



OUR IMPACT IN 2022

13,379 Services were provided to more than 23,612 individuals



FOOD

8,904 Households representing 16,784 individuals received a week's worth of supplemental food, accounting for 352,464 meals.



HOUSING

1,890 Households representing 3,766 individuals received Utility Assistance (including fans and heaters) to prevent disconnection of service. 54 Households received Rent Assistance to prevent homelessness.



CLOTHING

903 Clothing Services were provided to more than 1,221 individuals.



MEDICAL

1,447 Clients received Medical Assistance in the form of prescriptions, medical/dental visits and procedures, medical devices and nutrition supplements for seniors.



TRANSPORTATION

7 Qualified adults who were employed but lacked reliable transportation received used cars.

Dear Friends,

As I reflect on the past year, I am grateful for all of the moving parts that come together each week to help ACTS serve in the community.

Thanks to the efforts of many partners, we continue to expand our services across Aiken County. We have been able to reach more senior adults and families with young children in our rural, underserved areas thanks to the operation of our eight monthly food distributions.

Our resale stores experienced their busiest year ever. The stores' success is fueled by those in the community who donate their gently used clothing, housewares and other goods, and to our loyal shoppers. Proceeds from the resale stores help fund many of our other services.

Overall, the number of individuals served in 2022 increased by 21% from the previous year.

I have pointed this out before, and it always bears repeating. ACTS was built on an ecumenical collaboration of 20 churches that joined together to provide assistance to individuals and families in need. Today, we celebrate 69 partner churches that work alongside us, providing financial support and volunteer manpower to support our mission.

ACTS operates around three important elements. We have a small and very dedicated staff. We have more than 425 loyal volunteers who are a day to day presence in our building and in the communities we serve. And, we have community partners who recognize the value of our work, and help us to fulfill our mission.

In our newsletter, we try to highlight and honor volunteers and partners that are so important to our work. I hope you'll take a moment to read more about them, and to see why we celebrate that by working together we can accomplish so much for those in need.

Blessings,

Suzanne K. Jackson

Suzanne K. Jackson, Executive Director

As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace.

1 PETER 4:10



Aiken Black Historical Committee and ACTS Host Annual Food Distribution

The Aiken Black Historical Committee in Aiken teamed up with the City of Aiken, ACTS and Golden Harvest Food Bank to host the second annual food distribution at the Smith Hazel Recreation Center on Friday, February 17th. Numerous volunteers of all ages came together to support the event and participants from as far away as Barnwell County received food for a week based on family size. The rainy weather did not deter those from participating. Approximately 306 individuals benefited from the distribution and more than 50 volunteers from the community helped make it a reality.

Cheryl Cummings, Community Service Coordinator for the Aiken Black Historical Committee and ACTS Board Member stated, "The number of people that came out both to volunteer and that needed food spoke to a growing issue in the Aiken community. Food insufficiency is real. As a community, I am so happy that the organizations that came together could at least bring attention to this issue and give a week's reprieve to those who are in dire need of additional resources."



“

“This is one little cog among so many big things in the ACTS organization, but they’ve helped us to do this one little thing. And you can think Christmas is no big thing, but it’s a big thing for a ten year old going back to school after Christmas. We’re trying to make that better for some children out of so many.”

BETH BECKHAM



ACTS VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Beth Beckham

Like a majority of volunteers, Beth Beckham is modest about her role within the ACTS framework.

Now retired after a career teaching science (including 29 years at South Aiken High School), she has found more time for volunteerism as a way to fill her days and serve her community.

Her niche is an activity that enhances the ACTS mission, after being conceived and directed by the organization’s founding partner, Aiken’s First Presbyterian Church. That niche is the Giving Together Store, a small space housed within ACTS to help clients and others in need purchase affordable Christmas and birthday gifts.

