helps so much."



A volunteer helps Mavis R.'s daughter choose a book.

Carla A. agreed. "This program is very special. Not everyone has presents to give to their sons and daughters," Carla said. "It is very nice of all of you, very kind. God bless all of you, for all your lives."

Jingle Bell Express, like all CCSC programs, is powered by volunteers. Over 700 volunteers put in more than 2,500 hours to make the holiday magic happen.



CCSC volunteers, who help with the shopping process, wait to be matched with their next family.

"So many people come together to make this event happen," said Cathy Brown, CCSC's Youth Services program manager. "We'd like to especially thank our Jingle Bell Express volunteer committee and the churches, schools, businesses and community groups that held toy donation drives and volunteered, as well as Fiesta Mart Supermarkets for

its generous food donations. We also couldn't do this without the help of Bellaire United Methodist Church, which provided hospitality and space."

Rachel Gremillion, volunteer chairperson of this year's event, echoed Brown's appreciation for CCSC's volunteers. "My role as committee chair was made all the more special due to the wonderful team members I had working on the books, toys, food, volunteering and facilities subcommittees," Gremillion said. "The opportunity to dramatically and meaningfully impact the lives of thousands of Houstonians is something that pays well beyond the investment in time required."

For more information or to support CCSC's mission, please visit www.csschouston.org. To volunteer with CCSC, please email Erin Donohue at volunteer@csschouston.org.

Martha's Way Teams Up with SEARCH Services



Martha's Way Program Manager Ana Tappan teaches SEARCH clients housekeeping basics.

CCSC's Martha's Way vocational housekeeping training program recently partnered with SEARCH Homeless Services to offer newly housed clients at Linda Vista apartments tips on housecleaning.

Martha's Way instructors, including Program Manager Ana Tappan, taught 10 newly housed clients how to use biodegradable products in their new homes.

This opportunity with SEARCH Homeless Services gives CCSC's Martha's Way instructors another avenue for advancing CCSC's mission to help those in need.

"Thank you very much for sharing your time and wisdom with the residents at Linda Vista," SEARCH's Molly Martin said. "I can say with full confidence that staff and clients alike learned a lot from you!"

CCSC's Sunshine Resale Shop Aids Donors in Need



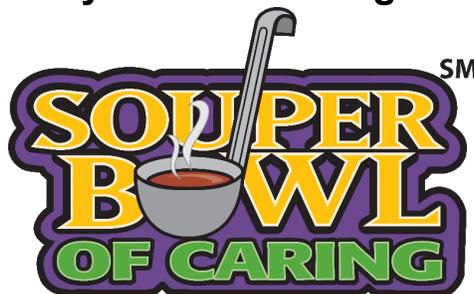
The Sunshine Resale Shop can offer help to those grieving the death of a loved one.

If you, or someone you know, need to find a new home for the cherished belongings of a loved one, supporting a good cause can provide comfort knowing that the items will help fund the programs of Christian Community Service Center.

Sunshine Resale Shop can also help with estate sales. Our dedicated volunteers will review donations with you and select items for the resale shop. Sunshine Resale is recognized by visitors and customers for the quality of items in its showroom.

To arrange for donations or consignments, contact Shop Manager Yolanda Gaxiola at 713-665-4000. The Shop is open Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

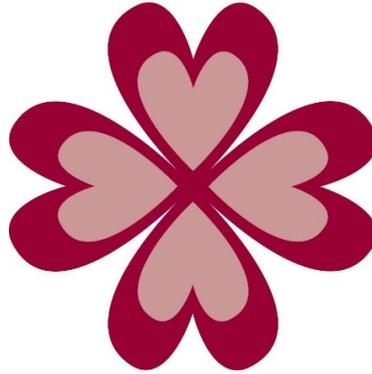
Get Ready to Tackle Hunger in 2019



Does your church participate in the Souper Bowl of Caring food drive? Consider choosing the Christian Community Service Center 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.

To arrange a Souper Bowl of Caring drop off at CCSC's Emergency Services-Central, please contact Manager Nolonda Jones at emergency_1@ccschouston.org.

SAVE THE DATE for the 2019 AZALEA GALA



May 2, 2019
Hilton Post Oak

The mission of the Christian Community Service Center (CCSC) is to serve the poor, hungry, disabled, and otherwise needy while respecting their religious, ethnic or cultural differences.



Stay Connected



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