



**THERMAL BELT
OUTREACH MINISTRY**

Reach Out

February 2017



Alice Oskirko Retires from Outreach



Alice Oskirko, our phenomenal Pantry Assistant, retired from Outreach January 31. Alice celebrated with volunteers, staff, board members and friends at a party given in her honor. Alice's tireless dedication to Outreach and the clients we serve makes her an inspiration to us all. We miss Alice already, but wish her all the best as she begins a new chapter in her life!

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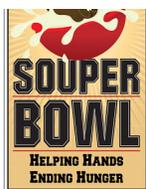
2017 'Souper Bowl of Caring' Shaping Up to be a Big Success!



Over 25 years ago the Souper Bowl of Caring started with a simple prayer in a church youth group in Columbia, SC - "Lord, as we

Save the Date

2/11: 2nd Saturday wood splitting at Outreach
2/24: Volunteer Training for Food Pantry



enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those without a bowl of soup to eat."

Since that day, over \$100 million has been raised in money and canned goods for charitable organizations across the country through the Souper Bowl of Caring.

Locally, on the day of the big game, churches and friends of Outreach hold soup drives during church or at Super Bowl parties to collect cans of soup & chili and financial donations for Outreach. So far, Outreach has received nearly 1,000 pounds of food from churches and schools who participated in this year's Souper Bowl of Caring. Thank you for your generous support!

Outreach Volunteer Spotlight on ... Jim Wright

This month in our Spotlight we're featuring Outreach volunteer Jim Wright. Jim has volunteered with Outreach since August 2015, thanks to his Outreach volunteer wife Cherie, who encouraged him to get involved. Jim started out making local grocery store donation pick-ups, but those duties quickly grew to also include Outreach Facilities Manager, Feed-a-Kid deliveries and working in the food pantry. Jim spends much of his time at Outreach, 4 days a week, because he's a big believer in our mission "to provide compassionate assistance to Polk County residents who do not have the resources to provide for their basic life needs". Jim says Outreach provides a much needed service to those in need in Polk County and he's happy to be a part of it. Feed-a-Kid, in particular, is a program near and dear to his heart. We're grateful to have you, Jim!



United Way of the Piedmont Gift in Kind Center = \$183K in Goods for Outreach in 2016

Each week members of Good Shepherd Episcopal Church (Markham Road, Tryon) drive to Spartanburg to "shop" for Outreach at the United Way of the Piedmont Gift in Kind (GIK) Center. Offered by United Way of the Piedmont, 50-75 non-profits can join the program by paying an annual membership fee.

This membership entitles non-profits to shop, at no additional charge, each week for 30 minutes at a warehouse filled with customer and vendor returns from Walmart stores across the Southeast.



Did you know ...

Food Lion in Columbus donated over \$120,000 in food to Outreach in 2016?



Amazon Shoppers...

Did you know AmazonSmile is a simple way to support Outreach when you shop? AmazonSmile (smile.amazon.com) gives you the same shopping experience as Amazon, but you earn 0.5% of your purchases for your selected charitable organization. To sign up, go to the AmazonSmile website (smile.amazon.com) and key in Thermal Belt Outreach Ministry as your selected organization. AmazonSmile will remember your selection and every eligible purchase you make will result in a donation to Outreach!

February

Featured Needs

Each month we highlight specific or seasonal items Outreach is collecting to meet the needs of our clients. Donations can be dropped off at Outreach (134 White Drive, Columbus NC). February's featured needs are:

- Food focus: Dried and canned beans, mac & cheese, pasta, canned tuna and salmon, soups and crackers

Good Shepherd Episcopal Church generously sponsors this program for Outreach both financially and with their time - they cover our annual membership fee and members shop, pack and unload the van for Outreach each week.

The 'shopping' is the real experience! First, before anyone can shop at the GIK Center, you must go through extensive training to learn the policies and strict rules that govern the program to ensure a fair and equal shopping experience for all members. Once certified, 2 shoppers from each organization are allowed during the designated 30 minute timeslot to fill up 2 carts as many times as they can. When a cart fills up, the shoppers wheel it outside to where 1-2 packers are waiting to quickly unload so shoppers can race back inside to fill up again. Our Good Shepherd shoppers are so skilled they typically fill up a cart 5-6 times in the 30 minute shopping session! This program plays a vital role to Outreach. In 2016 alone, Outreach recieved \$183,000 of non-perishable items from this program that were in turn distributed to our clients each week.

We appreciate the time, energy and financial donation from Good Shepherd Episcopal Church to make this program possible - Thank You!

- Non-food focus: heaters, blankets, paper towels, toilet paper

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