#### 2014 Events (June - December)

#### June

> First Fruits from 2014 Orchard Season –



Whitewater High School Choral Department - The Director of the Choral Department at Whitewater High School, Mr. Richard Prouty, coordinated a food and clothing drive in conjunction with the theme of this year's final performance. He wanted to give his students the opportunity to support their community. Pictured is his parent volunteer and Real Life Store employee, Mrs. Shannon Helms, delivering the food to Real Life Center.



Legacy Leaders Radio - Jack Perry, Jr., Host of Legacy Leaders Radio, hosted 3 influential Legacy Leaders: Teresa Wash from Community Welcome House, Cheryl DeLuca-Johnson from Street Grace, and Cathy Berggren from Real Life Center on Friday, June 6. They tackled the tough topic of domestic violence and the impact it has at home and in the workplace.



### Click <u>here</u> to listen or <u>here</u> for more details.

Fresh Produce from our Master Gardeners and Two Doves Farm - What a treat to receive fresh produce from our Master Gardeners and Two Doves Farm!





> Thanks to Pearson Farm for Fresh Peaches!



We are thankful for bread donations! We are thankful for the bread that comes from various places each day, including Publix, Kroger, and Panera. We are also thankful for the many people who dedicate their time and resources to pick it up and deliver it to us. What a gift!



> Thankful for Volunteers from Canada - We sure did appreciate having this fun group of ladies come help us sort donations Monday night. They are here from

Canada for the week helping PTC First Baptist run their Vacation Bible School. They spent their afternoons and evenings volunteering at various ministries as well. We are thankful to have been one of their stops!



Southside Church - Birthday Bags - Stacie and Grace Kilgore delivered 30 Birthday Bags that were donated by the 4th and 5th grade groups at Southside Church. Each bag contains items to help throw a birthday party for a child. Included are cake mixes, frosting, candles, paper plates and napkins, etc. The students even decorated the outside of each bag. Thanks for your generous donation!



Fayetteville First Baptist Church VBS Food Drive - Fayetteville First Baptist Church held their 7<sup>th</sup> annual food drive in conjunction with Vacation Bible School this past week. The containers were overflowing due to the generosity of the students and families!



Keller Williams Realty of Peachtree City's 2nd Annual PB&J Drive - Ms. Kim Estes and her team at Keller Williams Realty of Peachtree City held their second annual Peanut Butter and Jelly Drive. The office always matches what is donated making this a very successful drive. Their goal is to provide lunches for students during the summer months.



Providence United Methodist Church VBS Food Drive - For the eighth year in a row Providence United Methodist Church has gone all out to encourage their students to bring food donations to their Vacation Bible School Food Drive. This year Senior Pastor, Rev. Diane Parrish and Director of Student Ministries, Mark Ashby volunteered to get a pie in the face if their team lost. The girls and boys competed to see who could bring the most weight and/or volume of food. The kids were thrilled when the competition resulted in a tie meaning that both Rev. Parrish and Mr. Ashby ended up with pie in their faces! Great Sports for a Great Cause!





Operation Mobilization's Gift of 48 Hours of Prayer - We are thankful for people willing to pray for us! Operation Mobilization offered 48 hours of prayer time this month and included us in this time of prayer. What a gift!



June Mobile Food Pantry -It was a hot day for our monthly Mobile Food Pantry with a high of 93 degrees but this didn't stop us from serving 183 families with 12,756 lbs of food! Fresh onions and carrots, and frozen pizzas are just a few of the items we were able to distribute this morning. A big thanks to the 44 volunteers from Word of God Lutheran Church, Grace Evangelical Church, and Rolling Hills Church who made all this possible!



Partnership with Atlanta Community Food and Donations from Kroger Stores - Thanks to our partnership with the Atlanta Community Food, we have been invited to receive donations from three Kroger Store locations as part of their Perishables Program.

We will be receiving meats, fresh produce and dairy products. Pictured from left to right are Carl Jafar, Retail Sourcing Specialist for the Atlanta Community Food Bank, Rick Wingate, Regional Manager of the Perishables Program for Kroger and John Leake, Director of Business Operations for the Real Life Center.



# July

July 2014 Mobile Food Pantry - It was a perfect weather day for our July Mobile Food Pantry on Thursday, July 17! We were thankful to have two youth groups helping us from Grace Evangelical and Rolling Hills Churches. They were able to help 164 families with over 10,000 lbs of food in under two hours.



Article about Fruit Orchard by PTCPeople.com - We wanted to share this great article about our Fruit Orchard written by PTCPeople.com. Enjoy this read and thank you to PTCPeople.com for your commitment to our local community.

# Harvest for Real Life Fruit Orchard Article

Peaches from Harvest for Real Life Fruit Orchard – 300 lbs of peaches were picked in the orchard one evening last week! This amazing fruit goes to struggling families in our community through the Real Life Center. Thanks to all the wonderful volunteers who helped!



