

She Inspires Me

By: Heather Ivery

About three months ago a young lady came to the Opportunity Center. She stood out to me at first because she was a woman and there are very few women who come to the Center. But she stood out even more because of her attitude. She lacked that “beaten by the world, defeated, hopeless attitude that so often accompanies people when they first come to use. Instead, she seemed determined and focused on what she needs to accomplish in order to get on her feet. Kim, it turns out is a single mother from Cuba, MS. She is in her mid 20’s and came to Jackson after being laid off when the company she worked for closed. Her hope was to be able to find work in Jackson because it is a bigger city. She left her children with her aunt and came here with no more than a bag of clothes and the few dollars she had managed to scrounge up.

Now, I can hear some people saying now, “why would you come all the way here without a place to stay?”. Some people even use this as a reason to not want homeless services in Jackson because they believe it somehow “attracts” people to come here and live homeless.

But Kim didn’t come here for that. She didn’t have any idea where she would stay when she got here. She only knew that she could not provide for her children in the

place she was and had to seek out something better. If that meant sacrificing a roof over her head, it was worth it. If it meant going to a place she was unfamiliar with no way to return home unless she was successful in her job search, so be it. Her willingness to sacrifice her own safety and comfort for the welfare of her family was inspirational. It was also the drive behind her determination.

Once Kim found the Opportunity Center, we were able to help her get what she needed. She utilized the computer lab to search for jobs and fill out online applications. She was able to get the clothes she needed for interviews from the Clothes Closet and hygiene supplies so she could present her best self. We were even able to help her track down an extended family member in town that eventually allowed her to stay in their home for a while.

It still took almost 2 months for Kim to find a job. But, her persistence paid off last month with a part time job at Popeye’s. As excited as she was to get this job, she knows she needs much more than part-time minimum wage to get on her feet and provide for her children. She is still pursuing other job possibilities and I have every confidence she will continue to move on to bigger and better things. She inspires me.

DIRECTOR’S CORNER (CONTINUED)

The renovated Stewpot will not only be much cleaner, but it will be easier to clean, it will be handicapped accessible and it will have space for children’s afterschool program. Plus there are added comforts for our volunteers. There will be ample and secure parking, quicker access to the serving area and lockers in which volunteers may secure coats and purses.

That having been said, Stewpot needs help to realize our dreams. We are searching for all the funds we can find in grants but we need local help from the friends we have to complete the dream. Please consider a generous donation if you haven’t already made one. We have to have your help.

PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE

*Annual Business &
Professional Leaders Luncheon*

STEW POT'S ANNUAL
REPORT TO THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY

Wednesday, September 12
Noon

at River Hills Club
3600 Ridgewood Rd

Speaker: Lt. Governor Tate Reeves

RSVP
Michelle Bingham
601.353.2759
mbingham@stewpot.org



**An Early Reminder
Stewpot's Annual Red Beans
and Rice Celebration**

TRUSTMARK PARK

OCTOBER 27, 2012

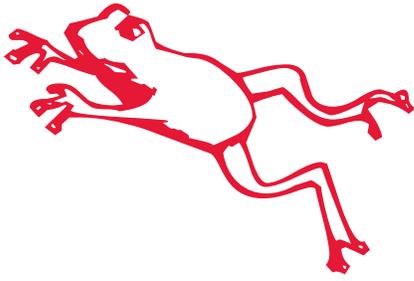
11am - 5pm

1 Braves Way

Pearl, Ms 39208

**"A Fun Day for the
Whole Family"**

See Ya There!



Leaping into Learning!

