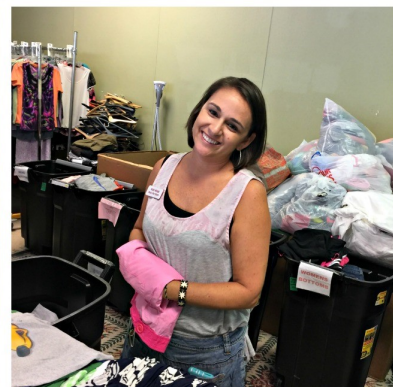


REAL LIFE CENTER

ANNUAL REPORT

2017



~ Providing Necessities for Living While Equipping People for Life ~

Our mission is to walk with those who are hurting in Fayette and Coweta counties in Georgia by providing a safe environment, sharing the love of Christ and promoting long-term change. This mission is accomplished through an innovative process of holistic care. This holistic care includes a strategy of caring for each person physically, emotionally, relationally, financially, mentally and spiritually.

From Executive Director, Cathy Berggren



Dear Friends,

I love to journal. Each new year, I make it a point to start writing in a new book where the pages are fresh and clean. There is something special about starting fresh. It reminds me of the gift of a brand new year and of the hope it brings. I eagerly anticipate what will unfold and look forward to filling the pages for 2018. I believe the New Year offers each of us that gift of hope and of new beginnings.

At the Real Life Center it is *hope* that changes everything!

One of my boys in the military recently shared with me about his experience at survival school. His instructor reminded them of the fact that they can go three weeks without food and three days without water; however, they would only last about three hours without hope.

How true that rings for all of us but more so for our families at the Real Life Center who are discouraged and feel overwhelmingly defeated. It is hard to keep going without hope. The renewed hope they receive from people caring about them, encouraging them, praying for them and meeting their needs in a tangible way is often the true catalyst for change.

One young mom recently shared with me: *"I cannot begin to tell you how it changed my life to come to the Real Life Center. You were my support and my cheerleader in the midst of the tough times, encouraging me along the way."*

It didn't stop there. She also shared that she had come to us after leaving a shelter and that she is back on her feet and newly enrolled in college.

That's what *hope* can do.

I am honored to work with each of you! You have provided hope and so much more to our families in 2017, and I look forward to seeing more beautiful stories unfold in 2018. Thank you for walking this journey with us!

Cathy Berggren

Our Programs

General Assessment
Counseling

Food Pantry

Daily Bread

Fresh Fruits and
Vegetables

Clothing Closet

Educational Classes

Financial Assistance
& Counseling

Career Help

Professional
Counseling and Life
Coaching

Extensive Network
& Referral

Mobile Food Pantry

Senior Programs

Bringing Hope and Change to Struggling Families

Real Hope

Since 1998, the Real Life Center has provided help to families who have fallen on the unexpected hard times of life. When families come to the Center, we provide a safe environment and a first step towards hope for their future while ensuring everyone is treated with value and dignity. Families have access to resources such as financial assistance, food, bread, nutritional produce, clothing and household items to help them overcome their crisis, meet immediate needs and reach stability.

Real Help

We move quickly from a crisis strategy to a developmental strategy by helping our families shift their thinking to where they want to be in a year. We strive to help them achieve self-sustainability and to be a catalyst for long-term change. Underneath their presenting needs, there is often a sense of helplessness about how to move forward. We identify the root cause of the problem and help them create realistic solutions and goals. Our educational classes and life coaching program encourage them to learn new skills, build confidence and feel empowered. Families are invited to participate in our financial counseling and career assistance program, plus they have access to a plethora of community resources. We walk alongside our families for one full year and encourage them to take responsibility for their lives while we remind them of their value and dignity. We care about each person physically, emotionally, spiritually, relationally and financially - a holistic path for lasting impact.

Real Change

The renewal of hope for the future is a true gift to our families. When families start believing that things can change, the Real Life Center is there to support them on their journey. We are a focal place in our community to help our neighbors. It is a safe place for anyone who needs support during rough times, and it is a central place where we can gather to help each other. By harnessing the power of our local community we all have an opportunity to make a difference in the life of a neighbor. We could not accomplish what we do without help from individuals, churches, businesses and civic organizations loyal to our mission. Together we can transform lives and build a stronger community!



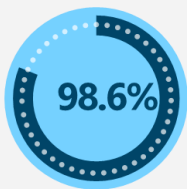
Progress on Strategic Benchmarks

Real Life Center Benchmarks for Success

At the Real Life Center, we measure three benchmarks for success:

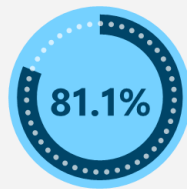
- **Overall stability** of the family in their home after three months of receiving services at the Real Life Center.
- **Level of completion of the client's personal goal** at the end of their first year with the Center.
- **Level of participation in educational classes** by families who received more than 25 services through the Center.

You Helped Us Achieve Growth!



