



FOUNDATION

NEWS

Would You Like to Know More?

Jackie is extending an invitation to all of you who have not attended one of our Come & See Luncheons. It's free and will give you personal insight into the ministry. Call Jackie at 407-834-4022 for dates and to reserve your seat.

WE NEED YOU MORE THAN EVER Our Clients Need You More Than Ever

In a year of what seems to be 'economic disasters' and a distressed real estate market a bright spot has emerged on the scene at Christian HELP. If you could buy \$100 worth of groceries and only spend \$50 wouldn't you do it? What if you could buy \$30 worth of gasoline for your car and it cost you only \$15.00? Another 'given'. Now's your chance to do that here at the ministry!! This March and April we have an opportunity to *increase the value of your donations* by matching funds from several ministry partners, Charity Challenge and Feinstein Foundation. **Each** dollar you give will be **doubled**. That equates to **TWICE** as much food, **TWICE** the opportunity to extend a helping hand.

When you give to Christian HELP, you can feel sure that your funds are going to help people in need. **With your help**, we were able to connect nearly **8,000 with jobs**, give away over **500,000 pounds of food**, spend **\$84,000 keeping the lights on and people in their homes**. Additionally, over **1,000 children** received gifts through our Christmas program this year that might not have had a joyful Christmas morning.

We need you now more than ever. With more unemployment and less available jobs, **we need your help** to be able to provide the services we have and continue to expand those services to more people that need our help. Your gift of **\$500** would be **\$1,000** toward helping families in need.

(Continued page 2)

SPRING 2008

THE REASON WE ARE HERE

To do above and beyond

"To sum up, let all be harmonious, sympathetic, brotherly, kindhearted, and humble in spirit"---I Peter 3:8

During Christmas, we had the privilege of matching up some of our families with adopters. This Christmas we were touched by many of the families that came through our doors. Here are just two of them:

Juanita thought that her family of 3 children was perfect until after a failed tubal surgery she was blessed with identical **quadruplets**. Since we don't see this every day, everyone was taken in by Juanita and her children. Juanita's husband had left and she was caring for **all** of the children on her own with some help from family. We were able to connect her with others who took care of her for Christmas.

Crisis struck and Juanita had to take two of the children to the hospital for asthma attacks. It was severe and they ended up in ICU. The doctors let Juanita know that she would have to get rid of her pets. Interestingly, she did **not** have any pets. It turned out she had **rats**. The apartment complex agreed to move her, but the electric company said she had to settle her bill first. She raised half the money and we put in the other half. Can you imagine this family being homeless? Because of **your** generosity we were able to help Juanita and her family move to a safer place and have a terrific Christmas.



Could you imagine seeing this family on the street???

Z88, one of our ministry partners, contacted us after receiving a letter from a 16 year old boy who asked for help for his siblings after hearing about our adoption program. His mother has passed away and he and his brothers are living with his aunt who is ill. He watches his aunt struggle to make ends meet. **His wish for Christmas** was to make sure his **brothers** 14, 11 and 9 were cared for. Phyllis, in our office, received the letter and said "Can we help?" The answer was "Of course". After contacting the family and finding out the children's wishes, JC was also included as well as his aunt and his grandmother, who also cares for him, and the family was blessed with an abundance of gifts and food. The blessing to Christian HELP was to see the tears of joy fall and the gratefulness expressed. We didn't mention that JC has Cystic Fibrosis.



JC's aunt & grandma

Doubling continued--

Your gift of \$100 would be \$200. Any amount you could give will help families in need.

An Additional Bonus is that you will be entered into the Charity Challenge drawing in May. There are great prizes like Southwest Airline Tickets, Disney Tickets, Gift Certificates and more.

Can we count on you?

Wish List---

- Cleaning Products
- Canned Food Items for the Pantry
- Printing
- Reams of Paper
- Silent Auction Donations
- Bathroom Vanity



2008 JOB FAIRS:

Central Florida's Job Fair

All held at the Central Florida Fairgrounds
4603 W Colonial, Orlando
Noon-4pm

2008

- March 19 Central Florida's Job Fair
- May 21 Mayor's (Orlando) Job Fair
- July 16 President's Job Fair
- Sept 3 Governor's Job Fair
- Nov 12 Central Florida's Job Fair

Job Fair Report:

With unemployment at a 4.3% rate, we had an historically record breaking attendance at our last Job Fair on the 23rd of January of over 5,000 job seekers. Over 1,000 were hired but many were not. We had a great turnout of employers in a downward market. The services at Christian HELP are needed more than ever to help offset the unemployment and tight financial squeeze present today.



**God's Guiding Hand
Just in Time!**

Sue is an 83 year old client who collects social security and through the Lord, we were able to provide some food on an on-going basis. Sue, in her desire to help someone start a ministry, allowed someone to charge \$6000 to her credit card. When she received her next statement she found that she was paying a very high interest rate. She contacted the credit card company in an effort to reduce the rate. From there on, Sue's situation rapidly spiraled downward into the abyss. She had asked if there was anyway we could help sort through her situation. After assessing her situation, I realized that she was in worse shape than I had first thought and I really didn't see any way out for her other than to bite the bullet and do the best she could under the circumstances. Without alarming her I told her to give me 48 hours to see if I could find some way to help her. She agreed and left my office. At this point I had no idea what I was going to do or who to ask for advice. That's when God entered the situation---

While interviewing my "very next" client I noticed that he had worked for the very same bank/credit company for (7) years. I decided to ask if he had any suggestions. To my surprise he said he would be willing to sit down with Sue and go through all her paperwork, which he did the following day. Cutting to the chase...he was able to make some phone calls, on his own cell phone, and after (2) hours he had the situation well under control, to the point that it was now manageable for Sue. God is never early and **never** late---but always amazing!