By: *Monique Ealey*

It is back to school time for students throughout Jackson and that means that it is time for Stewpot's After School Program to gear up! We are very excited about the school year and the opportunity to serve many children and their families within the community. Across the summer I observed many of the students' academic capabilities and I had many conversations with several parents who shared and expressed needs and concerns for their children's academic and behavioral success. In the children's program one of our major goals is academic excellence, the staff works hard with the kids each day ensuring that they are academically prepared to meet the expectations of their school district and be successful upon completion of the scholastic journey. With that goal in mind, we decided to expand our service to help meet the needs of more children and families; previously we have served only 2-3 schools in the area, but beginning this school year the children's program is now picking up and working with students at 6 schools in the Jackson Public School District. We now have students at Poindexter Elementary, Barr Elementary, Pecan Park Elementary, Isabel Elementary, Raines Elementary, and Walton Elementary. We are excited and eager to begin working with these additional students! We have some very dedicated workers that have planned and prepared for the arrival of these students. We have a reading program in place in efforts to increase and improve reading scores as well as to promote literacy amongst our students. We are entering this school year "Leaping into Learning!"

In addition to our strong focus on academics we strive to provide our students with many recreational activities. We are also continuing our art program, our girls will be taking ballet lessons once a week, and our boys will begin cub scouts this year! We are thrilled about the many opportunities our children are afforded and we say "Thank You" to our many sponsors and donors. Anyone interested in being a part of this growing ministry in any way please contact me, Monique Ealey, at any time via email at mealey@stewpot.org or by phone at 601-260-9277.

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“Life is not about the road you travel, It’s all about the Journey.”

After 27 years of Loyalty and Dedication and Ministry, Nancy has decided to retire. Nancy is the longest serving Stewpot employee and has seen a lot changes happen here at Stewpot. She has worked with many staff members and served under the leadership of many of Stewpot’s Executive Directors. When asked what she would miss most about being at Stewpot, “She said, mostly the relationships that she has developed with the staff and clients.” When asked what she is most looking forward to, “She jokingly replied some much needed Rest and Relaxation!”

We will Always Love you and wish you God Speed Mrs. Nancy.

THINGS YOU MAY NOT KNOW ABOUT MS. NANCY

- 1. Favorite Dinner: Ham, Mac & Cheese, Vegetable, Rolls (NO!!! Greens)**
- 2. Favorite Author: James Mitchum**
- 3. Favorite Saying: Kiss my Foot**
- 4. Person who made the biggest impact on her life: Her Mom**
- 5. Biggest Misconception: People thinking that she’s a sweet old lady. “I can get feisty.”**
- 6. Favorite place ever visited: Wyoming**
- 7. Somewhere I’ve always wanted to go: California- East Coast**
- 8. Favorite Animals: Dogs and Cats. “I once owned 7 dogs, 2 cats, and a tarantula at the same time.**
- 9. Favorite Sports Team: Denver Broncos. “John Elway is my favorite player.”**
- 10. Favorite Color: Red**
- 11. What Means the Most to Me: “My Family.”**
- 12. Most Important Item I Possess: “My Family Pictures.”**
- 13. Favorite things to do: Read and Go to Bingo**

******Favorite Stewpot Memory: When Stewpot was located across the street in the old service station, one of our regular clients for lunch came in one day and paid for her lunch because she said, “she could finally afford to.” That was a blessing to see.******

Faith meeting needs in our community

**Your Stewpot family now has a
Facebook page!!**

When you are browsing the social network scene look up
the Stewpot facebook page and become a fan!



If you need a speaker for your church, civic, or school functions,
please call Michelle' Bingham at 601-353-2759 or email at
mbingham@stewpot.org for someone to gladly come share the
positive things that are happening at Stewpot. Let us get you fired
up to serve out the ministry in your heart.

**MEMORIALS &
HONORARIUMS**

MEMORY

Mrs. Wilma Cooper
by: Judy & James Sclater &
Bobbye & Bill Hemsley

Mary Ellen Richardson
by: Perry Richardson

HONOR

Micah Weathersby
by: Syntyche Weathersby

**This Month's Newsletter is Dedicated in Honor of Nancy Rose Dennis
for 27 years of service and ministry. May 5, 1985 - August 21, 2012**

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