

Dear Friend,

Many people feel that effective messaging is often focused on leaving the reader with no more than three main points. With that in mind, I want to use this message – my last in this position as Executive Director – to highlight three attributes that seem to me to be central to ACTS.

1 RESILIENCE

Resilience is the ability to withstand or recover quickly from difficulties. The past few years have been significantly impacted by two events – the Covid pandemic and an unforeseen hurricane – both of which tested our resilience in a major way. Our client base has needed us, and we have consistently found creative ways to sustain and even expand our services to ensure we meet the relevant needs at hand.

2 FLEXIBILITY

Flexibility and resilience go hand in hand. The combined strength of our staff, our board and our volunteers gives us an array of ways to think about how to do our work and accomplish our goals. As one example, our approach to food distribution has changed over the years, allowing us to take food distributions to many more clients each year across Aiken County.

3 VIGILANCE

We are in a time when more and more people are living on the edge. At ACTS, we've worked hard to cultivate a mindset that looks not just at what we have to do today, but at how we need to position ourselves to be a sustainable organization.

This summer marks the end of my more than seven years in this position. It has been humbling to experience how our volunteers, donors and community partners come together to serve with grace and compassion. We feel God's presence in everything we do at ACTS. A favorite Bible verse that I feel captures the essence of ACTS is Peter 4:10, "Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms." This is my daily reminder of the many blessings I receive when I am able to serve others.

I am grateful for all of you. It's been an honor to serve in this position, and to work alongside so many people who are committed to the organization's mission of "together serving."

Blessings,

Suzanne K. Jackson

Suzanne K. Jackson, Executive Director

EACH MAN SHOULD GIVE
WHAT HE HAS DECIDED
IN HIS HEART TO GIVE,
NOT RELUCTANTLY OR UNDER
COMPULSION FOR GOD LOVES
a cheerful giver.

2 CORINTHIANS 9:7



HURRICANE HELENE RELIEF FOOD DISTRIBUTION IN NORTH AIKEN

ACTS partnered with Rotary Club International, United Way of Aiken County and Golden Harvest Food Bank to host a food distribution on May 29th targeting families who are still feeling the effects of Hurricane Helene.

We thank J. D. Lever Elementary for hosting the event and to the staff who volunteered. Though it rained heavily during the early part of the event, it was not a deterrent to serving individuals and families who were in need.

We were able to serve 200 individuals with a generous assortment of food for a week based on family size.





ACTS VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Congratulations to Bill Collins

A special recognition of the 2024 Volunteer of the Year went to Bill Collins, a long-time volunteer who has served in many capacities with ACTS. He has been a dedicated board member and president and helped craft the initial bylaws that the organization still uses today.

Bill created the ACTS Tracker database for the collection of client, volunteer, partner and donor data, an invaluable tool that helps ACTS manage daily operations. He continues to serve as a passionate interviewer, and frequently leads the morning prayer.

As Elana Williams, ACTS Operations Manager, so eloquently states, "When he (Bill) sits across from someone in need, he listens with a full heart. He doesn't just help people – he believes in them. He brings dignity, grace, and warmth into every conversation; his spirit is woven into the fabric of ACTS."

Congratulations to Bill Collins for his numerous years of unwavering service to ACTS.



NPHC of Aiken Co. Partners with ACTS During May Senior Food Distribution

We welcomed members from the Aiken County Panhellenic Council who volunteered to help serve our seniors during the ACTS Senior Food Program in May.

Members representing many of the Divine Nine fraternities and sororities participated. There was a buzz of activity throughout the facility as they helped bag and load food for our senior clients.

President Octavious Murray states, "When unity meets service, transformation begins. NPHC proudly serves with ACTS to build a stronger Aiken." Cherell S. Butler, VP who helped organize the day of service, shares her sentiments, "This has been an amazing opportunity to partner with ACTS especially during the month of May for Senior Citizens Awareness Month to serve our seniors, increase the awareness of the Senior Food Distributions and to make a difference in our community."

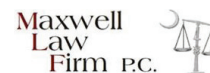


WE THANK OUR 2025 CORPORATE PARTNERS

Shepherds



Benefactors



Patrons

Concept HR

Hass & Hilderbrand

Hutson-Etherredge Companies, Inc.

