March has come and the 28th annual Taste of Mississippi fundraiser is quickly approaching. This exciting fundraiser is scheduled for Monday, March 30, in Highland Village. The year’s event, as always, promises to deliver a great night of fun for charity.

This year’s 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 awards. If you’re like me, you may have found your circle of restaurants narrowing as you fall into the habit of eating out frequently. After all, you know you’ll like your entrée at your regular place but, it’s risky to invest a whole evening in something you may or may not enjoy. At Taste of Mississippi, you can enjoy a night of seeing what other restaurants are all about and the chefs in action all for a great cause. The food is the best one can imagine and ticket holders are able to sample as much as they can get around to in 3 hours.

This year’s signature artist is Ginny Futvoye whose oil painting will be available through our drawdown raffle. Tickets for this great piece are $25 and the winner will be announced that night. 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. All items sell for much lower than their actual retail value.

I’ve noticed an interesting occurrence at Taste of Mississippi. It’s so much easier to get distributors to donate amazing varieties of wine and spirits than it is to locate bottled water. The reason for that is the distributors are anxious to promote the newest offerings from their representative distilleries and vineyards. The benefit for our supporters? Simply too many choices to make. It’s probably impossible to sample everything…and something I would not advise.

Live music is certainly a great enhancer of any occasion and Hunter and the Gators and Pryor and the Band definitely live up to the hype. I rarely get to hang out in places where there is live music, and Taste of Mississippi always reminds me of what I am missing.

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 www.tasteofms.org, Lemuria Bookstore, Highland Village offices, Stewpot main office, and McDade’s Markets. Many local churches are also selling the tickets to their congregations, so check with your church office. Tickets are $65 in advance and $80 at the door. We hope to see you there!
BIRTHDAY BOXES

By: Katrice Banks

A new year brings new beginnings! In conjunction with our wonderful friends at Beth Israel, our food pantry is doing new exciting things for children during their Birthday month. Birthdays are an amazing gift by God and a celebration each year as we get older. I believe every child should feel extra special and loved on their birthday. We know all children may not receive the fancy gifts or have big extravagant parties or even a cake for their birthday. This is where the Birthday Boxes come in. The idea of the Birthday Boxes is to give families in need the opportunity to celebrate their birthday party at home. This is an amazing idea! It's something new to the food pantry and it gives children and parents the opportunity to celebrate their birthday. The boxes are filled with everything they will need for a party such as cake mix, frosting, candles, party hats, party favors and a birthday card. Now, all you have to do is invite family and friends and enjoy.

We are very excited to pass out the Birthday Boxes, and see the joy and excitement on the children’s faces! This is something I hope the food pantry can continue for years to come providing a Happy Birthday wish for children!

It’s possible in the upcoming months we may be able to extend Birthday boxes to adults as well!

Just a Shout Out of Our Sincere Gratitude!

Because of you, our friends and faithful supporters, Stewpot Community Services was named Best Non-Profit 2015 by Jackson Free Press. Thanks for taking out the time to vote for us.

DIRECTORS CORNER continued

Charles Parrott of Northminster Baptist Church has served as Chair for the past 2 years terms and under the Stewpot by-laws, Charles 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.
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.
On January 12-15th the Stewpot teens participated in the Lemonade day Training sponsored by Jackson State University and Babson College. This training was to help prepare our teens for the Upcoming Lemonade day that we will participate in May 2nd. Stop by and get your Lemonade. See you there!!!

Day of Service: For the last 10 years the Stewpot Teens have participated in a service project once every month. In January we partnered with True Vine Christian Ministries for Martin Luther King Day of Service. This was a time for our teens to learn the gift of giving back to the community, meeting new people, and having fun. The teens had a chance to clean around the community, and organize Stewpot’s food Pantry. We always like to say Charity begins at home.

Stew-minister is Back!!! The Stewpot teen boys for many years have partnered with North Minister Baptist Church for our annual basketball team. We play against other local churches in a series of games where our Stewpot boys and North minister boys team up. Together they learn teamwork and how to accomplish when you share a common goal rather than focusing on the things that are different. This common goal they share is Basketball. Cheer us on — Go Stewminsiter!!!

**• STEWPOT NEEDS LIST •**

**Hygiene**
1. Razors & Shaving Cream (Men)
2. Laundry Detergent
3. Bath Soap
4. Lotion
5. Deodorant
6. Shampoo & Conditioner
7. Cleaning Supplies (Bleach, Comet, Pine Sol, Lysol, Etc.)

**Household**
1. Bath & Face Towels
2. Comforters or Bedspreads (Twin)
3. Mattress Covers (All Sizes)

**Food & Snack**
1. Snack Cakes
2. Chips
3. Juice
4. Coffee, Creamer, & Sugar
5. Hot Dogs & Buns (For when Opportunity Center is open overnight)
6. Fresh Fruit & Veggies
7. Weekly & Monthly Dinners (Shelters)

**Miscellaneous**
1. Daily Bus Passes
Summer Camp Reminder 2015

We are in the early stages of planning for this year’s Summer Camp for our campers. We are expecting to host approximately 200 children this summer who will all get the opportunity to experience a vacation filled with recreation, academics and creative activities. We are always looking for volunteers, so if you would like to schedule a time to come and share your skills with us, please contact Shamberi Horton at 769-233-6888 or via email at shorton@stewpot.org. Please consider giving a child a summer vacation that will make a lasting impression. To Sponsor a child's summer camp experience is only $250 per camper. Mail all Summer Camp contributions.

STEWPOT
ATTENTION: MICHELLE’ BINGHAM
P O BOX 3691
JACKSON MS 39207

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

For the 28th Annual Blue Cross & Blue Shield Taste of Mississippi fundraiser

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.

When
Monday, March 30, 2015

Where
Highland Village
4500 Interstate 55 Frontage Road
Jackson, MS 39211

Music
The Pryor Graeber Band and Hunter & the Gators
Time: 7pm – 10pm

Tickets
$65 in Advance - $80 at the Door

Tickets are available at
tasteofms.org, LeMuria Bookstore, Highland Village Offices, Stewpot Main Office, McDades Grocery Stores.
Faith meeting needs in our community

Community Services
1100 West Capitol Street
Jackson, MS 39203
601.353.2759

Your Stewpot family now has a Facebook page and is on Twitter!!
When you are browsing the social network scene look up the Stewpot facebook page and become a fan!

IN MEMORY OF
Mr & Mrs Howard Nichols
Mrs. Molly M Lowery
Mr. Jimmy Hutto
William Lynch, Jr.

IN HONOR OF
Mary Brooks
Jack Finley

Raise Money for Stewpot just by shopping at Kroger
Did you know you can support Stewpot just by shopping at Kroger?
It's easy when you enroll in Kroger Community Rewards! To get started, go to www.kroger.com and click on the Community link. That will bring you to the Kroger Community Rewards page. Sign up with your Plus Card and select a local organization you wish to support (Stewpot). Once you're enrolled, you'll earn rewards for your chosen organization every time you shop and use your Kroger Plus Card!

Stewpot Speakers
If you need a speaker for your church, civic, or school function, please call Michelle' Bingham at 601-353-2759 for someone to gladly share information about the ministries of Stewpot.

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