A community's response to the homeless and those in need.
Stewpot Community Services provides assistance at no charge to central Jackson residents who are in need of food, shelter, clothing, love, and encouragement.

Started by several Jackson congregations in 1981 as a simple soup kitchen in an abandoned gas station, Stewpot has grown to encompass a group of shelters, counseling services, food and clothing services, community development projects, and children’s programs. As an interfaith ministry whose supporters include Christians, Jews, Muslims, and Hindus, we receive funding and welcome volunteers from more than 200 congregations, as well as from hundreds of businesses and institutions. Our committed staff also helps locate decent housing, jobs, and childcare, as well as basic necessities and economic assistance for those in need. Stewpot is headquartered at the Central Urban Ministry Center at 1100 West Capitol Street.

nurturing body, soul, and community.

As we celebrate our years of service, we proudly honor the vision of those who founded this ministry and the efforts of those who sustained it. And while the growth in our services makes it possible to provide more meaningful assistance, it has become increasingly challenging to make those services easily accessible. Thus, with a view to improve both our effectiveness and reach, Stewpot is embarking on its first-ever capital campaign.
Stewpot – A Source for Food

**STEWPOP FOOD PANTRY**
The Food Pantry is a mini-grocery store that provides a four-day supply of food for carefully screened applicants. Volunteers from local congregations staff the pantry from 9 to 11 a.m., Monday through Friday. They sort, stack, and bag groceries for each family who comes to Stewpot for assistance. The pantry is stocked through generous donations from individual and business supporters and from our partnership with the Mississippi Food Network. Some food items, however, such as sugar, canned fruit, cereal, and peanut butter, are in constant demand and must occasionally be purchased by Stewpot. During the Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons, the Food Pantry also prepares special baskets with turkeys, hams, and other holiday food items.

**DAILY LUNCH**
Stewpot started with this noon meal, and it’s still the focus of our day and our philosophy: feeding people both physically and spiritually. Any and all are welcome to come together as one community over a nourishing meal 365 days a year. More than 225 people are fed each weekday, and 175 on Saturdays and Sundays. Our executive chef prepares the meals during the week, while volunteer groups provide the weekend meals.

**MEALS ON WHEELS**
Each weekday, volunteers make and deliver plate lunches to more than 50 elderly, ill, and disabled people who cannot make it to lunch at Stewpot. For some recipients, these visits provide their only hot meal – and also their only human contact of the day.
Matt’s House Emergency Shelter for Women

Matt’s House, named for former Stewpot Executive Director Matt Devenney, provides emergency shelter for homeless women. Matt’s House offers a safe, nurturing environment for up to 40 women a night. Staff members also assist residents in finding housing, employment, and transportation. During their stay at Matt’s House, clients can also attend regular classes in parenting, self-esteem, job searching, and household finances.

Billy Brumfield Homeless Shelter for Men

The Billy Brumfield Shelter, a shelter for up to 60 men a night, provides three services. It serves as an emergency shelter for homeless men, offering safe shelter, clean showers, nutritious food, and a supportive community. It also offers a drug and alcohol rehabilitation program, supported by AA meetings, group and individual counseling, employment requirements, and a savings program. Finally, for men with medical disabilities, it provides support and a stable place to live as they navigate state and federal requirements to receive benefits and permanent housing.

Stewpot – A Source for Shelter

Stewpot’s emergency shelters provide a safe place for men and women to spend the night and enjoy a hot meal.
Sims House transitional shelter for women

Sims House offers a three-month intensive program to help women make the transition from either an abusive or homeless condition to a stable living situation. The program can accommodate up to six women and 15 children at one time.

During their 90-day stay at Sims House, clients:

- Are provided a three-month period of respite, shelter, counseling, training, and support.
- Are offered regular classes in parenting, self-esteem, job searching, and household finances.
- Are offered staff assistance in finding full-time employment and stable housing.

In the past 12 months, Sims House has provided shelter for 130 women and children.

