

PANTRY PICKENS



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Upcoming Events

Taste of Pickens November 10, 2012

Financial Assistance Dates:

Oct. 5, 19

Nov. 2, 16, 30

Dec. 7, 21

CARES SUPPLIES SCHOOL SUPPLIES TO AREA ACHOOL SCHILDREN

As school begins, often families are not able to provide the needed supplies for their children. CARES realized that need and nine years ago they began to help those families. That first year we helped 28 children and this year we had 139 children to sign up. This was an increase of 50 from last year.

CARES would not be able to help these families without the generosity of our community. This program is not a budget item but relies strictly on donations from area churches, business' and individuals. Each year these kind people have stepped up and provided CARES with everything needed.

Current CARES clients sign up early in July to be able to come on a designated day to pick up a quality backpack filled with age and grade appropriate school supplies for each child that has been packed by a CARES volunteer. The children are allowed to choose the backpack they want. This year, because of the bighearted donations we received, we were able to give a \$75 gift card to middle and high school students and a \$25 gift to each elementary student to go toward school clothes. We feel that the gift cards are the most important part of our program because new clothing to start the school year fosters the children's self-esteem.

CARES is very appreciative of the many donations of backpacks, school supplies and money that made our program such a success this year. Just seeing the smiling faces of all the children and the appreciation of their parents is all the thanks we need.



Happy Birthday!

Doris Martin, one of our wonderful volunteers, celebrated her 90th birthday, on September 25, 2012. Please join us in wishing Ms. Doris the very best for the upcoming year.

CARES VOLUNTEER HIGHLIGHTS

Gene and Rebecca started volunteering at CARES in March 2003 stocking food on Thursday and continued until Rebecca's illness forced her to stop in early 2009. Gene stopped in June 2010 in order to take care of her. He was elected to CARES Board in January 2006 and became Treasurer in June of the same year and continues to perform both.

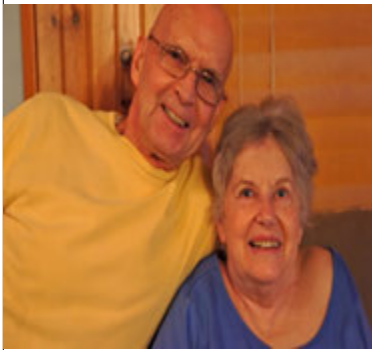
Gene said when he retired in 1999, he wanted to give something back for all of the good things that he had been blessed with during his life. After volunteering with the Buckhead Christian Ministry, they began working with CARES in the same capacity. At the time they worked out of the Episcopal Church of the Holy Family

They both feel that CARES is a wonderful organization; the countless people the volunteers have helped makes it one of the great success stories of Pickens County. Gene said they had to go to CARES each Thursday to get their "fix" of knowing that they had helped in the process of feeding some needy person. As Treasurer, Gene has a great deal of satisfaction knowing that he has had a hand in all financial matters as Treasurer of this terrific organization. He has watched the CARES budget more than double. With growth comes the need for more money and other resources. The people of Pickens County have always stepped up to meet this need and Gene and Rebecca believe they will continue to do so.

Gene and Rebecca worked for many years on Thursday mornings helping to shelve and separate food. The Thursday crew does whatever needed to get the food pantry ready for Friday. For a long time, Rebecca's job was the unpopular work of cutting up chicken leg quarters. Gene also drove our truck to Atlanta on a regular basis.

Rebecca is retired from CARES now and we all wish her well. Gene remains the CARES Treasurer and has always done a superb job for many, many year.

Gene and Rebecca truly have served the less fortunate well in their retirement years. Thanks so much for your work, Gene and Rebecca.



"Thanks so much for your work, Gene and Rebecca."

"He has always provided. It just comes from different directions at times."

FROM YOUR DIRECTOR

It is my prayer that each of you and your entire family will have a "greatly Blessed" fall and holiday season and that Christmas will be all that you want and it should be.