“This came from the Deacons within First Presbyterian,” she says, “around 2014 or 2015.” The group read two books, and wrestled with the ideas around balancing acts of charity with the dignity of those on the receiving end. “We decided we would love to have a store where people can buy children’s things for much less. That’s where it all started.”

“Karen Perry and Carla Cloud helped us organize the idea. They gave us the space and the support, and they sent us clients. We’ve been at this now for eight years.”

Year one came at Christmas, with donated gifts lining the ACTS break room. The effort served 22 children. For Christmas 2022, the total had grown to 154 children and 57 families. According to the store’s records, over 900 children have been served in eight years.

The store’s formula is simple: a three-gift maximum per child, with each gift costing three dollars. Like other activities at ACTS, shopping is by appointment.

“The whole premise is that if you’re buying for your child rather than somebody giving you the gifts to give your child, there’s a greater sense of participation, dignity, and pride that you’ve helped. Most people don’t resent having to pay.

“We even have people who shopped and gave us a tip. For instance, if the bill was nine dollars and they gave us a ten, they’d say keep the change. That’s empowering. That’s got to do something for people’s self-esteem. Whenever we have a client, we explain that this is called ‘giving together.’ People are donating gifts and money. ACTS is giving us space and access to clients. But you’re giving, too. If you’re giving me nine dollars, I’m putting that right back into our account and we’ll go buy gifts for other children. So you’re part of that collaboration.”

The collaboration has grown over the eight years. In addition to help from others at her church, the store’s benefactors include a local law firm, a Girl Scout Troop, and collections from the preschools at First Presbyterian and St. John’s Methodist. Additionally, several residents from the Villages at Woodside have an annual project that contributes significant donations of money and gifts.

The breadth of support has helped the store provide enhancements like stocking stuffers (again, three per child), and wrapping paper. And, when donations permit, larger items such as bicycles.

The store has also expanded, albeit slowly, into birthday gift offerings. Covid protocols slowed that effort down, but applications are routinely being received and accepted.

“This is one little cog among so many big things in the ACTS organization,” Beckham said, “but they’ve helped us to do this one little thing. And you can think Christmas is no big thing, but it’s a big thing for a ten year old going back to school after Christmas,” she says. “We’re trying to make that better for some children out of so many.”



Fan Drive

ACTS 15TH ANNUAL

SAVE THE DATE

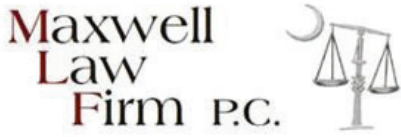
Lowe’s of Aiken on Whiskey Road

May 12 & 13 from 10 am – 6 pm

Come by and purchase a fan or provide a financial donation. Your support of the ACTS 15th Annual Utility and Fan Drive will benefit an individual or family in need. All donations are tax deductible.



ACTS
CORPORATE
PARTNER
HIGHLIGHT



Maxwell Law Firm

Maxwell Law Firm has been dedicated to helping those in our community who have been injured recover legally for over thirty (30) years. Our firm handles injury cases such as on-the-job injuries, vehicle collisions, dog bites among others. In recent years, we have expanded our practice to include Estate Planning which is preparing wills and other documents. The firm also handles helping with navigating the Estate of someone who has passed away including litigating the matter when necessary.

We pride ourselves in helping others navigate through difficult legal situations and to reach a recovery in the matter. We contribute to ACTS because of their mission and service to the community. They provide a vital need in this community and help those who find themselves in need. We see everyday in our practice, people who have fallen on hard times due to no fault of their own. We are so grateful that there is an organization like ACTS that can help those in our community make it through those difficult times.