> Funny Hat Photo Shoot at Real Life Stores - Saturday, July 12 -



Thank You Kirby Daras at Meineke Care Care Center of Peachtree City - A big thank you goes out to Kirby Daras at Meineke Car Care Center in Peachtree City for his phenomenal support of the Real Life Center! Your generosity is a blessing to our clients. Go check them out at 2810 Highway 54 in Peachtree City. https://www.facebook.com/Shop1957



> Master Gardeners Bring Corn, Tomatoes, and Cucumbers - We received corn, tomatoes, and cucumbers today thanks to our Master Gardeners.



Thanks to Panasonic for Donation of Backpacks and School Supplies - A big thank you to Panasonic and their employees for donating 138 backpacks and school supplies for local families' back to school needs!





Brett Thomas' and Son's Donation of Fresh Produce - We are so thankful for everyone who shares their abundance of fresh produce this time of year. Brett Thomas and his son stopped by with 185 lbs of produce to donate. It is truly a blessing to be able to provide healthy options to the families we serve.



Legacy Church - July Food Drive - For the fourth year in a row, Legacy Christian Church has devoted the month of July to collecting food for families in need. We are thankful to have them partner with us at Real Life Center and for the generosity of their members.



#### August

Sweet Corn from Little Creek Farm - Shari from Little Creek Farm in Tennessee brought us 31 dozen ears of fresh Peach/Cream Corn. Sweet Corn from a very sweet lady!



JC Booth Middle School BETA Club's Donation of Back to School - Several girls from the JC Booth Middle School BETA Club joined together this week to help provide families with Back to School supplies. The girls were able to fill 18 pencil boxes with a variety of much needed supplies. Thank you girls for your time and donations - it looked like a fun activity!



Hopewell United Methodist Church's "Undies Sunday" Collection -Hopewell United Methodist Church donated over 350 pairs of underwear during their "Undies Sunday" collection. They even took the time to repackage them so they would be ready to distribute through the Clothing Closet at Real Life Center. Pictured are Elaine Pierce and Debi Hamby dropping off the donation on Wednesday.



PTC Seventh Day Adventist Church School Supply Drive - PTC Seventh Day Adventist Church held their third annual School Supply Drive for Real Life Center families. It can be a real hardship for many families to provide necessary school supplies for their kids and they truly appreciate your generosity and support. Thank you to Cathy Wofford, RLC Volunteer, for coordinating this event with her church!



**August's Mobile Food Pantry** - During our Mobile Food Pantry this morning, we served 208 families with 13,018 lbs of food. Some of the items we had were watermelons, cantaloupes, sausage, and frozen hash browns - a great assortment of items that will be a real help to many. In spite of the heat, we had 29 volunteers from three churches who helped bag and distribute all the food. They are very dedicated to serving the local families who are in need. Thanks to everyone who helped!



### September

Panasonic's Awesome Donation - Panasonic donated over \$5,000 worth of school supplies to the Real Life Center to help the families of Fayette and Coweta Counties going through tough times. Panasonic and its employees held a drive, gathered the supplies, and stuffed book bags to share with local families for the school year. With the help of Panasonic and several churches, the Real Life Center assisted 160 families and 371 students with school supplies to start off the new year. Thank you, Panasonic!



Dogwood Church Food Drive - Thanks to Jeanie and Dave Harrer and Dana and Brian Eisfelder for helping with Dogwood's Food Drive on Sunday. We received 93 bags of food and \$475! Thanks to everyone who participated!



> **Shelving is Up and Stocked!** Our new flooring and shelving project is complete and it looks great! We had twelve members from Peachtree City United Methodist Church come help us move the new shelving into the food pantry and daily bread

rooms on Saturday. Then they helped restock the shelves so we would be ready to serve families in Monday morning. We love our new look! Thank you to everyone who helped make this possible!



New Shelving is Assembled! - A big thanks to our Thursday volunteer team who spent the morning assembling our new shelves. We had twenty five shelves, two men, and eight women. Two hours later we were done! Great job team!



St. Paul Lutheran Church's Blessing - Once again the members of St. Paul Lutheran Church came through in a big way with their Fifth Sunday Food Drive! The amount of donations brought a smile to Steve's face when he went to pick it up. Many families will be helped by their generosity. Thank you for your continued support St. Paul Lutheran Church!



Shelves Emptied and Down! - It was great to have volunteers from Word of God Church along with Rob and Linda Wednesday afternoon. They came to help us empty out the food pantry and daily bread rooms in preparation for the new flooring and shelving. Thank you, Word of God Church!



Providence United Methodist Church Helped Sort Clothing! - Five members from Providence United Methodist Church came out this morning to help us sort clothing donations. They sure had a good time and are planning on coming once a month! Thank you, Ladies!