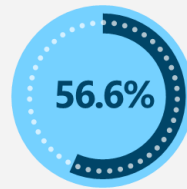
Stability

In 2017, 98.6% of families contacted via phone achieved stability after three months of services with the Center, versus 94.4% of our families in 2016.



Goals:

In 2017, 81.1% of our clients contacted via phone achieved more than 50% of their personal goal, versus 63.9% of our clients in 2016.



Classes:

Of the families who received more than 25 services in 2017, 56.6% took at least one educational class versus 53% in 2016.

New Life Coaching Program

In Q4 of 2017, the Real Life Center launched a new Professional Counseling and Life Coaching Program.

"We are excited to see God use this new program in powerful ways," shares Cathy Berggren, Executive Director. "Our goal is to continually find ways to invest in the lives of those we serve. The short-term solutions counseling and life coaching are designed to encourage, challenge and inspire change. For someone who doesn't have the means to pay out of pocket or have insurance, it will have a great impact!"



Heart Care is Key to our Mission

Meet Karen McLean with Client Care

What does your role as Client Care Manager entail?

Overseeing client care includes responding to families' presenting requests which often directly relates to their stability. Our program addresses not only the initial need but also identifies the causative factors. In doing so, we are able to help our families look beyond their current circumstances with hope, resources and guidance. Our classes offer educational solutions, and our life coaching identifies steps in moving forward. By taking this approach, we help our families set attainable goals, and we follow up on a regular basis to encourage our clients, gauge their progress and to, ultimately, rejoice in their achievements. My role in this process involves initiating and maintaining a good rapport with our families; training and empowering our Assessment Counselors and Front Desk Volunteers; establishing and nurturing strong relationships with service providers, property managers, government personnel and agencies; and, of course, working closely with our great staff and dedicated volunteers.

What impact do you personally see on our families?

From a practical standpoint, the resources we share make a huge difference to our families. The people who come to the Real Life Center need help, and we are blessed with the provisions to help them. But what people receive when they come to the Real Life Center is far more than resources. The greatest impact I see at the Real Life Center is the body of Christ embracing our families. The comment I often hear is that this ministry is different from any other organization that has helped them. And it is! What families experience at the Real Life Center is the love of Christ (1 John 4:7-12). We provide a safe place for people in need to come for assistance and encouragement (1 Thessalonians 5:11). We understand that nobody is immune from hardship (James 1:2). We respect each person and treat others as we would want to be treated (Matthew 7:12). We share our faith, our hope, and our joy, and that can profoundly change lives.

What makes what you do with our families unique?

In addition to hearing what our clients say, I listen to what their hearts are expressing. It takes focus, discernment and time. I pray with them and for them. I seek wisdom before making decisions about how to best help. I share my faith in Jesus and offer the hand of Christian love. If they are believers, then we praise God; if they are not believers, then I praise God for bringing them here. This ministry offers the opportunity to care for people in ways that truly matter. I know of no other nonprofit that invests in people the way the Real Life Center does.



"We work together to release funds to the various agencies, landlords, utility companies, etc. in a timely and accurate manner, all with the intention of protecting our clients from life-disrupting events such as the cut-off of electric service or eviction from rental properties."

John Leake, Director of Business

Cynthia Radically Changes Her Life!



My story of life transformation ...

"We had the privilege of catching up with Cynthia, a single mom of two precious girls," shares Cathy Berggren. "Cynthia radically improved her circumstances by setting three life-changing goals and by committing to doing the work to achieve them. She truly inspired me!"

"A few years ago, I separated from my husband under stressful conditions," explains Cynthia. "I was able to overcome the emotional and hard reality of starting from scratch. Unfortunately, due to lack of support, everything started falling apart quickly, and I was confronted with a home eviction notice," she adds. "I was devastated. I had grown up in a stable environment with my grandparents and wanted to provide the same for my girls. I found myself without resources."

One day, Cynthia blessed the Real Life Center with a visit. *"I had my kids with me, and I remember being so emotional. I cried."* She spent her first appointment with one of our Assessment Counselors who asked questions about her emotional, financial, spiritual and physical state. She felt loved!

I am not defined by my temporary struggles!

What stood out to me that day was the fact that my counselor engaged me in a dialogue about my goals. He was so compassionate. I learned that I am not defined by my temporary struggles, and he gave me hope for change. He encouraged me to think about a small achievable goal first. At the end of our session we worked on my top three long-term goals. Wow, it was a powerful dialogue."

Cynthia's greatest desire was to stand on her own two feet again. *"I proudly took my three goals home," she recalls. "1. Get my own place and reliable transportation; 2. Go back to nursing school; and, 3. Find a new job so I can pay my bills again," she adds. "The Center provided me with many resources and followed my progress for one year."*

I did the hard work ...

The Center also assisted Cynthia with food, clothing and financial assistance. Additionally, she received our Dave Ramsey financial planning tools to help her save and budget for her new life.