WE THANK OUR 2023 CORPORATE PARTNERS

Shepherds



Benefactors



Patrons

- Cold Creek Nurseries, LLC
- Concept HR
- Hass & Hilderbrand, Inc.
- Security Federal Bank
- SRP Federal Credit Union
- Trip Buchanan Signature Dentistry

Advocates

- Blue Salamander Solutions
- Phillip Hawkins Motor Company

Friends

- Aiken Pest Control, Inc.
- Downtown Dental
- Durban-Laird Insurance
- Family MedCenter of Aiken
- Graves Auto Salvage
- Hutson-Etherredge Companies
- Southern Dental Associates

GIFTS + GRANTS

The Gifting Tree Foundation
for heaters for senior adults

Gregg-Graniteville Foundation
to serve the
Graniteville community

Aiken Hospital Relief Society

United Way of Aiken County

SRP Federal Credit Union
to support seniors participating in the
ACTS Senior Food Program

First Presbyterian Church of Aiken
Christmas Eve Offering

Trinity United Methodist Church
Christmas "Giving Tree"

"Caring and Sharing" Annual Drive
\$156,630 raised during
the campaign

Thank you for the generosity of our Funders

Special Thanks

WE APPRECIATE THE
 GENEROUS CONTRIBUTORS
 WHO HELP MAKE A DIFFERENCE



Gifts in Memory

Mrs. Mary Jane Springman
 Mackey and Barbara Scott
 Jeanie Dynarski
 Jayne Cornell
 Marlene Kenner
 RAOM Austin B. Scott (Ret.)
 Elmore and Mary Fabrick
 Mike and Marcelle Bennett

George Milne
 Andrea Rush
 Robert Morenc
 Elizabeth Summerall Deloach
 In Memory of Our Parents –
 Miss Them (Stephen and
 Catherine Hevel)
 Mr. Thomas F. Heenan

Thomas O. Boykin
 Mrs. Marlene D. Kenner
 Tom Young, Sr.
 Fred Cavanaugh
 Jack Mullin
 Myrle Jett
 Nobie Sinclair
 Steve Standlee

Gifts in Honor

Leslie and Taylor Garnett
 Joyce and Bill Hardy
 New Covenant Presbyterian Church
 Beth Beckham
 Karen Perry
 In honor of staff and volunteers
 Tommy and Debbie Sessions
 Opal Bullington
 Tom and Delly Young
 Charlotte Williamson
 Jay and Alice Creamer
 Milledge Austin

Kathy Kent
 Pastor Stephen Cannon
 Mr. and Mrs. David O'Neil
 Mr. and Mrs. Bob Kirkland
 In honor of my family (Doris C. Johnson)
 Jane and David Keisler
 Abraham Sanders, Jr.
 In honor of all you do (Lauren Britt)
 Fr. Grant Wiseman, St Thaddeus
 Jim and Mary Bunch's 50th
 Wedding Anniversary
 Lorelei Sparks

A WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST VOLUNTEERS

Warner Burnette
 Gloria Ann Callahan
 Patience Clark
 Andy Cone
 Deborah Creech
 Jordan Cummings
 Kasheyonna David
 Edward Eidson
 Christina Felder
 Robert Felder
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Madison Hoover
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 Chris Oehlberg
 Phyllis Rembert
 Jessica Spires
 Melissa Steinkuhl
 Carson Styes

Marianne Swearingen
 Allaina Rayne
 Szilveszter
 Zachary Thomas
 Celeste Walker
 Steven Watson
 Jon Wickliffe
 Mary Wickliffe
 Carmen A. Williams

ACTS Needs

Please consider donating these items in support of our clients:

- » Peanut butter and jelly
- » Toilet paper
- » Shelf-milk
- » Dish soap
- » Soup
- » Laundry soap
- » Juice
- » Manual can openers
- » Pasta and Pasta Sauce (cans)
- » Cereal
- » Feminine hygiene items
- » Razors

Other items needed for the Resale Stores:

- » Gently used housewares and furniture
- » Children's clothing (2T and up)
- » Men's clothing
- » Clothing for male and female youth

Please call 803-649-3800 for more information or with any questions.



