

FEEDING THE BODY AND THE SOUL

GREATER
SPARTANBURG
MINISTRIES

Message

March 2014

www.greaterspartanburgministries.org

OUR CARE MINISTRIES:

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

THIS ISSUE

- Introducing our new website
- GSM mobliesite
- 2014 GSM Banquet
- GSM Souper Bowl of Caring
- GSM 2013 Facts
- 10% off coupon
- Volunteer Spotlight - Smitty & Betty Gist
- Welcome new GSM board members

CURRENT NEEDS:

Food:	Gently used:
canned goods	furniture
rice	clothing
pasta	household items
cereals	financial
oatmeal	donations
grits	

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



FROM THE DIRECTOR

First, let me say thank you to all the individuals, churches, and businesses who chose GSM with their financial gifts and volunteer efforts during 2013. Without you, our mission wouldn't be successful. Secondly, GSM has been challenged with an increase in client needs by 10% over the last few months, primarily due to recent government cut backs in food stamp benefits. Consequently, this year is shaping up to be the most challenging year for GSM, and it will call for GSM, the community, and the local Church to become even more involved in taking care of our own neighbors. In my eight years as Executive Director, I have learned that the citizens of Spartanburg County have always risen to the challenge, as you are a loving and giving people, so I am confident in our ability to meet the growing challenges together. Thirdly, in this newsletter you will find information on our annual fundraising banquet. It would be a privilege to have you join us again, or for the first time, for this event that is critical to our mission. Our speaker will be Bill Barnet, former mayor, and he will share with us his vision, involvement, and plans for community development on the Northside. I am excited to learn more about it, and how GSM can be an important player in this initiative taking place around our facility location. I hope you will join us as a guest, a table host, or a sponsor/underwriter. Please consider this a personal invitation.

May God bless you all,
Kevin Koger

Thank You!



GSM wishes to thank Circle 555 for their generous grant to purchase Evangelism Cubes (E-cubes) for children and also to the Annual Community Thanksgiving Service Clergy, Churches, and individuals for choosing GSM as their grant recipient. We also thank the Spartanburg County Foundation for matching the Thanksgiving offering, which was used to purchase a new commercial refrigerator for the food pantry.

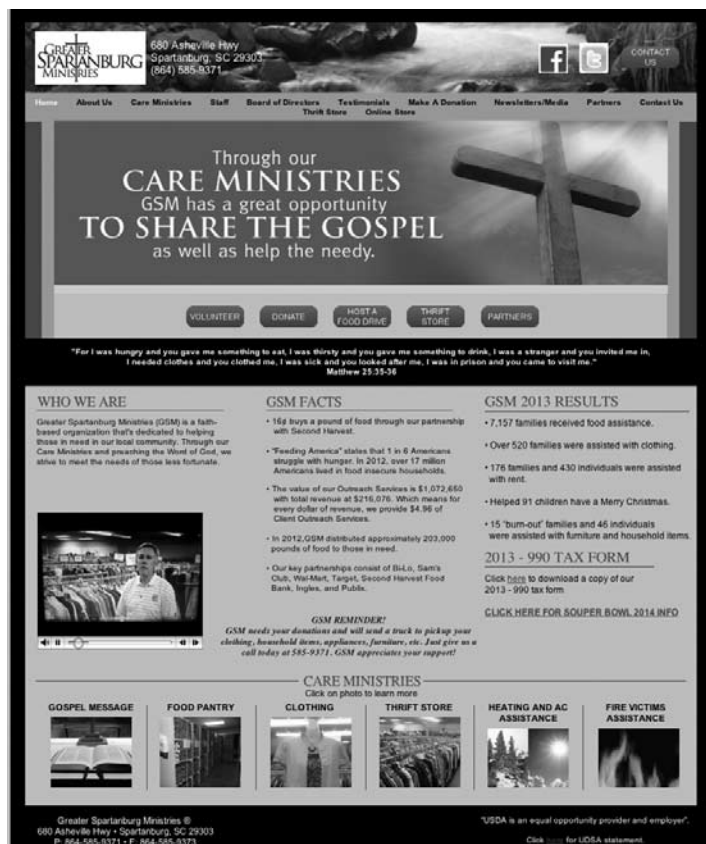
GREATER SPARTANBURG MINISTRIES

680 Asheville Hwy • Spartanburg, SC 29303

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GSM invites you to visit

OUR NEW WEBSITE: www.greaterspartanburgministries.org.