"If you are willing to do the work, the results will follow. Two years later, I moved into my own place, went back to nursing school and got a job as a Hospice Aid. Finally, I was able to purchase my own car. It was a true celebration."

Life has been good since then, although not without struggles. Cynthia learned valuable coping skills, and they have served her well over the years. *"If it was not for the Real Life Center, I do not know which direction my life would have taken. I am grateful."*

"Cynthia needed someone to really listen to her, challenge her to think beyond her circumstances, encourage her, love her and provide the support she greatly needed," adds Karen McLean, Real Life Center Client Manager. "Cynthia worked hard and knew she was not alone as she strived to overcome her difficulties."

My children learned, too!

Today, Cynthia's daughters are thriving in school as honor students. *"My girls went through the struggles with me and learned that if you are committed to doing the work, the results will follow. We are all doing well."*

It was an honor to watch Cynthia transform her life and see the impact on her children - our next generation. What a gift!

Harvest for Hope Gala 2017

A Fundraiser to Affect Long-Term Change

Many came out to celebrate with us at our *Harvest for Hope* Gala in September. It was a lively and successful event! With the support of our incredible community, we raised a net profit of \$72,569, an increase of 80% over last year's inaugural gala. Proceeds will be utilized to add professional counseling, life coaching and new educational classes. Part of the proceeds will also go to enhancing and refining operational processes so the Center can serve more families in 2018.

It was a joyous evening! Dr. Dwight "Ike" Reighard, President and CEO of MUST Ministries, gave a powerful keynote address. For the second year in a row, Stephen Walker from Berkshire Hathaway Real Estate gifted his talent as our Emcee for the festivities. He made us laugh and helped us achieve high returns on our auctions.

We want to thank our Diamond Sponsors *Chick-fil-A, Fayette Woman, Insight Real Estate Advisors, Panasonic Automotive, Rinnai, Rolling Hills Baptist Church, the UPS Foundation and TravNow*, and our Platinum Sponsors *Archer Western Construction, Dirt1x and Waller & Associates* for their generosity. Their loyal support has sent a buzz through our staff team and everyone connected with our mission.

We are also grateful for our Gold, Silver and Bronze sponsors, the auction committee, auction donors, honored guests and all who served so faithfully.

SAVE THE DATE!

Harvest for Hope Gala 2018
Thursday, September 20th
Glendalough Manor

"The Real Life Center is an amazing organization. They help hundreds of families every month! Unfortunately, our company does not have the expertise to help people like they do. So our goals locally are simple: find the best organizations who have unique insight and understanding of the social needs of local families and help that organization in any way we can. The Real Life Center provides the best local platform to turn our resources into real results."

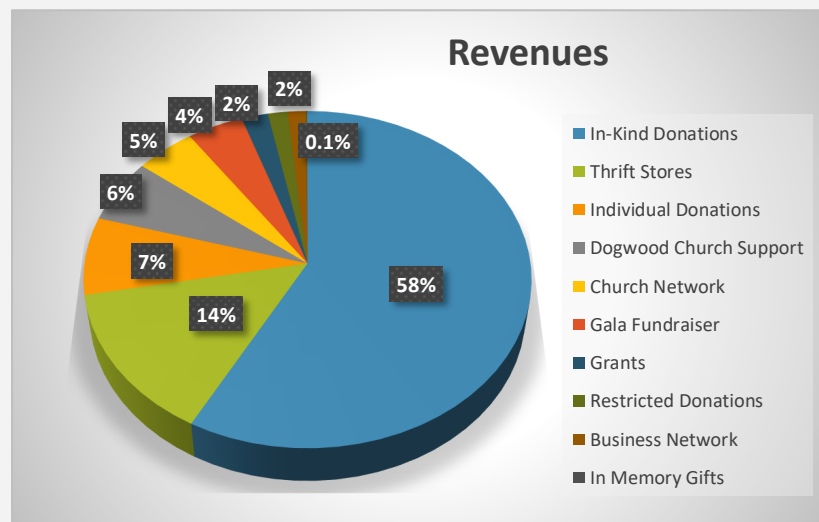
Ron New, President TravNow



Our 2017 Financials

2017 Revenues

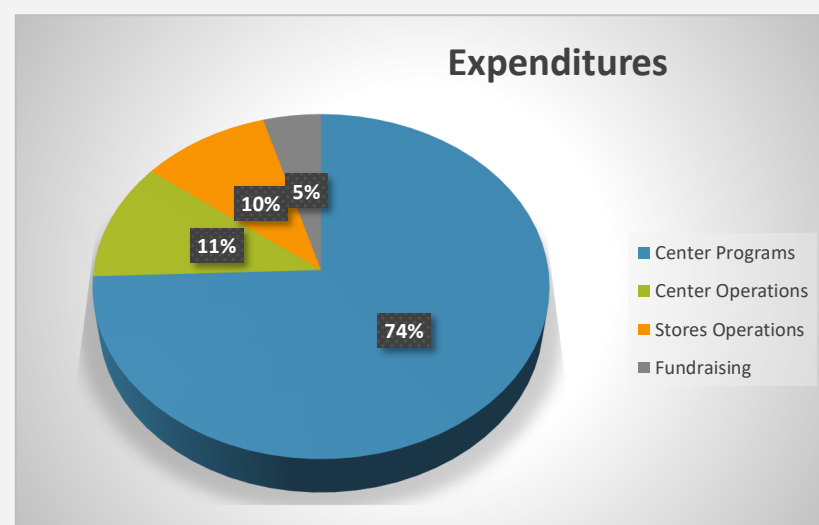
We are exceptionally grateful for the loyalty of our supporters and their commitment to our mission.



