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Cindy Keith
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CHRISTIAN CARE MINISTRIES
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December '07 NEWSLETTER

Christian Care Ministries is concluding its sixth year of service to people in our community. We are very thankful for the privilege to represent our Lord to those who come to us for assistance. During this brief period of service, we have seen so many evidences that we are to continue our work. The support of servants who come faithfully to help, and the individuals, churches, businesses, and organizations that are committed to supporting us have been the provisions needed to help others. We consider ourselves an extension of the church and community that wants to express an attitude of compassion and service. There are many who come to us who have recognized this attitude.

The year 2007 may be known in the future as the Drought of '07. The lack of rainfall has severely affected many people in our part of the country. It will take many years to overcome what we have lost in rainfall. In a similar way, we are experiencing a shortage of food. The East Alabama Food Bank continues to be our main supplier of food products, and they have been extremely short of food. We distributed our smallest food box this Thanksgiving since our beginning. If this continues, we will have to look to other suppliers, which will probably increase the cost of a food box. We will keep you informed of our needs as we see what develops. In season, and out of season, we must be faithful to demonstrate the compassion of Christ in all we do.

We are thankful for the faithful service of these who are rotating off the board: Homer Shemwell, Patricia Duffy, Banks Herndon. We welcome these new members: Ken and Judy Allen.

A special recognition goes to Ian Aycok and Boy Scout Troop #218. Ian's Eagle Scout project was the construction of benches, shelving, and a drop box for us. We are very grateful to these young men for investing their time, talent, and treasure in our ministry.

Whether you are giving time, talent, or treasure, we are very grateful for the part you are playing in our service to others in the name of our Lord.

CCM Board of Directors

Food Distribution Ministry

When I locked the overhead door and was walking out of the back room at 1000 Samford Court, our September food distribution had just been completed. I was leaving a room that was desperately lacking of food. The shelves were mostly bare and the few that still had stock had very little. In September, 315 families were served, the largest monthly food distribution in 2007. We have experienced a year that has seen the need for our pantry services steadily increase. Distribution of food this year has already surpassed 68,000 pounds.

Christian Care Ministries has been distributing food to the needy in the Lee County area for several years. Each year brings its own challenges and this year is no exception. With overall high prices, some major employers closing their doors, and an overall increase in the population of the area, the need for our food pantry services continues to increase. Loyal volunteers continue to donate their time and services to help with the purchase, stocking and distribution of the food items and without them CCM would be hard pressed to continue

its operations. But one truth is very much in the forefront of our ministry. We fully depend upon the generosity of those churches, businesses and individuals who so loyally have supported our ministry and allowed it to succeed. Without their generosity and the Christian spirit of giving, there would be many more hungry families in our area. Thank you so much for your continued support.

Roger Johnson
Coordinator, Food Distribution

Soup Kitchen Ministry

Many of you know, but many do not, that there is a Soup Kitchen in Opelika. In addition to serving a meal **every Thursday** to walk-ins and shut-ins, we hosted a Vacation Bible school through the summer. We have served approximately 5900 meals so far this year consisting of a meat, 2 vegetables, green salad, bread, dessert and a drink. Many in-kind donations of food and supplies have been provided by many of our friends.

Unfortunately we are very low on funds and have been unsure if we will have enough to prepare meals through the end of this year. We recently sold the Soup Kitchen van and used the income to fund meals.

If you have supported the Soup Kitchen in the past, we thank you and ask if you would consider another donation. If you have never supported this ministry, we invite you to join us in feeding the hungry of this area.

At our annual Thanksgiving dinner, we served over 250 people. This included those on duty at the fire department, police department, and mental health. We also sent meals to His Place. A group from Trinity United Methodist Church was a tremendous help.

Cindy Keith
Coordinator, Soup Kitchen

Clothes Distribution

We are continually receiving donations of clothes. Thanks to the work of Ian Aycock and Boy Scout Troop #218, we have a drop box at the distribution center, 1000 Samford Drive. We are grateful for those who are giving quality clothing to be shared with others. Currently, volunteers are sorting clothes and displaying them for selection.