Grace Evangelical Church's Pajama Party! - Heidi Bolton, Children's Coordinator at Grace Evangelical Church, held a Pajama Party for the kids. Their lesson was on respect and not showing favoritism. As part of the event they were asked to bring in donations of new socks and underwear to be distributed through the Real Life Center clothing closet. They collected 174 pairs of socks & 60 pairs of undies. The kids had a fun time and had the opportunity to help others! Thanks, Grace Evangelical Church!



Target Employees Support Community! - Employees from the Peachtree City Target Store will be joining us monthly to help sort donations. Crystal, Dee, and Crystal came this past Monday and were able to sort through a whole pallet of clothing in under two hours- Great Job Ladies! Thank you so much for your time and commitment to serve families in this community! Thank you, Ladies!



➢ IronMen of Dogwood Church Milk Donation - Jack Perry dropped by with a donation of 30 gallons of milk from the IronMen of Dogwood Church.



Donations from Secondhand Smiles Sale - A great big thank you to Chrissy O'Neal for donating all the items left over from her Secondhand Smiles Children's Consignment Sale. We were overwhelmed by the size of this donation – our truck was completely full! Thanks also to all the volunteers from PTC United Methodist Church who came to help load it all. The sale is held twice a year at Providence United Methodist Church.



➤ Word of God Lutheran – Year's Supply of Laundry Detergent - The Word of God Lutheran Church has a loving and generous congregation. They have committed to provide a year's supply of laundry detergent for us to distribute through the food pantry at Real Life Center. Laundry detergent is an often requested item, but one that we struggle to keep stocked. So this is a huge blessing! Thanks to everyone at Word of God Lutheran for showing God's love in this tangible way!



September's Mobile Food Pantry - We had our biggest turn out ever for September's Mobile Food Pantry. We were able to serve 244 families today with 9,651 lbs. of food. A great big thank you to all our volunteers who faithfully serve with this monthly event!



Fayette County Business Expo - Tuesday, Sept 23 - The Real Life Center participated in the Fayette County Chamber of Commerce Business Expo on Tuesday, Sept 23. Thanks to all who joined us! The expo is the largest trade show event in the county and is free to the public. Last year's Expo was a huge success, drawing over 1500 visitors who strolled the aisles, networked at exhibitor booths and enjoyed this great community event. Event Location: New Hope Baptist Church South Campus, 1563 Joel Cowan Parkway (off of GA-85 and 74).



Starrs Mill High School Girls Softball Team - What fun it was to have the Starrs Mill High School Girls Softball team come volunteer with us Monday evening. They are a smart group of girls and hard working too! Thanks to their coach Mark Williamson for coordinating this opportunity for the team.



## October

Providence United Methodist Church - What a fun group from Providence United Methodist Church! These ladies came Friday to help prepare the clothing closet for winter and to sort donations. They sorted through three pallets of clothing in three hours. Great job ladies!



Michelle Schwab from Macaroni Kid - A big thanks to Michelle Schwab from Macaroni Kid and her two daughters for dropping off donations from their second annual food drive! This food drive was held in conjunction with Starlite Family Fun Center last month.



Dogwood Ironmen Donate Milk - It is always great to have Jack Perry stop by the center. He brings fresh milk donated by the Ironmen group at Dogwood Church.



Pioneer Group from St Paul Lutheran Church - The Pioneer group from St. Paul Lutheran Church came for a tour yesterday. They were looking for ways to support RLC.



> Word of God Lutheran Church Supplies Laundry Detergent - We received the next shipment of laundry detergent from the Word of God Lutheran Church on Saturday. They have generously committed to donate a year's supply. Pete picked up three pallets of 75 cases at the Dollar Tree.



Sharon Tiller Brings Fresh Greens - Sharon Tiller delivered over 50 lbs of fresh greens today. They were grown by the Master Gardeners and look delicious!



October Mobile Food Pantry - We had perfect weather for Thursday's Mobile Food Pantry. Volunteers from Grace Evangelical Church, Rolling Hills Church, and Word of God Lutheran Church came out to help distribute 6,043 lbs of food to 200 families in need.



Coats for Kids Drive - Our bins were overflowing with coats! The staff and families at Spring Hill Elementary School gave generously during the "Coats for Kids" coat drive this month. Thanks for helping us help others to stay warm this winter.



Winter Coats - Thanks to our friends from Target, Crystal and Carolyn, for coming to help Valerie get all the winter coats out of storage today.



Spring Hill Elementary Annual Food Drive - Spring Hill Elementary principal, Mr. Randy Hudson, and one of his cute kindergarten classes were on hand for photos when we went to pick up all the donations they collected during their annual food drive. We want to say a great big thanks to all the staff, students, and families of Spring Hill Elementary School for their generosity!