I hope you and a guest came to and enjoyed our Volunteer Appreciated Dinner on October 16th. It is such a fun and good occasion each year. The food, entertainment and

fellowship is always great. The board of directors enjoy doing this every year for all CARES volunteers.

God is still providing for our needs even though grants and some givings are down. He has always provided. It just comes from different directions at time. But we confidently in faith know that God will provide in all his work.

Be Blessed,



Larry

FROM THE FRONT LINES BY MELANIE JOHNSON

Melanie Johnson is the Section Leader for the Thursday squad. The Thursday team's job is to stock the shelves after we receive the delivery from the Atlanta Community Food Bank on Wednesday. They unload the pallets and place the items on the shelves in preparation for food distribution on Friday morning.

Melanie said this about her crew, "I would like to thank God for the small but dedicated team of Thursday stockers. They arrive at 9:00 a.m. ready to put cans on the shelves and try to finish the job by 11:00–11:30 a.m. It is a heavy job but they do it with a smile on their faces. We also have lighter work

putting grits, flour, sugar and rice into smaller bags.

I would like to thank Cindy, Diane, Jim, Matthew, Dewey, Cleo, Kate and Dean and their children (including the baby due in October) and seasonal volunteers Al, Toots,

Judy and James. You all do a great job!"

If you would like to join the Thursday crew, contact Melanie Johnson or Larry Starr. Keep up the great work!!



"It is a heavy job but they do it with a smile on their face".

Snack in A Backpack Weekend Food Program—Dorothy Scott & Kathy Bierce

The NorthStar program is an educational program serving students with significant emotional and behavioral challenges. The staff at NorthStar not only care for the academic, social and emotional needs of the students but also try to find ways of caring for the physical needs of each child. Without the support of the school lunch program over the weekend, some children may go hungry. The NorthStar staff began searching for a resource for food that could be sent home with the students on Friday afternoon and which would supplement the family meals over the

weekend and into the week. We found the resource we needed in the CARES food pantry.

The CARES program has been a wonderful resource for our students and the volunteers at CARES have been extremely supportive of our program. Our staff goes to the Food Pantry every Thursday and because of the generosity of the CARES program, is able to get enough food to make several food boxes. These boxes go home with the students every Friday afternoon. The boxes include enough food and snack items to supplement meals for the student and their family over the weekend and into the following

week. The items include spaghetti sauce and pasta, bread, boxed macaroni, peanut butter, canned vegetables, cereal, tuna and dessert items.

Members of our NorthStar staff have received many positive responses from the parents who have received food. The food helps stretch the family's household income so that they can provide more nutritious foods to the children. The children also have additional snacks if they get hungry over the weekend without support of the school lunch program. We are thankful for the CARES Food Pantry as it has made our NorthStar food program possible.

"Without the support of the school lunch program over the weekend, some children may go hungry".

KIDS 4 CARES — AMY DENNEY, CHAIR

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 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



Even though the threat of rainy weather emerged, this did not stop the incredible volunteers from hosting an event to raise awareness and educate our young people about helping feed others. This is the third year of the Kids 4 CARES event. Despite the low turnout of youth, the spirit of the event and the spirit of giving was present.

Many volunteers came to help set up the event that involved a jump house, face painting, food and scavenger hunts. Thanks to all the volunteers that made the even possible including Jennie Hutto-Smith who painted faces, Art Brown and Foothills Church for grilling the fabulous food, CARES Board members who manned the events and Jasper Middle School for allowing CARES to host the event on the football field.

Also thanks to the many partners who donated goods or money to help Kids 4 CARES which included: Bank of North Georgia, Foothills IGA, Bojangles in Jasper, Steve Moranos Allstate Agency, Amicalola EMC, Bodacious Foods, Trouts Beverage, Kroger in Jasper, Renasant Bank and Lexington Insulators.

