PART OF THE SOLUTION: SHANNON CATO'S STORY

"The impact that one box of food had on me personally was honestly the difference in me being able to keep my home."

When Shannon Cato had an unexpected, traumatic event in her life right before Christmas, she desperately scrambled looking for help everywhere. With Christmas expenses adding up and a roommate moving out, she realized that she had to do something to generate funds to help pay her bills. So she setup a yard sale. During the yard sale, two clients who had previously received help from the Mission shared with Shannon about the Christian Mission and about the many ways we help people each day. The next morning she reached out to the Mission for help. That was the beginning of her exposure to the Mission as she left with a food box supply that allowed her to make ends meet and pay her bills that month.

As she moved on and began thinking about the impact that one box of food had on her during that crisis moment of life, she realized she wanted to be apart of helping others through the Mission. Cato said, "It can't stop with just me coming in and getting help with that one week. I needed to give back also. I needed to be part of the solution too."

"I needed to be a part of the solution too."

So she took action. She reached back out to the Mission and filled out a volunteer application. She learned about our "Hot Meals for the Homebound" ministry and the need for volunteer drivers who would take a route and deliver meals to senior adults, homebound, and disabled citizens in the area. Now, Shannon volunteers a few days a week at the Mission giving back to others what she received at Christmas. And through her service, she hopes to be able to impact the life of someone else in the same way her life was impacted.

Watch Shannon's story online at www.christmissions.org

TOTAL NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS HELPED WITH BENEVOLENT ASSISTANCE IN 2021

2,347

TOTAL BENEVOLENCE ASSISTANCE EXPENSES IN 2021

$564,406
NEW LIFE RECOVERY CLIENTS GET "READY TO WORK" THROUGH PARTNERSHIP WITH ENTERPRISE STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Since January of 2019 on Friday mornings, men and women in the New Life Recovery drug and alcohol recovery program are getting "Ready to Work". Through a strategic partnership with Enterprise State Community College, New Life clients are exposed to a variety of life and job preparation skills that will help them transition back into society once they complete the recovery program.

THE CURRICULUM . . .

The Ready to Work core curriculum consists of 6 training modules and ACT WorkKeys. These six major modules consisting of Technology Basics, FDIC/Finances, Communication, Workplace Behaviors, Problem Solving, and Job Prep.

Each module is comprised of 3 to 6 lessons that build upon and reinforce common concepts. All curriculum modules, including ACT WorkKeys, are structured to reinforce the essential skills of reading, writing, listening, speaking and arithmetic.

RTW curriculum includes both online and classroom components. Assessments are used to measure mastery of skills presented through the curriculum. All assessments must be completed with a score of 70% or higher to receive credit.

THE CERTIFICATES. . .

Upon successful completion of the RTW program, graduates receive two industry recognized credentials:
National Career Readiness Certificate – issued by ACT
Alabama Certified Work Certificate – issued by AIDT

New Life clients are also offered one free course at ESCC if they successfully complete the "Ready to Work" program.

"The Ready to Work program has helped me learn computer skills, email, and other tools to help prepare me to take and complete the GED test when I graduate from New Life." - Alyssa Donaldson

To learn more about the "Ready to Work" program, visit www.alabamareadytowork.org
Thanks to Walter Hill and Wiregrass United Way for the recent donation of $34,000 to help us purchase a Hydrovection oven!

What started out as an effort to meet the need of one legally blind senior adult has now turned into a thriving ministry with expansion goals in the works! When Rev. John Belcher first heard about the need that one senior adult citizen had years ago for a home improvement, little did he know he would come across a much greater need...a hot meal. Upon entering the home and assessing the situation, he realized that this senior adult had been cooking her meals on the stove by putting her hand out over the range to discern if it was warm enough or not. He realized then that there must be a better way to help the disabled, homebound, and senior citizens in the Wiregrass. While the government options for this demographic were scarce, the Christian Mission decided to help meet the need and fill the void. Thus, the "Hot Meals for the Homebound" ministry was launched.

Citizens in need contact the Mission to get their name added to the delivery list. Our kitchen staff prepares the number of meals needed for delivery. Volunteers then give their time Mondays, Wednesday, and Fridays to help deliver the meals along organized routes set by our kitchen team.

With a growing ministry comes new needs. In early April, the Wiregrass United Way presented a check for $34,000 from their Challenge Grant to help us purchase a new Hydrovection oven to prepare the meals quickly while keeping them moist and warm. Also, the need for a greater number of volunteers to help make the deliveries has increased as well. If you are able to donate your time from 7:00-8:30am once or twice a week, once or twice a month, or whatever time you are able to devote to this delivery need would be welcomed. By delivering a meal with a caring smiling face, you will be blessed as you get to know these wonderful citizens in our region. To volunteer, or find out more, please contact Christine Matos, Volunteer Coordinator, at 334-389-3183.

In-Kind Donations Lead to Ministry Impact!

Each day, people bring in-kind donations to our Donation Warehouse or to one of our Bargain Center locations in Enterprise, Elba, or Geneva. These in-kind donations range from used quality clothing, furniture, shoes, toys, electronics, and knick knacks. In-kind donations are tax deductible gifts since we are a 501c3 nonprofit.

These in-kind donations are priced and then sold in our stores. The sales from these stores provide 65% of our operating budget to provide the ministries of emergency food, shelter, benevolence assistance, and recovery. We also offer pickup of donations if scheduled with our dispatcher. To schedule a pickup, please contact 334-347-GIVE.

Listen to a personal testimony of the impact of a Hot Meal for the Homebound at www.christmissions/food-services

In 2021, we distributed 39,286 Hot Meals for the Homebound resulting in $117,858 in expenses

DID YOU KNOW?

In 2021, we distributed 39,286 Hot Meals for the Homebound resulting in $117,858 in expenses

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO HELP DELIVER MEALS

To find out more or sign up to help, please contact Christine Matos at 334-389-3183. BIGGEST CURRENT NEED: Friday mornings from 7:00-8:30am

How do we do it?

Thank you! for being a part of our Mission to care for the homeless and hungry in our community!
MATOS BEGINS AS VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

Whether it's organizing our food pantry, covering a Hot Meals for the Homebound route once a week, helping with grounds work, or stuffing envelopes, there's always a great need for volunteers daily at the Mission! With the growing number of volunteers helping during a year, we've been praying about our need for a volunteer coordinator. And the Lord has been gracious to provide Christine Matos!

Christine previously lived in Colorado Springs, Colorado, where she served as Administrative Assistant at Citygate Network who is a nationwide association of Missions like ours throughout the United States. Thus, she understands what daily life at the Mission looks and feels like. She has already been volunteering in different ways with us so she's seen firsthand lives being touched daily!

Our volunteers come in all shapes and sizes and we work hard to find the best ways to utilize each volunteer with their passions and our needs. If you'd like to discuss more about volunteer opportunities at the Mission, feel free to reach out to Christine and welcome her to the Mission family!