Submitted by Harry Kunisch



How Bad Is It?

by Dick Wilson

It is a lot worse than I thought. Our economists have finally decided that we are in a recession. This news tends to feed on itself as employers cut back because they fear the recession. As more people are laid off, consumption goes down and we go deeper. Already, we are seeing talented people coming through our doors with terror in their eyes. With our encouragement and prayer they conclude that it may not be as bad as they thought. With God all things are possible. Praise Him and ask Him to hold tight to those who are in danger of sinking and keep them afloat until it passes.

***"Is anything too hard for the Lord"-----
Genesis 18:14***



CLIENT SKETCHES

“Joyful in Jesus”

submitted by Don Dye, Volunteer Counselor

Two very clean-cut young men came in together eagerly looking for jobs. I found some good leads for them and got a food slip ready. They were very grateful and excited. By conversation I could tell they were Christians, so I asked them to tell how they came to know the Lord. The first told how he had been deeply involved in drugs—using and selling them. After being in seven psychiatric wards he finally realized that he needed to change his life. He moved to Apopka where his aunt took him to a ministry. There he met Jesus and testified that his life was transformed—from darkness to light. He was now joyful in Jesus.

The second young man shared how he was raised in a Christian home but left the Lord for years. He came back to the Lord for a year but left him again for a life of sin that included getting a girl pregnant. But a friend took him to a ministry and he came back to the Lord—again. Now he lives joyfully for Jesus. I then said, “I’m sure both of you have dedicated your lives to the Lord and are doing His will.” With big smiles they both said, “Yes”. These two young prodigals had truly returned to their Father and been wonderfully reconciled. It was my privilege to then pray for them. Before they left one of them asked, “Does your wrist hurt?” I replied, “No”. He then asked if I had trouble with my wrist. I said, “No, but I have arthritis in my back, leg and neck”. He asked if he could pray for me and I agreed. Both of them then put a hand on my shoulder and prayed for me. We then hugged, and they left, each of us rejoicing in the love of Jesus. They went forth to live for Him and eagerly pursue their job leads.

At **Christian HELP** our goal is to **minister** to our clients---and sometimes our clients minister to us. That’s what Christian H-E-L-P is all about---**Hope, Encourage, Love and Prayer**

“Behold, God is my salvation, I will trust and not be afraid;
For the Lord God is my strength and song,
And He has become my salvation.”-----Isaiah 12:2

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR VOLUNTEERS WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THE SUCCESS OF THE CHRISTMAS PROGRAM AS WELL AS THOSE THAT PERFORMED OTHER PROJECTS THIS PAST SEASON:

Elves, toy sorters, drivers, food drives, adopters, Dove Card participants, Fusion Painting Project, Crossway Community Church Servant Project, Summit Church, individual volunteers, Seminole Community Volunteers, RSVP, and many others who gave of their time and talents. We had over 65 volunteers that helped just with Christmas. This was soooo needed and much appreciated. **Hats off to all of you!!**



FOUNDERS AWARD RECIPIENT

Paulette Weir received the **Christian HELP Founders Award** for her dedication and outstanding service over many years. And **congrats, Paulette, on the birth of your beautiful baby, Owen.**



JEFFERSON AWARDS

Four volunteers were honored at the annual Christmas Party by receiving the Jefferson Award for outstanding service. They were:

Lois & Larry Fairbrother



Amy Bah



Jessie Garcia



The Jefferson Award is a national award to honor outstanding volunteer service

VOLUNTEER NEEDS:

Job Fair—afternoon volunteers & Parking attendants
Charity Challenge—people to call charities
Christmas in July—planners and helpers
Front Office Assistant-phones and computer
If interested: call Kristy at 407-834-4022 or email Kristy@christianhelp.org

A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR

Sandi Vidal



I have been in my position with Christian HELP and the Central Florida Employment Council for nearly a year now. Prior to my employment here, I was a Board member and volunteer. I have been so blessed to see *God working at Christian HELP every day*. He has blessed beyond anything I could ever imagine.

So many people, like you, come out to volunteer and support those in need. As our economy continues to soften, the need will become even greater. When we say need- what are we talking about? --- **Jobs, Financial Assistance, Food Assistance, and Housing Assistance**. In Seminole County alone, there are over 33,000 under the poverty line. At our center, **we see over 100 people each week** who are looking for jobs, and just need a hand up. Our "Food Rescue" Program, helps **an additional 91 families** to have healthy meals. Because of people like you, we can help.

For the most part, these people are not lazy, they are not unkempt, they are not any different from you or me. A moment of tragedy, a job loss, an illness, or a car accident could alter our reality in a heartbeat.

As we look back at 2007, so much was accomplished. We had a tremendous number of volunteers and special donations. Our building was painted by volunteers, our paint was paid for by a wonderful donor, our floors are finally sparkling clean thanks to Vanguard. We have a new parking lot thanks to Prime Construction, new refrigerators thanks to CFHLA, Refrigeration in our trucks thanks to Chatlos Foundation, and even new dry erase boards thanks to Saint Stephens Catholic Church. **God has brought so many incredible people to our doors**. The generosity in our community never ceases to amaze me.

As we go through 2008, we can't wait to see where God will lead us. We continue to forge partnerships with individuals, like you, churches, and other organizations. We need to finish our makeover, get our electrical systems up to code, build an access ramp, and eventually build on to add more space for more services. **We have an opportunity to DOUBLE your contributions in the months of March and April**. Read more on page 1. We continue to pray for God's guidance as we move forward. With **your continued support**, we **CAN** make a difference in the lives of others, one life at a time.

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FOUNDATION

450 Seminola Blvd.
Casselberry, FL 32707
cfec@cfec.org