

CONNECTIONS

A quarterly publication of the Christian Community Service Center

Second Quarter 2019

Dispelling CCSC Client Myths

Over the years, we have discovered that there are some myths about the people helped at CCSC. We would like to shed light on some truths regarding our clients in hope that these truths will inform and further inspire supporters of CCSC's vibrant ministry.



CCSC and the Houston Food Bank partner to hold a Food Fair for the community.

One question we are frequently asked: "Aren't most CCSC clients homeless?" The reality is that less than 2% of the people assisted through our basic needs sites reported being homeless last year. The more typical circumstance is a family that rents a lower priced 2-bedroom apartment or modest house. That family may be at risk for homelessness due to financial constraints and unexpected crises, but the provisions CCSC supplies—groceries, hygiene kits, diapers and gently-used clothing—help the family buffer that risk and maintain its residence.

"Clients asking for social services are not trying to provide for themselves," is another myth. Job seekers access CCSC employment programs daily. In fact, many are employed but looking for better earnings. Of all households helped through Emergency Services last year, 38% included at least one working adult. Living wage is defined as the local hourly pay that allows residents to meet minimum standards of living. Using a calculator developed at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, an adult without dependents working full-time, year-round in Harris County needs to earn \$11.99 per hour to

meet the self-sufficiency standard. That living wage increases to \$23.92 per hour with the addition of one child.

A third truth is that clients facing extraordinarily difficult situations are not always sad and hopeless. On the contrary, according to Emergency Services-Central Program Manager Nolanda Jones, clients can be absolutely joyful and fun to interact with. "Often, a highlight of my day is hearing conversations in the hall between a CCSC volunteer and a client," Jones said. "Our clients inspire us. They remind us of the importance of positive attitude and the resilience of the human spirit."

There are many times when community members may need extra help. CCSC is there to lend a hand to those experiencing challenges. If you know someone in need of help, please direct them to CCSC's door. If you would like to join our team and help us to help others, please contact CCSC to learn more about how you can make a difference.



JobNet graduates show off their certificates upon completion of a computer class.

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Ms. Maria Paloma de Arizon

Donors continued on page 7

Dear CCSC Friend,

I've begun coaching again at JobNet, meeting with a job seeker each month to advise on their job search. It's been incredibly rewarding.

So far, I've met a small business owner whose business didn't make it. She has solid skills and several career paths, but needed to talk through each option to better hone her search. Another person had never been laid off before and was stunned this had happened to her. She had always heard of CCSC, but never thought she'd become a client. And a third job seeker is a nun looking for full-time employment.

The jobs some of our clients have found include phlebotomist, administrative assistant, engineer, certified nurse's aide, welder, customer service agent, tax season temp, computer technician, corrections officer, realtor, and machine maintenance technician. We help a wide variety of people.

If you have job openings at your place of business, please consider listing them with CCSC by emailing us at jobnet@ccschouston.org.

In Christ,



Michelle Shonbeck, Executive Director

CCSC ALL SAINTS' SOCIETY

Living Out Principles Today and Tomorrow



Carolyn and Paul Meyer and their dog June.

Paul and Carolyn Meyer live by a simple yet powerful principle, "leave every place better than when you came," and that is exactly what they are doing at Christian Community Service Center.

Paul grew up in Gloversville, NY, the son of a hardworking entrepreneur who ran a leather tanning business. Paul learned heartfelt appreciation for each individual, empathy for the needs of all, and unfailing dedication to church and community from his family. It was Paul's father who emphasized the virtue of charity through the idea of "leaving every place better than when you came."

Carolyn was raised in the Mississippi Delta area, and as the daughter of a football coach she moved frequently. Being the new girl taught Carolyn to be resilient, social and adaptable. When Carolyn's father was diagnosed with leukemia her family lost a valuable piece of its tightly woven tapestry but found an outpouring of grace from others who served her family. Later in life, Carolyn took many opportunities to give back and serve others.

Carolyn and Paul became acquainted with CCSC through St. Luke's United Methodist Church and have supported CCSC's mission for over 30 years. The Meyers have now joined the CCSC All Saints' Society, whose members seek to leave a legacy gift that will help CCSC continue its programming for years to come.

The Meyers' legacy gift fulfills their personal mission of "leaving [CCSC] better than when they came," and leaving each person who receives services better than when they entered CCSC's doors.

CCSC invites you to join the Meyers in preserving the mission of CCSC by joining its All Saints' Society. For more information please contact Traci Bocock at tbocock@ccschouston.org or visit the CCSC website at www.ccschouston.org/legacygiving



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.