Source	Revenues
In-Kind Donations	\$ 1,184,472
Thrift Stores	\$ 288,470
Individual Donations	\$ 152,197
Dogwood Church Support	\$ 125,332
Church Network	\$ 97,074
Gala Fundraiser	\$ 90,595
Grants	\$ 42,830
Restricted Donations	\$ 31,963
Business Network	\$ 29,541
In Memory Gifts	\$ 1,721
Other	\$ 727
Total Revenues	\$ 2,044,922

- ♦ Grant revenue grew 62.8% over 2016 due to strong relationships with a local foundation as well as ongoing efforts to maximize grant approvals from relevant agencies and charitable organizations.
- ♦ Gala Fundraiser revenue increased 57.9% over 2016 due to selling 41 corporate sponsorships.
- ♦ Business Network revenue grew 20.6% over 2016 due to expanded participation by existing businesses.
- ♦ Individual Contributions went up 17.2% over 2016 due to strategic efforts to maintain deep relationships with existing donors as well as initiate first-time donors through marketing and social media.

2017 Expenditures



Source	Expenditures
Center Programs	\$ 1,438,575
Center Operations	\$ 213,984
Stores Operations	\$ 193,927
Fundraising	\$ 86,692
Total Expenditures	\$ 1,933,178

Despite tremendous growth in support from the donor community, we were able to hold the increase in overall expenditures to 0.34% (excluding In-Kind Donations) over 2016.

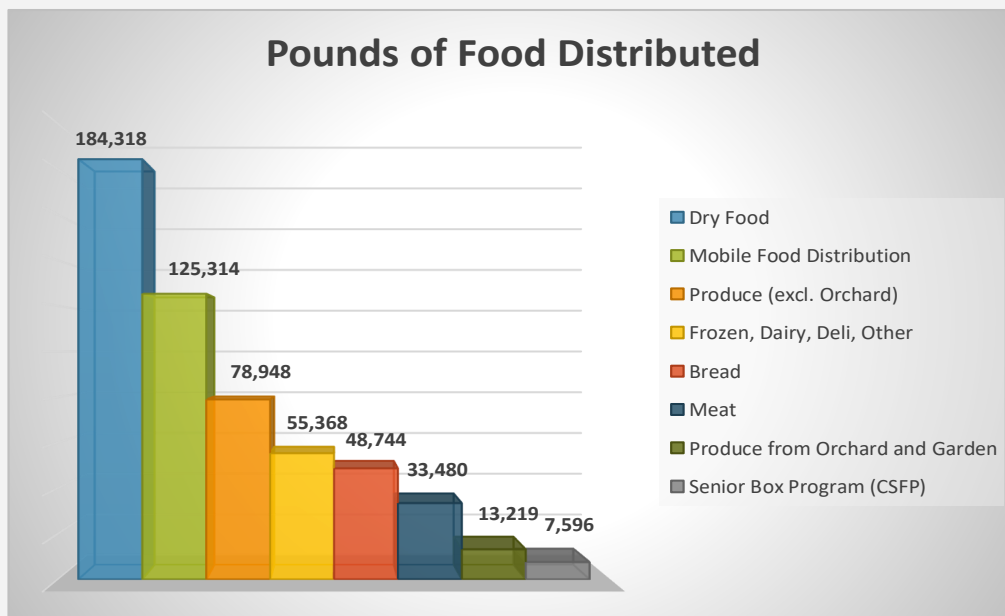
Our 2017 Distributions

2017 Highlights

- ◆ Provided 11,160 services to 3,697 unique individuals.
- ◆ Distributed 533,769 pounds of food:
 - ◇ 13,219 pounds of fresh produce from our Real Life Orchard and Garden.
 - ◇ 78,948 pounds of fresh produce donated by local farmers and grocery stores.
 - ◇ 33,480 pounds of meat.
 - ◇ 48,744 pounds of bread.
 - ◇ 55,368 pounds of frozen food, deli and dairy.
 - ◇ 184,318 pounds of dry food and non food items such as toiletries.
- ◆ Served 125,314 pounds of food through the Mobile Food Pantry.
- ◆ Shared 7,596 pounds of food through the Senior Box Program (CSFP).
- ◆ Handed out 8,538 articles of clothing and 230 warm winter coats.
- ◆ Distributed 515 household items.

