



## HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL!

Happy Holidays from the Stewpot Family! This Holiday Season marks the 32nd year of Holiday Seasons for Stewpot. Stewpot started as an interfaith ministry serving the homeless and those in need of a hot lunch 5 days a week. Stewpot has now grown to 16 different ministries and occupies 6 buildings which serve 650-700 each day! During the summer when Stewpot hosts the Summer Camp for Children and Youth, that number swells another 100 as other children join with our regulars to participate in Summer Camp. Additionally, at nights when the temperature is below 34 degrees, Opportunity Center will become an emergency night shelter for an additional 55 people a night. Stewpot sees its mission as providing the bare necessities of life especially shelter, food and clothing to survive for those in need at no charge. It has also become the place in which thousands of volunteers practice their individual call to ministry during the year.

This year Stewpot has continued its ministries even though the tough economic times have continued. Thankfully, your personal donations have continued and will provide over half of what it takes to operate Stewpot for a year. For that, we are so grateful because we were able to provide the needed relief for the people that needed the help the most.

Aside from the day to day operations of Stewpot, our Capital Campaign is progressing. Many of the renovations to the Sanctuary have been completed and this year we hope to finish the repurposing of the Sanctuary into the new dining hall/community hall, and the new Chapel, the food pantry, the handicap accessible entries, and the volunteer parking and entrance area. However, we still need your help for this project to reach its goal. You may examine our progress on our webpage at [www.stewpot.org](http://www.stewpot.org) and our Facebook page. Even more revealing would be a tour which we will be happy to arrange. There are still naming opportunities for memorials to honor individuals or families. If you would like to donate to our capital campaign, please contact Rev. Frank Spencer at 601-353-2759 or e-mail to [fspencer@stewpot.org](mailto:fspencer@stewpot.org). We also encourage you, when riding down Capitol Street; to notice that the outside of the building has been completely cleaned and weatherproofed.

In conclusion, Stewpot's staff looks forward to the ministry opportunities that will be presented to us and to you in 2013. BUT, for right now, we wish you a Very Happy Holiday Season. Please enjoy family and friends and continue your prayers for Stewpot, its ministries and staff.

### DIRECTOR'S CORNER

By: Rev. Frank Spencer

Holiday season is a whole lot of fun at Stewpot. Many gracious businesses, individuals and groups want to make sure the 650 homeless and/or in-need individuals that Stewpot serves each day will have as festive a holiday as possible. We are so grateful to the generous people that make sure our shelter and after-school children have toys under their trees and that our other clients have food at their house and warm clothes for their bodies.

There are several groups that come to our 3 women and children shelters and have Christmas parties for them. St. James even has a huge party at the church for all of our shelters clients which include the men. We have numerous groups that come with small surprises such as snacks, gloves, caps or warm socks at our day shelter. Most people know us by our feeding ministry and so there are people, many inspired by children's ideas to bake cookies or small cakes, to buy gloves or

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## DIRECTOR'S CORNER *...continued*

scarves or underwear or hygiene items to hand out at lunch.

The love that is shared at this time is amazing to witness and I am very grateful to be a part of it. If you have not been to Stewpot in a while, come by and witness it yourself. You will be glad you did.

### *Kind Words and a Willing Ear Helps* By: Amy Kristin Delaughter

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I came to Stewpot several years ago as a volunteer, and since that time, have had the opportunity to serve in some capacity or other. I have had the opportunity to meet and greet our visitors, clients and volunteers as they initially arrive at Stewpot. I have been able to assist our female clients and their children in one of our Women's Shelters. I have even participated in the administrative side of Stewpot. This is the first year, however, that I have had the pleasure of serving in our Food Pantry as the Assistant to our Food Services Director, Stephanie Echols. Working this closely with our clients, on a one-on-one basis has been both rewarding and challenging, as their lives and personal struggles have become a part of my own life and touched my heart in ways only personal contact with another human being can afford. Not only does Stewpot provide for the physical sustenance of our clients, but for their spiritual and emotional needs as well. So, in my current position with Stewpot, I not only document their visits to our food pantry, but I do what I can to offer whatever emotional support I am able. Sometimes, I am only a listening ear, and sometimes, it seems this may be appreciated almost as much as the groceries Stewpot provides. This has been a humbling experience, and I go home grateful for what God has provided me. With the Holiday Season upon us, I am feeling especially humbled. As this is my first year to work in the pantry, this is also the first year I have assisted with preparing for our Holiday "Baskets". These baskets, as we call them, are actually boxes full of the basic Holiday essentials, such as a turkey, stuffing mix, cranberry sauce, sweet potatoes, green beans, corn, canned fruit, flour, meal and sugar. Although Stephanie tried to prepare me for the number of clients Stewpot serves during the Holiday Season, that number did not become a reality until just recently when we began preparing for these Thanksgiving Baskets. Panicked and overwhelmed do not do justice to the range of emotions I have experienced over the last several weeks as the sheer number of individuals in need became apparent in proportion to the amount of food we actually had on our shelves to distribute. We were scrounging this Saturday to make sure each of our baskets had what our clients have come to rely upon in preparation for their Thanksgiving meal. I believe Stephanie and I both shed a tear or two when an "eleventh-hour" angel actually went to Sam's, purchased and donated several much needed items, and somehow, somehow, we reached our Thanksgiving goal. As grateful as we are for such a blessing, we cannot help but think ahead to Christmas.

