



Letter Carriers' Food Drive Delivers Again

The Letter Carriers' Food Drive once again delivered critical food stuffs to the Samaritan Center. The national food drive organized by the National Association of Letter Carriers has been a major source of food for the Samaritan Center for several years. The Letter Carriers' Food Drive is far and away the most important food drive for the Samaritan Center. It accounts for almost half of the food brought in by food drives annually. The food raised by this drive will help sustain the Samaritan Center food pantry for several months. If it were not for the collection of donated food, the Samaritan Center would have to purchase it which would greatly hinder the ability to offer other services.

Under the guidance of Jerry Cremer, the letter carriers and other volunteers collected an excess of 30,000 pounds from Jefferson City and surrounding communities. Jerry is retired from the post office but still devotes his personal time and energy above and beyond the call of duty to make the food drive a success. Praise of his efforts cannot be overstated.

A hearty group of volunteers weathered the unusually warm day on May 8, unloading several overflowing trucks, and the sorting of over 15 tons of assorted food items. Volunteer, Dick Young (pictured below) came through tremendously in



Volunteers assist in the sorting of food during this year's Letter Carriers' Food Drive

relief of Richard Clarkston who had been placed on injured reserve for the event. Dick assumed the role of pantry director. He prepped the warehouse the day before the onslaught and kept things organized as the food came in.

Dr. Pepper-7up and Coca-Cola

supplied beverages to help keep the busy hands hydrated, while volunteers prepared bratwursts, hot dogs, and homemade cookies to feed the workers.

The persons, groups, and companies that deserve thanks for contributing to the food drive are numerous. All of them are vital cogs in making the food drive a success.

It is through the generosity of Mid-Missouri that the Samaritan Center is able to function so well as a homegrown charity.

Donations made locally allow the Samaritan Center to help those in need right here in our own community where new needs arise every day.



Tax Credit Program Update

Following its second tax season in existence, the Samaritan Center Tax Credit Program is showing remarkable numbers. Thirteen applicants received Earned Income Credits, a total of \$13,952.00 was refunded for an average of \$1073.00 per applicant. For the property tax credit twenty-three applicants combined for \$16,519.00 and the Child Credit netted \$1,552.00 for two applicants. Eight applicants received refunds for a total of \$4,168.00. These numbers will grow as more people are able to file amended returns. The Tax Credit Program helps clients to help themselves. Anyone applying for financial assistance at the Samaritan Center must first show proof of having filed taxes elsewhere or apply through the program. The staff of volunteers who prepare tax returns have encountered many hurdles such as language barriers, not filed or incorrectly filed taxes from the past, and obscure tax laws not normally used. Have you ever heard of an Injured Spouse form? Our tax preparers have now!

In conjunction with the Tax Credit Program, limited financial counseling is being offered. Volunteers

help clients to learn to manage money, pay bills, and keep a balanced checkbook. These daily skills are not a universal talent and must be taught to some in order to help them improve their life. Special thanks to all the volunteers in this program. As the program continues to grow so to does their workload. Persons with skills in this field and time available to donate are encouraged to contact the Samaritan Center. Tax returns are filed year round so there is always a need for help, not just in the month of April.

Deeply Missed our Faithful Volunteers

*Darren Todd Maxey,
Son of Myron & Carolyn Maxey*

*Marcia Schmitz Schweiss,
Wife of Michael Schweiss
Mother of Jennifer & Alexander Schweiss
Daughter of Alfred & Irma Schmitz*

Marylyn's Message

We are always amazed at the myriads of blessings that come to the Samaritan Center. During the last two months we have had three large food drives sponsored by the Boys Scouts, Department of Revenue and our latest and largest by the Local Association of Letter Carriers.

Combined weight of these three events was over 50,000 pounds of food that our community and surrounding areas donated to those in need.

At the Letter Carriers drive we were unpacking the donated food and found several cans of USDA commodities that were donated by the families who come to us for their own food. It reminds us of the Widow's mite. She gave from her need as these folks also have done. We had a darling little girl jumping up and down because she received the box of Cheerios that someone donated that had Shrek 2 on the box. I visited with another three year old who came with her mom. She had lavender fuzzy slippers with lambs on the toes on her feet. We told her that maybe she would like to trade them for my shoes and we could wear them for awhile. She smiled and said, "No thank you but I would like some purple stuff to go with my nutter butter." We said you mean grape jelly? She said, "Yeah the purple stuff." So thanks to that donor of purple stuff that makes great PBJ's.

We want to thank Jerry Cremer who is the organizer of the Postal Food Drive for his many hours of preparation that makes the day such a huge success. The Letter Carriers do the work but Jerry is the man behind the scenes making sure everything is in place for success. We thank too all of our volunteers that worked so hard picking up the food from the routes, sorting, weighing, and shelving the food that day.

The Holy Spirit continues to whisper in all your ears and you so generously answer His call to service. Thanks to everyone our pantry will have enough food to see us through the summer months. The kids are home and the families need extra food and you all have made this possible. None of our kids should be hungry if their family comes and seeks our aid. God love all of you for your gifts of time, talent and treasure!

