

St. Columba

Ecumenical Ministries, Inc.

Loaves & Fishes

Winter 2008

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

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I Have a Voice

“FROM DARKNESS TO LIGHT”

There were many times in my life when (due to my addiction to drugs and homelessness) I woke up feeling low, hungry, and discouraged. St. Columba was there. There were times when the weather was cold or rainy or extremely hot and I was able to come into St. Columba and be more comfortable.

They fed me, allowed me to rest and shower while never asking for anything. Not once did I ever feel judged or looked down upon.

Whatever resources available, St. Columba assisted me in going through the proper channels so that I received the help I needed. I was allowed to make important phone calls, view the newspaper for job search and speak with staff openly.

The staff at St. Columba show a concern that is genuine for those who come through the doors of this facility. Always respectful, always friendly and helpful. Some are even willing to share their life's testimony to show you that change (through faith and effort) is a reality.

Had it not been for St. Columba, I probably would have thought that no one cared or that the world was full of those who were only self-serving. St. Columba helped me get my life back.

I realize that there are churches, agencies and other organizations that help the homeless. However, I must say that St. Columba was and still is a God-given, life saving facility.

Contributed by: Royce Parker, St. Columba Client



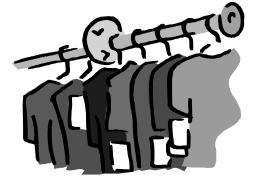
DONATIONS FOR JUNE - AUGUST 2008

FINANCIAL

Bayside, Lafayette, Wycliffe, Norview, Knox, First Norfolk Presbyterian; CFC, CCC, CVC, St. Pius X, Catholic; Church of the Good Shepherd, NAB Little Creek Chapel Unitarian Church; Faith Deliverance Center, Ghent Chiro, Capt. T. Smith, E. Baise, A. & H. Jensen, J. Stokley, J. Lego, E. & N. Pollock, M. Baise, the Stockburgers, D. & B. Murray, N. Bonney; S. & G. Notel, W.M. Touray, J. Curtis, S. Wood, L. Foley, M. & W. Pollock, J. Ashley, B. & B. Clark, M. McClain, W.G. Allen, M. & B. Molosky, M. & K. Bonkoski, T. Tunks, E. & T. Rozler, V. & J. McGill, J. & N. Pearson, V. Drakopoulos, R. & M. Harman, M. Perkins, L. Greer, M. Berryman, K. James, W. Prince.

IN-KIND

Bayside, Royster Memorial, Wycliffe, Lafayette, Norview, Calvin, Knox, Squires Memorial, Coleman Place, Covenant, Grace Covenant, Lynnhaven, First, Second, Norfolk Presbyterian, Saesoon Presbyterian Church of Virginia; Grace Bible School, St. Stephens Episcopal; Norview, Fairmount Park, First United, Community United Methodist; Christ the King, St. Pius X, Church of the Ascension Catholic; New Life Providence Church; Finding Refugee Ministry; Ohel Shalom Temple; Hooked on Jesus Outreach; The Fresh Market, Pizza Hut, Crossroad Lions Club, Plaza Bakery, Kentucky Fried Chicken, Hospitality for the Homeless, Hope House Thrift Store, the Jaycees, Phi Beta Lambda, Eastern Star Adeline Ward Chapter 197, Bayside High School Honor Society, Southern Screen Graphics, Aircraft Intermediate Maintenance Department, Lakewood Plaza Residents, M. Allen, B. Bertholf, the Hornicks, R. Higaldo, C. Inman, J. Thomas, J. Lego, M. Ortiz, J. Bashara, C. Hawkins, L. Lewis, the Haslip family, J. Stokley, K. Spalding, A. Hart, C. Bayma, A. Taylor, the Garners, M. Walker, P. Dean, the Campbell family., J. Wilson, D. Dennis, R. Joe, A. Godwin, the McCubbins, C. Cates, B. Avery, C. Deal, the Jenkins, P. Elliott, H. Ellis, the Schults, L. Greer, R. Gilmore, A. Kitchin, S. Jensen, M. Balckwood, M. Hensen, the Schuhmachers, T. Sandifer, B. J. Fowler, P. Neil, E. Dailey.

