



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

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Spring 2015

New mission statement—New direction for ACTS

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ACTS New Mission Statement

To partner with churches, organizations, and individuals to provide assistance to our neighbors in need in the name of Jesus Christ.

For many years the mission of ACTS was to "give temporary and emergency aid to persons in need in Aiken County in the name of Jesus Christ." And while that's often true today, many ACTS clients have needs that are NOT temporary and not exactly a true emergency.

The ACTS staff and board approved the new Mission Statement at the top of this page to more accurately describe the way we operate. Many clients come regularly because they are disabled or elderly and have few resources to become independent. For other clients, suggestions and referrals were made, but there was no follow-up. Did ACTS really make a positive difference? We didn't know.

So ACTS has begun to try to help clients live a more secure life. For those who have the potential for positive change, an Action Plan is prepared. While "get a job" might be an overwhelming task, the Action Plan breaks it down into manageable steps, like "attend the Job Fair next week" or "register at two employment agencies in the next two weeks."

ACTS has always partnered with many other local agencies to provide services without duplication. Agencies might even share the cost of a large utility or medical payment. But sometimes clients feel that the more they try, the less they receive. If they find a job, it might not pay as much as the benefits they have to give up.

ACTS can help fill in the gap with food, clothing or help paying a utility or medical bill until a few paychecks have come in and the situation becomes more stable. Referrals can also be made to help find affordable child care, a GED class, eye glasses—things that can make a big difference. And resources can be directed to those who are making an effort to improve their situation, without continuing to enable those who make no attempt to help themselves.

Will this new direction make a difference? We'll find out! But working closely with other agencies and our member churches ACTS hopes to see long term improvement in the lives of clients.



ACTS will be closed
April 3-6 for Easter
And May 25 for
Memorial Day

2015 Icicle Ball

The 7th Annual Icicle Ball may be just a memory but ACTS clients will be enjoying the benefits for months to come!

It was another wonderful evening of good food, good friends, and great music. The evening began with a silent auction, offering collectables and experiences of all kinds including a guitar autographed by members of the Rolling Stones!



Guests were invited to make donations to the ACTS Food Program. A loaded grocery cart showed just how much food ACTS can provide for \$50 by shopping at Golden Harvest Food Bank and with donations from local churches, grocery stores and individuals.

As much fun as the Icicle Ball is, it would never happen without a great deal of time and talent from ACTS staff and volunteers, everyone who donated items for the silent auction, or just bought a ticket and came to enjoy the evening!



A special thank you to our committee: **Alice Creamer, Amber Hottel, Becky Veldman, Gaile Boyd, Judi Hammond, Linda Poulson, Marcia Quinn, Midge Rothrock, Peggy Thome, Renee LeDuc, Samantha Hall, Samantha Caniglia, and Sylvia Kelly.**

Grants and Gifts



Recent grants to ACTS include:

Aiken Newcomers Club—\$500 for food

Lions Club of Aiken—\$55

St. Paul Lutheran—\$700 for new freezer for Senior Food program and \$500 to assist with repair of water leak

Aiken Rotary Club—\$500 for heaters

SRNS—\$10,000 for Women's Enrichment Program

Sister's of Charity—\$3,000

Harvest Home Concert hosted by Aiken Baptist Church sponsored by Mr. & Mrs. Preston Rahe—for food.

Lexington Race for Hunger.

Souper Bowl donations of 1,500 cans of soup and \$1,600 from Shaw's Fork Baptist, St. Paul Lutheran, South Aiken Presbyterian, Aiken First Baptist and First Presbyterian.



The ladies of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority at US-CA were one of several groups who cleaned, sorted donations and worked in the Resale Store as a Day of Service in celebration of the Martin Luther King holiday.

ACTS thanks the sponsors of this year's Icicle Ball!

Savannah River Nuclear Solutions
Kimberly Clark Corporation

Aiken Electric Co-op	Savannah River Remediation
Automotive Workbench	SCANA/SCE&G
Bridgestone Americas	Security Federal Bank
Golden Harvest Food Bank	TD Bank
Martin Wilson Marketing	

Help Wanted! Drivers and substitute drivers are needed for the Senior Food Program on the 3rd Saturday of each month. Call 649-3800 for information or to volunteer.