Thanks to Christian Brothers Automotive - We had 45 single moms and widows sign up to take advantage of free oil changes provided by <u>Christian</u> <u>Brothers Automotive in Sharpsburg</u> this past Saturday, October 25. Thanks to Matt Schwab, Owner, for his generosity and for blessing our client families in such a practical way! We are very grateful! Thanks also to <u>Advance Auto Parts</u> for cooking hamburgers and hotdogs for everyone to enjoy! This is an awesome example of a community working together to help those in need.



> Curves' Fall Food Drive



Sandy Creek High School PTSO Food Drive - The PTSO at Sandy Creek High School held a food drive October 22 to support the food pantry at Real Life Center. We want to thank Ms. Millette Howell, PTSO President, for coordinating this food drive.



Peachtree City Elementary School's Pay it Forward Club Food Drive - The Pay It Forward Club at Peachtree City Elementary School held another successful food drive for RLC. The 5th graders stopped in for a photo op in their cute club tshirts! Providing food for our neighbors who are struggling is a great way to "pay it forward"!



Mike Hubbard's Awesome Food Donation - We sure appreciate the wonderful food donation from Mr. Mike Hubbard, General Manager of Computer Parts Warehouse in Peachtree City. He was able to find a great deal on both fresh and non perishable items helping us with some much needed items.



**AMCOR Food Drive -** We want to thank Kathy Hampton for coordinating a food drive at AMCOR and their continued support of Real Life Center.



## November

> TipTop Fitness and Life Center Food Drive



Steve Blevins and Boy Scouts - We always look forward to seeing Steve Blevins and his group of boy scouts each fall. Serving the community is part of the requirements for the scouts to earn their God and Country Merit Badge. We are thankful they choose to serve with us; they were a big help sorting recent food donations.



Peanut and Jelly Donation - We received a very generous donation from an anonymous donor to keep our food pantry stocked with peanut butter and jelly for an entire year!



Tony O'Shaughnessy Shared Sweet Potatoes – Mr. Tony O'Shaughnessy dropped off 112 lbs of sweet potatoes he grew in some extra space at the PTC Community Garden. What a thoughtful gift to grow food to share!



Amy Hundley's Small Group Bags Rice and Beans for Pantry - We sure had fun with Amy Hundley's Southside Church small group and their kids! They spent an hour scooping rice and dry beans into zip lock bags so we can distribute them in our food pantry. It was hard work, but the kids never complained and actually enjoyed it!



Great Night at New Hope Event



Rinnai's Annual Food Drive - This year Rinnai held their annual food drive in conjunction with their Annual Chili Cook Off. Rinnai employees who donated at least 15 items from the current needs list to the food drive were entered into a drawing for a \$50 AMEX gift card. What a fun way to promote a successful food drive! Thanks to everyone for your generous donations! Thanks also to Michelle Haas for coordinating this drive.



Volunteers from Heritage Church Lend a Helping Hand - Thank you to our friends from Heritage Church for lending a helping hand. What a great group of folks!



Grant Awarded From Staples 2 Million & Change - Real Life Center was just awarded \$3,500 from the Staples 2 Million & Change initiative! Thank you, Staples Foundation! Please visit <u>www.staplesfoundation.org</u> for more information about the Foundation's grant recipients, milestones, and news.





T-Shirts for Turkeys at Chick-fil-A Starr's Mill - Thanks to the Joy FM, Chick-fil-A, 1st Franklin Financial, our volunteers, and all the individuals who came out to Chick-fil-A Starr's Mill last night and donated 144 turkeys to help families in need. Real Life Center is grateful!



**T-Shirts for Turkeys at Fayetteville Towne Center -** Thanks to the Joy FM, Chick-fil-A, 1st Franklin Financial, our volunteers, and all the individuals who came out to Chick-fil-A at Fayetteville Towne Center last night and donated 112 turkeys to help families in need. Real Life Center is grateful!



Patty and Ken Schrader Bring Canned Goods - Each Halloween, Patty and Ken Schrader love to decorate the graveyard at the back of their property right off the cart path. Since this draws a large crowd they put out a sign to ask the community to drop off canned goods. This year they collected 950 items!



Cindy and Larry Bradley's Small Group Sort Food - It is always so much fun working with Cindy and Larry Bradley's small group from Southside Church. After volunteering with us for several years they are fast food sorters; they got through three pallets of food in under two hours!



Starr's Mill High School Beta Club Donate 100 Bags of Food - Thanks to the BETA club students at Starrs Mill High School and their sponsor, Ms. Kelly Rock. So far this year they have donated over 100 bags of food!



Sixth Grade Middle School Students Interview Vicki Troyer - Our volunteer coordinator, Vicki Troyer, was interviewed by three middle school students for their school project which promotes volunteerism with the students at their school.



