



Ladies of Charity of Chattanooga

2821 Rossville Boulevard, Chattanooga, TN 37407, 423.624.3222
www.ladiesofcharity.org

*Serving the needy
of our community
in a spirit of faith,
humility & simplicity*

January 2010

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Ministry Staff

Jan Clark
Ministry Director

Darleen Crowson
*Greater Good
Thrift Store
Manager*

Greater Good Thrift Store Hours

10 AM-4 PM
Tuesday-Friday
10 AM-2 PM
Saturday
(Closed Sunday
& Monday)



Charity & Mission VINCENT DE ¹⁶⁶⁰ PAUL LOUISE DE MARILLAC 350th anniversary

president seriously. I have been trying ever since to catch up, it seems. My guilt feelings about being absent were offset by the loving understanding that came from everyone at LOCC. I was firmly reminded by many of you—including Ministry Director Jan Clark, who had lost her mother, Vivien Miller, a few weeks earlier than I lost mine—that *a*) family comes first and *b*) there is no way to replace the time you choose *not* to spend with the people you love, especially when they need you. Advice like that is one of the precious gifts I have found at LOCC.

On a closing note, this newsletter is very late. You should have gotten a newsletter in September and another during December. Thanks for your patience as I worked my way through a very difficult, long distance family situation. I pray that you had a blessed Christmas and that 2010 is bringing good things your way!

Dear members, volunteers, partners & friends:

Our Fall 2009 general meeting took place on the Sunday feast of St. Vincent de Paul. It marked the beginning of a jubilee year we share with Vincentian ministries around the world: the 350th anniversary of the work of our founders, St. Vincent and St. Louise de Marillac.

Our Lady of Perpetual Help welcomed LOCC to Mass that day. Afterward, instead of our traditional luncheon and business meeting, our **Spirituality Committee** hosted an event that took us back to our roots. The 60 members who attended enjoyed box lunches and, then, theater-style popcorn while they viewed the movie, *Monsieur Vincent*. Filmed in black and white with English subtitles, the story of St. Vincent and his world-transforming ministries won 1948 Best Film awards in France, Belgium and Italy, as well as Hollywood's Academy Award for Best Foreign Film that same year. The viewing and the fall meeting engendered many rave reviews!

I missed the event, since I was out of town. I even missed a couple of Board meetings last fall. I was in Memphis a good deal, where my mother, Pat Svoboda, was ill from July through October. She passed away on All Saints Day.

It was very hard for me to have to miss LOCC meetings and events, because I take the responsibilities of Board

President, Board of Directors

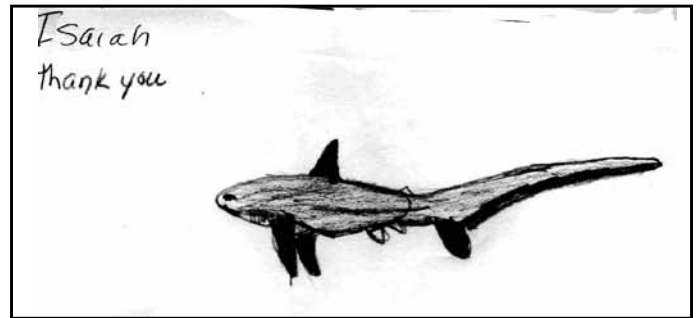
Christmas Angel Program 2009

Chair **Karen Dunegan** says this year's Christmas giving effort distributed more than \$8,600 to 85 families and 258 individuals, with groceries and holiday gifts for 90 children in the families served.

