



# 2014 Christmas Season at Stewpot

Christmas is a joyful and busy time at Stewpot. Each year Stewpot staff looks forward to the season and with only a few glitches manage to handle the vastly increased workload. The biggest pleasures come from assembling the Christmas gifts for our After-School and shelter children, then giving out another 500 holiday baskets of turkeys, hams and the rest of the items in a full holiday meal. We also insure that, for those who need them, we distribute numerous miscellaneous gifts that donors have contributed this year ranging from gloves, socks, underwear, to personal hygiene items and edible items.

For at least the last 15 years, KLLM trucking system has assumed the main responsibility for ensuring Christmas happens for our 55 K-5th grade children. KLLM employees review the list of children and their sizes and Christmas wishes and make sure the children receive the gifts they want (within reason.) They also provide a jolly Santa Claus who dishes out gifts. For our 6th - 12 graders, the gift they want is money. Stewpot supporters supply the funds that allow us to purchase gift cards for our teens so they can use them to buy what they need.

The big event that the 100 or so Stewpot shelter clients enjoy most is the Christmas Party given by St. James Church. This event is so much fun it is hard to describe it fully. It occurs on a Sunday afternoon and all the shelters get their clients to St James about 5P.M. When they get to St. James, they are greeted by many St. James members whose sole task, it seems, is to make every client have as fun a time as they can. St. James youth are assigned to each table to ensure everyone gets what they want for drinks, entrees and desserts. The meal is delicious baked or fried chicken cooked by St. James' famous cook Petra as well as vegetables with cakes galore for desert. Before the meal clients' children, clients, and Stewpot staff get to sit on Santa's lap and tell him what they want for Christmas. After we get through eating, Christmas carols are sung with much enthusiasm.

For the administrative staff at Stewpot, it the busiest time of the year. They must ensure that the clients have a joyous Christmas season. That means a lot of coordinating and arranging. It also means processing the many donation, thank you letters and Christmas Cards that are sent out.

The staff takes turns on being at Stewpot for the holidays, some are there at Thanksgiving and then some are present at Christmas.

All have a full load during Christmas and New Year's Day but they cheerfully take on other duties to ensure other staff is able to enjoy precious time off.

From all of us at Stewpot, we hope you also have a very joyous holiday season. If you need some holiday cheer, come visit Stewpot. We will be glad to share our holiday cheer with you.

## DIRECTORS CORNER

By: Rev. Frank Spencer

One of Stewpot largest financial supporters is our alternative gift giving program called The Spirit of Giving and it truly is. With a donation that helps some of the over 650 poverty level people we assist each and every day, the donor get a tax deduction for the amount of the gift and a card to the person or people to whom the donor requests a card to be sent. The card states simply "A gift has been given in your name to Stewpot Community Services by (donor.) Spirit of Giving participants have contributed as much as \$60,000 in financial assistance to Stewpot in a holiday season.

All of us have people that we want to remember but for whom it is difficult to decide what kind of gift to give. It may be a person that has everything or a person who supports Stewpot and does not need a gift, or it may be a clergy per-



# SUCCESS STORY-FLOWER'S HOUSE TRANSITIONAL SHELTER FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN

By: Regina Nichols - Director

At age 21, Britany along with her two young boys transitioned from Matt's House to Flowers House this past May. When she arrived she was not receiving any child care benefits, food stamps or Medicaid. She was starting from rock bottom. But it was clear that she did not intend on staying at the shelter any longer than she had to.

Now that she had a roof over her head and a safe place for her boys to live, she was ready to get to get busy doing what was needed to get her own place. In less than two weeks she was able to get appointments at Midtown DHS, Winn Job Center, Karita's Daycare, MS Medicaid Division, the James Ivory Clinic and Jackson-Hinds Comprehensive Center. The success from these appointments brought about child care for her two sons, job referrals (McDonald's UMC), TANF approval and Medicaid for both of her sons.

Britany was hired at McDonald's in UMC in July. She was able to set a schedule that allowed her off on weekends so that extra child care was not needed. Once her employment got started, she applied for TANF transitional child care and was approved, because of the increase in her income. Her sons were able to be picked up and dropped off, to and from the shelter, by Kids Express Daycare. She opened up a savings account at Regions Bank and started saving for permanent housing. She was recently approved for housing at West-wick Apartments in Jackson and received an affordable deposit and rental fee.