Volunteer Spotlight: 2019 Azalea Gala Committee



This fun, hardworking crew began meeting last October to bring us the delightful evening we enjoyed May 2nd at the 2019 Azalea Gala. Thank you to all for a memorable night of celebrating CCSC's past and future.

Pictured from left to right are: Co-chairs Larkin and Sally Matthews, Sherri Smeink, Co-chairs The Reverends Seann and Elizabeth Duffin, Sandra Buckner, Becky Browder, Andrea Link, and Cindy Case. Not pictured are committee members Lori Carper Baker, Alicia Hartsfield, Ginnie McConn, Julie Morgan, and Karen Nicolaou.

VOLUNTEER NEEDS

If you like being part of a team in a fast-paced environment and want to aid community members directly by helping in a food pantry, CCSC's Emergency Services would love to sign you up for a regular shift. You can volunteer individually or put a group together. Contact Erin Donohue at volunteer@ccschouston.org



5413 Bellaire Blvd.
Bellaire, TX 77401
 Monday – Saturday 10am – 5pm
 713-665-4000



After 35 Years in the Community, Sunshine Resale Shop will be closing its doors in September.

To celebrate the Shop's loyal donors and customers we are offering a

15% DISCOUNT THROUGH JUNE.

(Discount excludes consignments, only one discount applies.)

Donations accepted through July 20, 2019.

The Christian Community Service Center (CCSC) is an award-winning, community-based non-profit organization serving the southwest Houston community. Incorporated in 1980, CCSC has grown to encompass a coalition of 40 churches united in service to the needy.

Bellaire United Methodist Church
 Bering Drive Church of Christ
 Bethany Christian Church
 Christ the King Lutheran Church
 ChristChurch Presbyterian
 Covenant Church
 Faith Lutheran Church
 First Christian Church
 First Evangelical Lutheran Church
 First Seventh Day Baptist Church
 Grace United Church of Christ
 Holy Ghost Catholic Church
 Houston International Seventh Day Adventist Church

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 Pilgrim Lutheran Church
 Rice Temple Baptist Church
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 Southwest Presbyterian Church
 St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church
 St. Anne Catholic Community
 St. John the Divine Episcopal Church
 St. Luke's Presbyterian Church
 St. Luke's United Methodist Church
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 St. Michael Catholic Church
 Saint Paul Presbyterian Church
 St. Philip Presbyterian Church
 St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
 St. Theresa Catholic Church
 St. Thomas' Episcopal Church
 St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church
 WatersEdge Community Church
 West End Church
 West University Baptist Church
 West University United Methodist Church
 Westminster United Methodist Church

EMERGENCY SERVICES—CENTRAL



Emergency Services sends a big thank you to everyone who contributed to CCSC's food pantries through Souper Bowl of Caring. Several Boy Scout troops and youth groups brought in generous donations. Many individuals also contributed through our two Red Barrel sites at H-E-B and Kroger on Buffalo Speedway, resulting in a whopping 2,087 cases of food delivered by the Houston Food Bank in March (see picture from our storage area)! We will utilize the corn, green beans, spaghetti, tuna and peanut butter for weeks to come as we serve hungry neighbors. Souper Bowl contributions make a difference for many people and CCSC is grateful for your generosity.

Photo: A Red Barrel food pantry delivery.

EMERGENCY SERVICES—SOUTHWEST

Emergency Services-Southwest is hoping to host six Food Fairs in 2019—the most recent was held on Saturday, March 30. This service is open to the public and features free produce, dairy items and other nutritious groceries. These items, provided through CCSC's partnership with the Houston Food Bank, have become a valued addition to regular pantry operations. On March 30, 43 volunteers distributed 10,267 pounds of food to 188 families. We thank the volunteers from Bering Drive Church of Christ, CCSC, National Charity League, Rice Temple Baptist Church and St. Luke's United Methodist Church for serving our community at the Food Fair.

Photo: Food Fair volunteers



MARTHA'S WAY



CCSC's Martha's Way partnered with Freewheels Houston recently to put smiles on the faces of 14 children of Martha's Way graduates, ages 9-11, who received bikes and bike helmets from Freewheels.

Freewheels Houston, established in 2015 by members of Christ the King Lutheran Church and volunteers from the bicycling community, receives donations of used bikes from generous Houstonians, repairs the bikes, and then distributes the bikes to refugees and others who need a way to get to work or school.