GA Gives Day - The countdown has begun! GA Gives Day is just hours away and is starting tomorrow, Thursday, November 13. We are so excited about the opportunity to celebrate all that is GREAT in our community! Real Life Center is a participating non-profit which will benefit from this wonderful day. Please go to www.gagivesday.org to make a donation. Thank you in advance for all your support.



**Harvest for Real Life Fruit Orchard Success** - Thanks so much to Jeff Meyers and everyone who supported our <u>Harvest for Real Life Fruit Orchard</u>. Volunteers harvested 12,145 lbs this season and we are looking forward to next year.

Here is a summary of the awesome work that was accomplished!

Blackberries: 229 lbs Blueberries: 998 lbs Grapes: 1,360 lbs Figs: 10 lbs Peaches: 4,135 lbs Plums: 23 lbs Apples: 5,366 lbs Persimmons: 24 lbs

#### Great job everyone!



T-Shirts for Turkeys at Kedron Village Chick-fil-A - Thanks to the Joy FM, Chick-fil-A, 1st Franklin Financial, our volunteers, and all the individuals who came out to Kedron Village Chick-fil-A last night and donated 214 turkeys to help families in need. Real Life Center is grateful!



Real Life Center Open House - The Real Life Center recently held an open house to thank our community partners and to show the impact of how working together can change lives and make our community stronger! The Center began as Braelinn Community Services out of Braelinn Church (now Dogwood Church) in 1998 and became known as the Real Life Center just over 10 years ago. Our goal is to provide a safe place for individuals and families to receive help when faced with unexpected hard times; we offer a "hand up rather than a handout".

The Center is a great way to connect a community that desires to make a difference. Today there are over 250 businesses, groups, schools, and churches that support us. In 2013 volunteers served over 18,000 hours at the Center, the Real Life Stores, the Mobile Food Pantry, and the Harvest for Real Life Orchard. We also received over \$800,000 of in-kind donations.

Thank you for your support and being an important part of neighbor helping neighbor.



Southside Church's Gift Through BE RICH Campaign - We are so thankful for Southside Church and their gift through the BE RICH campaign. What a great testimony of the church reaching out and making a difference!



#### Southside Church - Be Rich 2014 Results

Raider Family of Thankgiving Dinners - We are so thankful to the Raider family for donating 6 Thanksgiving Dinners complete with dessert for us to distribute through our food pantry. The Raiders understand how difficult the holidays can be when you are struggling financially. They themselves went through a tough time and received assistance from RLC. Now they are in a position to give back to others!



Aventure Aviation Held Food Drive - The team at Aventure Aviation held a food drive to help local families. Pictured from left to right are Luz Cardenas, Mike Beck, Christian Jackson and Keith Everett. We sure do appreciate their support!



Young Life Food Donation - Thanks to the Young Life group for collecting over 200 items of food for us!



#### December

Southside Chiropractic Donated Food Baskets - We want to thank Erin Nash, Southside Church Care Ministry Coordinator, for dropping off Thanksgiving Food Baskets that were donated by Southside Chiropractic.



Thanksgiving Blessings - Thanks to everyone who helped provide turkeys and Thanksgiving meals to our families this year. We are especially thankful to Championship Martial Arts, Southside Chiropractic, All Saints Anglican Church, and St Andrews in the Pines for providing turkeys, meals, and gift cards, and to the JOY FM, Chick-fil-A, and Franklin Financial for making T-Shirts for Turkeys a wonderful success. More than 600 families were blessed by your generosity.



➢ US Foods' Employees Donate Food - We are so grateful for our partnership with US Foods. In addition to donating their salvaged items each week, they held a food drive as part of their holiday celebrations. We were excited to see all the food that was generously donated by their employees. Thanks so much to everyone!



Beta Club at Starrs Mill High School Food Drive – The Beta Club at Starrs Mill High School just finished a semester long food drive. They collected over 3,400 lbs of food items to help families in this community. Great job!



Helping Hams Fundraiser - Do you have a taste for a Slow Smoked BBQ Whole Ham or Boston Butt? If so, you can enjoy a delicious whole ham for an \$80 donation and a butt for a \$40 donation. They will be available for pick up on Dec 21, 22, 23 and 24. We have two pick up locations: Real Life Center 220 Parkade Ct, Ste A, Peachtree City, GA 30269 and Dogwood Church 975 Georgia 74, Tyrone, GA 30290. If interested, please email rgossett@reallifecenter.org and we will mail you a sign-up form. Deadline is December 11th. Your donation will help families in need in Fayette and Coweta Counties!



Kiewit Holds Annual Putt Fore Pantry Event - Thank you to the team at Kiewit for all the food items that were donated during their annual Putt Fore Pantry event! We are grateful!



