



Inasmuch these, my brethren...

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Spring 2013

It's our job—it's what we do

Excerpts from Board President Jay Creamer's remarks at the ACTS Volunteer Dinner March 4

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Many of us were raised in relative comfort with two parents, grandparents, other relatives and neighbors forming a safe and secure environment for our formative years. There were expectations to meet and consequences if we misbehaved. We had a quiet place to study, food to eat, warmth in the winter and comfort in the summer.

Most of us have enjoyed some degree of success in life. That cycle of accomplishment continues from generation to generation.

Contrast that with many ACTS clients - born into poverty, raised in single parent households or by a grandmother or other relative. The houses are cold in the winter and hot in the summer. Often there is not enough food to eat and no place to study. There are very few positive role models in these children's lives. It is a struggle to get through the day.

Is it any surprise that this cycle of poverty continues from generation to generation?

At ACTS these two worlds come together. Volunteers help get

*Hats Off
to Our
ACTS Volunteers!*



ready for the day and then many of you directly interact with clients. You provide food, clothing, utility assistance, medication and other basic necessities to those in need.

Most of all, you listen and respond with concern, questions, compassion to see what else can be done to help.

Volunteers are the heart and soul of ACTS. Whether you have been involved for a few days, years or since the beginning of this ministry, we thank God for the vital role you play in the Aiken Community.

Volunteering has in a good way become your job - it is what you do. You do it in the name of Jesus Christ to the glory of God.

Thank you and God bless you!



ACTS will be closed
May 27 for Memorial
Day and July 1-5 for
the Independence Day
holiday.

ACTS Volunteer Appreciation Dinner



The Rev. Father Gregory Wilson, St. Mary Help of Christians Catholic Church with ACTS Executive Director Vicki Bukovitz. Father Wilson was keynote speaker at the ACTS Volunteer Appreciation Dinner March 4. The Praise Dancers of Mt. Anna Baptist Church provided entertainment, and the ACTS Board provided a delicious lasagna dinner.

5th Annual Icicle Ball

Over 200 people attended this year's Icicle Ball on January 19, and nearly \$23,000 was raised to support ACTS food programs this year. Thanks to those who volunteered, attended, contributed, and worked so hard to make this year's event such a success. Plans are already underway for next year so save the date—February 1, 2014!



ACTS was one of five local organizations to receive a \$10,000 gift from Savannah River Nuclear Solutions during the Christmas holidays. "It breaks my heart to see so many of the elderly and working poor suffer from lack of basic necessities" said ACTS Executive Director Vicki Bukovitz. "We just can't thank SRNS enough."

Board Member Jack Mullin and a team of Woodside volunteers organized "Singing Out for Food" in March. The event featured dinner and entertainment from the Aiken Playhouse. The signature sponsor was the Sunshine Boys. The event raised \$7,810 for ACTS food programs.

By the numbers—

2012 Summary of Services

Food Pantry & Senior Food

11,225 individuals received food for a week

Clothing

3,149 individuals received 3 outfits

Utilities, Fans and Heaters

1,375 families received utility assistance, vans or heaters

Housewares

168 families received housewares

Furniture

32 families received furniture

Prescriptions

244 individuals received prescription help

Miscellaneous Services

378 individuals or families received a variety of services: hot meals, diapers, eye glasses, medical equipment, etc.



ACTS has received a generous gift of a Dodge pickup truck, something that has been on the "wish list" for a long time. The pickup will be used to bring food from Golden Harvest food bank and local stores, as well as picking up fresh produce from several garden projects in the area. A very special thank you to our donor!

Calling All Gardeners

ACTS always tries to give clients good wholesome food that they will enjoy. But fresh produce is a treat that is rarely available. That will change this summer due to three innovative projects.



The first is the brainchild of **Rev. Jim Bennett**, pastor of Charles Wesley United Methodist Church and the Minister of Senior and Adult programs at St. John's. Rev. Bennett has a four-acre property, more than 35 years of gardening experience, and all the tools and equipment needed to feed many more families than just his own. Last year he and some volunteers donated kale to ACTS. This year they started 150 tomato plants in a hot house, and have also planted beans, onions and okra. 15 members of St. John's have already volunteered to help with the gardening or delivery. Whatever ACTS can't use will be given to Christ Central, St. Thaddeus or other local agencies.

Golden Harvest Food Bank recently created several garden plots on its property. The idea came from the City of Aiken's Succession Management program, which provides leadership training to city employees and includes a community service project. **City Solicitor Paige Tiffany** suggested a community garden to Golden Harvest. Golden Harvest and the class both were enthusiastic about the project. **Master Gardener Tom Dix** will help design the garden, Cold Creek Nurseries will provide fertilizer, seeds, and installation assistance.

Local businesses and individuals can become sponsors of the garden with monetary or in-kind gifts. Organizations can plant and care for a specific plot for the benefit of a particular non-profit agency. And anyone can volunteer to help with the care and maintenance of the garden. Call **Michael Gibbons**, Golden Harvest chief development officer for more information at 270-7859.

The Woodside Community has established garden plots for residents within Woodside Plantation. Part of the project will include donation produce to ACTS for those in need. The Community Garden Plots are planned to be an asset to the community as well as an opportunity to share in the enjoyment that comes from gardening.

For more information on the Woodside Garden Plots call **Dennie McGurer** at 508-7804.

In honor and in memory—

ACTS has received gifts in memory of: Dick Begley, Robert Bukovitz, Joe Bumpus, Myrna Callan, Gene Comar, George Creamer, Fred Davis, Kathy Denver, Melvin Edwards, Janice Evans, Norman Freund, Jack Hasty, Ellen Johanson, Marie Judd, Ken Knapp, John Kumbier, Bob Lees, Madeline Lott, Brenda McMullin, Dave Meldrum, Jessie Mae Cox Moore, Charles Radford, Susan Ramsey, Delma Reames, Jennifer Watts, and Lois Wolf.

ACTS has received gifts in honor of: Jim Hartsook, Martha Blanton, Jim & Flo Carroll, Jay & Alice Creamer, Kim Culligan, Mr. & Mrs. Evans Daggett, Curt Davis, Brenda & Don Martin on their marriage, Lang Entrekin, Mary Ferrell, Rita Greenquist, Ellen Herring, Janis & Lane Hewell, Lily Hunter, Mr. & Mrs. Rodney Keenon, Dr. & Mrs. David Keisler, Ann Reinhard & Fred Kelsven, Olive Love, Barbara Smith, James Tharp, Jan Waugh's birthday, and Steve & Mary

A Volunteer's Prayer (author unknown)

I thank Thee, Lord, as a volunteer, for the chance to serve another year.

And to give of myself in some small way, to those not blessed as I each day.

Thanks for health and mind and soul, to aid me ever toward my goal.

For eyes to see the good in all, a hand to extend before a fall.

For legs to go where the need is great, learning to love—forgetting to hate.

For ears to hear and heart to care, when someone's cross is hard to bear.

A smile to show my affection true, with energy plenty—the task to do.

And all I ask, dear Lord, if I may, is to serve You better day by day!

Amen

E-Mail or regular mail?

ACTS now e-mails the newsletter and other information to 114 people instead of printing and mailing. To sign up, please send an e-mail to info@actsofaiken.org. Save \$ and trees.

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for information about *inasmuch*.