FEBRUARY 2024 NEWSLETTER

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Serving Burlington County Since 1983



A word from Madelyn Sutton
Director of the Christian Caring Center

John 15:1-2 (NIV) "I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful.

Going through the pruning process can be painful. It is with a broken heart that the Board of Directors have decided to sell the Village Thrift Shop in Pemberton Borough. There are a few reasons:

1. The Christian Caring Center lost 2 big grants at no fault of ours. Donations have also been down due to inflation and the Christian Caring Center 2024 budget is in a large deficit.
2. The Shop and apartments are in need of repairs. It is a historic building and every time we try to repair something, there are 3 more repairs under the first one and the cost is prohibitive.
3. The Shop has never really even broken even with sales and rents vs mortgage, taxes, repairs and manager's salary. Hence the board had to make the decision to make cuts. Randy, our Manager will be transitioning to Development Manager. Randy will be bringing his 12 years of experience with the Christian Caring Center and business expertise. Continued on next page….

I would like to focus on the last part of this verse, “while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful”. The Christian Caring Center has definitely been very fruitful! We will be including our impact statement so that you can see all that God has done through the ministry over 2023.

Sadly, we are not taking donations at this time at the Village Thrift Shop. We do have a small section for clothing at the Outreach Center in Browns Mills. We will be having a list of needs on our website, www.christiancaringcenter.net and here in the newsletters. When considering donating, please bring only 1 bag of donations at a time. Please consider coming in and hanging them up for our clients. This is a great way to begin volunteering, but not a requirement. We will be accepting donations at 378 Lakehurst Rd., Browns Mills on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays from 10am to 2pm. We must limit it because we use every space for ministry and there is no storage.

I would ask that you pray for us because the next program they have to look at is the Code Blue Shelter as it operates now. This is a program that really occupies a lot of my time and the Christian Caring Center’s resources. As much as I love it, all the other programs really need my time and attention. We will finish the season as we are operating.

These are the hard decisions that are facing the Christian Caring Center and I know many churches also. For 41 years, the Christian Caring Center has continued to be a leader in blessing individuals and families all because of your generosity and we are grateful! You share in the testimony of the love that God has for his people, which gives us an opportunity to share the Gospel, pray with people and love them. Thanks so much for your continued support and prayers as we all try to minister to the kingdom of God.

Madelyn Sutton
Executive Director

Holiday Baskets

We are now preparing for Resurrection Baskets. Easter is on March 31, 2024, so prayerfully we will distribute on March 27th & 28th, 2024. If you would like to volunteer, donate either food, conduct a food drive, have your church or Sunday School put together candy baskets (children love putting together baskets for other children), we would love to have you!. Please drop us an email to find out more at christiancaringcenter@yahoo.com



IMPACT in our community!



Christian Caring Center

EMERGENCY FOOD PROGRAM

The **Lord** through Christian Caring Center helped 716 adults and 307 children totaling 1.023 individuals or 404 households with meals in the month of January, 2024- PTL!!!

COMMUNITY LUNCH/RURAL HOMELESS PROGRAM

The **Lord** through Christian Caring Center served 753 hot cooked lunches and 217 continental breakfasts in the month of January, 2024. We also go out to the streets/woods on Wednesday and Friday to deliver 50 lunches and outreach to the homeless, alcoholic, addicted or mentally challenged men and women in 2 area motels. The Red Carpet is shut down for repairs and all guests are being relocated currently. Please continue to pray for the people still out there homeless and struggling as well as the staff and volunteers.

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We have interviews for a new Family for the new program year. Thank you for all your support and prayers.

EMERGENCY SHELTER PROGRAM

Jack Stelle Men's Emergency Shelter: We have 3 men in the shelter right now. Stan and Billy are looking for work. Mitchell has been going to interviews for a new job. We are asking for your prayers for all the men.

Holman House: Is temporarily closed to residents right now as we are going through renovations of adding a bathroom and bedroom for an isolation room.

Marion House: Our mom has been reunited with family. We have a new family mom and 5 children coming in February. Mom is looking for work. Please pray for them as they look for permanent housing.

CODE BLUE SHELTER:

We have held 52 nights so far. Most nights are full with 14 guests. The Caring Center has continued to be a leader in blessing individuals and families all because your generosity and we are grateful! You share in the testimony of the love that God has for His people, which gives us an opportunity to share the Gospel, pray with people and love them. We can not thank you enough!

SALVATION ARMY SERVICE UNIT AND GRANTS:

The Christian Caring Center serves as a volunteer service unit for the Salvation Army. They have placed 4 households into permanent housing. 7 families have been placed into motels.

SSH placed 8 household members into motels.

Ask God...
How can I help?



Find us on

Christian Caring Center

OPENING HOURS:

We are now open Monday-Friday from 10 am-3 pm. Only 2 people are allowed in the Outreach Center at a time and for case management, we prefer an appointment. Lunch will be served at 12 noon and we go out on Street Outreach every Wednesday and Friday 12:30 pm-1:30 pm. The drive through food pantry is in operation Monday-Friday 10 am to 3 pm.

The Village Thrift Shop, 87 Hanover Street, Pemberton is now open Monday thru Friday from 9 am to 4 pm and Saturdays 10 am to 3 pm. They are accepting Fall and warmer clothing, jackets, coats, blankets, etc. Donations are excepted on Mon. Wed., Fri., 10-2pm only. They supply the Outreach Center in Browns Mills clothing as needed there. Praise the Lord!



6 Most Wanted Volunteer Positions

Village Thrift Shop sorting & cash register during the closing sale
Interviewers/to pray with the people receiving food.
Fundraising Committee (making baskets for auction, mailings, decorating, etc.)
Volunteers to work with homeless clients locating housing & jobs.
Volunteers for making gift baskets for auction at our fundraising events.
Volunteers to sort our clothing and shed for our Resurrection Baskets

As we are open 5 days per week, we desperately need volunteers. We only have 7 regular staff to run 12 programs. We have opportunities to fit your schedule: weekly, monthly, virtual, project oriented like Holiday baskets, food pickups, food or basket shopping, events such as our Corn Hole or Sleep Out fundraisers, etc.

The Christian Caring Center receives items from YOUGIVEGOODS.COM. You can purchase items and they will ship them to us.

NEEDED ITEMS

FOOD PANTRY
Peanut butter & jelly
Tuna & soups
Instant Potatoes, mac & cheese
Cereal, Breakfast bars, Nutri grain bars
Juice, shelf milk
Pasta & sauce

CLOTHING
Warm sweatshirts and sweatpants
Jeans of all sizes, but especially 32-36
Sneakers
Tee Shirts
Hygiene items
Sleeping bags

SHELTERS
Twin Sheets
New comforters
Gently used or new pots and pans
Cleaning supplies (Dawn, bathroom cleaner, etc)
Gently used or new towels & washcloths
Zippered plastic sheet protectors for twin beds