

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



Volume XXX, number 1

Spring 2017

A quick look back at 2016; Hello to 2017

We can't help but pause and reflect on the blessings of 2016. We have MUCH to PRAISE God for.

P - We partnered with community churches, businesses, organizations, and other nonprofits to raise funds, increase our resources, and celebrate our 30 year anniversary.

R - We raised awareness of ACTS with outreach programs, Fan Drive, Car Show, and a Mannequin Challenge Fashion Show. We participated in several United Way Agency Fairs, the Fall Steeplechase and 're-purposing' craft classes.

A - We added evening volunteer groups and essential staff positions to increase efficiency and allow working individuals and families an opportunity to join our ministry.

I - We increased in several areas of ministry during 2016; the success of the Resale Store in customer base and number of donations received; the positive self-esteem of attendees at "Coffee with Jojo". This group mentoring program provides a structured forum to assist attendees in developing skills leading to their becoming enabled and empowered for their self-sufficiency and to also become mentors for others to do the same. The Christmas Store saw an increase in donations and children served.

S - We strengthened ACTS service program with the Action Plan process to assist clients to gain self-

sufficiency. This shift in client relationships has also strengthened our support base.

E - We expanded ACTS programs to include: a bicycle program, a car ministry, and daycare scholarship program. The lack of these resources is a huge stumbling block to those seeking to increase their earning opportunities and gain self-sufficiency. We also expanded the ACTS ministry into the Graniteville/Vaucluse communities; 2nd ACTS, the resale portion, opened in September, while the program services portion is slowly beginning - more volunteers are needed to fully implement this ministry.

S - We started a volunteer feedback program to encourage better communication and sharing of ideas and understanding of all we do among staff, volunteers, clients, and others. We started an ebay account to assist in raising funds and awareness of ACTS.

NONE of these things would have been possible without the dedicated volunteers who "operated" each of these successes.

So in thanks for all YOU do, the staff has once again pooled our resources and made a \$1000.00 donation to the Endowment Fund in your honor! We PRAISE the Lord for each of you! Let's rock 2017.

*Carla Cloud
Executive Director*

ACTS

Client Hours M-F, 11-3
Resale Store M-F, 9-4

340 Park Avenue SW
Aiken, SC 29801
Phone: (803) 649-3800
E-mail:
info@actsofaiken.org
Web: www.actsofaiken.org
Facebook:
www.facebook.org/
actsofaiken

ACTS of Graniteville

2nd ACTS Resale Store
Client Hours T & Th 10-2
Resale Store M-S, 10-5
50 Canal St, Ste 6
Phone: (803)392-7022
Facebook:
www.facebook.org/2nd
ACTS
Web: Coming soon!



ACTS will be closed
April 14 and 17 for
Easter and May 29 for
Memorial Day

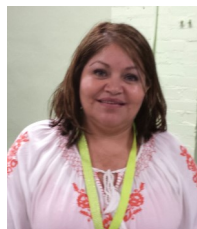
Resale Store Update



If you've ever watched Antiques Roadshow you have probably seen things bought cheap at a yard sale or thrift shop that were worth big bucks on the show! ACTS Resale Store staff members are careful to evaluate all donations and do a little treasure hunting for ACTS! If there is any doubt, they check with the experts for opinions and appraisals. Items of exceptional value might be sold on eBay. But many of the china, jewelry and antique pieces end up in the Curiosity Corner near the front of the store, so be sure to check next time you come in. If staff feels an item might have been donated in error, they will contact the owner if possible to see if they want the item returned. So if you are settling an estate or helping someone clean out their house, check pockets, purses and envelopes. One staff member found \$500 cash in the bottom of a box, and a volunteer found a diamond ring in a donated purse!

Sometimes items not usually given to clients can fill a special need. ACTS once received a recumbent bike which was quite valuable. But a disabled person came in who needed just such a bike for her rehabilitation program. Staff members decided to make an exception and gave her the bike. She could not afford a lump sum but was able to make a payment each month.

When Resale Store Manager Kim Noah resigned to pursue another career, 2nd ACTS Store manager Yolanda Mireles took over management of both stores. Jackie Craig is the new Assistant Manager of the Aiken Store and Stephanie Bickford is the new Assistant Manager of Graniteville. Welcome!!