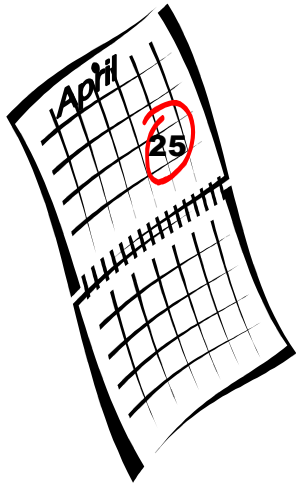


If we have inadvertently omitted you, please call Alicia at (757) 627-6748.

Thanksgiving Blessings

Every year St. Columba prepares Thanksgiving baskets for needy families in our community. We were fearful that the economy would decrease the donations we received this year, but our supporters came through yet again! Thank you to everyone who donated food and time to make this Thanksgiving special for over 120 families. Our friends donated nearly 100 hours of volunteer time and enough food to do all our Thanksgiving baskets and give us a good start for our 50+ Christmas food baskets. We were also blessed by the generosity of Lafayette Presbyterian Church where we were once again able to center our distribution. Community United Methodist Church and Grace Bible Church provided us with truckloads of food, and the Jaycees and their friends provided invaluable time in sorting and packing on Sunday. Ghent Chiropractic even did a special food drive to benefit our Thanksgiving ministry. Thank you to all the other churches, individuals and businesses that supported our Thanksgiving ministry and made it possible to help 350 of our neighbors in need. We couldn't do it without you!

Reminder: St. Columba's offices will be closed from Wednesday, December 24, 2008 through the holidays to reopen on Monday, January 5, 2009. We wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season!



SAVE THE DATE

St. Columba's next fundraiser is scheduled for **Saturday, April 25, 2009**. This will be held at 6:00 at Bayside Presbyterian Church and will include a Silent Auction and Benefit Dinner. All proceeds from this event will support the programs of St. Columba and allow us to continue to provide to those who come to us in need. Our website will announce when tickets are on sale. Mark your calendars and plan to attend!

WE NEED DONATIONS FOR OUR SILENT AUCTION!

You have connections; we need you to share them with us!

St. Columba is looking for **gift certificates and services** to be auctioned at our upcoming event. If you or anyone you know owns a restaurant, spa, florist, jewelry store, bookstore, cleaning service, specialty store, gift shop, music store, art gallery, clothing store, travel agency, health club, yoga studio or any other business, please consider asking for a donation to support our silent auction.

Maybe you have a gift certificate you're never going to use.
We can use it and raise money for St. Columba at the same time!
We need your help to get new and exciting items to offer.

All donations are tax deductible!

We have a request letter for you to provide to donors - all you have to do is ask!

St. Columba Client "Cookbook"

St. Columba's Food Pantry has continued to experience increased referrals. We are doing our best to serve those who come to us in need, but limited resources make it difficult for us to provide more than our regular quantities of food. One way we have identified that St. Columba could further assist families in need is to create a small "cookbook" brochure of simple recipes that use minimal inexpensive items. For instance, I have a recipe for chili that uses only 4 cans of ingredients and ground meat, makes enough for a family of 4, and costs less than \$10. In order to create this cookbook, we need your input and ideas for recipes! If you have a recipe that has inexpensive ingredients and can easily be prepared, please consider submitting it. Recipes can be emailed to admin@stcolumba.hrcoxmail.com or mailed to our office. We are planning to start with a tri-fold brochure and expand if we get enough recipes to do a small booklet. Thank you for your help!



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WE NEED FOOD FOR OUR PANTRY!
Donations accepted Monday – Friday 8 - 4

Winter 2008

St. Columba Special Needs

The holidays mark a time of increased giving to charities, but we must remember that those who are on the streets are still on the streets after the holidays, those who are hungry are still hungry. The agencies that depend on donations often struggle after the holidays when giving tends to decrease. Please, do not forget about our neighbors in need after the holidays have passed. They need our help and we need your help to help them.

Our greatest challenge after the holidays is keeping the food pantry stocked.

Please consider donating the following: canned vegetables, meat, & fruit, soup, pasta, sauce, rice, tuna, cereal, peanut butter, jelly, mac & cheese.

St. Columba is creating a Client “Cookbook” and we need your help!

See inside for details and submission information.

We need gift certificate donations for our Silent Auction!
See inside for more details and event specifics.

DAY CENTER NEEDS:

Coffee, Razors, Blankets, Travel Size Lotion, Travel Size Toothpaste, and Deodorant.
Men's Winter Clothes, Men's Jeans size 30-36, Men's underwear and socks, Ponchos