

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



Volume XXX, number 3

Fall 2017

ACTS Mission Statement

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

ACTS

340 Park Avenue SW
Aiken, SC 29801
Hours: M-F 11-3
Phone: (803) 649-3800
Client Services Phone:
(803)642-5919

Resale Store:

401 Hayne Avenue
Hours: 9-4
Phone: 803-226-0134

E-mail:

info@actsofaiken.org
Web: www.actsofaiken.org
Facebook:
www.facebook.org/
actsofaiken—and
www.facebook.org/acts
resale store

ACTS of Graniteville 2nd ACTS Resale Store

50 Canal St, Ste 6
Hours: M-F 10-5, Sat. 9-1
Phone: (803)392-7022
Facebook:
www.facebook.org/
2nd ACTS



ACTS will be closed
November 22-24 for the
Thanksgiving Day
Holiday

A Hand Up, Not a Hand Out

One of the most important things ACTS gives to clients is the opportunity for independence! While much of the assistance clients need is food, clothing and help with utility or medical bills, these are only temporary solutions. ACTS volunteer interviewers are trained to look at the long term. Is the client able and willing to make changes needed to become self-sufficient? Many are not able, due to physical or mental disability.

Others have started on the path to self-sufficiency, but just need some help. Transportation is a big problem for ACTS clients. Once they have found a job, they have often depleted their financial resources and have nothing left to pay for a car, gas and insurance.



To meet this need ACTS has started a new car ministry, which provides a used car to clients who need transportation and have a full time job to pay expenses like gas and insurance. The program would not be possible without the generous gifts of the community. Bob Richards Chevrolet recently bought

a used car at auction, painted and detailed it, and donated it to ACTS. Shaw's Fork Baptist recently donated \$6,000 to the car ministry.

These gifts make it possible for ACTS clients to move forward on the road to independence. For example, Mary, an ACTS client, works full time at McDonalds and cares for her nephew. She has walked to work for nearly a year, and was thrilled to receive a car from ACTS. In the summer, McDonalds often cuts the hours of their regular staff so they can provide jobs for students, and Mary's hours were cut. But when McDonald's heard about her and the car program, they returned her to full time employment.

Howard had issues in the past, but worked with Vocational Rehabilitation and saved part of his stipend toward his dream of starting his own lawn care business. He received a truck from ACTS, and referrals to other state agencies that could help. A SCORE (Senior Corps of Retired Executives) volunteer helped him get his business started and continues to mentor him. Howard was able to get a trailer and hitch and is now the proud owner of a lawn care service.

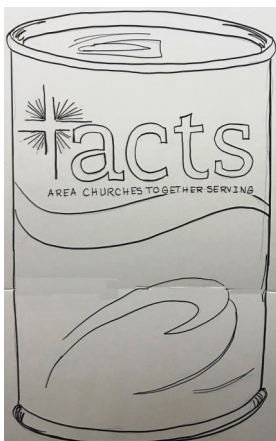
These are just two of the wonderful stories where ACTS has partnered with our neighbors in need to help them become more successful in their sustainability.



Happy Birthday ACTS and ACTS of Graniteville!!

ACTS of Aiken celebrated it's 31st anniversary in August with special sales and events (such as a bag of clothing for 31 cents with a donation of a can of food). This is part of the national movement "Giving Tuesday" (November 28, the week following Black Friday). ACTS' goal is to collect 3,100 cans of food in addition to regular donations.

Help
ACTS
Meet
Our
Goal!



Details
Coming
Soon!!

ACTS of Graniteville will celebrate it's 1st anniversary September 30. Look for updates on our Facebook page and come and join the fun! There will be games, karaoke, food and fun with a carnival theme. Volunteers are needed, as well as local businesses to donate prizes or food. The 2nd ACTS Resale Store is open daily from 10-5 but clients are seen only on Thursdays. Volunteers are needed to help expand service days. Call 803-649-3800 for information.



Grants and Gifts



Recent gifts to ACTS include:

- Aiken Co-Op Employee Grant Program—\$230
- Aiken Woman's Club—\$100
- Augusta Golf Association—\$1,500
- Chevron Volunteer Matching Program—\$1,000
- "From Charleston With Love" \$9,249
- Mario's Pizza fundraiser—\$366
- Shaw's Fork Baptist Church—\$6,000
- Publix Super Markets—4,800 paper grocery bags for the Senior Food Program
- St. Paul Lutheran Church—240 pairs of children's socks and underwear

ACTS Partners



Savannah River Nuclear Solutions

Atlantic Broadband
SCE&G

Hutson-Etherredge Companies

- Apizza di Napoli, LLC
- Aiken Ophthalmology
- Family Pharmacy
- Gillam & Associates
- Haas & Hilderbrand, Inc
- Holley Heating & Air
- Jackson-Brooks Funeral Home
- Johnson, Johnson, Whittle & Lancer, Attorneys
- Margaret's Garden Adult Daycare, LLC
- Meybohm Realtors, Southside
- Napier Funeral Home
- Security Federal Bank

**Check out the new ACTS
website at
[www.actsofaiken.org!](http://www.actsofaiken.org)**



Judy Clements and Sheri DeWitt of the St. Paul Lutheran Church WELCA group display some of the 240 pairs of back-to-school underwear and socks donated through the generosity of the congregation during several Undie Sundays held in July.

In honor and in memory—

Gifts have been given to ACTS in honor of: Jack Norris and the graduation of Mira Eisenhower.



Gifts have been given in memory of: Mackey Scott, Jr, Judy Montgomery, Wanda (Tommie) Bowman, Betty Cook, Jean Mahoney, Melinda McNulty, Jackie Deaton, Marcus Huff and Bill McCall.



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!

Surprise!

Some surprises are good—but others can ruin the most carefully planned budget and use resources that had been planned for other needs.

The ACTS building, formerly a car dealership, is old but is in a very convenient location for our clients. Many come on foot and either live downtown or come from nearby shelters.

In July the air conditioner at ACTS broke down—just when temperatures were at their hottest. Fans came out and lights were turned down until a new \$7,000 air conditioning unit could be installed.

A month later the springs in the overhead door to the parking lot broke. That's the door used to receive donated goods as well as carry out bags of food for the Senior Food program. A repair was soon made at a cost of \$1,300.

How does ACTS pay for emergency repairs? The ACTS Community Foundation Endowment Fund helps pay for unexpected expenses but needs to be replenished. Please consider a gift or remember the ACTS Endowment Fund as part of your long term financial planning. It can be part of a legacy of caring that continues into the future.

Some people would like to volunteer at ACTS but can't commit to a regular schedule.



Sound familiar? If so, have we got a job for you (and possibly your friends and family!!) ACTS needs volunteers to pick up donated furniture—if you don't have a truck you can use the ACTS pick-up.

Volunteers are also needed to pick up food donated by local grocery stores. Either a pick-up or a car trunk will work.

ACTS also needs help around the ACTS building with cleaning and general maintenance, in the resale store or with client services both in Aiken and Graniteville. And help is needed with several upcoming events including the ACTS of Graniteville 1st Anniversary celebration September 30, the United Way Fun Day October 7, and Fall Steeplechase October 28.

Call 649-3800 for information.

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

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Mark
Your
Calendar

Coming soon at ACTS!

September 30 -ACTS of Graniteville
1st Anniversary Celebration

October 7—United Way Fun Day

October 28—Fall Steeplechase

November—Heater & Utility Drive

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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