2nd ACTS in

Grants and Gifts



Recent grants to ACTS include:

- Security Federal—\$1,000 for food
- Golden Harvest Food Bank—new refrigerator for produce
- Food Lion—\$2,000 for food program
- Jim Hudson Lexus—\$1,000 + paper products



ACTS Partners



Aiken Regional Medical Centers

Atlantic Broadband

SCE&G

Hutson-Etherredge Companies

Bridgestone Aiken PSR Plant

Aiken Ophthalmology

Margaret's Garden Adult Day Care LLC

Meybolm Realtors

Napier Funeral Home

Aiken Veterinary Clinic

Collette Ball, State Farm Insurance

Charlotte's Bridal



Fund Raisers & Friend Raisers

1-14 Breakfast at FATZ

2-25 Lexington Race Against Hunger

2-28 Mardi Braws (Lions Club)

4-29 Car Show

6-2, 3 Fan Drive

2nd Wednesday each month—Mario's Pizza

In honor and in memory—

Gifts have been given to ACTS in honor of: ACTS volunteers, Dan & Nancy Lambert, Jean Weeks, Furman Knight, Sand River Woman's Club, DeeDee Reeves, Eldon & Opal Bullington, Peg Robinson (Get Well), Dr. Ray Hesse, Sam & Beth Goforth (x3), Phil & Emily Lockard, the Hoover Family, Jay & Alice Creamer, Kathie & Bill Gassman, John & Nina Magruder.



Gifts have been given in memory of: Lynell Chapat, Mrs. George Deily, Harry Butler, Mae Allen Croft, Eppie Landry, Margaret Wicker, Rose Yarek, Rev. Alfred Holmes, Pinckney Eve and Elmer Allermann, Thomas H. Johnson, Richard Lamar, Otto McCarthy, Frances Blanchard, Robert Carter, Durwood Fincher, Lyn Ashburn (x2) and Robert (Bob) Boeke.

ACTS Needs:

- Underwear for kids & adults
- Teens and children's jeans
- Toiletries & Personal Hygiene items
- Drivers to pick up donated food from stores
- Prayers
- Volunteers (especially at 2nd ACTS!) - now serving clients Tuesdays & Thursdays
- Fresh produce—when you plant your spring garden, plant an extra row or two for ACTS clients!



Sign up for **smile.amazon.com** and Amazon will donate .5% of your purchase to ACTS! Remember—after you sign up for the program you must begin your shopping session at smile.amazon.com rather than going directly to Amazon. You will then arrive at the Amazon website.

Your enrollment in **Kroger Community Rewards** needs to be updated each year. To enroll or to re-enroll go to <https://www.kroger.com/account/enrollCommunityRewardsNow>. It only takes a few minutes but donations to ACTS continue all year!

ACTS Mission Statement

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



Volunteers—don't forget to sign in and out at the Volunteer Center in the break room. Check the bulletin board for upcoming events and information you can use!



ACTS could not function without our 300+ volunteers. But many faithful volunteers have been with us 20+ years and are ready to retire. If you'd like to join the ACTS volunteers just call 649-3800 in Aiken or 392-7022 in Graniteville. Training sessions are provided and you can "try out" different areas to see what fits you best.

Wear your green—scrub ACTS clean! Help ACTS with a spring cleaning of the facility March 17. Groups and individuals welcome. Sign up at volunteer@actsofaiken.org

What's new at ACTS and 2nd ACTS? Follow us on Facebook and check out our website —www.actsofaiken.org

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

Return Service Requested

Nonprofit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Augusta, GA
Permit No. 640

Mark
Your
Calendar

Coming soon at ACTS!

Knitting Class—March 2 and 9

Resale Store (Aiken) Sidewalk Sale
March 2, 3 and 4 9 am to 4 pm

March 17—Spring Cleaning at ACTS!

ACTS Volunteer Appreciation Dinner
April 24

Coffee with JoJo - 2nd & 4th Thursdays at
St. John's UMC, Aiken

Car Show—April 29

Save stamps, trees and Rosemary! Get your
ACTS newsletter by e-mail! Just send your e-
mail address to info@actsofaiken.org.

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

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