The staff at Flowers Shelter are impressed with her determination and are proud of her for accomplishing her goals. Congratulations to Britany for all of her efforts in being a successful client from Flowers Transitional Shelter for Woman and Children.

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## JAMES IVORY HOMELESS PERSONS' MEMORIAL DAY TO BE OBSERVED

Homeless persons, homeless service providers, and advocates will gather at 10:00 a.m. Monday Dec.21 at Galloway United Methodist Church in downtown Jackson, to observe James Ivory Homeless Persons' Memorial Day. Since 1992, this event has served to remember homeless persons who have died during the year and to call attention to the many issues of homelessness. This year's Jackson's observance will include a memorial service for those who have died while homeless this year and a time for reflections from those who lived on the streets with them.

The event is sponsored by Partners to End Homelessness, the local Continuum of in conjunction with the National Coalition for the Homeless. It is named for the late James Ivory, a former director of the Jackson-Hinds comprehensive Health Center's Homeless Clinic, who was an ardent advocate for the homeless.

Homeless memorial services, including candlelight vigils, plays and other events, are currently conducted by about 100 communities across the United States. The events call attention to the estimated 3.5 million people, including over a million children, who are likely to experience homelessness in a given year. There is a service in Jackson every year held at different locations throughout the city.

### DIRECTORS CORNER *continued*

son or it may be a group of clients or members of your social club. It may be people that you want to remember but do not have the time during the busy holiday season for whom to shop. There is one easy answer for all of these people, a Spirit of Giving donation. Please assist Stewpot in its ministry by participating in this program in the 2014 holiday season.

# STEWPTOT 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 at least 600 people a month. This number includes all the members of the family from grand-parent to parents and children.

The *Community Kitchen* serves an average of 6,700 meals a month to any member of the community-no questions asked.

*Matt's House Emergency Shelter* for Women & Children provides around 1,500 meals a month to the homeless women and children residing at the shelter.

*Sims House Transitional Shelter* for Women & Children provides approximately 1,200 meals to the women and children 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 us at 601-353-2759 or at [www.stewpot.org](http://www.stewpot.org).

## WHOSE ANGEL ARE YOU?

By: Tara Lindsey

To be a wife, mother, grandmother, and a fulltime student, it seems unlikely that one would take time out of his or her busy schedule to volunteer, but Kathryn Hopkins believes serving others is a part of her civic duty. She is a resident of Jackson, who came to volunteer at Stewpot over two years ago. Kathryn believes in helping those in need. She often says "It is so easy to write a check and mail it. But it is not so easy to take the time out of your busy schedule to give of yourself".

Kathryn says that volunteering makes a difference in the community; "It's one of those things that leaves you with a good feeling." She states that volunteering does not only make a difference in the community, but it has changed her perspective on what is important in life. It reminds her that the world is much bigger than she. She encourages everyone to find something that they are passionate about and become involved with it. Volunteer work may seem simple to one but mean so much to those who are affected by it. Volunteering is not all about benefiting the people you know best, but it's about helping those complete strangers who need you most. Or who you thought was a stranger, might just be someone you know.

Volunteering is a hands-on approach to having a continuous presence in the life of a person or organization. Kathryn has been that person. She is proud to give back to the people in her community and has stepped up to help a few of our senior citizens in the community, who are not on our Meals on Wheel delivery program. One of those whom Kathryn helps stays on my mind. Her name is Ms. Williams. She is 84 years old, has no children, lives alone, and no family living in Jackson. She can't cook, clean, or do any of the normal day to day tasks that you and I do on a daily basis. Kathryn met Ms. Williams while visiting a friend next door. Ms. Williams was sitting on the porch, just watching the cars drive by. Kathryn walked over to her home, just to speak and see how she was doing. She said she looked as though she was lonely. As they began talking they realized that they knew one another. Ms. Williams was one of Kathryn's mother's friends who is now deceased. Ms. Williams use to help take care of Kathryn when she and her brothers and sisters were growing up. Ms. Williams would cook for them when they would get off the school bus, help them with home work, and take care of them until their mother got off work to pick them up.

