

PANTRY PICKIN'S



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Upcoming Events

Pastor's Pot

May 3, 2014

11:30 a.m.—1:30 p.m.

Financial Assistance:

**First and Third
Friday of each month.**

FOURTH ANNUAL PASTOR'S POT RUNNETH OVER CHALLENGE MAY 3, 2014

The first Saturday in May is when I have always planted my flowers in the yard and started going barefoot. My grandfather always said that you could not go barefoot before the first of May or you would get sick. Now it has become the day to enjoy the delicious food that is prepared by the area churches competing in the Pastor's Pot Runneth Over Challenge. Tickets are sold for \$10 a piece and that will get you 8 tastes of food. We are only selling a limited number and we may not have many available at the door. You can purchase tickets from any board member (list provided on the last page of the newsletter) or you may contact the CARES office at (706) 253-4777 or cares@etcmail.com or you can purchase them at participating churches. If you have not ever attended the Challenge, you do not know what you have missed. In previous years, we have had BBQ, shrimp etouffee, Brunswick Stew, salads, sandwiches, scrumptious deserts. It is a surprise every year what delectable item is pulled out of these pots.

The winner each year gets to take home the coveted Pastor's Pot "pot" trophy (it is actually a pot) that they can proudly display for the following year for all to see who enter their church doors.

If you are interested in your church competing, please check with your pastor. Each pastor was sent a letter explaining the competition and the portion sizes needed. We would love to have 100% participation from our churches. All proceeds go to benefit CARES and the needy families of Pickens County.

Pictured are some of last year's winners and event co-chairs, Katharine Armentrout and Joyce Dewey



CARES VOLUNTEER HIGHLIGHTS

"The people we help through this program are in inspiration to me".

"Once I got to CARES, I discovered it is much more than a food pantry".

"In practice we have been a ministry of God's helping the poor and needy of Pickens County..."

Priscilla Apodaca was born to parents who believed that there was no better way to honor God than to serve others. Because of this it has been one of her many blessings to work at CARES in the Transportation & Child Care (TCC) program. She retired after 23 years with Bank of America and moved from Dallas, TX to Ellijay, GA, one of the many places she has lived with her husband who was career military. Her three children and six grandchildren live nearby. Attending church at Fellowship Presbyterian Church is where she was first asked to volunteer at CARES. From 2005 until 2011 she filled orders on a monthly basis, and then she became one of our TCC counselors. "The people we help through this program are an inspiration to me". Priscilla states that these people's faith and determination are what keeps her coming back week after week, even if she does have to get up at 7:30 each Friday to do it.



Priscilla Apodaca

Carolyn Anderson and her husband are members of the Episcopal Church of the Holy Family and that's where she learned about CARES. Upon retiring four years ago, she researched CARES and it's appeal was she likes to eat and cannot imagine anyone struggling to have food in the house. "Once I got to CARES, I discovered it is much more than a food pantry". She works primarily as a TCC counselor but also as a financial assistance counselor, signing in clients and pulling files and as a shopper. Carolyn says, "I enjoy meeting the students and seeing them fulfill their goals to acquire a degree. She also volunteers at Good Samaritan. In her spare time, Carolyn enjoys traveling to Florida to see her four year old grandson and his family, playing piano, hiking, watching Alabama football and spending time with her husband Phil and her 13 year old dachshund, Tobit.



Carolyn Anderson

FROM YOUR DIRECTOR

Community Assistance Resources & Emergency Services, Inc. for Pickens County better known throughout as CARES. This has been our name since May of 2004 when we became a non-profit corporation of the State of Georgia and qualified as an IRS 501(c)3 federal tax free entity. From June 1997 until then we were The Community Food Pantry as part of the Episcopal church of the Holy Family. We operated there until March 2006 when we

moved into our new building. respect and that is God provided all the funds why we can know (some \$193,000) during that we are doing time leaving us with no God's work at CARES.

In practice we have always been a ministry of God's (almost 17 years), helping the poor and needy of Pickens County with food, emergency and temporary financial assistance, counseling and now educational assistance (the last four years).

We have TRULY been BLESSED by Him. We have been open all times and days posted, never shut down and never cut back. God provides whatever is needed for His work. He as for us in every



Larry

FROM THE FRONT LINES

CARES would like to announce the addition of two new members to our Board of Directors—Lorene Ballew and Jackie Childers.

