

PANTRY PICKIN'S



EIGHTH ANNUAL TASTE OF PICKENS WAS A SUCCESS

November 9, 2013 was a gloriously sunny day. It was the perfect day to host a gloriously delicious event. The aromas filled the morning air. This made it extremely difficult for the volunteers there early to help set up. We welcomed many returning vendors such as The Carriage House, 61 Main, Appalachian Grill, Bigun's BBQ and Dos Margaritas as well as new vendors, Mary Ann's, JD's Country Cooking, Madeline's, Millie's and Coast to Coast Catering and Waffle House. What an outstanding array of food was served. There were so many varieties from Mexican, Asian, Bar B Que, chicken, sandwiches, meatloaf, salads and scrumptious desserts. We also had a table of the yummiest cakes made by Dough Boys, Cindy Parks, Madeline's, Mary's Bread Basket, IGA and Rock Creek Manor Assisted Living. We would like to thank Kyle Waters and Chris Childers for auctioning off these cakes and other items that were collected from the non-food merchants in our town. CARES would like to thank all those that came and ate with us and all those that volunteered on that day and Chairwoman Regina Camp and the ATOP committee for once again putting together this very successful event.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>CARES Volunteer Highlights</i>	2
<i>From Your Director</i>	2
<i>From the Front Lines</i>	3
<i>Current Event Article</i>	3-4
<i>Additional ATOP Pix</i>	5

Upcoming Events

Pastor's Pot

May 3, 2014

11:30 a.m.—1:30 p.m.

Financial Assistance:

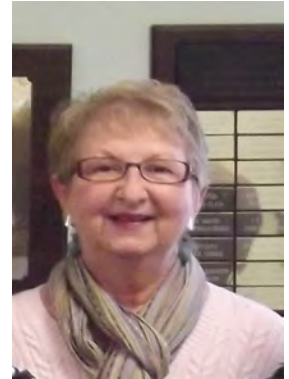
**First and Third
Friday of each month.**



CARES VOLUNTEER HIGHLIGHTS

“She chose to come to CARES because she was looking for something that would have direct effect on people.”

Fran Bishop has been with CARES as a volunteer for over a decade and she is our newest Board of Director member. She chose to come to CARES because she was looking for something that would have a direct effect on people. She began working in Financial Assistance with Brenda Farr and one or two others. When Brenda moved on from CARES, Fran stepped into the position of Section Leader easily. Brenda started the Backpack program where children are supplied with a backpack of school supplies each July to prepare them to return to school and Fran helped. She also assumed the lead on that program and she says, “Over the years we have given backpacks, school supplies and gift cards starting with around 50 or so and now we are up to 150-200.” She is also the volunteer coordinator for the Weekend Snack Program that provides children in our county with a weekend supply of food to fill the need of those that may not have anything to eat once they leave school. This program serves over 340 children each week.



Fran Bishop

On top of all this, Fran is a graduate of Kennesaw State University with a degree in Business and Accounting. She has a MS degree in Instructional Technology from Georgia State University. Having left the corporate world where she traveled the United States, Fran has been a college professor and training program consultant, she now teaches for an online university and is working for Game Plan Africa (a company that sends people of photographic and game viewing safaris to Africa). With all that she is involved in, we are thankful that Fran has the time to be involved with CARES. She is a great asset to our organization. Thanks Fran!

FROM YOUR DIRECTOR

“We are truly BLESSED to all be involved in the CARES ministry”.

The community, churches, individuals, business’, schools and many others came full through for us during the holidays (from Thanksgiving through New Year’s) with money and food. We were given a very good quantity of money and a t l e a s t 1 8 organizations had food drives. We are also now receiving 2,000 pounds of food per month from Walmart Canton and Jasper and Kroger Jasper.

deal with but God is good and all things got worked out and solved. I believe all of our 125 volunteers are ready, willing and able to continue on our great work that God has given us and provided for. We help 200+ families per week for food, some 300 families per year for financial assistance and all clients for counseling throughout their time with us. All these numbers are multiplied when including all their family members.

We are truly BLESSED to all be involved in the CARES ministry.

We have had a few challenges lately to



Larry

FROM THE FRONT LINES

On October 29, 2013 CARES honored our volunteers with an appreciation luncheon. Volunteers gathered at Trinity Tabernacle to enjoy a delicious lunch of barbeque chicken, ham, potato salad, slaw, baked beans and rolls. They also had a delicious cake and ice cream for dessert. Board Members Krystal Beaver and Craig Reeve provided this scrumptious food. A western theme was the backdrop and some of our guests dressed for the occasion. Door prizes were awarded and Beverly Schneider provided our entertainment. We truly appreciate our volunteers and we are so glad we are

able to show them. Thanks for all you do!!!