Strategic Focus on Nutritional Food Choices

- ◆ The Real Life Center distributed 533,769 pounds of food, an increase of 8.9% over 2016.
- ◆ We delivered 13,219 pounds of produce through our Harvest for Real Life Fruit Orchard and Vegetable Garden, a decrease of 43.9% over 2016. The decrease is attributed to an early season frost of the peach trees and a fire blight strike to the apple trees impacting the harvest significantly.
- ◆ We served 78,948 pounds of fresh produce through local partnerships, an increase of 103.7% over 2016.



2017 Demographics of our Families

Demographics

It only takes one thing to knock us off our feet. No one is immune from going through the unexpected hard times in life. This is true across all socioeconomic levels. This is a breakdown of our demographics:

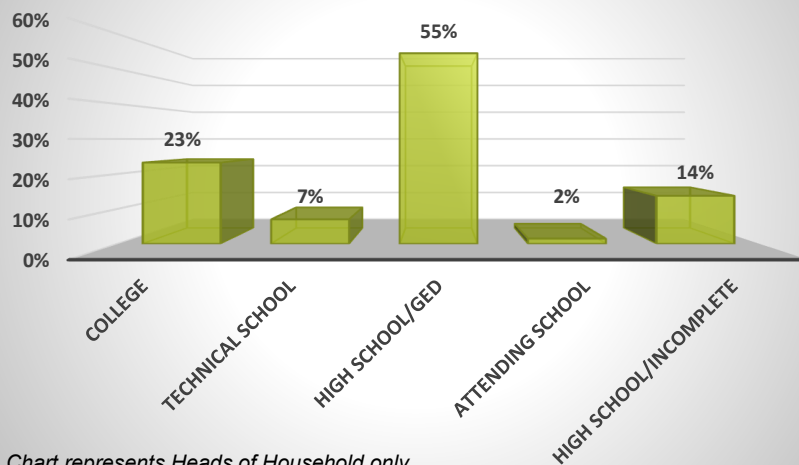
Ethnicity

- ◆ 51% African American
- ◆ 32% Caucasian
- ◆ 5% Hispanic
- ◆ 6% Other
- ◆ 1% Asian
- ◆ 5% Unknown

Gender

- ◆ 57% Female
- ◆ 42% Male
- ◆ 1% Unknown

Level of Education



Special Care for Our Children

According to a research study, *Escaping Poverty: Predictors of Persistently Poor Children's Economic Success*, funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, children who are persistently poor face steep obstacles on their path to economic success. Only 16 percent of persistently poor children are able to get out of poverty by their late 20s. That is a staggering statistic!

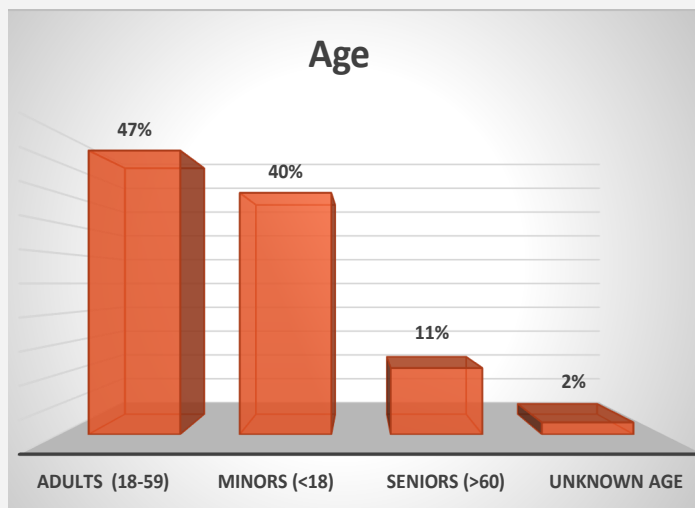
At the Center, we believe that growing up in a stable family is one of the biggest predictors of children getting

out of poverty and being successful at staying out of poverty. Stability forms the backbone of a child's life, and it is critical for that child to thrive.

Minors represent 40% of the population we serve. To focus on them, we run a winter coat program, offer school supplies, distribute much-needed nutritional fruits and vegetables, and we function as a safety net for local schools for children in need.

We also encourage parents to participate in our classes on topics such as healthy parenting, making wise choices and staying hopeful in times of adversity.

Age



Harvest for Real Life Fruit Orchard and Vegetable Garden

Anyone who has ever eaten a fruit picked straight from a tree knows what a treat it is! When we planted our first fruit trees, we asked God for His blessing and guidance in this new venture, and we never envisioned the plans He had in store for us. Today, we are an all-natural fruit orchard and vegetable garden growing a large variety of produce. Since our start in 2013, our client families have enjoyed 68,991 pounds of fresh produce.

