

# St. Columba

Ecumenical Ministries, Inc.

*Loaves & Fishes*

Summer 2010

“do justice...love mercy...unto the least of these...” *Micah, Matthew*

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## School Supplies Program Starts Early This Year

St. Columba Ministries has been providing school supplies to needy children in our community for as long as anyone can remember. We start this process in the late Spring when we begin collecting school supplies from our church, business and individual supporters. In all previous years, we have distributed supplies the first week of school and this made sense at the time: students got their list of supplies on the first day of school and parents frantically ran to the store(s) to pick up 6 different colored folders, 8 No. 2 pencils, wide (not college) ruled paper, and whatever else was needed for students to get a successful start to the school year.

Well, times have changed. Not only are students often expected to have their supplies on the first day of school, but some even receive their list of supplies at the end of the previous school year. Or they can simply go online (e.g., search by zip code at [www.school-supply-list.com](http://www.school-supply-list.com)) and see what items are needed for their particular school and grade level.

In talking with parents over the past couple years, we learned that it is difficult for those who are facing financial challenges to get the supplies in time for the start of the school year. This makes the first day of school even harder for children if they don't have their supplies. If we start our program a week earlier, maybe we would be more available to help more disadvantaged children prepare for their school year. So, we talked with the kind folks at Lafayette Presbyterian Church and some of our volunteers and everyone agrees it's a good idea to have this year's School Supplies Program the **week of August 30 – September 3**.

We are still going to collect school supplies as soon as you want to bring them to us, but we ask that you get them to us **before August 26** so we have time to transport them to the church and get set up for the following week. We will also need volunteers that week, from 9 to 3. Please contact Alicia at 627-6748 if you wish to volunteer.

The items we need this year include: **college and wide ruled notebook paper and spiral notebooks, pens (blue, black and red), colored pencils, markers, scissors, compasses, protractors, calculators, erasers, 3-ring binders, folders with prongs, highlighters, graph paper, glue, composition notebooks, dictionaries, crayons, rulers, pencils, index cards, pencil boxes, tissues, hand sanitizer, and backpacks.** Items can be donated at St. Columba Monday through Friday from 8 to 4. Please call Alicia at 627-6748 if you have questions.



## DONATIONS FOR MARCH – MAY 2010

### **FINANCIAL**

Bayside, Lafayette, First, Wycliffe Presbyterian; CFC, CCC, CVC, Ascension, St. Nicholas, Sacred Heart, Catholic; Community United Methodist; Enoch Baptist; NAB Little Creek Chapel; Unitarian Church, W. & R. Bertholf, G. Neil, Capt. T. Smith, E. Baise, A. & H. Jensen, J. Stokley, J. Lego, E. & N. Pollock, H. & J. Ortiz, R. Hidalgo, V. Armstrong, W. Prince, N. Bonney, J. Ramsey, T. D.

Morrison, B. & D. Stockburger, M. Gantley, H. Plessinger, P. Thompson, W. McKee, F. Whedbee, R. Thompkins, F. Watkins, T. Miller, D. Marshall, G. & C. Zuidema, W. Schumacher, C. Hawkins, B. & P. Pope, J. & F. Bashara, P. Barner, E. Avera, J. Howard, V. Jones, G. Julian, M. Ludwick, F. Mcgrath, D. Soto Nesmith, J. Ortiz, A. Thomas, B. Wilson, C. Hawkins, J. Ortiz, the Hornicks.

### **IN-KIND**

Bayside, Royster Memorial, Wycliffe, Lafayette, Norview, Calvin, Knox, Squires Memorial, Covenant, Grace Covenant, First, Second, Norfolk, Presbyterian, Saesoon Presbyterian Church of Virginia; St. Stephens Episcopal; Norview, Fairmount Park, Ghent, Community United Methodist; Christ the King, Church of the Ascension, Church of the Holy Family Catholic; Finding Refugee Ministry; Enoch Baptist, Laurel Ave. Church of Christ; NAB Little Creek Chapel, Secular Franciscan Order; Nana's Bakery, Five Points Patnership, Kessler & Kessler DDS, Robert Pope DDS, The Fresh Market, Pizza Hut, Crossroad Lions Club, Plaza Bakery, Kentucky Fried Chicken, Hospitality for the Homeless, Hope House Thrift Store, the Jaycees, the Spiegel Company, Wild Hare, Lakewood Plaza Residents, M. Allen, B. Bertholf, the Hornicks, R. Hidalgo, C. Inman, J. Lego, J. Bashara, C. Bayma, A Taylor, V. Armstrong, J. Birkel, K. White, K. Spalding, T. Bonk, D. Stockburger, N. & E. Pollock, L. Greer, M. Robinson, M. Blackwood, M Ortiz, T. Foreman, M. Thomas, N. Zimmerman, J. Stokley, W. Welsh, M. Beckman, D. Pagel, L. McEleveen, R. Winkel, the Lambardi's S. Jensen, A. MacConochie, C. Brown, J Meyer, T. Meyers, N. Johnson, C. Hawkins, A. Hart, P. Russell, T. Millen, J. Ramsey, L Ligresti, L. Conner, R. Hidalgo, R. Weeks, H. Ortiz, J. Avera, S. Huber, E. Miller, M. Beckman, G. Turner, T. Rose,



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If we have inadvertently omitted you, please call Alicia at (757) 627-6748.

