



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

Volume XXIV, number 3

Fall 2011

ACTS 25th Anniversary —Looking Back, Looking Forward August 4, 2011

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*ACTS will be
closed
November
23-25
for Thanksgiving*



Mayor Fred Cavanaugh and ACTS Executive Director Vicki Bukovitz cut the ribbon celebrating the past 25 years and rededicating ACTS for the future as Board Chair Beth Barkhau concludes the rededication ceremony.

Most of the serving pieces and also the outfits worn by several staff and volunteers were from the ACTS Resale Store. Thanks to co-chairs **DM Beth Barkhau** and **Rev. Amy Stertz**, plus all the other volunteers who made the event such a success.



The crowd in the parkway included local dignitaries, many past and present ACTS volunteers and their families, and grateful clients.



Pat Lucchessi (l) came from New Jersey to visit friends including **Mary Bunch** (r). **Ms. Lucchessi** served as ACTS manager in the early years.

Join the ACTS Team for the
Walk to Help End Hunger
Saturday, September 24
H. Odell Weeks Track
Wear your ACTS shirt if you have one!
Call 649-3800 for information

ACTS Pillow Project



You can have a special souvenir of the ACTS' 25th Anniversary celebration—and make a contribution too—by purchasing an Aiken-themed commemorative pillow. The pillows were so popular that they sold out in the spring, but 200 more will be available this fall, just in time for Christmas shopping! The pillows sell for \$45, with \$25 going to ACTS.

The pillow design incorporates the downtown fountain with the oak tree arch of South Boundary Avenue. It was designed by Betsy Wilson-Mahoney who co-chaired the project committee with Gwen Schwallie. Special preview dates are October 27 at Betsy Wilson-Mahoney's studio, 309 Hayne Ave SW; October 28 at Tea Garden Gifts, 131 Laurens St SW; and October 29 at the Farmer's Market. The pillows will also be available at the ACTS Resale Store, Material Things, Nandina, and 3 Monkeys in late October.



Rep. Roland Smith presents a proclamation to **ACTS Executive Director Vicki Bukovitz** in honor of ACTS 25th Anniversary rededication.

ACTS Wish List—

- bath soap
- laundry soap
- toilet paper
- tooth paste
- tooth brushes
- paper towels
- socks, shoes
- hygiene products
- maternity clothing
- new underwear (all sizes)
- women's plus size clothing
- children's clothing (size 2T–16)
- men's jeans and slacks (size 30-42)

Allegra Grant

Your votes made a difference! ACTS was awarded a \$1000 grant from Allegra's Foot Print Fund to offset printing costs. Thank you!

Benefit Bank Services now at ACTS

The Benefit Bank is a free web-based service that simplifies the application process for public programs such as food stamps (SNAP) or Medicaid. Trained ACTS volunteers can now offer this service free to the community. Call ACTS at 642-5919 11 AM to 3 PM for an appointment.

*“Volunteers don’t get paid—not because they’re worthless,
but because they’re priceless.”*

Sherry Anderson

*Acts volunteers—25 years of service and stories.
Here are just a few:*

I saw in the paper that a new group was forming to aid the needy so I volunteered. I've worked in every area from food, interviewing, clothing and reception to writing by-laws and recruiting churches.

Betty Christensen, volunteer since 1986

When my family and I go out to deliver food for the Saturday Senior Food Program we always stay and talk to everyone we deliver to for as long as we can. That just makes my day.

Evan Dunker, volunteer since 2001

After helping a lady and her two children find outfits in the clothing area, she hugged all the volunteers, telling us how grateful she was to have ACTS as a place to come to for assistance. Her two wonderful boys want to become a doctor and a policeman.

Leslie Johnston, volunteer since January 2011

After I retired I tried to keep busy, but after awhile I tired of golf and tennis. Friends suggested I give ACTS a try. **Bob Hottel and Art Wagner** made my transition fun and easy. I look forward to helping others. Going to ACTS on Tuesday is like going to a club. You see friends, make new ones and do good at the same time—a winning combination.

Dennis Troy, volunteer since 2008

My family started volunteering at ACTS to give back to the community but the community has given us warm feelings of helping others, and that fills our hearts with joy.

Ernesto Barquet, volunteer since 2010

I had a stroke in Houston and moved to Aiken to be near my daughter. I wanted to stay active but the only thing I could do was polish brass and silver for the resale shop. I'm thankful ACTS lets me do this.

Paul Fleming, volunteer since 2007

Vicki mentioned that my friend Jim Woeber was leading renovations at the ACTS facility. Next thing I knew I was discussing layouts, cost estimates and lighting needs. When the job was done, I told Vicki I might stop in to say hello. She suggested I become an interviewer. I said "no" and she said "yes." You know who won!

Dave Buchanan, volunteer since 2004

In 2001 I walked in to ACTS to volunteer. They asked my name, if I had a good back and if I had a truck. Then they took my picture and I started working in the food pantry, ordering, hauling and unloading food. My co-workers have become my best friends in Aiken, even though I was once accidentally hit on the head with a can of pork and beans and needed 8 stitches!

Dick Grant, volunteer since 2001

I remember a client needed formula for two babies and we had none! I called other agencies but could not find any. Just before she left empty-handed, Peg Rodgers came in loaded down with three cases of formula brought back when she visited her pediatrician daughter in Virginia. She was going to bring it on Monday, her regular day, but "something" told her to bring it right then. God's presence is in this place and His hand is in this ministry.

Mary Bunch, volunteer since 1986

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

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In memoriam and in honor

ACTS thanks those who gave gifts in memory of: Dick Begley, Hal Chapman, Dave Honkonen, Edward & Agnes Mullin, Bryan Tompkins Owens, and Frampton Toole.

Gifts were given in honor of: ACTS 25th anniversary, ACTS staff, Jed Alexander's 85th birthday, Gaile Boyd, Marshall & Anne Cain's 25th wedding anniversary, Jay Creamer, Hannah Daugherty, Walter Guy, Mary Lou Holly, and Barbara Scott.

E-Mail or regular mail?

Want to help ACTS save money and help the environment too? ACTS can e-mail your newsletter and other information instead of printing and mailing. To sign up, please send an e-mail to info@actsofaiken.org. If you prefer a paper copy you can continue to receive information in the mail.

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