Generosity of the 8th Grade Girls from Dogwood Student Ministries - The 8th grade girls from Dogwood Student Ministries went Christmas shopping at Target with their own money to buy gifts for other teens for the RLC.



\$40,000 from Community Foundation - Real Life Center has been awarded \$40,000 by the Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta, an organization which connects people to the issues and organizations making a difference in our region.

The grant is part of the Foundation's Common Good Funds which are available to support an organization's ongoing administrative and infrastructure costs or to maintain existing, effective programs that are offered within the Foundation's 23-county service area. Characteristics of the 2014 Common Good Funds grantees include that they have a clear vision of the organization's role in making a difference in the community, demonstrate effectiveness through the investment of time and personnel in measuring and planning for success, and have written strategic plans that cover two or more years.

The Real Life Center will use the grant to strengthen its operations.



Panasonic Employees Sort Food - Some of our friends at Panasonic came to help us sort food donations. It was great fun working with them, and we appreciate their desire to give back to this community both in donations and service.



Gift from Fayette County Board of Realtors - A special thanks to the Fayette County Board of Realtors and their gift of \$7,800 from Noel November and Fayette Celebrity Dancers Event. The Real Life Center was one of six charities that received a grant as part of these events! From Left to Right: Cathy Berggren, Jeff Warlick, and Cherie Jolley



Toys for Tots Blessing - Thanks to the awesome volunteers from Living Faith Fellowship and Southside Church for helping select toys from the Toys for Tots Warehouse in preparation for distribution to families at Real Life Center on Saturday.



Peachtree City Running Club Brought Food - The Peachtree City Running Club brought food donations one very chilly morning before heading out for their annual holiday run! We are thankful for their support.



Flat Creek Ladies Golf Association Donate Food and Financial Gifts - What a great surprise it was when Kathy Cook brought in food and financial gifts that were donated by the Flat Creek Ladies Golf Association!



La Petite Academy Donated Food - The School Director at La Petite Academy, Mary Marietta, was proud of all her classes for how they generously participated in their annual food drive. She hopes to bring the Kindergarten class out for a tour of Real Life Center soon!



Peachtree City Library Food Drive - We want to thank Janice Dukes for coordinating and everyone who participated in the Peachtree City Library's food drive the month of November. Pictured is Jill Prouty, Library Administrator.



Tip Top Fitness Center in Fayetteville Donates Food - Thanks to Chandra Hart who is the owner and trainer of Tip Top Fitness and Life Center in Fayetteville for holding a food drive on behalf of Real Life Center. We appreciate all the donations from Chandra and her members!



"Santa Run" Provides Food - Each year the Peachtree City Volunteer Fire Dept. Association and the Optimist Club hold their "Santa Run" food drive. Santa catches a ride on a fire engine and goes through several neighborhoods collecting food donations. Thanks to Stoney, Rich, and George from the Optimist Club for boxing up the donations and getting them to us at Real Life Center for distribution to local families.



Rachel Imes with Connection Church Brought Food - We loved seeing Rachel Imes when she stopped by with a donation from Connection Church. Rachel volunteered with us two years ago. She is coordinating community outreach events for this new church and coordinated a last minute food drive for Christmas. Even though it was short notice there was a great response – thank you to everyone at Connection Church!



**ESG Accounting Donated Food -** We are thrilled to have received donations from ESG Accounting who held a food drive during their annual holiday party. Many Thanks!


McIntosh High School HOSA Club Held Food Drive - The McIntosh High School HOSA club held a food drive for us this fall. Thanks to Ms. Brenda Hyak, sponsor, for all her help coordinating.



JC Booth Middle School Student Council Held Food Drive - Thank you to the Student Council at JC Booth Middle School and their sponsor, Georgia Frisch, for holding another successful food drive this year. We appreciate all the families who participated and their support each year.



Kedron Elementary School Donates Food - Many thanks to all the staff and families at Kedron Elementary School for their generous food donations this month. Dr. Julie Turner, School Principal, and Nicole Douglas, School Counselor, did a great job teaching the students about being involved in the community.



The Optimist Club of Peachtree City Continues to be a Blessing - The Optimist Club of Peachtree City continues to be a great support to our community. Each year they provide food and other items to many families. Now that we are at the end of the year their president, Rich Rye, stopped by to give us extra food that they had left over.



Dogwood Small Group Donates Food - Dave and Jeanie Harrer dropped off food donations from their Dogwood Church small group. David and Michelle Wurst host this Sunday morning group. The group decided to give RLC donations as part of their holiday celebrations.



Macaroni Kid and Starlite Family Fun Center Event Donates Food - It was great to see Michelle Schwab and her kids who stopped by with another food donation from a Macaroni Kids and Starlite Family Fun Center event. We appreciate their continued support! Check out <u>Macaroni Kid</u> and join the fun.



