

St. Columba

Ecumenical Ministries, Inc.
Loaves & Fishes

Winter 2009

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

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December 21st is the
shortest and coldest
day of the year



Please join us

December 21st

To remember those with no warm place to go.

9th Annual Homeless Memorial Vigil

Beginning at St. Paul's Episcopal Church
(Corner of City Hall Ave. & St. Paul's Blvd.)
Free parking available in the church parking lot after 5:15 pm

5:30 – 7:00 pm

Sponsored by the Norfolk Homeless Consortium



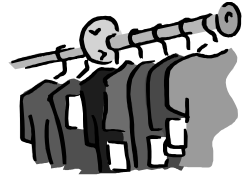
DONATIONS FOR SEPTEMBER 2009 –NOVEMBER 2009

FINANCIAL

Bayside, Lafayette, First, Second, Norview, Lafayette, Knox Presbyterian; Presbytery of Eastern Virginia; CFC, CCC, CVC, Christ the King Catholic; Community United, Fairmount Park, Norview United, First United Methodist; Enoch Baptist; USS WASP, SMOTJ, J. Ashley, B. Bertholf, G. Neil, C. Miskill, E. Wynn, Capt. T. Smith, E. Baise, A. & H. Jensen, J. Stokley, J. Lego, E. & N. Pollock, M. Baise, P. Martin, N. Bonney, H. & J. Ortiz, D. & B. Damuth, R. Hidalgo, D. Gammon, D. Murray, F. K. Johansen, K. James, E. James, K. Chipok, T. Butterfield, D. Russell, L. Foley, V. Cannon, V. Armstrong, S. McNeff, W. Prince, R. Graham, D. Hornick, C. Hawkins.

IN-KIND

Bayside, Royster Memorial, Wycliffe, Lafayette, Norview, Calvin, Knox, Squires Memorial, Coleman Place, Covenant, Grace Covenant, First, Second, Third Norfolk, Presbyterian, Saesoon Presbyterian Church of Virginia; St. Stephens Episcopal; Norview, Fairmount Park, Community United, Ghent United Methodist; Christ the King, Church of the Ascension Catholic; Finding Refugee Ministry; Enoch Baptist, Temple Baptist, Trinity Word of Faith Baptist; Laurel Ave. Church of Christ; Grace Bible Church; The Fresh Market, Pizza Hut, Crossroad Lions Club, Plaza Bakery, Kentucky Fried Chicken, Hospitality for the Homeless, Hope House Thrift Store, USS Wasp, Bayside High School Honor Society, Dr. Pope DDS, Dr. A. Kessler DDS, the Jaycee's, Secular Franciscan Order, Lakewood Plaza Residents, M. Allen, B. Bertholf, the Hornicks, R. Hidalgo, C. Inman, J. Thomas, J. Lego, J. Bashara, L. Lewis, C. Bayma, A Taylor, V. Armstrong, S. Huber, S. Jensen, T. Bonney, J. Avera, C. Hawkins, T. Limbardi, A. Cassidy, S. Haugh, P. Pearson, L. Miller, M. Carreiro, A. Hart, S. Dinwiddie, B. Sykes, P. Kays, J. Suavez, J. Birkel, C. Deal, E. Williams, M. Kidd, D. White, H. Spencer, R. Grandy, L. Stith, J. Douglas, F. & M. Bohenek, P. Pennington.



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

Thanksgiving Ministry

Our Thanksgiving Ministry was able to assist 148 families with food for Thanksgiving dinner this year. None of this would not have been possible without the time, generosity and energy of the many groups that came together to make it happen. We were able to operate out of Lafayette Presbyterian Church and are grateful for the use of their space again this year. The Norfolk Jaycees recruited dozens of volunteers who helped Sunday when we got everything done in record time. Not only did these volunteers sort all of the donations, but they divided 200 pounds of rice, 100 pounds of sugar, 75 dozen eggs, and 60 pounds of butter. In addition, they helped us double bag over 600 brown paper bags, which were donated by Trader Joe's. Community United Methodist Church and Grace Bible church both brought donations and groups of people who helped us unload hundreds of bags of groceries and close to 80 turkeys. With all the help, we were able to pack all the bags by 3 o'clock Sunday and were ready for the distribution that began first thing Monday morning. Thank you to everyone who helped make Thanksgiving special for our neighbors in need.