We thank Karen for her volunteer leadership. This is the second year she has chaired the Christmas Angel Program. Karen works full-time, so finds it hard to volunteer regularly. The Program allows her to serve on her own schedule. We are also deeply grateful for the outpouring of help from the local Catholic community to this year's Program:

- **Notre Dame High School** students raised and contributed \$1,905. The funds were presented to Board vice president Jeff Raabe at a December school assembly. Jeff had a chance to thank the students and tell them more about the work of LOCC.
- **St. Stephen Parish** provided a parish donation, special collection and food pantry drive. Enthusiastic parishioners delivered a mountain of groceries to us, stocking our pantry to an extent it hadn't seen in months. A number of parishioners made individual donations to the Program later.
- **Sts. Peter and Paul Parish** contributed its Thanksgiving collection offerings to LOCC.
- **Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish** added a special giving envelope to its bulletin in December, which resulted in a number of individual gifts from parishioners.

- **St Jude Parish** once again sponsored the Angel Tree for the Program, which provided a wonderful stock of children's gifts for the families who benefited this year. Many thanks to **Ann Anderson** for her painstaking work on the Angel Tree, a very special part of the program!



The drawing above came as a thank you present to LOCC. It was created by a child who was delighted with the markers and sketchbook he received through the Angel Tree hosted by St. Jude Parish for LOCC's Christmas Angel Program.

Prayers requested for Willingham family

Calder Willingham, longtime LOCC treasurer, resigned from the Board in November due to advancing illness. Calder passed away on January 18 as this newsletter was being prepared. We will miss him greatly, and ask all of you to keep his family in your prayers as they deal with the sadness of his death.

Parable of the Spoons

A holy man, while talking with the Lord one day, said, "Lord, I would like to know more about what heaven and hell are like."

The Lord led the holy man to two doors. He opened one and the holy man looked in. He saw a room. In the middle was a large round table. In the middle of the table was a large pot of stew, which smelled delicious and made the holy man's mouth water. The people sitting around the table were thin and sickly. They looked famished. Spoons with very long handles were strapped to their arms and, while they could reach into the pot of stew and get a spoonful, their spoons were longer than their arms and they could not get the spoonfuls of stew back into their mouths. The holy man shuddered at the sight of their misery and suffering.

The Lord said, "You have now seen hell."

The holy man and the Lord then moved on to the next door. When they opened it, they found almost exactly the same scene.

There was the large round table with the large pot of stew that made the holy man's mouth water. The people were equipped with the same long-handled spoons, but in this room the people were well nourished and plump. They were talking and laughing.

The holy man said, "I don't understand."

"It's simple," said the Lord. "It requires but one skill to reach heaven. You see, the blessed ones have learned to feed one another, while the greedy ones think only of themselves."

Author unknown.

*Submitted by **Graham Brannan**,
LOCC Board Development Chair.*

Charitable Gifts Received May through December 2009 -- Add Eischeid?

Memorial Gifts

Andres & Hilda Alisago for Martiniana Alisago
Mr. & Mrs. George Awad for T.A. Lupton, Jr.
Jack Benson, Jr., for Pat Svoboda
Marie Calsetta for Jake Wright
Byron & Donna Cox
for Jake Wright & Father Herbert Prescott
Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Eischeid for Jake Wright
Ann G. Epps for her mother, Sara Glascock
Mollie Flores for Vivien Miller
Frank W. Fowler for Sara Glascock
John Foy for Sara Glascock
Bill & Diane Gallagher for Pat Svoboda,
Vivien Miller, Jake Wright & Louise O'Brien
Lynne D. Herman for Idell Payne,
Elizabeth Jackson & Sandra Heflin
Jennifer Holcomb for Milton Colosia
Betty Johnson for Vivien Miller, Tom Johnson,
Michael Johnson, Dr. Charles Suggs, Allen Newell,
Father Herbert Prescott & Milton Colosia
Samra Mims for Sara Glascock
Terry & Kitty Roberts for Jake Wright
Margaret G. Russell for Vivien Miller
Clare Sawyer for Cedric Armor & Roberta Ward
Duvanna Shutters for John Klein & Andy Medzee
Dr. & Mrs. M. J. Szczukowski for
Mrs. Mildred Thomas, Mr. Ralph Routon, Richard
Grebner, Greg Robinson, Dr. Don Cannon, Roberta
Ward, Charles E. Grappy & Martha Rawlings
Kay Parish's Bunco Group for Pat Svoboda
Mary R. Wrightson for her brother, William Renahan

