

FEEDING THE BODY AND THE SOUL

GREAT
SPARTANBURG
MINISTRIES

Message

September 2013

www.greaterspartanburgministries.org

OUR CARE MINISTRIES:

Food Pantry • Clothing • Heating & Cooling Assistance • Fire Victim Assistance

THIS ISSUE

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FROM THE DIRECTOR

In the nonprofit world, one of the hardest and most challenging things to do is to increase the awareness of the organization. At GSM, We are focusing more on making people aware of the services we provide to the community, as well as opportunities to support and serve as well. First, this newsletter will be the first of a series of newsletters. Secondly, I want to invite everyone to check out and "like" our Facebook page. Thirdly, we are currently reconstructing our website which should be ready soon. It is our hope that all of these tools will bring us closer to our supporters and clients alike. I am excited about getting the word out about what the volunteers and staff do here at GSM! I hope you will enjoy this newsletter.

Serving Him Together,

Kevin Koger



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Save money and support our community!

10% OFF!

Purchase at the
GSM Thrift Store*

9am
to 5pm
Monday
thru Saturday.

*Present coupon at time of purchase. Copies are not permitted. One coupon per customer please. Valid at Greater Spartanburg Ministries only. Expires 10/31/13.

GREATERSPARTANBURG
MINISTRIES

Meet SHIRLEY MILLER

GSM AUGUST VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH



Lifelong Spartanburg resident, Shirley Miller, has been a vital member of our GSM team. For 9 years, Shirley not only has continually volunteered in the Thrift Store, carefully separating and checking all donated clothing, but also helps out in other areas as well.

Shirley has always felt a need to minister to those around her. Several years ago, Shirley owned her very own beauty shop in Cleveland Park where she took the opportunity to help those in need. This

lead to Shirley developing her own ministry, "Latter Rain Ministries." As Shirley explains it, "Latter Rain Ministries" is a street ministry that utilizes our young people to reach the community. Anywhere from 10 to 12 people volunteer to raise funds to feed and cloth people in need. Shirley also added that she loves helping people and seeing that their needs are met.

When asked what Shirley liked best about volunteering at GSM, Shirley stated, "I enjoy the atmosphere of the ministry and considers it a joy to work with Kevin (GSM CEO). I also love giving spiritual help to those who need it. I enjoy talking to the people, listening to their problems and offering encouragement." Shirley shares one special memory she has from GSM. One day a dear friend of hers stopped by and asked Shirley to pray with her because her friend discovered a knot in her throat and was experiencing some problems. Shirley says that they prayed together asking God's grace that the knot would not be cancerous. A few weeks ago she saw her dear friend again and she said that her friend recently had surgery. The doctors removed the knot and it was not cancerous! Praise! Shirley said, "God takes care of us!"

GSM is honored to have Shirley as a volunteer. From checking and separating clothes, to working in other areas, Shirley is a key part of what we do here. GSM looks forward to many, many more years with her. As Shirley stated, "As long as I have the strength, I will continue to help."

GSM CARE MINISTRIES

- **GOSPEL MESSAGE:** Christian presentations, Bibles and other Christian resources are available for spiritual support and growth.
- **FOOD:** Each week, GSM distributes to over 150 local families dry, fresh, refrigerated, and frozen groceries as well as drinks. GSM is a member of the Feeding America Network, and partners with



Pictured are GSM volunteers (back row) Buck Linkous (front row, left to right) Jon Kirtsey, Mike Smith, Betty Gist, Smitty Gist and Annie Thompson.

Bi-Lo, Walmart, Sams Club, Publix, Ingles, and Target.

- **CLOTHING:** GSM supplies gently used clothing to local families in need. Clothing is donated by churches, individuals and businesses in Spartanburg county.

- **HEATING/COOLING:** Seasonally, GSM offers financial assistance to needy families to help with Heating and Cooling expenses.

- **FIRE VICTIMS ASSISTANCE:** For those in the community who have had the misfortune of losing their belongings to fire, GSM provides basic furnishings and household items.

- **THRIFT STORE:** The store exists to pay all overhead expenses, with profits supporting the care ministries. Pricing is targeted for the low income shopper.



A box of food waiting to be delivered to a needy family.