God, family, football, good food and lots of it have always been a part of my own Holiday tradition. And I suppose I have always taken for granted the smells and the noise and the kids and the "chaos" that I have come to love and expect every Season. It has always been a given that everyone would be uncomfortably full by the end of the day, that there would be plenty of left-overs and we would all get to fix a "take-home" plate. Until being introduced to Stewpot, I am ashamed to say that the thought of going hungry during the Holidays did not exist in my frame of reference, but I see that possibility for so many families this Season. It seems the economy has affected so many, and we at Stewpot feel the pinch just like everyone else. We just do not have the resources we once did. If you or anyone you know is able or willing to help by donating just one turkey for the upcoming Christmas Holidays, it would make such a difference to a family in need. Or, for just a \$25 donation, you could help one entire family share a Christmas meal together. Kind words and a willing ear help, but none of my good intentions will feed a hungry child or provide for a needy family. Please contact Stephanie Echols at (601)353-2759 or [sechols@stewpot.org](mailto:sechols@stewpot.org) if you are interested in participating in our Holiday Food Drives



# STEW POT BY THE NUMBERS

Everyone in Jackson seems to know that Stewpot feeds people. But what many people don't know is just how many people we feed. Here is a glimpse into how much food is needed for ONE average month at Stewpot.

The *Food Pantry* serves 583 people a month. This number includes all the members of the family from parents to children. Each family is given a four day supply of groceries to cover the entire household.

The *Community Kitchen* serves an average of 5,629 meals a month to any member of the community-no questions asked.

*Matt's House Emergency Shelter* for Women & Children provides around 3,360 meals a month the homeless women and children residing at the shelter.

*Sims House Transitional Shelter* for Women & Children provides approximately 1,300 meals to the families residing at the shelter.

The *Billy Brumfield House* for Men serves the homeless men of Jackson nearly 3,600 meals a month.

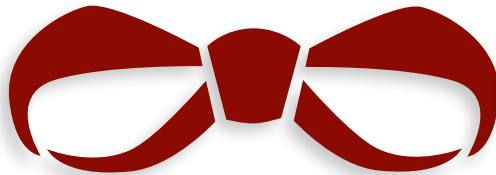
The *Opportunity Center* provides a place for the homeless and low-income of the area to wash clothes, shower, and meet with local service agencies. The Opportunity Center also provides a morning and after-noon snack and in an average month serves 3,240 snacks.

As you can see, we go through a lot of food each month at Stewpot. There is no way any of this could be possible without the support of you- our community, our family! So, from everyone at Stewpot, Thank You!

Many of you have not only assisted in this mass feeding effort through your donations and monetary support, but also through taking the time to cook food and bring it to the shelter.

**Thank You, Thank, You, Thank You!**

If you are interested in helping any of the above feeding ministries, please contact Tara Lindsey at 601-353-2759 or at [tlindsey@stewpot.org](mailto:tlindsey@stewpot.org).



## Congratulations ThanksFest 2012 Award Recipients

Volunteer of the Year Award—Josh Weiner

Volunteer of the Year Business Award—Simmons Catfish

Volunteer of the Year Congregation Award—Grace Bible Baptist Church

Matt Devenney Lifetime Achievement Award—Nancy Dennis

Reverend Donnell Flowers Spirit of Stewpot Award—Jocelyn Flowers



As we approach the close of another year, get consumed with the hustle and bustle of gifts and great food, and begin making plans for the New Year I would like to take time to speak to you about the great things our kids are doing. I have always had a vision to have a Stewpot Children's Choir and this year that vision has become a reality! We are ending this year by performing at Christmas on Ice in Madison on the Trustmark Stage. Our kids have worked very diligently learning the music and they are very proud of their work. We look forward to showcasing their talents more in the upcoming year.

Academically our children continue to excel. We just completed a reading program that was designed to motivate each child to read more. The students were in competition with each other to see who could read the most books and complete book reports, as you could imagine we had tons of papers to read! As a result of the competition our children now read each day without having to be told to do so.

