

NEWS & NOTES

A monthly newsletter to keep you informed.



Annette Tarver receives the Texans Community Quarterback Award at the December 8 Texans game. Pictured (left to right): Texans President Jamey Rootes, CCSC Volunteer Annette Tarver, BHP Vice President of Well and Seismic Delivery Derek Cardno, and President and CEO of United Way Houston Anna Babin. Click [here](#) to see Texans video of the event.

Annette Tarver Wins Community Quarterback Award

Christian Community Service Center Volunteer Annette Tarver has been honored with the 2019 Houston Texans Community Quarterback Award.

The Community Quarterback Award, developed through a partnership between United Way of Greater Houston, the Houston Texans and BHP,

recognizes "individuals who have shown true volunteer leadership in their communities and have gone above and beyond in their volunteer roles," according to the United Way.

The prize carries a \$25,000 donation to CCSC in Annette's honor. Nine other Community Quarterback Award finalists each received \$5,000 gifts to their respective organizations. The honors were presented on-field during a pre-game ceremony at the December 8 Texans game.

CCSC volunteers are a team, and on that team Annette Tarver is a utility player--an all-around volunteer who lends her time and talents in a multitude of ways. You might see her inputting data in the office, assisting families at Back To School or Jingle Bell Express check-in, distributing food at a Food Fair, laying out the Azalea Gala auction, mopping a floor, or wearing a hard hat on the site of CCSC's new building, for which she serves as Building Project Liaison for CCSC.

"I appreciate that I can use my interests (children, data, architecture) and strengths (organization, graphics and attention to detail) when I volunteer at CCSC," said Annette, who majored in Architecture at Rice University and has an MBA from Washington University in St. Louis. "I feel appreciated at CCSC," she adds. "And I know that I am positively impacting the lives of vulnerable families."



From left to right: CCSC Administrative Director Kelly Finkenbinder, Building Project Liaison Annette Tarver, CCSC Office Manager Elise Boden and Arch-Con's Vice President-Community Neil Potter.

Demonstrating her trust in Tarver's skills, CCSC Executive Director Michelle Shonbeck designated Annette as the "owner's rep" for construction issues on CCSC's new building. "Along with concrete structures, Annette's blood, sweat, and tears will saturate the new building, helping lay the foundation for CCSC's vision to serve more and serve better," Shonbeck said.

"CCSC is very fortunate to have Annette committed to its mission to help feed the hungry, keep families in their homes, and help the unemployed and underemployed in their job searches," Shonbeck added. "The hours Annette gives to virtually every aspect of CCSC are akin to those of a part-time employee. She is a blessing."

CCSC Food Pantries Blessed with Seasonal Donations



Longtime pantry volunteers Larry Dawson,

It's that wonderful time of the year when Christian Community Service Center is blessed with an abundance of food donations.

Starting around Thanksgiving and continuing through Souper Bowl of Caring in early February, the pantries are packed to the brim with foods of all varieties. Emergency Services-Central, Emergency Services-

left, and Bob Duffy happily packing groceries for clients.

Southwest and our storage area at St. Philip Presbyterian are currently full of

nonperishable groceries ready to be sorted and given out to those less fortunate in our community.

While sorting these donations is a lot of work, our pantry volunteers have been up to the challenge! If you stopped by Emergency Services recently you might have heard our teammates playing Christmas carols as they organized donations and stocked the shelves. You would have also seen delighted clients appreciating the opportunity to choose extra items off the shelf. Many families find their budgets stretched thin during the holiday months and that makes it a very busy season at our food pantries.

Thank you to all the member churches, schools and individual donors who generously contribute to Emergency Services during this time of year. We hope the blessings you give return to you in 2020.

Dealing With Financial Issues While Unemployed

This fall JobNet has added financial coaching and financial education workshops to its services in order to help job seekers cope with the financial burden of being unemployed.

Each month, JobNet volunteer Elizabeth House facilitates a workshop on a general money management topic such as "Getting Debt Under Control" and "Stretching Your Spending." She then schedules one-on-one coaching sessions to talk about individual concerns.

One client told us, "I'm getting addicted to these budget sheets. I start a new one every day to track what I'm spending and it's helping a lot. It's making me aware of where I can cut back."



Job Net Volunteer Elizabeth House works with Kim Tangu on her personal finances.

Unexpected Expenses Lead Seniors to Seek Help



CCSC Volunteer Janet Hess works on

Many senior citizens in our community are barely getting by and sometimes rely on Christian Community Service Center when unexpected expenses arise.

"Betty" is a 78-year old retiree who lives alone in the Sharpstown area. She is normally self-sufficient, receiving social security benefits and a modest pension. Yet, in late November when she had additional prescriptions to buy, Betty visited us for the first time. She could not pay her \$120 electricity bill.

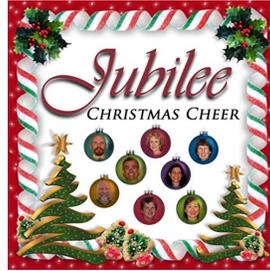
financial aid with an Emergency Services-Southwest client.

The volunteer team at Emergency Services-Southwest was eager to

assist Betty so that her lights would still be on during the holidays. In addition, she received referrals to other nonprofits, a food package, and a hygiene kit to stretch her resources.

Last year, CCSC was grateful for the opportunity to help nearly 1,000 people aged 60 and older with their basic needs.

Help Those in Need With These Holiday Giving Ideas



Christmas Cheer Album Now on Amazon

Jubilee is an eight-person Christian singing group that got its start at Bellaire United Methodist Church over 20 years ago. Four- to six-part close harmonies define the group's distinctive sound. They've sung in churches, retirement communities, entertained for private parties, and performed a concert benefiting Christian Community Service Center.

The group recently recorded its first album, titled *Christmas Cheer*. It contains traditional seasonal favorites, both sacred and secular, from a jazzy "Silent Night" to a pop-styled "Jingle Bells" arrangement.

The majority of the proceeds of the album will go directly to CCSC. The cost of producing the album was underwritten entirely by Jubilee. The album is available on Amazon and iTunes. Click [here](#) to purchase on Amazon; search for it on iTunes using "Jubilee Christmas Cheer" in the search bar.

You may also visit the front desk of the CCSC Administration Office (3501 W. Alabama) to purchase a CD for \$16.24.



When you are Christmas shopping online it is easy to give to CCSC every time you order through Amazon by using the Amazon Smile program. Just Google "Amazon Smile" and sign in with your Amazon credentials and 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!

TACKLE



H U N G E R

Get Ready to Tackle Hunger in 2020

Does your church or organization 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.

All your contributions help CCSC fulfill its mission to serve the poor, hungry, disabled, and otherwise needy while respecting their religious, ethnic or cultural differences. Thank you for your support.

**Many Wishes
for a
Merry Christmas
& Happy New Year
from
Your CCSC family!**

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



3230 Mercer; Houston, Texas 77029 · 713.961.3993