GSM is pleased to announce the release of our new and improved website. As you will see, the new site is genuinely easy to navigate which enables visitors to find what they are looking for rather quickly. The top navigation bar allows visitors to directly go to their specific page of choice without hesitation. Along with video and photography, you will also note that our new site is aesthetically pleasing to the eye.

However, the GSM message is still very clear...we are here to feed, clothe, and minister to those in Spartanburg County who are less for-



Check out the GSM Thrift Store page for some amazing deals. Don't forget to download the 10% off coupon too!

tunate. Our homepage details the 2013 financial and hunger needs right here in our community. These facts compel us to keep doing what we do. With this in mind, GSM has dedicated an entire webpage just to the care ministries and their purpose. We invite you to familiarize yourself with the GSM care ministries and please contact us if you know someone who needs help at 864-585-9371.

Also, you can make your financial donation online using your Visa, MasterCard, or PayPal. The online form is quick, easy and secure. Or, if you would prefer, you can download the GSM donation form, fill it out and mail to GSM. Either way, it is so easy to make a donation to GSM. Try it today!

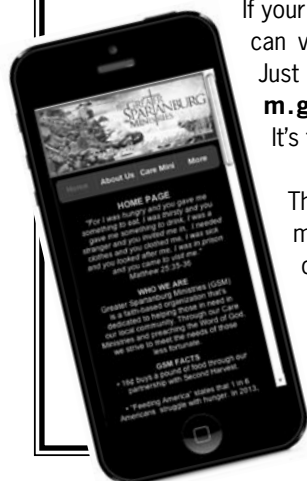


Check out the GSM Thrift Store page for some amazing deals. Specials will be posted periodically so refer back often. And don't forget to download the coupon and bring it to the GSM Thrift Store to receive 10% off your purchase!

You are now able to make your financial donation using our secure online form. We accept Visa, MasterCard and PayPal. If you prefer, you download our donation form and mail it to GSM.

Get to know our Board of Directors with their designated page as well as the GSM staff. Read personal testimonials from some of our clients and catch up with GSM news with our quarterly newsletters. Also, view our "Partners" page and see the local churches and businesses who so graciously donate regularly to GSM.

GSM MOBILE SITE. For when you're on the go.



If your phone has access to the mobile web, you can view the GSM website wherever you are. Just point your phone to our mobile address at m.greaterspartanburgministries.org. It's that easy.

There are several nice things about the GSM mobile site: if you're grocery shopping, you can quickly view our current needs list; the GSM address and phone number are located on every page, plus you get a listing of the GSM care ministries. However, there are a few upgrades we are

currently working on and hope to have in the near future: easy dialing to GSM from the mobile site and the ability to make a financial donation directly from your phone using a convenient GSM donation app. We will keep you posted as to when these are available.

Be sure to visit the other mobile pages for more information about GSM.



The mobile site contains a 10% off coupon for the GSM Thrift Store. Just show your smart phone with the coupon to the cashier and you will receive 10% off your purchase.



2014 GSM Spring Banquet



Bill Barnett

Join us April 24th for our annual Spring Fundraising Banquet. This year's event will be held at St. John's Lutheran Church, located at 415 S. Pine Street. Fellowship and dinner will begin at 6pm, with the program following at 6:30. The speaker will be former Spartanburg mayor Bill Barnett. Bill is the Chairman, President and CEO of Barnett Development Corp. and is currently on the Board of Directors at Duke Energy. Some of Bill's leadership roles include: ETV Endowment; Palmetto Business Forum; Converse College, just to name a few. Bill will be discussing the topic on how to create a better Spartanburg and what it takes to change our broad community. If you are interested in sponsoring a table or purchasing a ticket, visit the GSM website at www.greaterspartanburgministries.org to download important information, just click on the blue button on the homepage. You can also pay securely online. Also, if you can't attend the banquet and would like to make a donation, visit www.greaterspartanburgministries.org/Make-A-Donation.html. For any questions, call 585-9371.