Fast forward 50 years later, Kathryn is now doing those things for Ms. Williams. Kathryn takes her a meal every day, after she helps serve the noon meal at Stewpot. On the weekend and the days Kathryn is not serving lunch at Stewpot, Kathryn purchases Ms. Williams a lunch from one of the local grocery stores or restaurants. Kathryn also helps to clean her home, pay her bills, goes grocery shopping for her, and tend to other household things that may need attention.

Before Kathryn started helping Ms. Williams, she had no one else to help her. The person that was helping Ms. Williams out, passed away. God sent an angel to Ms. Williams and to Stewpot over two years ago. God sends his angels in many different directions to help someone along the way. Kathryn is Ms. Williams's angel, whose are you?

# It's a great day to be a Stewpot kid!



*"High quality afterschool programs generate beneficial results for youth such as enhanced educational efficiency, educational setting actions, and nourishment and health."*

Stewpot after school services has proven itself to be great and has produced some of the greatest young adults around the metro area. As we end this year we would like to recognize one of our Stewpot graduates who will be graduating Friday, December 12, 2014 from Jackson State University with a B.S. in Computer Engineering. Fredrick Burns, a Stewpot summer and afterschool kid from the neighborhood, rose above his circumstances.

Fred Burns was in Mississippi's foster care system from the age of 12 to 15, bouncing from homes in Prentiss, Canton, Brandon, Natchez and Jackson before he was eventually adopted by his aunt. That rough start could have been the prelude to a life of bad decisions and wrong paths. But, it wasn't.

Professional doors have opened for Burns while matriculating at JSU. He has interned at Miller Transporters, Inc., and C Spire Wireless' corporate office in the software development unit. That's in addition to his speaking engagements in locations that include Hollywood, Calif.; Memphis, Tenn.; and Washington, D.C. Burns gives back in other ways. He says when he was homeless, Stewpot Community Services made sure we received a "good Christmas and Thanksgiving." "Now, I return back to Stewpot and get together with a group of people. We were able to adopt 10 families for Thanksgiving," Burns says. "In a separate event, we were able to sponsor 10 children for Christmas, using my positive influence to bring people together for a great cause. God has put me in a position to where I can now use my influence to get people to do for others what others have done for me."

Please help us in congratulating this former student on his excellence.

Congratulations Fred!!!!

## 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](http://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 Community Services, Inc.

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# Stewpot's Two Thousand Fourteen Spirit of Giving Campaign

If you have a friend(s), relative(s), or client(s) that you wish to gift 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 holiday card from Stewpot that a donation was made in their name. It is never too late, we will ensure that your honorarium goes out the same day even after December 25th! You also will receive a card from Stewpot thanking you for your donation for income tax purposes. Please send to:

**STEW POT SPIRIT OF GIVING**  
**ATTENTION: MICHELLE' BINGHAM**  
**P O BOX 3691**  
**JACKSON MS 39207**

• I understand that you will send each person a 2014 Holiday Greeting Card wthat will acknowledge my gift to them.

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

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

Address\_\_\_\_\_

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

Address\_\_\_\_\_

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

Address\_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Address\_\_\_\_\_

If you have other names to acknowledge, please use a separate sheet of paper.

## ThanksFest Winners

- Volunteer of the Year Award—Betsy & Family
- Volunteer of the Year Business Award—Butterflies by Grace Defined by Faith
- Volunteer of the Year Congregation Award—TrueLight Missionary Baptist Church
- Matt Devenney Lifetime Achievement Award—Paul Maten
- Reverend Donnell Flowers Spirit of Stewpot Award—Carol & Ton Rietvelt



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*Faith meeting needs in our community*

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## Got it, Give it, and Get a Receipt for 2014

Do you have any artwork or items you would be interested in donating to Stewpot for Taste of Mississippi? All donations are tax deductible and can be given before the year's end. Please contact Michelle' Bingham with questions you might have at 601-353-2759 or mbingham@stewpot.org. Help us and help yourself!

## JUST A REMINDER:

Your Stewpot family now has a U.S.P.S. Post Office Box! When sending your contribution you can now mail it to:

**Stewpot Community Services**  
P.O. Box 3610  
Jackson, MS 39207



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## 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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