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## **Help Feed the Homeless by Making Sandwiches!**

Purchase supplies of bread, cheese, bologna, baggies and gloves.

Condiments are not necessary!

Get a group together to assemble sandwiches.

Please make sure you wear gloves during preparation and

keep items refrigerated or frozen before and after.

Put each sandwich in a baggie and refill the bread bags with them.

Bring them by St. Columba for the guests to enjoy!



## **St. Columba Raffle**

We have completed our Absentee Auction and thank everyone who supported this effort. While we were able to raise some funds to maintain our programs, we understand the economy prevented many from participating, both donors and bidders. This is requiring us to develop new ways to raise match funds for our programs that serve those who are less fortunate. We are in the process of soliciting donations for our first raffle to take place in the fall. We would like three items (e.g., car, big screen television, game system, GPS, travel packages, or gift certificates) to be available for the winners. Please contact Alicia at 627-6748 if you are interested in donating an item for this raffle. Make sure you check our website regularly at [www.stcolumbaministries.com](http://www.stcolumbaministries.com) for the most updated information on this event. Tickets will be on sale through our website and board members in late summer.

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# Homelessness in Hampton Roads

The Regional Taskforce to End Homelessness recently worked with the Center for Urban and Community Services (CUCS) to conduct a Regional Needs Assessment for Norfolk and the surrounding area. CUCS worked closely with organizations that assist homeless and low-income residents in Hampton Roads to get a picture of the need presented by the population we serve, the services we have available and how we can move forward to end homelessness. Highlights from this study are presented below.

## Homelessness by City

	Region	Norfolk	Virginia Beach	Portsmouth	Chesapeake	Western Tidewater
<b>Single</b>	873	428	215	194	13	23
<b>Family</b>	542	149	218	109	24	42

All data collected from the 2009 Point In Time Count. Clients in emergency shelter and transitional housing are considered homeless.

## Regional Capacity to Serve Homeless Persons

Housing Type	Population	Region	Norfolk	Virginia Beach	Portsmouth	Chesapeake	Western Tidewater
Permanent supportive Housing	Single	381	124	154	75	4	24
	Family	126	104	12	10	0	0
Transitional Housing	Single	115	60	33	22	0	0
	Family	317	68	178	49	22	0
Emergency Shelter	Single	303	206	78	10	0	9
	Family	313	106	85	62	10	50

All data was collected from the 2008 Housing Inventory for the city, except Western Tidewater, which was the 2007 Housing Inventory. Numbers do not include seasonal overflow beds, such as N.E.S.T. or Winter Shelter.

Based on these and other findings, CUCS had the following recommendations:

- Increasing outreach strategies that focus on moving those persons living on the streets into housing
- Increasing day center access to case management, employment, and health services
- Providing a housing-focused service model in emergency shelters that continues into housing
- Creating permanent supportive housing units/vouchers for singles and families
- Ensuring that short-term financial assistance is available to prevent homelessness
- Continuing to expand and support the SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery program
- Developing resources to assist persons with housing vouchers and support services for those who are ready to graduate from permanent supportive housing
- Ensuring that emergency shelter is available to those who desire to access shelter

Implementation of these recommendations will take planning and coordination among the services providers in Norfolk and surrounding areas. It is known that we need more affordable housing in our community, as well as greater capacity of the programs that currently serve those who are homeless or in threat of becoming so. As the economy continues to cause difficulties for our clients, we see more people facing homelessness and coming to us for assistance. In order to make progress, and especially to avoid backsliding, as the economy also affects contributions to nonprofits, we continue to need the support of our community partners, including churches, businesses and individuals. Without you, the work St. Columba and other organizations that serve those in need would be possible and continued progress to end homelessness would also not be possible.

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Return service requested.

**It's almost time for  
SCHOOL SUPPLIES!**

SUMMER 2010

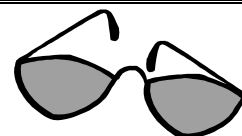
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## St. Columba Special Needs

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### Special Summer Requests



Summer presents different environmental challenges for persons on the streets. They have to battle the sun, heat, and insects. As such, we have special requests for the warmer weather: **SUNGLASSES, BOTTLED WATER, SUNSCREEN, INSECT REPELLANT, HATS, PONCHOS** We still have our regular, ongoing requests that are provided on a daily basis to those who make use of the Day Center: Razors, Travel Size Lotion, Travel Size Toothpaste, Toothbrushes, Spray or Travel Size Deodorant, Wash Cloths, Toilet Paper, Paper Towels, Disinfectant, and Hand Sanitizer.

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### URGENT FOOD PANTRY NEEDS:

**Jelly, Pasta, Pasta Sauce, Tuna, Rice, Ramen Noodles, Brown Paper Bags**

**School Supplies Program: Aug. 30 - Sept. 3, 2010**

See inside for details on what's changed, what we need and how you can help!

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**WE NEED SANDWICHES!**

**Look inside for details on how you can help feed the homeless!**



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Donations are accepted during normal office hours, Monday through Friday from 8 AM to 4 PM.