The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints Donates Food - A big thanks to Bill and Mike for picking up and delivering a \$1,000 food order from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints storehouse. This generous donation was coordinated by our dear friend, Marilee Gardner, who has continued this annual gift for the past four years. It is a great help to keeping our food pantry stocked during this busy time of year.



Atlanta Air Cargo Association's Blessing - A special thanks to Kevin Madden and the Atlanta Air Cargo Association for their gift of \$1,000 to the Real Life Center at their annual Christmas luncheon. We are honored to be one of their chosen charities!



**Vegetable Garden Coming Soon** - Dogwood Church is pleased to announce that we are dedicating space on our campus to install a vegetable garden for The Real Life Center. We are looking for people interested in serving on this ministry and would also like to find someone that might be interested in leading the team. Below are a few preliminary facts:

- The garden will be 1/8 to 1/4 acre in size and can produce up to 8,000 lbs of fresh vegetables per year.
- All the food grown will be given away through the Real Life Center.
- The Real Life Center has received financial gifts to purchase all the equipment and supplies to install the garden.
- We are forming small team of people that are learning how to operate the tractor and all the implements to transform grass fields into well prepared plant beds with plastic mulch and drip irrigation. The idea is that the tractor team will operate all the heavy equipment and prepare a garden ready to be planted.
- We are looking for experienced gardeners as well as those that want to learn.
- This ministry is family friendly.
- The people on the garden team will learn how to plant, care for and harvest the vegetables, and be mentored by a local Master Gardener.
- This will be a separate ministry to the fruit orchard. However, the garden team will be able to share a lot of the existing equipment managed by the orchard.

For more information contact Jeff Meyers at 404-786-8783 or jmeyers@reallifecenter.org.



Dogwood Ironmen Faithfully Donate Milk - The Dogwood Ironmen group donated another 40 Gallons of fresh milk this month! This is such a huge blessing to the families we serve! Thanks!



Scout Troop 210 Brings Gifts - What a great surprise for Scoutmaster, Ron McCauley, to stop by with a bike and other toys that were donated by his scouts in Troop 210. Their troop meets out of All Saints Anglican Church in Peachtree City and wanted to help local families with Christmas gifts this year.



Sandy Creek High's CTSO Held Food Drive - We are so thankful that the Career Technology Student Organization at Sandy Creek High School continue to hold their annual Halloween Can Food Drive. They were very successful this year bringing in over 400 lbs of food. We want to thank their sponsor, Mr. Jeffrey Dykes, for helping to coordinate the drive.



➤ Thankful for Yankee Candle Boxes - For years now we have used boxes from Yankee Candle in The Avenue to sort food from the food drives. The boxes are the perfect size and we appreciate the managers saving them for us. Pictured are Store Manager, Colleen and Assistant Manager, Pam.



Generosity of Frank Cawood and Associates - Frank Cawood and Associates has a dedicated group of ladies who spend hours creating a beautiful quilt each year to be raffled off at their annual holiday event. They raised over \$800 this year. On top of that they also held a food drive! We are happy to be one of the recipients of their generosity.



December Mobile Food Pantry - Our December Mobile Food Pantry was a very cold morning, but we still had over 30 volunteers to show up to help us distribute over 7,900 lbs of food to 203 families! Thanks to everyone for braving the cold weather! Our next Mobile Food Pantry will be January 22nd.



**Braelinn Elementary Donate Food** - Braelinn Elementary School teacher, Kathy Caldwell, does a great job getting the whole school involved in giving back to the community during the holidays. These hardworking students helped us load up all the food items that were donated.



Crabapple Elementary School Held Food Drive - We enjoy working with our friends at Crabapple Elementary School. Ms. Doe Evans, school principal, and Ms. Stacey Patterson, school counselor, are great supporters of Real Life Center each year. They always hold a wonderful food drive, and this year we also received a ton of coats!



Rising Starr Middle School Beta Club Food Drive - The BETA club at Rising Starr Middles School held a great food drive last month under the supervision of their sponsor, Ms. Laura Benefield. We appreciate their efforts to support us!



Huddleston Elementary Student Council Coordinate Annual Food Drive -Huddleston Elementary School has a wonderful Student Council group who enjoyed coordinating their annual fall food drive. We are thankful to Ms. Paula Nellessen who has taken over as their sponsor this year and look forward to working with them again.



The Joseph Sams School Food Drive - We are so thankful that for the fourth year in a row The Joseph Sams School has held a food drive on our behalf. The food drive is coordinated by teacher Mr. Zach Stutts and he is pictured here with two of his students.



Gritton's Training System Brings Food Donations - We want to thank Jeremy Gritton of Gritton's Training System for encouraging his clients to bring in food donations during a special Thanksgiving workout. It was a great turn out!