We would like to congratulate our Volunteers of the Year—Fran Bishop, Cindy Dunning and Mike Keating!



“Thanks for all you do!!!”

Poverty in America Is Mainstream by Mark R. Rank (NY Times 11/2/2013)

Few topics in American society have more myths and stereotypes surrounding them than poverty, misconceptions that distort both our politics and our domestic policy making.

They include the notion that poverty affects a relatively small number of Americans, that the poor are impoverished for years at a time, that most of those in poverty live in inner cities, that too much welfare assistance is provided and that poverty is ultimately a result of not working hard enough. Although pervasive, each assumption is flat-out wrong.

Contrary to popular belief, the percentage of the population that directly encounters poverty is exceedingly high. My research indicates that nearly 40 percent of Americans between the ages of 25 and 60 will experience at least one year below the official poverty line during that period (\$23,492 for a family of four), and 54 percent will spend a year in poverty or near poverty (below 150 percent of the poverty line).

Even more astounding, if we add in related conditions like welfare use, near-poverty and unemployment, four out of five Americans will encounter one or more of these events.

In addition, half of all American children will at some point during their childhood reside in a household that uses food stamps for a period of time.

Put simply, poverty is a mainstream event experienced by a majority of Americans. For most of us, the question is not whether we will experience poverty, but when.

But while poverty strikes a majority of the population, the average time most people spend in poverty is relatively short. The standard image of the poor has been that of an entrenched underclass, impoverished for years at a time. While this captures a small and important slice of poverty, it is also a highly misleading picture of its more widespread and dynamic nature.

The typical pattern is for an individual to experience poverty for a year or two, get above the poverty line for an extended period of time, and then perhaps encounter another spell at some later point. Events like losing a job, having work hours cut back, experiencing a family split or developing a serious medical problem all have the potential to throw households into poverty.

Just as poverty is widely dispersed with respect to time, it is also widely dispersed with respect to place. Only approximately 10 percent of those in poverty live in extremely poor urban neighborhoods. Households in poverty can be found throughout a variety of urban and suburban landscapes, as well as in small towns and communities across rural America. This dispersion of poverty has been increasing over the past 20 years, particularly within suburban areas., it has become even weaker over the past 40 years because of various welfare reform and budget cutting measures.

Continued on Page 4



“Simply put, poverty is a mainstream event experienced by a majority of Americans”.

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 the first, & third
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



Poverty in America Is Mainstream by Mark R. Rank (NY Times 11/2/2013)

Continued from Page 3

Along with the image of inner-city poverty, there is also a widespread perception that most individuals in poverty are nonwhite. This is another myth: According to the latest Census Bureau numbers, two-thirds of those below the poverty line identified themselves as white — a number that has held rather steady over the past several decades.

What about the generous assistance we provide to the poor? Contrary to political rhetoric, the American social safety net is extremely weak and filled with gaping holes. Furthermore various welfare reform and budget cutting measures.

We currently expend among the fewest resources within the industrialized countries in terms of pulling families out of poverty and protecting them from falling into it. And the United States is one of the few developed nations that does not provide universal health care, affordable child care, or reasonably priced low-income housing. As a result, our poverty rate is approximately twice the European average. Whether we examine childhood poverty, poverty among working-age adults, poverty within single-parent families or overall rates of poverty, the story is much the same — the United States has exceedingly high levels of impoverishment. The many who find themselves in poverty are often shocked at how little assistance the government actually provides to help them through tough times.

Finally, the common explanation for poverty has emphasized a lack of motivation, the failure to work hard enough and poor decision making in life.

Yet my research and that of others has consistently found that the behaviors and attitudes of those in poverty basically mirror those of mainstream America. Likewise, a vast majority of the poor have worked extensively and will do so again. Poverty is ultimately a result of failings at economic and political levels rather than individual shortcomings.

The solutions to poverty are to be found in what is important for the health of any family — having a job that pays a decent wage, having the support of good health and child care and having access to a first-rate education. Yet these policies will become a reality only when we begin to truly understand that poverty is an issue of us, rather than an issue of them.



More Pictures from A Taste of Pickens