Report on Distribution of Contributions

Christian Care Ministries has had another wonderful year. The Lord has blessed our small efforts amazingly. We have, through your generosity, provided many greatly needed boxes of groceries and many sorely appreciated meals to our friends and neighbors in need. Thank you for all you have done. Currently, we have to tell you that the cupboards are bare and the need is great.

Contributions for the year have been used as wisely as possible but we have had to be very frugal and creative to meet the needs. Our income and expenses through September are:

Income	
Carryover from 2006	2,900
Individuals	2,000
Churches	4,000
Organization, businesses	5,600
EFSP Grant	<u>2,100</u>
	16,600
Expenses	
Postage, supplies	245
Insurance (van)	409
Food Distribution (Food Expense)	10,164
Soup Kitchen (Food Expense)	6,758
Rent (Opelika Housing Authority)	12
Liability Insurance	<u>770</u>
	18,358

We spend over ninety percent (90%) of contributions for food to give to those who depend on us. We try to hold expenses down, but costs, even at the Food Bank, keep going up. We asked for more donations last year at this time, and last year, Opelika and Auburn responded. We received more than enough support to make it through the holiday season.

Again, this year, our needs are much the same, even more with more needing help. If you know someone who might be willing to help, show them this mailer and tell them about Christian Care Ministries. Christian Care Ministries is a very small organization, just a few really dedicated people who help out when they can. It's not a government agency. If we run out of money, we stop. If no volunteers come, we stop. If we stop, our neighbors in need will have less to eat.

Bob Goodman
Treasurer

We would like to give thanks to the following churches, organizations, and businesses in supporting our work. We apologize for any omissions.

Alabama Office Supply
Auburn Home Builders
Auburn University Advisor's Caucus
Bubba's Medicine Shop
Chuck's BBQ
Church at Opelika
East Alabama Food Bank
First Baptist Church of Opelika Preschool Dept.
First United Methodist Church
Flowers Bakery
Girl Scout Troup
Good Sam Triskaidek Chapter
Ian Aycock and Boy Scout Troop #218
Joe Dean Agency
Lee County Interdenominational Ministers Alliance
Lee County Methodist Circuit
Life Savers Ministries
Opelika Housing Authority
Opelika Rotary
Pepperell United Methodist Church
Saint Mary's Catholic Church Lazarus Ministries
Trinity Presbyterian Church
Trinity United Methodist Church
Trinity United Methodist Church – Good News SS Class
Saint Francis Hospital
Union Grove Baptist Church
Winston Smith T Building Supply
Wright's Food Market



What is Christian Care Ministries

Christian Care Ministries is an ecumenical ministry presenting Jesus Christ to individuals and families in Lee County by providing food, clothing, transportation and other life necessities in a compassionate and caring fashion. CCM is a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization, staffed by volunteers who have a passion to improve the living conditions of people in need. CCM works in partnership with churches, para-church ministries civic groups, and other organizations to provide hope and help those in need in Lee County. We are called by Christ to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, visit those in prison. The first century church understood this mandate quite literally. The writer of the letter of 1 John 3:17-18 states: "If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue, but with actions and in truth. We also believe that Jesus' words are to be taken literally, and that he requires us to reach out to those in need.

How You Can Help

Christian Care Ministries calls on fellow believers in Jesus Christ to join with us in this ministry of compassion. CCM is in need of your participation in four very major ways:

- **Prayer Support:** This is a faith-based program; that means far more than merely being a "religious" or "church-related" ministry. We are dependent on the resources of our Heavenly Father as we endeavor to participate with Him in meeting the needs of people in our community.
- **Volunteer Support:** CCM needs volunteers to help prepare and serve the food each week at the Soup Kitchen, to help screen cars, to participate in fund raising activities, to serve as a contact person in your church or organization, and to assist with clerical duties.
- **Financial Support:** We are in need of your generous financial support to supply food for the Soup Kitchen and stock the Food Pantry, to make donated vehicles ready to use and to help maintain those vehicles once in the hands of participants, etc.
- **In-Kind Items:** Donations of food, clothing, vehicles for the Transportation ministry, and other ministry related items are welcomed. Write to CCM at the post office box, email CCM below, or contact any member of the CCM board if you have any items to donate

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