

## FEEDING THE BODY AND THE SOUL

GREATER  
SPARTANBURG  
MINISTRIES

# Message

August 2014

www.greaterspartanburgministries.org

### OUR CARE MINISTRIES:

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

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## FOLLOW GSM

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## MISS CAROLINA HARVEST PAGEANT NOVEMBER 8TH

The Miss Carolina Harvest Pageant is a canned food drive pageant to benefit GSM. All pageant contestants are asked to bring in 6 canned goods and all money collected for People's Choice will go to GSM. Info and pageant apps are located at the GSM Thrift Store, the GSM website or email [candacerathbone@charter.net](mailto:candacerathbone@charter.net).

## FROM THE DIRECTOR

Since our last newsletter, we had a wonderful fundraising banquet (see article) and we were blessed with multiple volunteer groups this summer that were so helpful in helping us serve our clients effectively. With businesses, churches, and individuals stepping up to the plate, we've accommodated a 10% increase in clients seeking our services this year. What a blessing! New on the horizon: We are currently submitting grants and fundraising to install a commercial walk in freezer in our pantry. Through our partner food retailers and manufacturing companies, we have opportunities for truckload and large quantity frozen food donations throughout the year, however, we do not have the frozen storage capacity. Our goal is to have the capacity by the end of the year, but we need your help. Therefore, we are trying to raise \$38,000 to make this happen for our clients and neighbors in need. If you will help us reach this goal, we will not miss these opportunities to make our food offerings more plentiful and last longer for our clients. If you would consider helping with this project, you will be part of a significant long term solution to the hunger problem in our community. Please consider this effort and give as your heart leads. On behalf of GSM and our clients, thank you for your support of GSM.

May God Bless You,  
Kevin Koger

### CURRENT NEEDS:

**Food:** canned goods, rice, pasta, cereals, oatmeal, and grits.

**Gently used:** furniture, clothing, household items, and financial donations

GSM will  
pickup  
your donations.  
Call today at  
**864-585-9371.**



## GREATER SPARTANBURG MINISTRIES

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# GSM ANNUAL SPRING BANQUET

• • • • • Event held April 24, 2014 at St. John's Lutheran Church • • • • •

GSM hosted its Annual Spring Banquet, at St. John's Lutheran Church on Thursday, April 24, 2014. Over \$18,000 was raised and will help GSM continue with their Care Ministries: food pantry, thrift store, clothing, heating/cooling assistance and fire victims assistance. Violinist Stacy Wiley, from Inman, SC played as guests arrived. The event started with fellowship and dinner at 6:00pm, with over 200 people in attendance. Simms Bar-B-Que of Duncan catered the meal, which included pork and chicken bar-b-que, slaw, macaroni and cheese and banana pudding for dessert. GSM Board Chairman, Eddie West, began the program by welcoming all guests and thanking the staff and volunteers of GSM.

**Over \$18,000 was raised and will help GSM continue with their Care Ministries.**



*Attendees help themselves to Simms Bar-B-Que.*



*Violinist Stacy Wiley.*

GSM Board member and Event Chairman Frank Lee thanked our presenting sponsor, JM Smith Corporation, for their contribution. Frank also thanked other event sponsors that included: Barnett Development Corporation, Dr. Vonda Gravely with Spartanburg Regional Psychiatry, Honorable Trey Gowdy, Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System, Spartanburg Regional Foundation, Rigsby/Bojangles, Bi-Lo/Winn Dixie, St. John's Lutheran Church, New Beginning UMC, George and Margaret Nixon, Marc Elliott from Elliott and Painter, LLP, John and Lynne Poole, Law Insurance Company, Wilson Equipment, Krispy Kreme, Michael Horne, CPA, Dr. Harold Broome, Lifesong Visual Arts, Stacy Wiley and Marko, Inc.



Frank Lee then introduced the evening speaker, Mr. Bill Barnett. Frank noted that Bill Barnett belongs to a long-term committee for Spartanburg County, which is focusing on revitalizing Spartanburg and the area around GSM. The area that Bill Barnett is committed to is called "The Northside Initiative." Bill Barnett's vision for "The Northside Initiative" is to help alleviate poverty while revitalizing the community and "creating a better Spartanburg." The

GSM CEO Kevin Koger gave a thorough overview of the ministry that included a video developed by Lifesong Visual Arts. The video focused on several GSM volunteers and Board members each telling their own unique story about GSM and what the ministry means to them personally. Kevin then recognized GSM staff member Greg Whisnant. Greg



*Attendees Lillie Thompson, Kizzie Hunter and GSM employee Shirley Miller.*



*GSM employee Greg Whisnant.*

told a heart-warming story of a needy woman who came into the Thrift Store on a very cold day. To keep warm, she had on two jackets. She also had a husband at home with heart condition that was just released from the hospital. She asked Greg if the Thrift Store had any heaters. After much searching by Greg and Kevin, they could not find any heaters. But just as the woman was about to leave, a truck pulled into the GSM parking lot and had one heater! "God uses Greater Spartanburg Ministries to touch lives in our area." Greg concluded.

Initiative is to develop a thriving, diverse community home to mixed-income housing, mixed-use commercial development, an innovative new curriculum and public school model at Cleveland Academy of Leadership, and access to health and wellness programming at a new state-of-the-art T.K. Gregg Community Center. Bill also stated, "There is no question that the success and future development of our City is inextricably linked to the revitalization of the Northside."



*Guest speaker Bill Barnett.*

In conclusion, Kevin Koger once again approached the podium and thanked the staff and volunteers of Greater Spartanburg Ministries. Kevin ended with prayer closing out the evening.