TACKLE HUNGER!

GSM thanks those who contributed this year.

According to feedingamerica.org, more than 48 million Americans, including 16 million children suffer from hunger due to food insecure homes. In 2012, feedingamerica.org recorded that 18% of South Carolinians were food insecure, with 28% being children. These stats are very alarming.

During Super Bowl week, January 20 - February 2, 2014, GSM asked if you would so kindly collect food or make a financial donation to our organization so we can continue to help those in need in Spartanburg County. And as always, you came through. We could not continue our ministry without good stewards as you. GSM collected 3,000 pounds of food for our needy and wishes to personally thank the following for their contribution:

Calvary Baptist Church	McCarthy-Teszler School
Calvary Chapel	Morningside Baptist Church
Covenant Presbyterian	New Beginnings UMC
Duncan First Baptist	Roebuck Baptist Church
Hope Point Community Church	Westminster Presbyterian Church



A gift was given to GSM in Honor of Wendell Button in care of Ginny Button by Paula and Alvaro Fernandez.

GSM 2013 RESULTS

- 7,157 families received food assistance.
- Over 520 families were assisted with clothing.
- 176 families and 430 individuals were assisted with rent and utilities.
- Helped 91 children have a Merry Christmas.
- 15 "burn-out" families and 46 individuals were assisted with furniture and household items.



Save money and support our community!
GSM thanks you!

TODAY GET 10% OFF!

Your purchase at the GSM Thrift Store*

February newsletter coupon.
*Present coupon at time of purchase. Original coupon only. Copies are not permitted. One coupon per customer please. Valid at Greater Spartanburg Ministries only. Expires 6/30/14.

GREATER SPARTANBURG MINISTRIES



Smitty and Betty Gist



Smitty and Betty Gist

Smitty and Betty Gist are from Jonesville, SC and attend Foster Chapel Baptist Church. They have been faithful GSM pantry volunteers for over 4 years where they enjoy helping those who come thru our doors. Their pantry duties include packing boxes and buggies so the food can be properly delivered to those in need. Over the years, they have seen an increase in new clients and purchases of updated equipment that better fulfill any pantry needs. Smitty and Betty agree that the best memories they have had thus far at GSM is working with other volunteers and seeing that needs are met.



680 Asheville Hwy • Spartanburg, SC 29303

Welcome NEW GSM BOARD MEMBERS



Sherry Philson

Sherry is a recent retiree from Milliken after 38 years of dedicated service. She is the proud mother of a wonderful daughter and is blessed with two beautiful grandchildren. Sherry received her degree in Business from Columbia Business College in Columbia, SC. She also devotes her extra time to Champion for March for Babies where the past 7 consecutive years she has been their #1 individual fundraiser for Spartanburg County. Sherry has raised over \$15,000 for this important charity. Sherry also

enjoys the hobby of photography. When asked what attracted her to GSM her response was, "After several tours of GSM, I knew this is where I am to serve helping the Spartanburg Community. I feel that God has given me a light that I must use to help others that are having too many dark days. GSM extends their hand as God would to help others and this is why I want to be part of this amazing ministry."



Rev. Chris Kurtz

Rev. Kurtz is a native of Louisville, Kentucky where he received his Bachelor's of Music Education from Eastern Kentucky University as well as a Master of Divinity from The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in 1990. Over the past 27 years, Rev. Kurtz has served God faithfully with churches in Kentucky, Maryland, Virginia and now South Carolina. He came to Spartanburg in September of 2012 to serve as Associate Pastor of Administration and Senior Adults at Morningside Baptist Church.

Rev. Kurtz and his wife have two children; Natalie, who is a sophomore at Coastal Carolina University and Josh, who lives and works in Spartanburg. Rev. Kurtz states "Greater Spartanburg Ministries makes an immediate and eternal difference in the lives of people here in Spartanburg and I am excited to be a part of that."

If you are interested in serving on the Board or learning more about serving as a Board member, contact Kevin Koger at 864-915-0280.

Did you know...Current GSM Board member Joan Powell has worked with the Girl Scouts for over 55 years?