Flowers emergency shelter for women and children

After years of dreaming and planning, the Flowers Shelter for Women and Children became a reality in 2007. Stewpot purchased the former Livingston Group Home property located at the intersection of West and Livingston streets. It has now been repaired, remodeled, and reborn as the Rev. Donnell Flowers Emergency Shelter for Women and Children.

A fully functional emergency shelter, the Flowers facility houses homeless women and their children for stays up to 30 days. This additional facility allows us to offer homeless women and children shelter apart from Matt’s House, whose residents are often chronically homeless and more likely to be victims of mental illness or chemical dependency.

Stewpot – A Source for Shelter

In the past 12 months, Sims House has provided shelter for 130 women and children.
Stewpot’s programs for children and teenagers provide an atmosphere of love and opportunity. We offer both an after-school program and a summer camp for elementary, middle school, and high school students. The children’s program is currently housed at Calvary Baptist Church on Capitol Street. The money raised in the Capital Campaign will allow us to move the children back to the Central Urban Ministry Center.

**AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM**

Every Monday through Thursday during the school year, Stewpot’s school bus and vans pick up more than 100 students from their schools. They then spend their afternoons at Stewpot, where mentors help with their homework and lead fun, wholesome activities. A trained counselor is also available for therapy sessions. Several times through the year, we load up the vans for special field trips. We are currently upgrading our computer center for the children’s use, and we also offer several music and art programs.

**SUMMER CAMP**

Every summer, well over 200 children and teenagers attend Stewpot’s neighborhood summer camp. The camp has become such a long-running tradition that many of the students who first attended the camp are now serving as counselors. Program offerings include field trips, reading contests, educational enrichment, arts and crafts, plenty of playtime, and summer fun.
Mental Health and Senior Citizens' Programs

VIRGINIA’s PLAYHOUSE
This program offers a variety of enriching morning activities for the elderly and mentally disabled who live in our neighborhood.

The participants engage in:

- Art therapy
- Poetry workshops and creative writing
- Bingo games with prizes
- Birthday and holiday parties
- Educational and entertaining field trips
- Movies

Our programs for neighborhood elderly and mentally disabled people reached nearly 450 men and women in the last 12 months.
Clothing Closet

Stewpot’s Clothing Closet provides high-quality donated clothing for all who come to Stewpot. The Clothing Closet is staffed by participants of the Virginia’s Playhouse program who sort, size, and assist with quality control.

Filling the Gap

The Opportunity Center serves an average of 125 clients every day, seven days a week.

Opportunity Center

Opportunity Center is a safe, clean place for homeless and disadvantaged men and women to come during the day, where they are able to access a variety of resources. With the help of many different agencies and individuals, hundreds of people find shelter, rehab and mental health assistance, medications, jobs, and much more.

Serving about 125 clients a day, Opportunity Center provides the following services:

- Shower Facilities
- Social Security
- MSH Shubbs House
- Foot Care
- Computer Access
- Laundry Facilities
- Hinds Behavioral Health
- WIN Job Center

- Occupational Therapy
- Mail Service
- VA Homeless Program
- Hinds County Human Resources
- Medicaid
- Art Therapy
- Food Stamps
Stewpot’s main campus is known as the Central Urban Ministry Center. The Presbytery of Mississippi donated the facilities to Stewpot in 2004, and the building’s name honors its history as the former Central Presbyterian Church.

CHAPEL
Stewpot offers an inter-faith worship service six days a week immediately preceding lunch. Ministers of different faiths lead the services. All are encouraged to share their gifts during this time in singing, scripture reading, and prayer. Participation is strictly voluntary.

BRATTON STREET PROJECT
When Stewpot began this project in 1998, Bratton Street was made up of 29 houses and seven vacant lots. Fifteen of those houses and six of the vacant lots were owned by absentee landlords. Most of the homes were vacant and dilapidated, and the vacant lots were overgrown and filled with trash. But over the last 10 years, Stewpot and our partner, Habitat for Humanity, have beautified the street while providing homes to 20 families. Now only one absentee landlord parcel remains.
Volunteer Ministry
Volunteers from local congregations, businesses, and schools come daily to serve lunch and to help with a variety of other projects. At Stewpot, we believe that the sacred is encountered in the common events of life – like sharing a meal. We are all fed – spiritually and physically – by our fellowship with each other.