Reminder:

St. Columba's offices will be closed from Thursday, December 24, 2009 through the holidays to reopen on Monday January 4, 2010. We wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season!

Veterans' Day

This past Veteran's Day was a time for us to thank our servicemen and women for all they do. What many people don't realize is the number of homeless persons who are veterans. Here at St. Columba, an average of 20% of our clients are veterans. One of our clients wanted to share his story and highlight the veterans who are homeless in our community as we have recently celebrated Veteran's Day. His contribution is below:

I am not a veteran. I lucked out in the Nam era lottery and went to college. I however do have a military background. My father died in the Korean "Conflict" shortly after I was born. My mother remarried later to an Army "Lifer". This was back in the day when military families didn't stay in any one place too long. I went to three different high schools. My stepfather was in Vietnam during my senior year in high school and my freshman year of college.

When I got accepted to college I thought that I was finished with the military influencing my life without my permission only to find out that ROTC was mandatory for freshmen. Being young and rebellious I had developed a serious resentment for the government in general and the military in specific.

As I have matured and come to appreciate the Nation that I was fortunate enough to be born and grow up in, I have also learned to understand that if it were not for the people that served in our military services the freedoms and opportunities that many of us take for granted would not exist.

This past Veterans Day was upset by the November Nor'easter. A number of events and activities were not able to happen as planned. I have also seen news reports and other information to the effect of areas cutting back on Veterans' Day activities because of the poor economy, budget cuts and the like. Personally, I think that there is no way that we should do any such thing.

The people that via the draft or volunteered to serve this Nation should be thanked on a daily basis, not just one day a year. And beyond that, the veterans that for whatever reason have found themselves homeless need and deserve all of the help that we can provide.

This area is one of the largest military based facilities in this country and there are a large number of veterans that have landed on hard times that need support. The only facility on the Southside that is available to provide help specifically for homeless vets that I know of is in Virginia Beach. These men and women that put their lives on the line to maintain our rights and freedoms and deserve all the support that we can provide. They were willing to die for us. We should be willing to learn how to live for them.

Let's do what we can to help Homeless Vets.

Thank You,
Oscar

Welcome to St. Columba

Krystle Pomory is a native of Virginia Beach. In college she studied Psychology and Medical Technology. She and her husband serve in their church with the hospitality ministry and Krystle has experience working with homeless clients through her other volunteer work. She's been a navy wife and mother for many years. Now, after devoting time to raising her four boys, she is excited to be the new Homeless Advocate for St. Columba.

St. Columba Ecumenical Ministries, Inc
2114 Lafayette Blvd.
Norfolk, VA 23509
Ph. (757) 627-6748
Fx. (757) 622-2569
admin@stcolumba.hrcoxmail.com
www.stcolumbaministries.com

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**Please join us December 21st at 5:30 for the
Annual Homeless Vigil!**

Winter 2009

St. Columba Special Needs

HELP US KEEP OUR CLOTHING CLOSET FULL!

We have a year round clothing closet that provides clothes to those who are in need. We regularly see 35 clients each week and need your help to continue to provide to them. During the winter the need is greater as people need to layer to stay warm outside. Please go through your closets and any clothes that you no longer use can be used by someone in need! We are especially in need of winter items, including coats, gloves, hats, scarves and other items that will keep people warm on the streets.



ONGOING DAY CENTER NEEDS



Coffee, Razors, Travel Size Lotion, Toothbrushes, Travel Size Toothpaste, Spray Deodorant, Wash Cloths, Toilet Paper, Paper Towels, Disinfectant, Hand Sanitizer, and Food Pantry Items

Donations are accepted during normal office hours, Monday through Friday from 8 AM to 4 PM. Please note we have adjusted hours during the holidays and call 627-6748 ahead of time.