

FROM THE STREETS TO A HOME

Most of the homeless in our community are originally from Jackson or at least some part of Mississippi. Every so often, though, you run across someone who is not. Lots of different reasons lead to folks ending up here. Of course, no one comes to Jackson intending to lead the life of a homeless person.

Such was the case for Sean. Sean was born and raised in Los Angeles, California. He worked there for many years as a truck driver, making a good wage and living a regular life. In 1990, his mother, who lived in Jackson, had a stroke. After her stroke, she was in need of extra care. So Sean moved here to take care of her. He did not have a lot of luck finding work--only some temporary positions here and there. But still, he cared for his mother for several years until her death.

A couple of years ago, Sean found himself homeless after he and his wife split up. At the time, he had some money, so he stayed at the Salvation Army. He had to pay to stay there, but the facility was nice and the cost was cheaper than a hotel or apartment. After about 9 months, though, he ran out of money and had to leave. For the next 15 months, he divided his time between the Brumfield and Gateway shelters. Most of his days were spent at Opportunity Center or Grace Place. Throughout this period, Sean was persistent in looking for a job or assistance to help him get his own place to live.

In February of this year, his hard work paid off. With assistance from stimulus funds geared toward assisting the homeless and those at risk of homelessness to get back on their feet, Sean was able to move into his own apartment. He has a monthly income now and is able to provide for his own needs.

Sean credits his prayers and his God for his apartment. "I am blessed," he said. "God listened to my prayers and He answered my prayers."

...Reprint from the Throwaway, a Jackson Street Journal

By: Heather Ivery



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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!



HONORARIUMS

Frank Spencer-Happy Birthday
Ron & Tinny Davis

IN MEMORY OF

Jesse Burge Goodsell
From Glenn & Jan Smith

Marion Burge Goodsell
From Glenn & Jan Smith

Grace Hopper Allred
From Glenn & Jan Smith

Ann Roberts
Andrew & Mary Lena Harper

**BILLY BRUMFIELD
SHELTER
PERSONAL
HYGIENE ITEMS**

Soap, razors & shaving cream, deodorant, etc.

MEALS

Sunday Dinner weekly, monthly, or quarterly

Volunteer Opportunities at the OC:

- Provide haircuts (men and women) • Lead a Bible Study • Collect hygiene items, towels, washcloths, detergent, socks, and underwear for clients • Provide bus passes for transportation (\$3 round trip)
- Provide coffee, filters, cream, and sugar
- Provide Snacks ex. Donuts, fruit, crackers, bottle water, sports drinks, etc.

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I GUESS I'M A FOOL

By: Christie Burnette

Sometimes coming to work can be a difficult thing for me. Don't get me wrong, I know that I have been put here in this place for the specific purpose of ministering and helping to meet their needs; but it's not a pleasant thing to think of and live in all of the hardships, fear and hopelessness that some of our clients deal with everyday 365 days a year 24 hours a day. And true, some of our clients choose this life for themselves- but most don't. Be it mental illness, a bad choice or two, loss of a job or a release from jail, problems with their family...it could be ANYTHING that has brought them here- but my question remains the same- WHAT CAN ONE SOLITARY PERSON DO TO HELP MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

I think the best way that we, myself included, can start really making a difference in our world is simply through one word....RELATIONSHIPS. Will we walk by someone we see in need, hand them a meal tray and walk away- or could we take a minute and stop ask them their name, place a hand on their shoulder to show them we're not afraid and find out a little bit about themselves and their story. I have found that we all have stories no matter how small WE think they are. And they have stories too. People know when someone is there to "help them" because they have to or when the people serving are in it to receive the glory for themselves. They see it every day. However, a person with an open heart, a genuine smile and open eyes & ears willing to really listen and see them- will win every time.

Sometimes, it takes a while. Don't be discouraged! Keep loving, keep trying, and keep cultivating the relationships- because when they really need something or someone- they will remember you. As I sit here thinking about kindnesses afforded me and the relationships I cherish in my life- it is because they didn't give up.

So find the good in people, press in and try to truly help someone by building a relationship with them. You will be surprised at what you are able to accomplish with people that most think are unreachable. And as for making a difference and changing the world?

I think that Carrie Underwood says it best when she sings:

You're just a fool just a fool to believe you can the world- don't listen to them when they say

You're just a fool just a fool to believe you can change the world

The smallest thing can make all the difference; love is alive- don't listen to them when they say

You're just a fool, just a fool to believe you can change to world.