**For more information about the Northside Initiative visit:**  
**[www.cityofspartanburg.org/northside-initiative](http://www.cityofspartanburg.org/northside-initiative)**

## CARING FOR THE CAROLINAS HOSTS FOOD DRIVE FOR GSM

*Over 800 pounds of food and \$71 was collected*

On June 18th, GSM was the recipient of a local food drive hosted by WSPA's Jack Roper and Caring for the Carolina's. The food drive, held at Ingles on Hwy 9 in Boiling Springs, was sponsored by Harrison, White, Smith and Coggins attorneys, Hardees and Bath Fitters. The food drive came at a great time for GSM. During the summer months, children are out of school so many in Spartanburg county will go without their scheduled daily lunch. GSM Facility Coordinator Greg Whisnant stated, "We see a lot of kids and the elderly in the



*Some of the food that was collected.*

summer time who need food." GSM CEO Kevin Koger added, "One in six in Spartanburg County are hungry. When kids are out for the summer, we see a spike in demand for food. We are here to serve any resident of Spartanburg County."

## GSM PARTICIPATES IN ANNUAL MAIL CARRIER FOOD DRIVE

*Over 3,000 pounds of food was collected to help feed our needy*



On May 10th, letter carriers in more than 10,000 cities and towns across America participated in the NALC Stamp Out Hunger National Food Drive. Letter carriers, postal employees and other volunteers collected non-perishable food donations left by mailboxes and in post offices and delivered them to local community food banks, pantries and shelters. USPS and Campbell Soup Company are major supporters. Campbell Soup earmarked an additional 1 million pounds of canned food to the drive.

To donate, just place a box or can of non-perishable food next to your mailbox before your letter carrier delivers mail. The carrier will do the rest. The food is sorted, and delivered to an area food bank or pantry, where it is available for needy families. With more than 50 million people facing hunger every day in America, including nearly 17 million children, this drive is one way you can help those in your own city or town who need help.

If you would like to learn more visit: [www.nalc.org](http://www.nalc.org).

## ANDERSON MILL BAPTIST CHURCH YOUTH CHOIR VISITS GSM

*Youth Choir sings and shares testimonies*

The Anderson Mill Baptist Church Youth Choir visited the GSM Outreach Center on Thursday 6/5/14, Sharing a thirty minute presentation that included singing songs, sharing testimonies, and sharing the Gospel message of Jesus Christ with approx. 40 clients who were coming to the GSM food pantry for food assistance. The Youth Choir from Anderson Mill was led by Rev. Brian Hurry (Worship Pastor), Rev. Joel Smelley (High School and College Pastor), Rev. Bucky Rogers (Pastor of Students and Worship Arts), and Jason Williamson (Missions Pastor).



*Anderson Mill Baptist Church Youth Choir, led by Rev. Brian Hurry, Worship Pastor.*



### Wanda Millwood

Wanda Millwood, from Boiling Springs, has been a GSM volunteer for over 5 years. She has worked in the food pantry coordinating outreach applications and has helped in the Thrift Store. Wanda says that God continually blesses GSM. She has seen many times where the shelves have been bare in the food pantry and then suddenly they are overflowing with goods. She adds, "This is just a super place. The people are good people that want to help others. I love the smiles on people's faces when you call them by name. I love everyone here and Kevin is an awesome pastor and employer."

Recently, Wanda saw a homeless man on Pine Street holding a sign for food. She went to GSM and told two others about the man and they took him a box of food. The homeless man had a family and was tearfully appreciative. The employees also told him about a local church that he could visit for additional help. "You see others in need and it humbles you greatly. It's good to see us helping others. I'm glad God has let me be a part of GSM," Wanda says.



680 Asheville Hwy • Spartanburg, SC 29303

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## SPONSORSHIP MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

**Become a GSM Sponsor today! Whether it's sponsoring just one meal or supplying a entire truck load of food, your contribution matters to those in our community who need help. GSM thanks you for your contributions and support.**

### **FEED JUST ONE - \$150 per family**

GSM distributes free food boxes to families in need in the community on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday from 9:30am - 11:30am. Items include: fresh produce, peanut butter, canned vegetables, frozen meat, canned entrees, pasta, and canned tuna.

### **CHRISTMAS MAGI - \$50 per child**

When adults visit GSM Thrift Store, many of them bring their children. One of their favorite spots is the toy section. Many of these same children will have little or no Christmas without GSM. Consider sponsoring a family's children at this holy time of year.

### **FROM OUR TABLE TO YOURS - \$50**

Local families in need receive all the necessary ingredients for a complete Thanksgiving meal. Become part of GSM Thanksgiving movement and sponsor this program today!

### **STOCK A SHELF - \$150**

GSM Food Pantry consists of over 100 shelves filled with different canned goods and foods as well as 18 freezers. Consider sponsoring a shelf and making a difference in your community.

### **SPONSOR A TRUCK - \$2,500**

**(\$2,500 will feed 1,250 families or 3,250 individuals)**

Through our Sponsor a Truck, GSM will purchase a truckload of food in your company's name. You and your team can volunteer in stocking, serving, and helping feed the community. You and your team will conclude with a discussion about ways you can continue to be a voice in your community.

### **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

Sign up today by downloading our form at [www.greaterspartanburgministries.org/Sponsorship-Ministries](http://www.greaterspartanburgministries.org/Sponsorship-Ministries), or send us an email at [greaterspartanburgministries@yahoo.com](mailto:greaterspartanburgministries@yahoo.com). And remember, you can securely pay for your sponsorship online.