Volunteers are needed to help prepare the ACTS newsletter for mailing 4x a year. It's a sit down, indoor job with free coffee and conversation!

The ACTS Resale Store needs volunteer store clerks and people to help sort incoming donations. Individuals and groups welcome!

In honor and in memory—

ACTS has received gifts in honor of: Lyn Ashburn; Dan & Nancy Lambert; Dan, Eric & Mike Lambert; Rev. Holly Shoaf-O’Kula’s birthday (several); Jane & David Keisler; Mimi & Kenny Wiland; Jed & Penny Alexander; Evans & Shirley Daggett; Ambrose & Gwen Schwallie; Marjorie Patterson; Carla Cloud; All ACTS Volunteers; the wedding of H. John Clark & Patricia Hanley; Rosey Sorensen; Hutson-Etherredge Employees; Mary Honkonen; Rodney & Edie Keenon; Connie Peebles; John & Sally Jenkins, Jane Keisler; Sheila Jackson; LeClair Burckhalter; Megan Coulter; Ana Black; Sam & Beth Goforth; Lisa Sharp.

ACTS has received gifts in memory of: Mary Fabrick; Dewey Ennis; Emmie Montgomery; Hal Chapman; Dr. William Franklin Prior; Robert McNair; Charlie Blackburn; Bob Kierspe; Marianne Harden; Mrs. Bette Waters; Edwin Ayres; Grady Patterson; Lois Wolf; Rosemary Thomas; Anthony DiStephano Sr; Cathey DiStephano; Eleanor Pearson; Shirley Wetzel; Mr. & Mrs. J. W. Rushton; Lonnie Daugherty; John Perry; Richard Lamar; Mary Diane Shook; Robert Carter; Dorothy Jacob Orsag; Edward Moseley

Did you know -

ACTS now has THREE Senior Food distribution sites on the 3rd Saturday of each month:

- Aiken: ACTS office, 340 Park Ave SW
- Jackson: 107 Charles Street
- Wagner: United Methodist Church
153 Columbia Rd

ACTS Needs -

- Children’s clothing, especially jeans and underwear
- Soaps—bar soap, shampoo, laundry & dish soap
- Diapers— all sizes
- Food—unopened cans and packages, fresh produce
- Cash donations for the summer Fan Drive
- YOU—join the 300+ volunteers at ACTS!

Coming Soon -

Watch for the Prayer Wall in the hall next to the parking lot entrance. Leave a prayer or praise request, or pray for others in need.



Grow a Row for Acts!

Gardening season is here at last! This year, as you plant your garden, consider planting an extra row or two for ACTS. Our clients love fresh produce as much as we do, and they rarely have access to it.

A little extra from your garden can mean a lot to a hungry family!

Women’s Enrichment Series—

Coffee with Jo Jo



The ACTS Women’s Enrichment series has gone from a dream to reality! Staff and volunteers have often wished they could do more for clients that just satisfy immediate needs. They felt that if women could develop a circle of friends and mentors they could not only improve their own lives but could spread the circle and begin to help others.

After months of planning, the first meeting of the Women’s Enrichment Series will begin in late April at Smith-Hazel Recreation Center, and continue on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month.

Jo Jo is Pastor Joann Saunders, Director of the African American History, Art and Culture Center on York Street, who will lead the sessions. The first meeting will explore “The Blessing of Friendship.”

To make it easier for women to attend, babysitting will be provided. To make it fun, there will be snacks and a short entertainment program. Speakers, sitters and refreshments will be paid thanks to a generous gift from Savannah River Nuclear Solutions.



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

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Coming soon at ACTS!

March 14—Newcomers will host a Fund Raising Breakfast at FATZ Restaurant from 7-10 AM. Proceeds benefit ACTS, Christ Central and St. Vincent de Paul.

April 18—St. Augustine Episcopal Church presents John Michael Talbot in concert at the USCA Etherredge Center at 7 PM to benefit ACTS. www.staugustinesaiken.org/ for tickets

April 27—ACTS Volunteer Appreciation Dinner at St. Angela Hall for all volunteers.

May 9—1st Annual Car Show at Langley Pond to benefit the ACTS Food Program.

Would your group like a tour of ACTS? Do you need a speaker? Just call 649-3800!

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