PROVIDING HOPE TO OUR Neighbors in Need

MAIN OFFICE
 340 Park Avenue, SW, Aiken
Office Hours
 Monday – Friday: 9 am – 5 pm
Administration: 803-649-3800

CLIENT SERVICES
 Monday - Friday:
 11 am - 3 pm, by appointment
Aiken: 803-642-5919

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK
 @actsofaiken
 @actsofaikenresalestore
 @actsofgraniteville

ACTS OF AIKEN RESALE STORE
 401 Hayne Avenue, Aiken
Hours
 Monday – Friday:
 10 am – 5 pm
803-226-0134

**ACTS OF GRANITEVILLE
 RESALE STORE**
 50 Canal Street, Graniteville
Hours
 Monday – Friday:
 10 am – 5 pm
803-392-7022

info@actsofaiken.org
www.actsofaiken.org

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 Eric Muhlbaier, *Vice President*
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Suzanne Jackson, *Executive Director*
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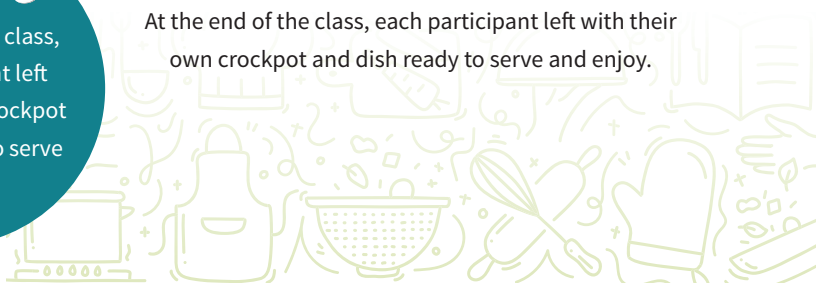

At the end of the class, each participant left with their own crockpot and dish ready to serve and enjoy.



Adventures in Cooking

St. Thaddeus Episcopal Church, Clemson Extension and ACTS joined together to host the first cooking class for clients of ACTS. Participants learned safe cooking tips and together prepared a nutritious dish utilizing food that is typically provided through the ACTS Food Pantry.

At the end of the class, each participant left with their own crockpot and dish ready to serve and enjoy.



Girl Scouts Donate Food and Hygiene Kits for the Homeless

Meredith Zimmerly and Natalie Rankin spearheaded a Girl Scout project to provide ACTS with food and hygiene kits for the homeless.

To kickstart their project, they hosted a contest where different groups made kits to win a pizza party. They supplemented these kits with donations they collected during a day at Wal-Mart.

The girls demonstrated their ability to develop and implement a plan for success; and they are excited that they collected enough items to create more than 325 kits. Both girls will earn their Silver Award, the highest award they can earn as middle school Girl Scouts. ACTS is honored to support Meredith and Natalie's achievements.





FOTAS Provides Pet Food for ACTS Clients

We are grateful for our partnership with FOTAS. Periodically during the year, FOTAS generously donates dog and cat food for us to distribute to our clients who have pets. While ACTS remains focused on providing for individuals and families who are food insecure, our partnership with FOTAS ensures we have a supply of food for our “furry companions.”



Valley Empty Bowl Fundraiser

On February 11th, Leavelle McCampbell Middle School hosted their inaugural Valley Empty Bowl fundraising event. Those who attended enjoyed a variety of soups prepared by local chefs in addition to a silent auction. Upon leaving, each attendee was presented a handmade ceramic bowl created by a student at the school. Proceeds benefited ACTS as the school’s local mission and Unicef as their global mission.

Leavelle McCampbell is a “Leader in Me” school and the students demonstrated their leadership skills by actively participating in the coordination of the event working alongside Sandra Weeks, event coordinator and art teacher, and the school’s administration.



WOULD YOU LIKE TO BECOME AN ACTS Partner?

Call us at **803-649-3800** or email us at info@actsofaiken.org to get started.