

January 2012

*As of November 1st  
our capacity is increased to 30!*



Executive Director, Jessica Mitcham—Shelter Manager, Ginger Mahoney



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# Homeless Awareness Week 2012



On November 16th, the Shelter hosted an Open House and lunch as part of National Homeless Awareness Week. Attendees included volunteers, sponsors, and other guests. As attendees enjoyed lunches provided by Honeybaked Ham, Jessica and members of the staff shared that the shelter is now serving 30 guests and that they have been at capacity four times in the last ten months. Though the economy is challenging, over 90% of the guests are currently employed. A recent former guest spoke to the group about how Good Neighbor Homeless Shelter had helped him get his life back on track. He now has two jobs and a new place to live because of the support that the Shelter provided. He is looking forward to being able to return to school and eventually to establish a career path and start a family. Those attending the Open House were also given a tour of the facility and heard about the current guests who include five children from 8 to 18 years of age and about plans to convert the exterior shed into a clothing closet. Our generous sponsors were presented with plaques to thank them for their continued support. The "I am Thankful for my Home" banks were collected from all the churches, small business, and homes where they had been filled.

The week was capped off with our Inaugural RadioThon. A special thanks to WBHF 1450 AM and Joe Tilley, Alan Sanders, and Kevin Karrel for helping put this event together. It was a tremendous success with \$20,200 raised!

**Thanks to all who participated in Homeless Awareness Week!**



*Looking for the perfect Valentine's  
Day plans?*

**Join us at the Grand Theater in downtown Cartersville  
for the 2nd Annual Etowah Jazz Society concert**

**Tuesday, February 14th at 7pm**

**Tickets are \$18 & can be purchased at the Grand Theater ticket office.**

*Come enjoy a romantic evening with your loved  
one, support a great cause, and help us kick off  
2012 with "all that jazz"!*

**Presented by:**



**Benefitting:**





## Run for the Shelter 2011 Presented by Walmart

Congratulations to the 50 runners who completed the 2nd annual 5K run on Saturday, October 8th 2011. \$2500 was raised to benefit Good Neighbor Homeless Shelter. The Winners are, for the Men: Roger Herrera, 1st; David Gierak, 2nd; Dennis Kelly, 3rd; and for the Women: Blair McBee, 1st; Helen Evans, 2nd; Julie Shrewsbury, 3rd. Sponsors for the event included: Trends by Stiles; Stiles Jewelers, Kachinsky Family Chiropractic, JDH Electric, WYXC-1270, One Day Sign, Chick-fil-A; Ladd's Farm Supply, Etowah Valley Credit Union, Floyd Home Care, A New Dimension, & Anheuser Busch.

Churches are a huge part of the giving that supports the Shelter and we want to say a special "thank you" to the handful of churches that gave financially every single month in 2011. First Baptist Church of Cartersville, First Presbyterian Church of Cartersville, Sam Jones United Methodist Church, and Tabernacle Baptist Church all made contributions each month this year. Countless other churches gave bi-monthly, quarterly, or as they were able. In total, area churches gave over \$18,000 to the Shelter in 2011.





Through their recent charity golf tournament, Georgia Power was able to provide over \$300 of goods for Shelter guests. Shelter Manager Ginger Mahoney and Day Shift Supervisor Lynn Hillburn went shopping with staff from Georgia Power and were able to get lots of items from the November Needs List, shown at left.



The staff of The Georgia Department of Behavioral Health & Development Disabilities gathered household items for the Shelter at their annual Christmas party, shown at right. Thanks to these good friends, our pantries are replenished!



Good Neighbor Homeless Shelter just received \$1,000 in funding from the Cartersville-Bartow County Community Foundation, part of the Community Foundation of Northwest Georgia, to implement new vouchers to assist guests who have acute and contagious urgent health care needs. This is a wonderful gift because health concerns can become a set-back or cause missed work for our guests while they are working hard to get back on their feet.

Dr. Tim Ryan of the Physician's Practice, Dr. Benny Smith of Cartersville Family Medicine, Dr. Jeffrey Esslinger and Nurse Practitioner Tonya Emery of Internal Medicine Associates, and the Health Caring Clinic of Cartersville will all be accepting vouchers through this program and working with us to better treat the urgent health care needs of our guests. We are so thankful for these doctors and practitioners and their help in caring for the Shelter.

A whole year has passed now since I became the Executive Director of the Good Neighbor Homeless Shelter and I am, above all else, amazed by the generous outpouring you all have been part of to care for the Shelter. As 2011 opened, the Board of Directors were alarmed by the fiscal condition of the Shelter to the point of concern for its ability to survive the harsh economic times upon us. As 2011 closed, the Board of Directors celebrated a year of profound blessing upon the Shelter—a year in which our financial position was much more secure, our occupancy was almost 95% for the year, our capacity was raised from 23 to 30, and we served over 500 people. Thank you for making our work possible.

As a new year starts, we begin again the work of raising the funds to support the Shelter. Consider giving. Consider being a part of the work to help men, women, and children transform their lives by coming to the Shelter, establishing personal goals, finding work, and saving money to be able to afford a new place to call home.

*Blessings, Jessica Mitcham*



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