Phillip Hawkins Motor Company

Riverbend Nurseries

SRP Federal Credit Union

Advocates

Aiken Pest Control

Blue Salamander Solutions, LLC

Downtown Dental

J. E. Stewart Builders, Inc.

ACTS CORPORATE PARTNER HIGHLIGHT



Omega Technical Services is a nuclear operations company providing professional services to an array of Nuclear Security Enterprise production and manufacturing clients.

Established in 1995 as a Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business, Omega is in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. Omega consists of ~ 215 employees with offices in Aiken, SC, and Los Alamos, NM. Four core capabilities of Omega include work integration, project execution, startup, readiness, and commissioning, and nuclear operations and safety.

Omega Technical Services supported nearly 50 local charitable organizations last year alone. Omega's aim is to serve the most vulnerable local populations and strive to get the resources as close to the point of need as possible. Omega's philanthropic priorities are veterans organizations, local homeless programs, adults with developmental disabilities, and pediatric medical services. As a team, Omega's employees have traditionally raised money and participated in fundraising events with Alzheimer's TN and Breakthrough Type-1 Diabetes of East Tennessee.

A WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST VOLUNTEERS

Kamryn Wizorek
Chastan Owens
Jaqueline Rivera
Maura Bazemore
Shayla Henderson
Taylor Gomillion
Tyvonna Gibson-Scott
Judy Hancock
Marti Sullivan
Breann McIntosh

David Maus
Olivia Massey
Audrey Henderson
Jon Nagle
Barbaranne Jauregui
Nancy Koshik
Hurmayonne Morgan
Zyimanni Walker
Brittany Carey
Tony McKinney



Special Thanks

WE APPRECIATE THE GENEROUS
CONTRIBUTORS WHO HELP MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Gifts in Memory

Donna Becker
Geneva Miller
Alec Lee
Alex Davis
Shirley Ann
Govenettio

Jeanie Dynarski
Dr. Bill and June
Prout
Roy McLain
Hank Elder
Josie Speaks

Betty Rucker
Casina Cromer
Kimberly Maddox
Freida Walker
Seth Thomas
Dr. Doris Hammond

Gifts in Honor

Larry and Cindy McHale
ACTS & Bill Collins
James Bell – 92 years

AMP
Jane Scott
Those who suffer

Jay and Alice Creamer
Lerena Stephens
Suzanne Jackson

Gifts and Grants

Dominion Energy Charitable Foundation –
Funding to support ACTS Food Program

**United Way of Aiken County
Hurricane Helene Relief Grant –**
Funding to support ACTS Utility
Assistance Program

Aiken Newcomers Club –
Funding to support ACTS Food Program

Women of Woodside –
Funding to support ACTS Food Program

Women United – Funding to support
ACTS Food Programs for women and children

The Gifting Tree Foundation –
Funding for Utility Assistance, Heaters and Fans

Rotary Club International –
Funding to support the North Aiken
Food Distribution in partnership with
United Way, ACTS and Golden Harvest



**HURRICANE HELENE
Community Crisis Fund**
for the Central Savannah River Area

**Community Foundation for the
CSRA Hurricane Helene Relief –**
Funding for Rent and Utility Assistance



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

@actsresalestoreaiken

@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

ACTS BOARD MEMBERS

Officers

Pastor Matt Steelman, *President*

Eric Muhlbaier, *Vice President*

Lee Sims, *Treasurer*

Larry McHale, *Secretary*

Dr. Cheryl Cummings, *Member-at-Large*

Members

Rev. Will Altman

Mike Borders

Tom Boykin

Rev. Paul Bush

Melissa McKnight

Nicole Morgan

Zack Moulton

Scott Neely

Kathy Samaha

Louisiana Sanders

Wanda Scott

Debbie Sessions

Cindy Snell

Staff

Suzanne Jackson, *Executive Director*

Elana Williams, *Operations Manager*

Jennifer Chastain, *Administrative Manager*

Patricia Paz, *Resale Store Manager*



A United Way of
Aiken County Partner Agency

ACTS Needs

Please consider donating these
items in support of our clients:

Pantry Needs

- » Individual Pop-Top Vienna Sausage
- » Individual Tuna/Chicken Salad Kits
- » Beef Jerky/Slim Jims
- » Trail Mix
- » Granola Bars
- » Peanut Butter and Jelly

Homeless Needs

- » Disposable Razors
- » Deodorant
- » Full Body Wipes

Miscellaneous

The ACTS Bicycle Program needs gently used men's and women's bicycles in safe working condition.

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