Dinner Auction on Track

The second annual Samaritan Center Dinner Auction is rapidly approaching. The date this year is set for Thursday, July 22 and the event will once again take place in St. Joseph's Cathedral undercroft. Themed as *An Evening in the Garden of Giving* the evening will once more be a casual dress event.

Ideas for auction items are still being accepted. If you have an item or wish to contribute please contact the Samaritan Center staff.

Red taper candles are needed for the decorations. Used candles are fine. These can be dropped at the Samaritan Center during normal business hours.

Last years' auction was a tremendous success and helped to bring life to the Samaritan Center Foundation. This year we hope to grow upon that success and reach new heights.

Seats at the auction are fifty dollars and tables of ten are five hundred. Inquiries will be taken by phone or in person at the Samaritan Center. Watch for future information as the date approaches.

Dental Clinic Still Growing

When you step into the Ossman Free Dental Clinic some mornings or even a Friday afternoon, you will hear the hum of drills, the chatter of dental personnel speaking with the patients and sometimes children discussing the choices of toy options from the treasure chest after their visit was completed. It is a wonderful sound for so many.

Thanks to the help of the additional dentists who have volunteered and the funding from the Missouri Foundation for Health Grant, **the Ossman Free Dental Clinic has made almost a 500% increase in patients they are able to treat or refer for help.** The staff is on board and just went through extensive training on the Denoptix Digital X-ray which will allow the clinic to operate more efficiently by eliminating the 7 minute wait of traditional x-ray. This is just one of the many items purchased with the help of the Missouri Foundation for Health grant. All we need now are more dentists. Please ask your dentist at your next visit if he or she is already volunteering in our clinic. If so, thank them. If not and they need more information, please contact Anne at the Samaritan Center.

Policy Revisions Made

For Volunteer Organizations and Groups

While the Samaritan Center staff dearly enjoys the company and camaraderie of outside visitors, we feel for the safety and security of others we must impose the aforementioned policy due to the physical hazards and lack of space in the warehouse and pantry. Thank you for your desire to help and your understanding.

Any school, agency, organization or group that has children under the age of 13 must have one adult to every three children in attendance. No groups larger than ten can work in the warehouse at one time. In the month of December, no groups will be permissible due to lack of space.

How Old Do I Have to be to Volunteer at the Samaritan Center?

Anyone who has celebrated their thirteenth birthday may volunteer at the Samaritan Center without adult accompaniment. Parents are asked to stay with any children that they bring under the age of thirteen. This requirement is for the safety of the children.

DOR Helps Out

Missouri State Employees continue to be very generous to the Samaritan Center despite their own needs. In April, the Department of Revenue held a food drive to benefit the Samaritan Center. 1,854 pounds of food were collected as well as \$70.00 in cash. Smaller, interoffice drives like this are hugely beneficial to the Samaritan Center. When they are all added together it is easy to see how important they are to the collection of food.

Inmates Help Too

The Samaritan Center wishes to thank the residents at MSP for inviting us to dinner and presenting us with a check for \$1,748.58. They raise the money by collecting aluminum cans throughout the year. We told them we would buy meat for the pantry with their gift. They expressed their concern that the children in the community have enough food to eat.

Win A Dream Maker!

Do you find yourself overwhelmed by the aches and pains of everyday life? Do your knees or your back ache? If you are like most of the population you answer yes! Well there is a simple solution to help ease your aches and pains. A spa, a spa of your very own! You can relax in the comfort of your home, leisurely on your patio, sipping on a beverage in the company of your friends and family as your aches, pains, and troubles melt into the swirling warm bubbling water. How is this possible? Simple, you could call the good people down at Fisher Pool and Pond and purchase one, or you could benefit the Samaritan Center and buy a raffle ticket. For twenty dollars, you receive a one in five-hundred chance of winning a *Dream Maker X-Spa*.

The *X-Spa* is a four person spa with ten adjustable hydrotherapy jets. The high performance pump system runs on a 15 amp service, no special outlet is needed. Fisher Pool and Pond will deliver the spa to your home along with a chemical pack and take care of the initial setup; it could not be simpler. Raffle tickets are of a limited quantity, so do not delay in obtaining yours. Individuals and locations about town will have them for sale, or you can contact the Samaritan Center directly at 573-634-7776.

Dates to Remember

June

17 Cooking Class
4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

July

22 Dinner Auction

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Dr. Sangetta Jain Roberts and Miss Helen Marie Laux. They are Samaritan Center Volunteers who were nominated as outstanding women by Zonta.

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Hours of Operation

Open to Public: 9:00am-11:30am Monday-Thursday
4:00pm-6:00pm Thursday
Medical Clinic: 4:00pm-6:00pm Thursday
Dental Clinic: by appointment Only,
call (573)761-3473 for information
Staff Office Hours 8:00am-4:00pm Monday-Friday