Any generated profits from the Thrift Store supports all GSM Care Ministries.



MINISTER GWEN HOLLIS ••••• PREACHES THE GOSPEL AT GSM

GSM has a wonderful opportunity to feed the needy in our community through our Food Pantry by offering good, quality food donated by our generous sponsors. GSM realizes more often than not, our community is also hungry for the Word of God. Prayer and biblical principals are offered daily at GSM through the preaching of the Gospel. Minister Gwen Hollis, from Victory Temple Christian Church, has been a volunteer speaker at the GSM Food Pantry for 6 years. Not only is Minister Hollis committed to seeing lives being transformed through the Word of God but also loves seeing those “being saved and broken hearts being healed.” Minister Hollis has been preaching for 13 years and loves “spreading the message of the Gospel.” Over the years, she has seen several changes at GSM. Minister Hollis remembers when she started speaking at GSM, there was just one small room that was used for preaching. “Then one day I came in and a room had been transformed into a ministry room. Now we can minister to more people,” she states. “And I thank God for Kevin. He has a heart for the people. He brings life to the ministry and makes sure things get done.”



GSM is supported thru the generous in-kind and financial giving of churches, individuals, businesses, charitable foundations, and thrift store sales. Our volunteers provide the energy and commitment to make GSM a success.

GSM 2012 RESULTS

- 6,765 families received food assistance. (15,498 people total)
- Over 400 families were assisted with clothing. (925 people total)
- 350 families and 710 individuals were assisted with rent and utilities.
- Helped 56 children have a Merry Christmas.
- 14 “burn-out” families and 40 individuals were assisted with furniture and household items.
- Over 2,900 contacts with prisoners where there were 878 prayer requests, 82 rededications, and 50 life-changing commitments to the Lord.



GSM FACTS

- 16¢ buys a pound of food through our partnership with Second Harvest.
- “Feeding America” states that 1 in 6 Americans struggle with hunger. In 2012, over 17 million Americans lived in food insecure households.
- The value of our Outreach Services is \$1,072,650 with total revenue at \$216,076. Which means for every dollar of revenue, we provide \$4.96 of Client Outreach Services.
- Our key partnerships consist of Bi-Lo, Sam's Club, Wal-Mart, Target, Second Harvest Food Bank, Ingles, and Publix.

**In 2012,
GSM
distributed
approximately
203,000
pounds of food
to those
in need.**



Don't Forget...

For every \$1 bag of popcorn you buy at the Thrift Store, GSM can purchase 6 pounds of food to serve the needy.

(Pictured left is employee Scott Cheek)



680 Asheville Hwy • Spartanburg, SC 29303

A BRIEF HISTORY OF GSM

1974 - GSM was founded.

1975 - State charter and IRS tax exemption was secured. GSM was located at Northland Shopping Center.

1978 - Endowment fund was formed.

1979 - GSM purchased, renovated, and moved into a new location at 628 N. Church St. and established "marketplace" thrift store at 486 Magnolia St.

1982 - GSM moved into our current location at 680 Asheville Hwy., while combining ministries and thrift store under one roof.

1987 - Mortgage note was paid off at our current location. GSM added Outreach Center and Food Pantry facility extension to building.

2006 - Added road front sign.

2007 - GSM joined the Feeding America network and added Second Harvest Food Bank and local retailers for food provision and support.

2008 - Partnered with BI-LO and their annual Golf Charity Classic as well as Regional Tournament fundraisers for charity and community involvement.

2009 - GSM updated to new and current Logo. GSM also became one of seven charities involved in a startup of shared internet client database.

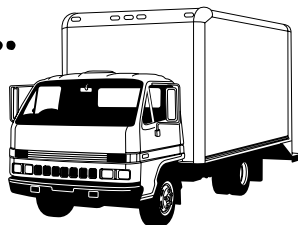
2010 - Renovations were completed to the GSM thrift store and to the exterior of the building.

2012 - GSM held its first annual fundraising banquet, with Coach Bobby Bentley being guest speaker.



Did You Know...

GSM will gladly pickup your donations?
Call **864-585-9371** to schedule a pickup today.



Like us on Facebook today!

If you have a community event and would like it posted to our Facebook page, just email greaterspartanburgministries.org.