Building Fund Gifts & In-Kind

City of Chattanooga/Public Works
IBM Corporation
Pat Neuhoff/Neuhoff Taylor Architects
Larry Parks/ T.U. Parks Construction
St. Jude Church
Clare Sawyer

Designated Gifts & Gifts in Honor

Robert & Connie Aaron for Christmas Angel
Joseph & Anita Andrea for Christmas Angel
William & Herminigilda Ashcraft for Christmas Angel
Mr. D. F. Austin for Christmas Angel
William & Frances Balsis for Christmas Angel
Elaine Barbee for Christmas Angel
(with corporate match from Unum Group)
Rose Mary Bearden for Christmas Angel
Rhea Berube for Christmas Angel
Walter & Clara Brezezienski for Christmas Angel
Marie Calsetta for Duvanna Shutters' 90th Birthday
Marilyn Cherne for Christmas Angel
Ralph & Marian Christiana for
Rev. David Boettner, Moderator of the Curea
Deacon Sean Smith, Chancellor
Rev. James Vick, OLPH Parish
Rev. Augustine Idra, OLPH assistance Parish
Rev. George Schmidt, Sts. Peter & Paul Parish
Rev. Michael Nolan, St. Dominic (Kingsport) Parish
Erma Chrnalogar for Christmas Angel
Mrs. H. P. Cotter for Christmas Angel
John & Marina Delaney for Christmas Angel
Constance Dickey for Christmas Angel
Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Eischeid for Family & Friends
Charles R. Franer for Christmas Angel
Sister Mary Hannon for Christmas Angel
Elizabeth Hogan for Christmas Angel
Charles J. Horten for Christmas Angel
Mary Jackson for Christmas Angel
James & Kristina Jurka for Christmas Angel
Peter Kimaru for Christmas Angel
Bessie Kuehn for Christmas Angel
T.E. & M.T. Langmann for Christmas Angel
Gary & Sylvia Lanham for Christmas Angel
Helen Lowe for Christmas Angel
Mrs. Jayne Lundgren for Christmas Angel

Robert & Marjorie Middlekauff for Christmas Angel
Edward Mincher for Christmas Angel
Ms. Gail Nevins for Christmas Angel
Frances Newell for Christmas Angel
Notre Dame High School for Christmas Angel
Angie Nunley for Christmas Angel
Paul & Paula Phillips for Christmas Angel
Gene & Virginia Raghianti for Christmas Angel
David & Lois Rauen for Christmas Angel
James E. Reardon for Christmas Angel
Ron & Jan Redding for Christmas Angel
Julie & Kurt Schmissrauter for Christmas Angel
Iqbal Singh for Christmas Angel
St. Jude Parish for Christmas Angel
St. Stephen Parish for Christmas Angel
St. Stephen Parish for Food Pantry Drive
Sts. Peter & Paul for Thanksgiving Social Action
Ruby & Joseph Terrell for Christmas Angel
Helen M. Tillotson for the Layette Program
Christopher & Diana Ungate for Christmas Angel
Catherine Valadie for Patrick J. Nolan
E. D. Warwick for Christmas Angel
Thomas & Kathlee Weber for Christmas Angel

General Gifts & In-Kind

Advantage Printing & Mailing Services
Andres & Hilda Alisago
Rev. Mary Jayne Allen
Deacon Brian Gabor
Knights of Columbus, Council 610
Bill Laudeman
Joan Lord
Pastor Randy Nabors
Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish
Kay Parish
W. M. Robertson
Clare Sawyer
St. Jude Parish
Geri W. Toeller
St. Stephen Parish

LOCC gives particular thanks for two generous bequests which came to us from the estates of deceased members **Frances Ann Kuhn and Mary C. Allen**. We are honored to benefit from the gifts of these extraordinary Ladies of Charity. Please remember them in your prayers of thanksgiving!

