

Stewpot

Faith meeting needs in our community



A Newsletter of Stewpot Community Services

2012

Taste of Mississippi 2012

By: Michelle' Bingham

March winds are bringing in the 24th annual Taste of Mississippi to Highland Village on March 26, 2012. Called Taste of the Nation when it was first introduced 25 years ago, the event was a part of a national group that sponsored events in many locals. Luther Ott, the Executive Director of Stewpot at the time decided that the event was paying too much of its hard earned funds to the organization when they were needed more to fight hunger right here in Mississippi and so we started our own event with the current name.

The event will feature the finest entrées, appetizers and desserts available, made by chefs from local upscale restaurants that are competing for Best of Taste of Mississippi trophies. The food is simply the best one can imagine and ticket holders are able to sample as much as they can get around to in the 3 hours of the event.

This year's highlight is bringing back the "LIVE" auction in which desirable art pieces are made available to our donors for a

great price. The Silent auction features a large variety of highly sought-after donated items including paintings, jewelry, art objects, weekend get-away vacation packages and many other crafts will be available. Most items sell for much lower than their actual value.

All Stewpot supporters are encouraged to attend and help support Stewpot by having a great time. This fundraiser is held at Highland Village and as usual you can expect to have a wonderful time. The event is for those 21 and older since liquor, wine, and beer will be served for your enjoyment. Tickets are available online at Ticket Master, the Coliseum Box Office, Fresh Ink, Highland Village office, St. James Episcopal Church, Lemuria Bookstore, and McDade's. Many local churches are also selling the tickets to their congregations, check with your church office. Tickets are \$65 in advance and \$80 at the Taste of Mississippi entrances.



DIRECTOR'S CORNER

The most common comment that I get when I go out to speak about Stewpot is "I had no idea how much Stewpot does for people!" People know Stewpot best for the fact that we feed a lunch meal to the homeless and those in need 7 days a week. But that noon meal only accounts for about 200 of the 650 people Stewpot helps each day. Ever since Stewpot started, it has been increasing its services as the Stewpot Board of Directors learned about the needs of the local community. Stewpot has now grown to include in its ministries a food pantry, a clothing closet, 4 night shelters, a day shelter, and after-school program and many smaller services.

This growth of course means that we need more funding but even more importantly, it means that Stewpot can use your help as a volunteer. Our local community also assumes that when Stewpot requests volunteers we are asking for people to assist in serving meals but truthfully we need all kinds of volunteers. We need lawn cutters, painters, electricians, instructors, carpenters, someone handy with a chain saw, people to assist with fundraisers, carpet layers, mechanics, clerical assistance, readers for children's programs, computer teachers, general labor and many others. The reason that I have taken the time to list all these volunteer opportunities is to demonstrate for you that whatever talent that God has given you, Stewpot can put that talent to good use for this inclusive ministry.

Won't you please consider donating a small part of your special talent to Stewpot this year?



Staff *Spotlight*

REGINA NICHOLS, *Assistant Director, Matt's House Emergency Shelter*

Date of Birth: March 8, 1962

Family: 2 Daughters Brandy Maria 16, Melissa Renee 15, 1 grand-daughter Mariah LaRhonda 1 ½ Nichols

Education: Associates Degree Data Entry, Business Admin.

Hobbies: Reading, Traveling, decorating my home,

Favorite Football team: New York Giants

Favorite Scripture: Proverbs 3:5,6 ⁵ Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; ⁶ in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.

Words to live by: "Believe in oneself, because everyone's capable of achieving something"

Goal: "Pursue"

Where My ADDICTION Took Me

By Earl Clayton

On August 24, 1956 I was born to the union of the late Mr. Emanuel E. Clayton Sr. and Mattie Carrie Clayton. I attended Sacred Heart Catholic School. I graduated from Hattiesburg High School in 1974. My first experience with drugs was when I was in the 9th grade attending Lillie Berney Jr. High School. I started out smoking Marijuana. After that, I started experimenting with pills. By the time I attended Alcorn State University, I was taking Acid. The two years that I attended Alcorn I was smoking Marijuana and popping pills on a regular basis. I left Alcorn in 1977 and joined the US navy. I was introduced to heroin and was addicted to Heroin for about 8 years. Once I was discharged from the Navy, I went to Detroit, MI where I continued my heroin addiction.