We are so proud of the great things our kids are doing and we are constantly striving to make sure we do all we can to support them in all they do. Should you want to be apart of the great works here or if you are interested in having the kids sing at your church or event please contact Monique Ealey at 601-260-9277 or by email at [mealey@stewpot.org](mailto:mealey@stewpot.org)

## Got Art?

Do you have any artwork or items you would be interested in donating to Stewpot for auction at Taste of Mississippi? All donations are tax deductible and can be given before year's end. Please contact Michelle' Bingham with questions you might have at 601-353-2759 or [mbingham@stewpot.org](mailto:mbingham@stewpot.org)

### **Stewpot Community Services, Inc.**

1100 West Capitol Street,  
Jackson, MS 39203

Phone: 601-353-2759

Fax: 601-353-7071

E-mail: [www.stewpot.org](http://www.stewpot.org)

### **Board of Directors**

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### **Stewpot Staff Members**

Rev. Frank Spencer: Executive Director  
[fspencer@stewpot.org](mailto:fspencer@stewpot.org)

Mary Thompson: Women's Services  
[mthompson@stewpot.org](mailto:mthompson@stewpot.org)

Wilbert Logan: Billy Brumfield Shelter  
[wlogan@stewpot.org](mailto:wlogan@stewpot.org)

Yolanda Kirkland: Teen's Services  
[ykirkland@stewpot.org](mailto:ykirkland@stewpot.org)

Stephanie Echols: Food Services  
[sechols@stewpot.org](mailto:sechols@stewpot.org)

Monique Ealey Director: Children Services,  
[mealey@stewpot.org](mailto:mealey@stewpot.org)

Tara Lindsey: Volunteer Services,  
[tlindsey@stewpot.org](mailto:tlindsey@stewpot.org)

Michelle Bingham: Director, Special  
Events, [mbingham@stewpot.org](mailto:mbingham@stewpot.org)

Sherry Spille: Accountant,  
[sspille@stewpot.org](mailto:sspille@stewpot.org)

Stacey Howard: Grants,  
[showard@stewpot.org](mailto:showard@stewpot.org)

Shamberi Horton: Executive Assistant,  
[shorton@stewpot.org](mailto:shorton@stewpot.org)

Christie Burnett: Director, Arts Program,  
[cburnett@stewpot.org](mailto:cburnett@stewpot.org)

## Stewpot's Spirit of Giving

If you have a client, a friend, or a relative (or numerous clients, friends, and relatives) that you wish to remember for the Holidays but have difficulty with the right gift; please consider giving a gift to Stewpot in their name. To accomplish this, please send an appropriate contribution to the below address and give Stewpot their name and address. Your donation will be tax deductible and they will receive a card from Stewpot that a donation was made in their name. You also will receive a card from Stewpot thanking you for your donation for income tax purposes. Please send to:

Stewpot Spirit of Giving  
Attn: Michelle' Bingham  
1100 West Capital Street  
Jackson MS 39203

Yes, I would like to honor the following individuals with a special holiday contribution to Stewpot. I understand that you will send each person a 2012 Holiday Greeting Card that will acknowledge each gift.

Enclosed is my check in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to cover these gifts.

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Recipient's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Recipient's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
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Recipient's Name \_\_\_\_\_

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Recipient's Name \_\_\_\_\_

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Recipient's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

(use back if necessary)

Yes, I would like to make a special contribution to Stewpot Community Services to support your work during the holiday season.

Enclosed is my check in the amount of  \$25  \$50  \$100  \$250  \$\_\_\_\_\_.

Make checks payable to STEWPOT COMMUNITY SERVICES, INC.  
Contributions to Stewpot are tax deductible. A receipt will be sent to you.





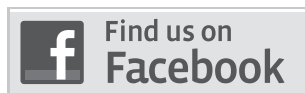
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*Faith meeting needs in our community*

### 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!



### HONORARIUMS

Dr. Harrylyn Sallis  
From: Charles Sallis

Mary Wiggs  
Andy & Karen Taggart  
From Lee Ann Mayo

If you are donating stock to Stewpot and want credit for 2012, please call Sherry Spille, Stewpot's accountant, at 601-353-2759 and let her know.

### MEMORIALS

Ruth Hise Oney  
Edna Ozborn Moore  
Bill Eubank  
From: Dick & Patsy Turner

Ruth Hise Oney  
From: Lee Ann Mayo

Mrs. Floride Barksdale  
From: Mrs. Henry Stephenson

Mr. Walker "Sonny" Jones  
From: Mr. Bill Jones

Stewpot Needs a Good Working Pick-Up Truck. If you are interested in donating a Good Working Pick-Up Truck to the Stewpot, please contact Rev. Frank Spencer at 601-942-1355.

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