When you stroll into our Orchard and Garden you are met with a sense of wonder about the natural beauty which surrounds us. During the season, the landscape is painted with buzzing volunteers learning how to prune and maintain the grounds from a team of Orchard Leaders and Master Gardeners. A visit to our Orchard and Garden is a wonderful family activity during berry season, and we love to see the excitement in the eyes of the kids when they taste a berry right from the bush.

"We are blessed by the fact that we receive the perfect amount of sunlight, nutrients and water. Not only that, we also have the best agricultural and harvesting equipment thanks to the generous donations from our community," explains Kevin Welch, Orchard Team Leader.

2017 was a phenomenal season for blueberries, blackberries, muscadine grapes and vegetables but a challenging one for peaches and apples. Although that did not stop the team from learning and performing some much-needed maintenance along the way.



If You Harbor a Passion for the Outdoors, Join Us!

There's lots to do! You do not need to have any experience to make an impact. Your Team Leaders and local Master Gardeners will teach you what you need to know. Planted in the Orchard are 140 apple trees, 55 peach trees, 300 blueberry bushes, 135 blackberry vines, 35 grape vines and more. Our Vegetable Garden produces tomatoes, watermelons, bell peppers, squash, zucchini, corn, turnip greens, collard greens, cabbage, carrots, radishes and kale.

All produce is distributed seasonally to the families of the Real Life Center. Since fresh fruits are hard to come by on a limited budget, the Orchard and Garden have been a huge gift to our families.

"We feel extremely blessed to be able to share our passion with the community, and we hope that you will come and join us," shares Cathy Berggren, Executive Director.

Our Real Life Stores

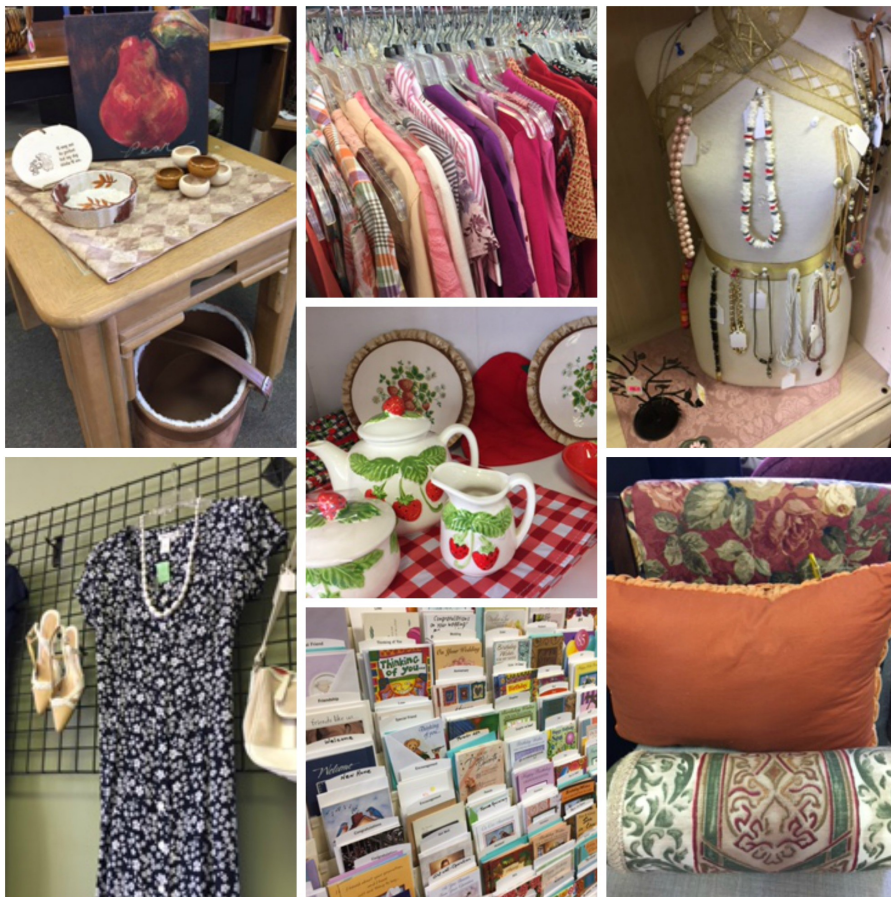
Get Inspired by Thrift Shopping

In a world where fashion and decor are defined by big advertisements, it's fun to be unique. You may not want your home to look like a page out of a catalogue or your personal style to be defined by the looks created in big department stores. At a thrift store, you can choose from treasures donated by caring people in our community, and you can walk out with what you truly love at bargain prices. All of these savings add up which frees your hard-earned dollars for other fun things like traveling, eating out, exploring your local neighborhood or saving for a rainy day.

At our Real Life Stores, we have it all! Racks of stylish clothing, antiques, bedroom furniture, bed linens, art, home decor, you name it! You also become part of a great community. *"The stores are a great place to connect with others and a rewarding place to volunteer,"* shares Dana Eisfelder in IT and Operational Support.