My response to that? I guess I'm a fool.

DIRECTOR'S CORNER *continued*

craft, come share it with our children. They would love take part in culinary, sewing, woodworking, gardening, scrapbooking, and any other classes that you can teach them. Remember that, helping a child enjoy the full benefits of a summer camp will expand their horizons and enable them make many new friends.



HOORAY!!!!

IT ALMOST GRADUATION DAY

BY: YOLANDA KIRKLAND

The Stewpot Children and Teen programs would like to take time out to congratulate our graduating seniors. Each of them have endured many challenges to make this day happen and we want to share a little about them with our supporters.

Kadiedra has been a part of the Stewpot After-school and Summer Camp since 2nd grade and will graduate from Provine High School to pursue a career as a Dental assistant. Anthony Glover who has been in the program since age 4 will graduate from Provine High School and will be attending college in the Fall of 2014. And, Devin has been in the After-School and Summer Camp program since 5th grade and will graduate from Terry High School and will begin his college journey to pursue a career as a Pediatric Dentist.

We are extremely proud of our graduates and asked that you keep them in your prayers as they move into this next chapter of their lives.

Thank you for your gifts of supplies, volunteers, prayers, love and financial support to our program. You helped make these great milestones happen for our Children and Teen programs.

Summer Camp begins June 4th 2014-04-24

Summer Camp Needs:

Sewing machines, blenders, cooking utensils, pots and pans, yoga mats, art supplies fabric, Sets of books, tri-fold board,



11 FACTS ABOUT HOMELESS CHILDREN & TEENS

1. There are approximately 1.7 million homeless teens in the U.S.
2. 39% of the homeless population is young people under 18.
3. About 75% of homeless teens use drugs or alcohol as a means to self-medicate to deal with the traumatic experiences and abuse they face.
4. 5,000 young people die every year because of assault, illness, or suicide while on the street.
5. A U.S. Department of Health and Human Services study found that 46% of homeless youth left their home because of physical abuse. 17% left because of sexual abuse.
6. Approximately 40% of homeless teens identify as LGBT.
7. Over 50% of young people in shelters and on the streets report that their parents told them to leave or knew they were leaving and didn't care.
8. The average age a teen becomes homeless is 14.7 years.
9. 1 in 7 young people between the ages of 10 to 18 will run away.
10. Teens age 12 to 17 are more likely to become homeless than adults.
11. HIV rates for homeless young people are 2 to 10 times higher than reported rates for other samples of adolescents in the U.S.

Sources

National Coalition for the Homeless
Safe Horizon
nn4youth.org
ncsl.org

For more information on homeless children and teens, you can visit www.dosomething.org.



Successful School Year - By: Shamberi Horton

In order to succeed, your desire for success should be greater than your fear of failure.

Bill Cosby

Great things happened this 2013-2014 school year.

Wow! Soon we will be ending our afterschool program to get ready for an awesome summer adventure!

As our first year as directors of the Children's Program was a great success. We helped the children pull up grades, we motivated them, we tutored on Saturdays, we took them on honor trips, and we rewarded them for making improvement. We are so grateful and elated that both teachers and students were able to be all that we knew how to be this school year. We had a very good support system this school year. We had a group of awesome volunteers and good AmeriCorps members. Since we had such a wonderful success we have even bigger plans for the next school year. We have four 5th grade students that will be moving forward to 6th grade, they are not only getting promoted in school but also within Stewpot as well. These students will be moving over to our middle school program which is the Teen Center. We are so happy that we were able to help them to achieve their goals to push them to the next level. We will be having a promotion/awards ceremony for our elementary, middle, and high school students to let them know we are proud of them. We believe in them and they believe in themselves.

BELIEVE IN STEWPOT'S MINISTRY TO FEED THE HUNGRY AND SHELTER THE HOMELESS???

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THEN CONSIDER A DONATION THROUGH YOUR ACCOUNT AT THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF GREATER JACKSON OR EXTEND YOUR SUPPORT EVEN BEYOND THE END OF YOUR LIFE BY DESIGNATING A % OF YOUR ESTATE TO STEWPOT. A SMALL % OF YOUR ESTATE MAKES A BIG DIFFERENCE TO THE HOMELESS AND/OR IMPOVERISHED CLIENTS OF STEWPOT.

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