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CHRISTIAN CARE MINISTRIES
1000 Samford Court
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Opelika, AL 36803-0862

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December '08 NEWSLETTER

We are concluding our seventh year of ministry to the needy in the Lee County area. We have witnessed first hand our Father's provisions for us, in spite of short supply. The articles below will give you more information on each ministry. Please take the time to read each one.

During the year, we have been invited to speak at several church meetings. We would like to come to your church fellowship and tell you what we are doing and how you can participate. We have been invited by Providence Baptist, First United Methodist of Opelika, Trinity United Methodist, Hopewell Methodist, and Thompson Chapel A.M.E. Zion. If you are interested in having us come, call Tom Tippet at 705-0505, and we will arrange a time at your convenience.

Thank you for all the support in time, talents, and treasure.

CCM Board of Directors

Clothes Distribution Ministry

The Clothes Closet is continuing to distribute clothing and shoes to men, women and children in the community. We were recently blessed to be able to provide for a family through Providence Baptist Church. Outfits were given to clothe three small boys who had joined the family on an emergent basis.

The Clothes Closet swapped rooms with the Soup Kitchen this fall. We are now in the process of organizing this somewhat smaller space so the clothing will be visible and accessible. Several bulky shelving units were removed to open up some space. We plan to add some hanging space in the new room. There is a great need for tall, narrow storage to hold small items or shoes, either free-standing shelving or a rack that attaches to the wall.

Many, many thanks to all who have contributed their useable clothing. We are totally dependent on your kindness to stock the Clothes Closet. Currently, we have a great need for men's clothes, women's clothes in larger sizes, as well as cooler-weather jackets and sweaters for women, men and children. Also, skirt hangers (the kind with clips so skirts and pants won't fall off) would be very helpful.

Last on the list, but first in significance, we continue to solicit your prayers as we attempt to meet the needs of some of God's children through this ministry.

Erin Minor, Pat Humphries
Clothes Closet Coordinators

Food Distribution Ministry

During the month of October, as I walked through the food pantry at 1000 Samford Court, our shelves were alarmingly bare. This was even after a record setting food purchase during the month. Every year brings its own set of challenges, but this year will bring unusually difficult challenges to our Ministry that we are sure to struggle unless there is additional help from volunteers and a greater donation supply.

As the community we serve continues to grow, and with it the demand for our food pantry, we are already struggling to meet the needs of our neighbors. Added to the difficulty meeting the needs of our growing population, there is the unstable state of our economy. We are experiencing an economy in great distress. As a result, many in our community are finding themselves without work and hence, will be unable to feed their families. We anticipate that many more than already count on our service will seek our help in the near future, especially as the holiday season approaches.

Christian Care Ministries has been distributing food to the needy in the Lee County area for several years. Our loyal volunteers donate their time and services to help us with the purchase, stocking and distribution of food. We are thankful for their faithful service. Without them Christian Care Ministries would be hard pressed to stay in operation. Christian Care Ministries fully depends upon the generosity of the churches, businesses and individuals that have loyally supported our ministry. Without their service we would not be able to succeed in feeding the hungry in our area.

Cherry Butler Pennyamon
Coordinator, Food Distribution

Soup Kitchen Ministry

God has blessed this ministry so much in 2008. We received Emergency Food and Shelter Program money of \$4000, the largest allocation we have ever received. He also provided additional funds which allowed us to purchase a much needed six-eye gas stove and a convection oven. But He did not stop there. The need for consistent volunteers was a great need, so Red and Joyce Milliron started a program to get different churches in the area to take one Thursday a month and come help prepare and serve the meal. It is working marvelously! I would like to thank these church fellowships:

First United Methodist of Opelika (first Thursday)

Greater Peace Baptist (second Thursday)

Church at Opelika (third Thursday)

Lee County Methodist Circuit (fourth Thursday)

The fifth Thursdays during the year are still open. We would love for a church to step up and take this responsibility, which is only five times during the year.

Our Thanksgiving Feast will be on Tuesday, November 25th at 5:00 p.m. We expect to feed around 300 people. Shane Pope's Taekwondo will be assisting us with food and volunteers. We are thankful to him and his generous family.

Finally, I would like for you to know that we are in dire need of a commercial hood vent. The standard vent that we are currently using is not adequate ventilation for our new stove. Please join us in praying that our Father will provide a way for us to acquire this item.

Come and visit with us. See what we are all about. Please feel welcome to come any Thursday and eat with us. We have a wonderful time in the Lord. We serve from 11:00 a.m. until noon. For His glory,

Cindy Keith
Soup Kitchen Coordinator

Fall Financial Report, October, 2008

While Christian Care Ministries has had another wonderful year in 2008, we have had to cut expenses and make do with less. Contributions for the past year have been significantly lower than in the past, and we have had to make a large and unexpected capital outlay for the Soup Kitchen. Providentially, we were blessed with contributions sufficient for our needs, although barely so. We spent slightly more than we received in donations and grants. It has amazed me this year that whenever our needs were greatest and our resources most depleted, how some unexpected grant or contribution has let us keep our noses just above the water. If I had to pick a central theme for the Christian Care Ministries for 2008, that would be it “just above the water.” It seems to be happening again for our Thanksgiving distribution, thanks to one amazingly generous gift.

We have again, through your generosity, provided many greatly needed boxes of groceries, many sorely appreciated meals to our friends and neighbors in need. Thank you for all you have done. Through the month of October, we have received approximately \$8,800 in donations, a \$4,000 grant, and a one-time transfer from our transportation ministry of \$4,300. We spent \$9,960 for food, \$4,000 on new equipment for the soup kitchen, and \$600 for office supplies, printing, insurance and all the little things we have to have to keep Christian Care going. We have been nearly out of money several times this year, but thankfully, we are still in operation.

Christian Care Ministries is a very small organization. It consists of a few really dedicated people and some others like me who help out when they can. It's not a government agency. If we run out of money, we will have to stop. If no volunteers come, we will have to stop. If no one cares, we will have to stop. If we stop, our neighbors in need will have less food to eat. We can all make Opelika a better place by being generous this Christmas season. Thank you for this opportunity to serve.

Bob Goodman
Treasurer

Institutional and Other Contributors:

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

Boy Scout Troop 218 Chuck's Bar-B-Que Church at Opelika First United Methodist Flowers Bakery Girl Scout Troop 7238 Golden Flake Greater Peace Baptist Joe Dean Agency Lazarus Ministries - St. Mary's Lee County Interdenominational Ministers Alliance Lee County Methodist Circuit	Life Savers Mission Thrift Store Mt. Travis Baptist Church Opelika Housing Authority Providence Baptist Church St. Francis Hospital, Columbus Shemwell family Thompson Chapel A.M. E. Zion Trinity Presbyterian Trinity United Methodist Union Grove Baptist VanNostrand Cabinets Wright's Food Market
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What is Christian Care Ministries

Christian Care Ministries is an organization dedicated to the purpose of sharing the love of Jesus Christ through a ministry of compassion to those in need in the areas of food, clothing, and transportation. We believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and is the only source of our salvation. We believe that the nature of, and the reasons for, His life and ministry are revealed in the Bible. We believe that He has called us to be co-laborers with Him in His work.

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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