In 2017, our Real Life Stores in Tyrone and Fayetteville contributed \$98,948.25 of net income to the operations of the Real Life Center. Part of their success is attributed to promoting the right products to the right audience at the right time using effective social media strategies and sales events.

"I cannot say enough about the myriad of wonders of the Real Life Store. The staff is kind, knowledgeable and helpful. If you're like me, one visit and you'll want to become a regular customer," according to Diane D.



In February, our Fayetteville store added a branded vintage section, and our Tyrone store redesigned its floor plan to give you a true boutique experience.

We couldn't do what we do without the generosity of our community and our loyal customers.

We're always seeking fun personalities to assist our shoppers with their buying experience and to help with the daily operations of the stores. Or, if you simply want to work behind the scenes, you can help with store displays, tagging clothing or assisting in our warehouse. There's a spot for everyone.

If you haven't done it in a while, we hope this reignites your passion for thrifting and that you will visit our Real Life Stores soon.

Operational Highlights 2017

Our Volunteers Are at the Center of Our Mission

At the Real Life Center, we're blessed to witness people doing extraordinary things daily with unconditional passion. Our volunteers are the backbone of our organization!

In 2017, volunteers served a total of 19,495 hours: 11,073 hours at the Real Life Center; 1,850 hours at the Real Life Store in Tyrone; 2,250 hours at the Real Life Store in Fayetteville; 4,052 hours at the Real Life Orchard and 270 hours at the Harvest for Hope Gala.

What makes our Volunteer Recruitment process unique is that we strive to match a volunteer's talents, gifts or interests with the positions we have available. *"There may be more immediate volunteer needs to fill, but it is always better to put the right person in the right job,"* explains Vicki Troyer, Volunteer Coordinator.

"We look for long-term volunteers, and when they serve in the right spot they are happy and stay."



Roberta Herman: Serving Joyfully!

Roberta came to the Real Life Center almost three years ago with a twinkle in her eye. Because of her beautiful, compassionate and kind disposition she was offered a role in our Clothing Closet.



"I like that the Center offers a hand-up and not just a handout," Roberta explains. *"We teach our client families to find their own way back to stability, and every volunteer is empowered to offer a step in that process. Taking time to love people is important even though you may never know what impact it will have on their future."*

Roberta is a proud grandma to 12 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren, and she stays active going to the gym multiple times per week. Thank you for your service!

Operational Highlights 2017

Real Life Center Launches a New Introductory Program

"To meet the rising demands of struggling families in our community, we kicked off a new Introductory Program in July," explains Cathy Berggren, Executive Director. *"It is designed to provide quick access into a subset of our current programs and is uniquely different from our Full Program because it does not require an appointment with an Assessment Counselor to enroll."* Families can visit during open hours and have access to bread, fresh produce, educational classes, financial counseling, senior programs, mobile food pantry, network referral, career assistance and other seasonal programs at Christmas, Thanksgiving and Back to School. If you are interested in our Introductory Program, we would love to talk to you!

Donor Highlights 2017

- ◆ To help meet the growing needs of our food pantry, our partners (schools, businesses, churches) held 124 food drives throughout the year; 44.35% were held in November and December.
- ◆ We warmly thank Walmart, Kroger, Target, Publix, Aldi, Sprouts and US Foods for their longtime loyalty.
- ◆ Our Strategic Partner, Dogwood Church, was generous by investing deeply in our mission through funds, serving and by providing strategic direction through the Real Life Center Board of Directors.
- ◆ In a partnership with the JoyFM, Chick-fil-A and 1st Franklin Financial Corporation, we received 624 turkeys for distribution to our families.
- ◆ Championship Martial Arts donated 125 Thanksgiving Baskets, and St. Andrews in the Pines provided 15 more.
- ◆ Toys for Tots distributed Christmas toys to over 215 children.
- ◆ Southside Church blessed us through their annual *Be Rich* Campaign with funds and volunteer groups serving at Christmas.
- ◆ Panasonic Automotive gave 75 backpacks filled with school supplies.
- ◆ Palmer's Restaurant treated 83 family members to a delicious meal.
- ◆ Christian Brothers Automotive provided 12 free oil changes.
- ◆ Elite Comfort Solutions donated 192 quality mattresses.
- ◆ We appreciate Grace Evangelical Church for hosting the monthly Fayette County Mobile Food Pantry for the entire 2017 year.
- ◆ We have received wonderful support from many in our community through grants, monetary gifts and by serving. Thank you!