2009 LOCC Social Assistance: How We Helped

- *Food Pantry*
- *Food Vouchers/Gift Cards*
- *Meals On Wheels*
- *Utility Bill Assistance*
- *Household Goods*
- *Appliances*
- *Fans/ACs/Heaters*
- *Baby Furniture*
- *Kitchenware*
- *Clothing*
- *Layettes for Newborns*
- *Transportation Assistance*
- *Child Safety Seats*
- *Health Care*
- *LifeLine*
- *Prescription Medicines*
- *Adult Day Care*
- *Building Repair & Supplies*

The list on this page is a reminder of the types of services we provide to our beneficiaries and to those referred to us by the area social service agencies and churches with whom we partner to help others. We offer a solution to people who don't qualify for assistance through other means or who need more help than the existing local social service system can provide—neighbors who would otherwise “fall through the cracks” in the network of help for those in need in the Chattanooga area.

We offer two types of help: direct financial aid and in-kind assistance (goods from our store, food from our pantry and/or layettes for newborns). Thanks to our contributors and to the increased proceeds from our Greater Good Thrift Store since we moved from Main Street to Rossville Boulevard, we were able to help more people in 2009 than ever before.

During 2008, for example, we provided about \$80,000 in director and in-kind emergency assistance to families and individuals in crisis. During 2009, we distributed \$8,000 each month in direct financial contributions, plus another \$2,000-\$4,000 each month in in-kind help. We estimate that our total giving for 2009 was \$137,000, which allowed us to touch more than 700 families and 3,000 total individuals.

Thank you for all you did to help with this work! For those with little, even a little often goes a long way. And it all adds up.

Space needs, safety concerns lead to thoughts of storage annex

We thought we were safe moving to Rossville Boulevard, with twice the space we had at Main Street. But no. Over the course of the last year, we have been blessed consistently with an abundance of off-season donations.

The resulting, ever-present stacks of heavy, teetery storage boxes pose a safety risk to the volunteers working in our donation processing area. It's a situation that has led us to look into adding storage space on the south end of our building (opposite the parking lot end). Plans for a simple but climate-controlled addition have been drawn and pricing is in progress. Thanks to the sale of our Main Street buildings, we do have some capital funds. Stay tuned for more information as we continue to assess our need and resources.

Volunteers are always needed!

- **Greater Good Thrift Store Sales Associates.** Volunteers are needed to help customers and work the checkout area. Training is provided. Shifts are available mornings or afternoons on Tuesday-Friday, and from 10 AM-2 PM Saturday. Call Darleen Crowson at 624-3222 to learn more.
- **Donation Processing Volunteers.** Help is needed Monday-Saturday to assist donors and prepare donations for sale in the Thrift Store. Training is provided. Times are flexible. Call Darleen Crowson at 624-3222 to learn more.

- **LOCC Board Committees.** The LOCC Board needs more help on its Finance, Spirituality and Marketing/Development Committees. If you have knowledge or skills in financial planning, event planning, marketing or fundraising, we could use you! Committees meet on a schedule decided upon by the chair and members. Call Kay Parish at 267-5886 or Graham Brannan at 629-7047 to learn more.

End-of-season sale nets \$987 (one quarter at a time)!

After a busy 2009 Christmas season, LOCC held an inventory reduction sale in order to clear out for a thorough floor cleaning for the ministry headquarters building. Ministry Director **Jan Clark** reports that the recent 25 Cent Sale brought in a whopping \$987.

Jan and the Board compliment Store Manager **Darleen Crowson and her sales crew**, noting that, according to their math, the Greater Good Thrift Store “recycled” almost 4,000 items during the two-day sale.

Thanks are also due to the volunteers who moved the building fixtures and retained merchandise to accommodate the cleaning. Seasonal sales and cleanings are scheduled three times a year. The staff announces them as far in advance as possible, and can always use Saturday and Sunday help while the store is cleaned to be restocked and reopened. To get on the list, call Darleen at 624-3222.