



Stewpot Elects New Officers & Members

Rev. Frank Spencer

At its annual meeting on February 13, 2013, representatives of sponsoring churches, the synagogue and other supporting churches elected 2 new Board members and Stewpot Board officers for 2013.

Elected to 3 year terms on the Board were Donna Orkin, a member of Beth Israel Synagogue and a Stewpot volunteer in the Food Pantry and Community Kitchen Lunch Program and Rev. Tommie Brown, the Pastor for Outreach for Word of Life Church on Lakeland Drive, which has supplied space for our Summer Camp in its new Capitol Street facilities and many young church workers who have helped clean around Stewpot Buildings. The Stewpot Board is happy to have these 2 active volunteer workers added to the Board.

The attendees also elect the Board Officers for the coming year. This year's incoming officer are as followed: Elected Chair, Charles Parrott, Stewpot Board member from North Minister Baptist Church, Vice-Chair, Jane Anna Barksdale, Stewpot Board member from St. James Episcopal Church, Treasurer, Amy Brooks, Stewpot Board member from St. Peters Catholic Church and Secretary, Barbara Bruninni, Stewpot Board Member from St. Richards Catholic Church.

Holmes Adams has served as Stewpot Chair for the past 2 terms and under the Stewpot by-laws, Holmes continues to serve in a Board position for the next 2 years as Board Chair-Emeritus.

The Stewpot family is grateful to all of these Board Members for their willingness to provide leadership and direction to the ministry of Stewpot for the next several of years.

DIRECTOR'S CORNER

By: Rev. Frank Spencer

All concerns about mail delivery of your contributions to Stewpot should now be allayed. The U.S. Postal Service corrected the erroneous "change of address" form it received just before Christmas in December.

Additionally, Postal Inspector investigators now have 2 "persons of interest" in the investigation. Both individuals have no connection to the Postal Service or to Stewpot. Both individuals also have prior convictions of identity theft.

The loss of the mail has severely injured our cash flow needs. Stewpot counts on end of year contributions to give us sufficient cash reserves to make payroll until Taste of Mississippi receipts come in late March. We estimate that Stewpot has not received some \$120,000 it would have received except for the mail fraud. After our last payroll, we had very little

2013 Taste of Mississippi Sponsor Preview Party Host

- Anne & Bob Shearer
- Louisa Dixon & Wilton Johnson, III
- Reverend Mary M McWade
- Dr. & Mrs. James Sones, II
- Becky & Don Potts
- E. B. Robinson, Jr.
- William F. Blair - Blair & Bondurant
- Beth & Steven Orlansky
- Ross & Yerger
- Butler Snow
- Oscar & Carol Hartman
- Melody & John Maxey

2013 Taste of Mississippi Sponsor Preview Party Restaurant Host

- Taste of the Island
- The Holy Smokers of Saint Andrews
- Primos Restaurant
- Beagle Bagel
- The Cake Diva

We would like to "Thank You" for your Support of this year's Sponsor Preview Party. Know that your Help is helping us to serve 650 clients each and everyday.

We're a Small Family, BUT WE'RE A SUCCESS!

Marilyn (name has been changed) is a 38 year old African -American young woman from Jackson. She is the Mother of 3 children; their ages are 5 months, 2 years, and 5 year of age. Although, she is a graduate of Belhaven College with a degree in paralegal studies, she has been unable to find a job as a paralegal. She did find a job with a local law firm as a runner. Unfortunately, she became homeless when the law firm for which she was working laid her off when the firm had to cut back on personnel. When her funds ran out she was unable to pay her rent and she was finally evicted from her apartment.

Marilyn was desperate because of her children and she came to Stewpot for help. She and her children were initially placed at Matt's Emergency Shelter and her children were enrolled in daycare at Karitas, a daycare center which is offered free to Stewpot shelter clients by Catholic Charities. Marilyn stayed at Matt's House for 8 days and was then transferred to Sims Transitional Shelter. She was transferred to Sims because the Stewpot staff felt that she would need more time finding a job and suitable housing for her children. Marilyn initially had difficulty adjusting to her loss of a job and life in a shelter but working with Mrs. Carter, Stewpot licensed professional counselor, she became a model client and shortly began participating in the group activities at the Sims House with very good attitude. Marilyn and her children especially enjoyed the field trips arranged for Sims

House clients to go to all the church Christmas Parties, to New Stage Theatre productions and to the Natural Science Museum.