While in Detroit, I attended Wayne State University. Detroit is where I was introduced to cocaine. All those years I had no real consequences. I felt that my life was alright. But, when I moved to Houston, TX my life really became unmanageable. I began to smoke crack cocaine on a regular basis and I got in trouble with the judicial system and ended up in the county jail for three months. That was my first experience with a rehab center. I spent 6 months in the county jail in a rehab program.

I started working for a trucking company and as a result of my addiction, I lost that job. I relapsed and just could not get my life on track. At the time I decided to move back to home. By this time my

addiction had a tight hold on me and I did not know which way to turn.

In Hattiesburg, my best friend and my brother helped me land a job at the City. I started out driving trucks, but moved up quickly to running a warehouse ordering parts for two departments. By this time my addiction had such a hold on me, I was getting high on the job. My life was going downhill fast. I ended up at Clearview for 30 days. I went back to work, but gave that job up a year later.

I had given up two jobs. What was next? No job, No hope, and No dreams. After two years of praying and asking God for help, I decided I needed to help myself as well. I arrived in Jackson on the 25th of April, 2011 and came to the Billy Brumfield House and that is where my life started over. While I have been at Brumfield my life has gotten better. I have been able to get in touch with my higher power which I choose to call "God". By taking it one day at a time and living life on life's terms I have made a drastic change. I have learned to work on my character defects and let go and let God. So only by the grace of God, in April 2012 I will have one year of sobriety for the first time since 1971.

I would like to thank my family and a few close friends for not giving up on me; God truly worked through them. A special thanks to Mr. Logan for believing in me and for seeing something in me I didn't see in myself.

But for the Grace of God.

**by the grace of God, in April 2012 I will have one
year of sobriety for the first time since 1971.**

Taste of Mississippi 2012 Preview Party Sponsors

{ We would like to say
"Thank You" for your support! }

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A Blessed Opportunity

By: Sherry Spille

I am grateful for the opportunity that has been given to me to give back to my fellow man here at Stewpot. I have worked in corporate America for the past fifteen years and although I found the work to be challenging at times there were many things about it that left me feeling unfulfilled. I have found that like I, many who I have met in my time at Stewpot have a servant's heart. Working in the day to day grind of big business has its advantages but feeling like you are making a contribution to the greater good of humanity often times is not one of them. Stewpot has given me an opportunity to do just that in my chosen profession of accounting. I enjoy working with the staff that spends their day trying to help those who need a kind hand, or a warm smile and I enjoy meeting the people who come to Stewpot each day in search of support or the opportunity to support someone else. The thing I enjoy about working at Stewpot most however is knowing that I am contributing to help make all these things possible. I am grateful to Stewpot for allowing me the opportunity to feel fulfilled in my occupational life and hope to continue to assist here for years to come.

taste of **MISSISSIPPI**

MARCH 26, 2012

The 24th Annual Taste of Mississippi

This event has been a Jackson-area favorite for two decades where dozens of Mississippi chefs and fine restaurateurs come to share their finest culinary delights. There will be a silent auction which will showcase artwork by Jackson-area artists, restaurant gift certificates, and handmade craftworks, etc. All proceeds will benefit Stewpot ministries.

WE HOPE YOU JOIN US!

When: Monday, March 26, 2012

Where: Highland Village

Music: Pryor and the Tombstones &
Hunter Gibson & the Gators

Time: 7pm – 10pm

Tickets: \$65 in Advance - \$80 at the Door

Tickets are available at: Ticket Master, The Coliseum Box Office, Fresh Ink, Highland Village Offices, St. James Episcopal Church, McDades Grocery Stores.





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Faith meeting needs in our community

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