



Inasmuch as ye have done it unto the least of these, my brethren...

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Fall 2013

ACTS welcomes Carla Cloud

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Carla Cloud will join ACTS in November for operations training, while ACTS Executive Director Vicki Bukovitz prepares for retirement.

Cloud is leaving her position as executive director of the Aiken Downtown Development Association after seven years with the organization. The ADDA sponsors many events and activities for the community to improve the economic vitality, enhance the beauty and maintain the historical significance of downtown Aiken.

ACTS Board President Jay Creamer said, "After interviewing several candidates, when Carla came back for a second round of interviews we were absolutely convinced we had found the right person to take ACTS into the future. She has the skills, enthusiasm, and faith one would expect of someone leading this organization to even higher levels."

Cloud will begin her career at ACTS by working with Operations Manager Karen Perry, who recently

returned from medical leave. Cloud will also train to assume the position of Executive Director now held by Vicki Bukovitz.



Cloud is originally from Atlanta and moved to Aiken in the mid 1980's. She is active in drama and theatre, church, community, movies, TV, print and radio (as a professional). She and her husband Vince have two adult sons, JP and Kobe. Prior to ADDA, Cloud served as Director of Life Enhancement at Cumberland Village, and as a Youth and Program Director for five years within the Presbyterian Church organizations. She has diverse office management, public relations and community outreach skills.

"I love Aiken and ACTS," commented Cloud. "ACTS is so good for the community. Having been in church work for many years, I understand how important this work is.

"I prayed about the decision to move to ACTS and it seemed the timing was right. It seemed like it was meant to be," she said.



ACTS will be closed November 27, 28 and 29 for Thanksgiving and December 23—January 3 for Christmas.



"Give from the heart, but please give smart!"

In 2011, ACTS was named an "Angel" by the South Carolina Secretary of State's office, one of ten organizations representing the most efficient and effective charities in the state.

Secretary of State Mark Hammond has a special interest in encouraging honest charities while preventing fraud and scams. With the holiday giving season approaching, he has some advice for all of us.

A professional solicitor must disclose the following:

- That he/she is a paid solicitor
- The name, location and purpose of the charity
- The registered true name of the professional fundraising organization for which he/she works.

Ask:

- Is my contribution tax deductible?
- Will my contribution be used for services in my local area?
- What percentage of my contribution goes to the charity, not to fundraising efforts?
- Will you send me a copy of the charity's most recent financial report?
- Is this charity and your fundraising organization registered with the Secretary of State's office?



Things to beware of

How can you recognize unscrupulous charities?

- Bills or invoices mailed to you from charities you did not pledge money to
- Evasive, vague answers to specific questions about the charity and how donations are used
- Words making the charity's name sound like a more well-known charity
- Asking for your credit card number
- Refusing to mail you further information
- Requesting cash donations
- Emotional appeals and high pressure tactics to get you to make a quick decision or feel guilty about saying no

When in doubt, consider giving to local charities like ACTS, which is registered with the Secretary of State's office and has 501(c)3 status with the Internal Revenue Service. All of your donations help the needy right here in your community.

For more information go to www.scsos.com/Public_Charities.

Who's watching?

It just might be the new ACTS security system installed this fall to provide safety and security for staff, volunteers, and clients. Security cameras have been placed at each of the outside entrances to the ACTS building and the parking lot, with a monitor in the Operations Manager's office. A quick glance can check for unauthorized persons entering the building, or other activity which needs attention.





Save the date!
2014 Icicle Ball
February 8, 2014

Silent Auction, Dinner, Dancing

St. Thaddeus Episcopal Church
Stevenson-McClelland Parish House

In honor and in memory—

ACTS has received gifts in memory of: Frank Martin, Mae Cox Moore, James Moates, Monty Montgomery, Jim Boik, Myrna Callan, Melvine Edwards, Charles Radford, Sam Putnam, Lois Wolf, Lessie Donovan, Tom Hawley, and Donna Gibbs.

ACTS has received gifts in honor of: the marriage of Brenda Martin & Don Morgan, the 50th wedding anniversary of Michael & Mary Morrison, the marriage of Vickie Lookabill & George Schmidt, birthday of Gail Butler, birthday of Ginny Clifford, and in honor of Mary Bunch, the ACTS "Cat Patrol—Clarence & Baby", Midge Rothrock, and Alice & Jay Creamer.

ACTS Needs: Warm coats, jackets and blankets; baby & adult diapers; canned food; peanut butter; children's jeans, school clothes, sox and underwear; dish and laundry soap; men's and women's new sox and underwear; and Volunteers!

12th Annual Heater/Utility Drive



It may not be as cozy as a roaring fireplace on a cold night, but your donation to the ACTS Heater & Utility drive provides a safe, electric oil-filled radiator to clients who need it. Many ACTS clients live in homes with little or no insulation and inefficient windows, doors and appliances.

Your \$40 donation can help warm a room so the thermostat can be turned down, and that helps keep utility bills down. Donations also help clients pay utility bills that are usually much higher in winter.

When you and I are cold, we just turn up the thermostat. This fall and winter remember those who can't afford that option.

Floyd & Green "Night of Giving Back"

Floyd & Green Jewelers invites you to a "Night of Giving Back" Thursday, November 7 from 6-8 PM, giving customers and guests the chance to designate 10% of the amount of their purchases that evening to ACTS or the charity of their choice.

In addition, each guest will receive 10% of their purchase price on a Floyd & Green gift card for use on a future purchase. Floyd & Green is located at 515 Silver Bluff Road.

E-Mail or regular mail?

ACTS now e-mails the newsletter and other information to 152 people instead of printing and mailing. To sign up, please send an e-mail to info@actsofaiken.org. Save \$ and trees.

ACTS 12th ANNUAL HOLIDAY HEATER & UTILITY DRIVE

340 Park Ave SW, Aiken, SC 29801

____ Yes, I can sponsor the purchase of ____ heater(s) @ \$40.00 each for a total of \$ ____.

____ Yes, I would like to make a donation to ACTS Utility Assistance Fund for \$ ____.

____ Yes, I would like to make a donation to ACTS General Emergency Fund for \$ ____.

Area Churches Together Serving (ACTS) Inc.
340 Park Avenue SW
Aiken, SC 29801

Return Service Requested

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Permit No. 640

You're Invited!



**ACTS CHRISTMAS
OPEN HOUSE**

**December 10
1:30—3 PM
Hosted by the ACTS
Board of Directors**

Y'All Come!!

ACTS Board Members

Ernesto Barquet
Dave Buchanan
Jay Creamer, President
Rev. Chris Crotwell
Andrea Gregory
Sally Jenkins
Ken Kline
Michael McComb
Jack Mullin
Linda Poulson, Secretary
Kevin Price
Ann Reinhard, Vice President
Darlene Rittel
Midge Rothrock
Mark Sapp, Treasurer
Rev. Amy Stertz
Rev. Gregory Wilson
Vicki Bukovitz, Executive Director

Call Judy Clements, Newsletter Editor, at 642-5117
for information about *inasmuch*.