Marilyn then became involved in the TANF Work program through the State Department of Human Services. For about a week, she looked for employment during the day. Finally, at the Medical Mall, she volunteered with a potential employer to work so that they could witness her skills and abilities. After two weeks, they offered her a job as a Medicaid clerk.

Marilyn was able to move out of Sims House on her 91st day at the Shelter, the designed maximum time of stay. She and her children moved to a 3 bedroom apartment in Clinton. TANF has subsequently given Edna vouchers for her children to move to the Day Care center of her choice but they are staying at Karitas. The Stewpot driver still picks up in the mornings to take her to her job and then take her children to day care and returns to take her home at night. As soon as Marilyn is able to provide her own transportation, we will consider her a true Stewpot success story.



DIRECTOR'S CORNER *Continued*

cash left for normal bills and are having to postpone payment of some of them. Thank goodness for the kindness of CN Railroad and their grant of \$150,000 over a 2 year period. The receipt of those funds assisted us to cover our immediate bills.

Remember, if you are a Stewpot contributor; please check your December statements to insure that all checks to Stewpot have cleared. Stewpot needs the funds that were never received and you need to insure that your checking account has not been compromised.

Blue Cross Blue Shield Taste of Mississippi Annual Fundraiser

BECOME A PART OF WHAT'S HAPPENING

By: Taste of Mississippi Committee

Individual & Corporate Sponsorships Available

Is your organization involved? Individual sponsorships (beginning at \$300) and Corporate Sponsorships (beginning at \$2,500) are a good way to get involved while having a great time. Sponsorships include ticket allocations, allowing you to invite friends and clients along for the fun. Call Michelle' at 601-353-2759 for full details.

Get Involved Now!

We know you can't wait for April 1st, but your fun can begin even sooner if you get involved through volunteering. Opportunities include:

1. Taste of Mississippi April 1st
2. Assistance with Silent Auction Now and the day of
3. Event Set-up the day of
4. Beverage pourers

Call 601-353-2759 to see how you and your organization can share in the fun while benefiting Stewpot.

A much-anticipated event in the Jackson area, Stewpot's Taste of Mississippi: A benefit for Stewpot offers culinary delights from more than 40 area restaurants, a silent auction, and live music. The event is held annually at Highland Village, a premier outdoor shopping center in Jackson.

All proceeds from Taste of Mississippi will benefit Stewpot Community Services, whose mission is to provide for the needs of the poor, elderly, and disabled in Jackson's metro area. In 2012, Stewpot assisted 650 clients a day throughout its 17 ministries.

Promote Your Organization

Want a great way to promote your business to 1200+ guests at the 2013 Taste of Mississippi? Donate to the silent auction

Art • Products
Services • Gift Cards

All types of items welcome. To make a donation contact Michelle' at (601) 540-8555 or mbingham@stewpot.org

26th Annual Taste of Mississippi: Highland Village,
Monday, April 1st, 7 to 10 pm
\$65 in advance (\$80 at event)
Advanced tickets can be purchased
by credit card online at www.TasteofMs.org.



For more information, visit the Taste of Mississippi website, www.tasteofms.org, or call Stewpot at 601-353-2759.



Guess who headed to the Playoffs! Several years ago we made the decision to merge the Stewpot and Northminister Middle School and High School boy into one basketball team called Stew minister. We went to the championship that first year and we are still going strong. We wanted to take boys from different backgrounds and give them the opportunity to meet one another and play the game of basketball. Who would have thought it would turn out be a champion team even after 13 years.



By Yolanda Kirkland, Director Youth Program

Stewpot Community Services, Inc.