Tyrone Family Dentistry Donates Food - We were thrilled to receive help for the first time this year from the Tyrone Family Dentistry office. The staff and patients donated a box full of items to be distributed through our food pantry.



Brownie Troop 15001 Held Coat Drive - We had a really cute Brownie Troop stop by for a tour last week! Troop 15001 held a coat drive for us with family, friends and neighbors all participating. The pile of coats was taller than the girls and included a few bikes and other items as well. Great job everyone!



Carriage Lane Church Thanksgiving Food Drive - We have relied on the support of our friends at Carriage Lane Church for many years now and truly appreciate their partnership in meeting the needs of local families. They hold a Thanksgiving Food Drive each year right before Thanksgiving as a way to live out their thanks for the bounty they have received.



Word of God Lutheran Church Gives 130 Christmas Dinners - Our friends at Word of God Lutheran Church always amaze us with their hearts to give to others. Once again this year, for the fourth year in a row, they blessed us with 130 Christmas Dinners in a bag. It was a real help to many families struggling this holiday season.



Master Gardners Donate Sweet Potatoes - We sure did appreciate help from Tom Wilson, Rich Cocos, and Art Ayers when they delivered several hundred pounds of sweet potatoes that the Master Gardeners had grown. We have had plenty of sweet potatoes for everyone the past few weeks!



Mike Hubbard Donates Food - Mr. Mike Hubbard and his friend Mary came by for a second time with a large donation of food items to help out this holiday season. They brought 50 lb. bags of dried pasta, rice, and beans along with several other items. Many Thanks!



> Flat Rock Middle School Builder's Club Held Annual Food Drive - The Builder's Club at Flat Rock Middle School held their annual food drive this November at the direction

of their sponsor, Ms. Lisa Mason. They always do such a great job collecting the food and helping us load the truck too!



➤ Taylor Burrell and Family Donate 70 Toiletry Kits - We got to meet Taylor Burrell and her family when they stopped by to drop off 70 toiletry kits filled with hair care products, deodorant, soap, and a toothbrush. Taylor asked her parents if she could put together these kits to give out to families in place of receiving Christmas gifts from them. What a heartfelt gift and generous young lady!



Silver Award Girl Scout Project Blessing - Monse Morgan, Hailey Brown, and Johnnah Haskew (not pictured) are three Girl Scouts who have spent over 50 hours combined on their Silver Award Girl Scout Project. They collected gently used toys and books from their neighbors to fill the three bins and one toy box they decorated. These toys and books will help keep children of all ages entertained while their parents are receiving assistance at the Real Life Center.



Southside Church Groups Sort Food - What a huge help it has been to have groups from Southside Church come alongside us to help sort food donations this month. Most recently we got to work with Meredith Butler's group. We hope they enjoyed it as much as we did!



Somerby's Month Long Food Drive - We appreciate Jessica Holt and our neighbors at Somerby of Peachtree City who held a month long food drive for us.



Crossfit PTC and its Members Donate Food - Ric Thompson and Cristi Waller of Crossfit PTC have a great way to encourage their members to participate in their annual food drive. For every pound of food or dollar that is donated the member gets one less rep in that day's workout. They plan an extra hard workout for the day too!



Music Schools International in Peachtree City Donate Food - We were overwhelmed with the successful food drive held by Mr. Brian Simmons at Music Schools International in PTC. They collected 1,070 food items this year!



St Paul Lutheran Church's 5th Sunday Blessing - We continue to be blessed with donations from St. Paul Lutheran Church through their commitment to hold food drives every 5th Sunday. Thanks!



Kids R Kids at Lexington Pass Held Food Drive - The Kids R Kids at Lexington Pass held a food drive along with their Fall Festival this year. We appreciate their desire to teach their students to help others!



Lisa Higgs' Landmark 5th Grade Class Repackaged Bulk Food – What a great job Lisa Higgs' 5th grade Landmark class did when they came to serve. The 20 students and chaperones helped us repackage bulk bags of rice, pasta, and dry beans for distribution. They worked hard but also had fun!



## > Jennifer Bywaters and Businesses Bless Our Single Moms -

Jennifer Bywaters, Mary Kay Consultant, was able to put together 14 gift bags for our single moms. She has a heart for women and feels that God led her into this career field to be able to share the love of Christ with them. We were able to serve 14 moms and pamper them with this gift today.

Thanks to the following businesses who contributed to make this possible:

Abbey Road Gold & Silver Tyrone Tire Co., Inc. Tristar Automotive Always Vaping MSI Termite & Pest Control Spezzano's Over The Bridge Residential Cleaning Service Shamrock Kitchen Circa Antiques



> **Tami Campbell with Atlanta TRACON Donates Items for Clothing Closet -**Tami Campbell with Atlanta TRACON brought donations for our clothing closet from the employees in the Southern Skies District. Many thanks for the families that will be blessed.