Legal Clinic
Every Tuesday, lawyers from the Mississippi Volunteer Lawyers Project provide free legal counsel and resources during the lunch hour.

Counseling
Counselors work with the children’s program, Virginia’s Playhouse, shelter residents, and local community members as needed. A licensed social worker from Hinds Behavioral Health is also available four days a week.

Central Urban Ministry Center

Community Health Clinic
In partnership with the Central Urban Ministry Center, St. Dominic Health Services operates a walk-in health clinic. Directed by Sister Trinita Eddington, the clinic provides primary care to low-income families and homeless individuals.

We believe that the sacred is encountered in the common events of life.
Stewpot Budget – Sources of Income

COnGREGATIONAL GIVING

In 1981, representatives from seven churches in Jackson, Mississippi, came together across denominational lines to discuss a common concern – consistent requests for food and other assistance from Jackson’s poor and homeless. To answer this community problem, they created what is now known as Stewpot.

As part of the original covenant, each of the seven congregations agreed to support Stewpot through monthly donations. We now receive steady financial support from 60 congregations in the Metro area.

But while congregational giving has increased over the years, it has also steadily decreased as a percentage of our overall budget thanks to the growing generosity of individuals and businesses.

Stewpot truly belongs to the community and depends on it to maintain its programs.

INDIVIDUAL AND BUSINESS CONTRIBUTIONS

While much of our financial support comes from congregations, we now receive the majority of our financial support from individuals and companies – many of whom also volunteer or partner with us to serve Jackson’s inner-city poor.
Stewpot receives some government and private grant funding, which is used primarily to support operations in our shelters, Food Pantry, and neighborhood re-development projects. Our grant sources include the Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG), Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), the United Way, the Multi-County Community Service Agency, and FEMA Emergency Services Grant.

**FUNDRAISERS AND EVENTS**

Every spring, Taste of Mississippi: Homegrown Hunger Relief brings together more than 40 chefs and restaurateurs to offer gourmet fare – along with live music, and live and silent auctions.

In the fall, Trustmark’s Red Beans and Rice Celebration challenges restaurants, businesses, churches, and individuals to create their best red beans in hopes of snagging the coveted “Best of” title. Held at Trustmark Park, the event attracts hundreds of families who enjoy not only the food, but also live music, children’s activities, and televised college football. Both events are Jackson-area favorites, and all proceeds benefit Stewpot.

In addition, at the Business and Professional Leaders’ Luncheon, community leaders hear an annual report on Stewpot’s programs, with all proceeds raised from host donations benefiting Stewpot.
At Stewpot, we build and change community.
Stewpot is embarking on its first-ever capital campaign. After reaching our $4,000,000 goal, we will be able to transform the existing space into an area that better serves our ministries.

Under the proposed plan, the kitchen and lunch service will be moved to the newly renovated sanctuary, just west of the current building. The chapel and food pantry will also be moved next to the sanctuary, allowing handicapped access to all three services for the first time. In addition, an inviting courtyard will be created between the two buildings.

Once these services are moved, the current building will be transformed to accommodate the children’s programs. After-school and summer programs will be moved to the second floor, and eventually a day care will be set up in the current clothing closet space. After almost three decades, the growth of Stewpot can best be viewed through its heart and soul – the noon meal – served to any and all 365 days a year. What began in an abandoned gas station is now housed in a former church fellowship hall and will one day offer physical and spiritual nourishment in a beautiful sanctuary. While the setting is evolving, the commitment to provide meaningful service remains as strong as ever. This once magnificent sanctuary has been idle for many years. What better use for this sacred space than to reclaim it as a haven for those in need of food, shelter, clothing, love, and encouragement.