Photo: Martha's Way partners with Freewheels Houston to bring bikes and helmets to 19 children.

Does Your Company Match Charitable Gifts?

Many companies offer employees, retirees, and sometimes employee spouses, a matching-gift benefit that can double or even triple your donation to a qualifying charitable organization like CCSC. Some will even make a matching contribution for your volunteer hours! Each company has its own method for you to submit a matching-gift request. Check with your Human Resources department to find out how you can maximize your donations to CCSC.

CCSC WISH LIST

CCSC's Wish List reflects unbudgeted items that would be very handy "extras" to help carry out the organization's mission. Thank you for your help!

EMERGENCY SERVICES – CENTRAL

Utility Cart for Food Pantry	\$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/each

EMERGENCY SERVICES – SOUTHWEST

Tent for Food Fair Events – 2 needed	\$80 each
Gallon-size Ziploc Bags (continuous need)	\$5/box
Can Openers for Food Pantry Clients (continuous need)	\$1/each

CSC GARDEN

2 Gallon Metal Watering Can – 2 needed	\$35/each
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JOBNET

Ninja 12-Cup Programmable Coffee Maker	\$100.00
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YOUTH SERVICES

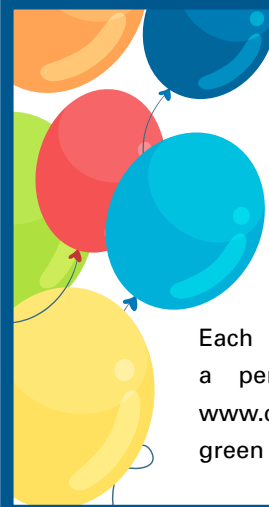
Collapsible Utility Wagon for Events (4 needed)	\$70/each
Moving Boxes for Events (5 bundles needed; gently used donations also accepted)	\$16/bundle
Wardrobe Boxes for Events (8 bundles needed; gently used donations also accepted)	\$60/bundle

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

Retractable Banner Floor Stand for CCSC Events	\$340
Copy Paper 8.5 x 11	\$50/case



*Thanks to all for Making CCSC's
"A Time to Bloom" 2019 Azalea Gala
a Wonderful Success*



GIVE THE GIFT OF HELPING OTHERS

Looking for the perfect birthday gift for a loved one that will truly make a difference? Help our neighbors in need by contributing to CCSC in someone's name.

Each gift will be acknowledged with a personalized birthday card. Visit www.ccschouston.org and click the green "I Want to Donate" button.

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.)

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First Presbyterian Church
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Kiwans Club
Kolache Shoppe
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Panera Bread #4114
Poe Elementary
River Oaks Baptist School
Second Baptist Church
St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church – Scout Troop 125
St. Anne Catholic School
St. Anne's Women's Guild of St. Anne Catholic Community

St. John the Divine Episcopal Church – Scout Troop 55
St. Luke's United Methodist Church
St. Luke's United Methodist Church Woodshop
St. Mark's Episcopal Church – Scout Troop 211
St. Martin's Episcopal Church
St. Theresa Catholic School
St. Thomas Episcopal Church – Scout Troop
St. Philip Presbyterian Church: Kids Against Hunger
St. Vincent de Paul Church

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.

Continued from page 2

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

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Back To School 2019

**HOW FAR CAN \$45
GO TO PREPARE
A STUDENT FOR
SCHOOL?**

Each summer, CCSC helps prepare 6,500 students for the new school year through our Back To School program. A \$45 donation equips one student with a new school uniform/shoes and a grade-appropriate school supply package. By purchasing supplies in bulk, CCSC can stretch your dollar and help students entering Pre-K – 12th grade successfully start the school year. Here's how to help:

**SPONSOR ONE OR
MORE STUDENTS!**

To make a donation, visit our secure website
www.ccschouston.org or mail a personal check to CCSC
with "Back To School" written on the memo line.

VOLUNTEER YOUR TIME!

(Groups of 8+ please sign up in advance.)

Sort & Set Up

Saturday, July 27
7:30 am – 11:30 am

Help organize school
supplies and "bonus items"
for distribution.

Distribution

Fri. & Sat., August 2 & 3
7:30 am – 12:30 pm

Help distribute school
supplies, vouchers and
"bonus items" to clients.

Location: Faith Lutheran Church, 4600 Bellaire Blvd.
(Just inside Loop 610 at Avenue B.)

For event questions contact: **Cathy Brown**, Youth Services Manager at seasonal@ccschouston.org. or 713-961-3993 x 215