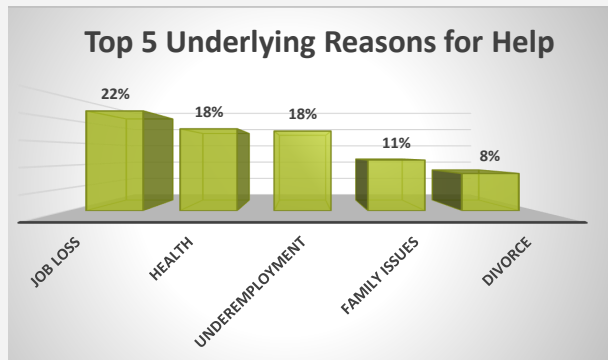
"Giving back to our local community in the form of funding, product donations and our employees' time and expertise is a priority for our company and certainly something we view as our responsibility. It's easy to see this alignment in our corporate mission to create 'A Better Life, A Better World' in all that we do."

Brian Ullom, Program
Management, Panasonic
Automotive Systems

"We could not provide the volume of food and clothing to our families without the loyal support of our donors," explains Kristen Phillips, Food Drive Coordinator. *"We look forward to our partnership in 2018."*

Operational Highlights 2017

Underlying Reasons for Assistance Lead to New Classes



What's priceless is giving someone the *gift of true life change*. Each year we strive to sow intentionally into the futures of our families which led us to add 34 new class titles to our Educational Program.

We determined class content based on reasons why new families chose the Center such as job loss, health issues, underemployment, divorce, family issues and from requests on class surveys. To support our mission, we invested in hiring an Educational Class Coordinator, Melanie Rosebrock. Her 2018 vision is to continue to offer our families an opportunity to deepen awareness of topics relevant to their lives and to enjoy group interaction and encouragement. *"This year we plan to introduce an ongoing series within the theme of 'Overcomers' as well as new offerings by request,"* shares Melanie.

Our Warehouse Keeps Up with High Demand

The primary mission of the warehouse is to facilitate the flow of goods from donor to client family as quickly and efficiently as possible, whether it's food, clothing or household goods. *"Not only do we want to be good stewards of the donations that God provides, our families don't benefit if those donations stay in the warehouse,"* explains Pete Trebottle, Operations Coordinator. *"If at any stage the process bogs down, the system fails, and families are impacted."* This is especially true in regard to food. Last year we processed over 415,000 pounds of food. *"Of that amount, approximately 60% were perishable items such as produce, dairy, deli and dry goods with a very limited shelf life. So it is imperative that we process and distribute it to the families who need it as quickly as possible,"* Pete adds. *"We can't do this without organizational and standard procedures. The organizational piece consists of 'a place for everything and everything in its place,' and an inventory system to help us keep track of where everything is, how much we have and the remaining shelf life."* To ensure this, Pete developed and implemented written procedures for every stage of the process to instruct volunteers on their roles and responsibilities. *"This piece is critical in an organization like ours that is staffed primarily by volunteers and not the same volunteers every day."*

"As a company I like to know that the monies we are investing are truly making it to those in need. After much research, I was very impressed by the Real Life Center's mission and how they really make the rubber meet the road in terms of dollars to mission management. They make sure that families walk away with a marketable skill that gets them back on their feet."

Bart Stewart, Principal at Griffith Engineering.





Strategic Priorities

Our 2018 Strategy

- ◆ Invest deeper in our families to affect long-term change through current and future programs.
- ◆ Finalize the relocation plan for the Real Life Center and begin implementation.
- ◆ Maintain current donors and develop new donors while developing and launching solid branding and communication to all stakeholders.
- ◆ Conduct an in-depth evaluation of current programs and facilities and make recommendations for what is needed to meet the future needs of the community and the growth of the organization.

As the number and scope of the various ministries have expanded in 2017 and as we develop strategic plans to further expand in 2018, it is vital that we continue to upgrade our business and financial systems to accommodate our growth. *"We are committed to excellence in every aspect of our organization, including our accounting systems and financial reporting,"* explains John Leake, Director of Business. *"We seek to be wise stewards of the resources that are invested in the Real Life Center, and we endeavor to earn and retain the trust of every donor and volunteer. Likewise, it is critical that we meet the many regulatory requirements placed on non-profit organizations by applicable local, state, and federal entities. It is an honor to lead our team's accomplishment of these objectives."*

Thank you to our 2017 Board of Directors

Board Chair: Jay Vineyard, Associate Pastor, Dogwood Church.

Board Members: Ken Brackett, MD-88/90 Captain, Delta Air Lines; Missy Bryan, Executive Administrator, Chick-fil-A; Chris Clark, President & CEO, Georgia Chamber of Commerce; Troy Slezak, Branch Manager, FAA; Clay Van Meter, Agency Owner, State Farm; Vicki Lewis, Attorney, US Department of Education.

Real Life Center Peachtree City

220 Parkade Ct, Suite A
rlc@reallifecenter.org
FB: RealLifeCenter
Phone 770.631.9334

Real Life Store Fayetteville

400 N. Glynn St.
FB: RealLifeStore
FayettevilleLocation
Phone 770.719.0880

Real Life Store Tyrone

992 Senoia Rd.
FB: RealLifeStore
Phone 770.632.3590

*Real Life Center is a mission
of Dogwood Church
in Tyrone, GA*