Lorene is one of our current volunteers and our Thursday Section Leader. Lorene was featured last year in our Volunteer Highlights and the following excerpt is from that interview. “The Lord sent me to CARES for all the right reasons, for the love I have always had to help others, plus he placed me in a place where so many good Christians are, plus he filled the void I have had in me since I lost Gene. There is never a day that goes by that I don’t thank Him for how He placed me to be able to help others and also find such good caring Christian folks that have filled my life with so much love”. She chose to serve on the board because she believes that all areas of



CARES should be represented. She is able to bring to the board a connection with the volunteers on the front lines.



Jackie is the current Coordinator for Pickens Family Connection. She has over 25 years experience in Healthcare Performance Improvement and Quality. She has earned a Masters of Public Health degree and is a Certified Professional in Healthcare Quality. She is married and lives in Talking Rock and is the mother to three sons, a step-son and step-daughter. She loves animals and enjoys running and outdoor activities. Jackie chose to serve on the CARES board because she wants to be involved in having a positive impact on the community.

We would like to welcome both ladies to CARES and we hope they are able to serve in this capacity for a long time.

“We would like to welcome both ladies to CARES. . . “

Georgia Statistics—Atlanta Community Food Bank Website

20 percent of the people living in Georgia are food insecure, meaning that they don’t always know where they will find their next meal. This is up from 19.9% last year. (*Feeding America, 2013 Map the Meal Gap Study released in June 2013 reflects data collected in 2011.*)

28.8 percent of Georgia children live in food insecure households. This is up from 28.3% last year and is well over **one in every four** Georgia children. The USDA defines food insecurity as the lack of access to adequate food resulting from the lack of money and other resources. (*Feeding America, 2013 Map the Meal Gap: Child Food Insecurity study released in June 2013 reflects data collected in 2011.*)

Monthly allotments for food-

insecure families receiving food stamps decreased beginning Nov. 1, 2013. **\$36 less each month for a household of four.** (*Atlanta Community Food Bank and Center for Budget and Policy Priorities, Oct. 2013*)

- **27.2 percent** of Georgia’s children live in poverty – up from **26.3 %** last year. The new number moves Georgia to the 6th highest childhood poverty rate in the U.S. (*U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey Profile. Data released Sept. 2013*)
- **19.2 percent** of Georgians are living in poverty – just slightly up from **19.1 percent** reported in 2012. Poverty in Georgia increased from 12.9% in 2000 to 19.2% in 2012 – an increase of almost 1 million Georgians over the past 12 years. (*U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey*

Profile. Data released Sept. 2013)

From 2000 to 2010, the number of poor individuals in the Atlanta metro suburbs more than doubled, growing by **122%.** (*U.S. Census, 2013, cited*)

- More than one in every ten senior citizens in Georgia is living in poverty (**11.2%**) – This new number reflects a slight increase from 10.9% last year. (*U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey Profile. Data released Sept. 2013*)

As of 2014, Georgia remains one of only 4 states with minimum wage rates under the federal rate. Georgia’s minimum wage is **\$5.15/hour.** (*U.S. Dept. of Labor, Employment Standards Admin. 2014*)

“20 percent of the people living in Georgia are food insecure, meaning they don’t always know where they will find their next meal.”

89 Cares Drive
P. O. Box 1342
Jasper, GA 30143

706-253-4777
Food Ministry/Director

706-253-4778
Financial Assistance

Hours of Operation

Monday
1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
(food only)

Wednesday
10:00 a.m. - Noon
(emergency food only)
(new clients)

Friday
8:30 a.m. - Noon
(food)

*Financial Assistance is
provided every other
Friday of each month. The
first 10 financial clients are
assisted.*

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

*If you know someone who
would like to volunteer,
please have them call
Larry Starr at
706-253-4777*

Visit our Website at
www.PickensCares.org



Happy Birthday!!

January

03 Melanie Johnson
11 Glenda Clark
15 Gene Berry
21 Cari Farrell
27 Kathy Bostick

February

22 Ben Laughlin
25 Carolyn Anderson

March

15 Amy Denney
16 Sharron McKay
17 Penny Huth
30 Kay Cook



Please send your birthday month and day to Peige Payne at CARES (cares@etcmil.com) so that we may include it in upcoming issues. We love our volunteers and enjoy honoring them any way we can.



2014 CARES Board of Directors

Rev. Ben Laughlin, Chairman

Regina Camp, Vice-Chairman

Dayton Adams, Secretary

Gene Berry, Treasurer

Katharine Armentrout

Lorene Ballew

Kristal Beaver

Fran Bishop

Art Brown

Jackie Childers

Amy Denney

Richard Ferguson

Diane Hales

Angie Jones

Tim Jordan

Craig Reeve

Madena Stallard

Christine Van der Walt