1100 West Capitol Street,
Jackson, MS 39203

Phone: 601-353-2759

Fax: 601-353-7071

E-mail: www.stewpot.org

Board of Directors

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Jane-Anna Barksdale, Vice-President
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Rev. Ricky James
Rev. Edward O'Conner
Rev. Linda Smith
Rev. Mark Williamson

Stewpot Staff Members

Rev. Frank Spencer: Executive Director
fspencer@stewpot.org
Mary Thompson: Women's Services
mthompson@stewpot.org
Wilbert Logan: Billy Brumfield Shelter
wlogan@stewpot.org
Yolanda Kirkland: Teen's Services
ykirkland@stewpot.org
Stephanie Echols: Food Services
sechols@stewpot.org
Monique Ealey Director: Children Services,
mealey@stewpot.org
Tara Lindsey: Volunteer Services,
tlindsey@stewpot.org
Michelle Bingham: Director, Special
Events, mbingham@stewpot.org
Sherry Spille: Accountant,
sspille@stewpot.org
Stacey Howard: Grants,
showard@stewpot.org
Shamberi Horton: Executive Assistant,
shorton@stewpot.org
Christie Burnett: Director, Arts Program,
cburnett@stewpot.org

“There is Always Something You Can Do to Help the Least of Them” By: Heather Ivery

It never ceases to amaze me how people with all different walks of life and varying talents and skills call find ways to make a difference in the lives of those we serve at Opportunity Center. While some of us focus on meeting the physical needs of the homeless, others are more in tune with their spiritual and emotional wellbeing.

Some of us want to make sure that everyone has enough to eat and ways to get clean, while others want to minister to the souls of those who are in need. Whatever the angle, we all have something to offer those we serve.

themselves! You would not believe what one little image can do for a person! And, at times, I like to just get random people and give them an image of themselves! You would not believe what one little image can do for a person! So Darla and the rest of the RJN Studios gang came down to see us a few weeks ago and what has happened since then has been nothing short of a blessing.

The ladies seemed to be right at home at the Center, chatting with our clients and taking pictures of the building. From this first visit they have been busy promoting the mission of the Center through their HOPE blog. It is filled with stories about those we serve and the challenges they face. They recognize that each person who comes to the center is special and unique and should be treated as such. And these ladies didn't stop there. On Tuesday they have begun spending time helping clients one on one with basic computer skills. They have even scheduled their first “photographic therapy” day for March.

These aren't the only ones who have come up with their own unique way to help out. Kenneth Hughey is a retired engineer. He started volunteering to come on Monday afternoons to tutor our GED students in math. He stays in contact with the GED teacher to make sure they are keeping up to speed. These tutoring sessions are the highlight of their weeks. Our client, “Hillbilly” looks for him every week.

No matter what your talents or interest, there is always something you can do to help the least of these.

Recently, I had the opportunity to meet Darla Brumley of RJN Studio's in Jackson. Actually, she contacted me through our Facebook page and wanted to come down and see what we do. Darla is a photographer and wanted to offer to our clients what she calls “photographic therapy”. She describes best what she means by this: Sometimes, a person just needs to see their beauty from the inside and out to realize they are truly beautiful, no matter what! And, at times, I like to just get random people and give them an image of



1100 West Capitol Street
Jackson, MS 39203
601.353.2759

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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!



MEMORIALS

Mrs. Kathy Sikes
Mr. Patrick Vaughan
Mr. Walker "Sonny" Jones

HONORARIUMS

Mr. Jay Baker
Ms. Natalie Bonds
Mrs. Kathy Sikes
Mr./ Mrs. Joseph Cleveland
Elsie & Diana Deflore
Ms. Kathy Lampton
Mr. / Mrs. Jere Nash

SILENT AUCTION ITEMS NEEDED 2013

Do you have a business and you want free promotion? Taste of Mississippi is in need of Silent Auction Items. When you donate to Taste of Mississippi we will advertise your business on our website, via all of our social media outlets, and etc. Please consider helping us through a contribution today. Donations are tax deductible and for a GREAT cause! Please contact Michelle' Bingham with questions you might have at 601-353-2759 or mbingham@stewpot.org or if you need for us to pick up.

STEWSPOT SPEAKERS If you need a speaker for your church, civic, or school function, please call Michelle' Bingham at 601-353-2759 we are happy to come to you and share all the positive things that are happening here at your Stewpot.

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