

Heart to Heart

A Quarterly Newsletter

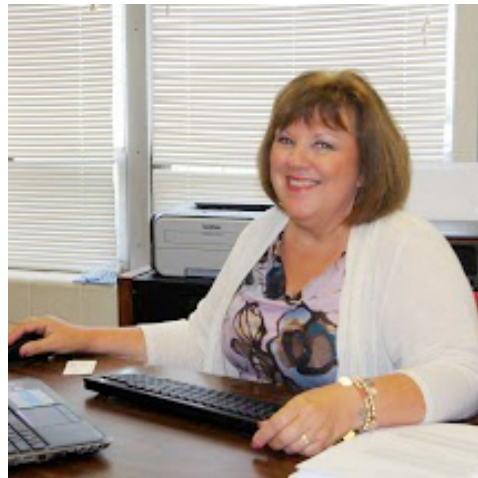
Summer 2013

Where those in need find hope: The Good Samaritan Center is dedicated to preventing homelessness and hunger by providing basic life needs and access to life skills.

Buckman designated Executive Director

Martha Buckman's 24 year career at GSC evolves into position as executive director.

The Good Samaritan Center Board of Directors made it official at the June meeting, naming Martha to the position she had been filling since December 2012. She credits the proactive board of directors for easing the stresses of the past few months.



Joining the organization in 1989 Martha began as a part time caseworker. For many years she coordinated the food pantry, along with casework. For six years she administered the GSC transitional living program, and eventually was named as Emergency Assistance Director.

From Board President Martin Conrad, "Martha is one of the most dedicated people I have ever met. She knows GSC, she knows the community, she knows the supporting agencies, and, most importantly, she knows the clients.

In a typical week she is usually the first employee in the building and the last one to leave at night. It is not uncommon for me to go by GSC on the weekend and see her car parked there. With all the hours she puts in, Martha never asks for anything for herself. She is, however, concerned about other employees and increases they need and deserve.

With Martha as executive director the budget has improved somewhat, but the economy continues to make it challenging to manage GSC."

Williams Foundation funds Children's Art Camp

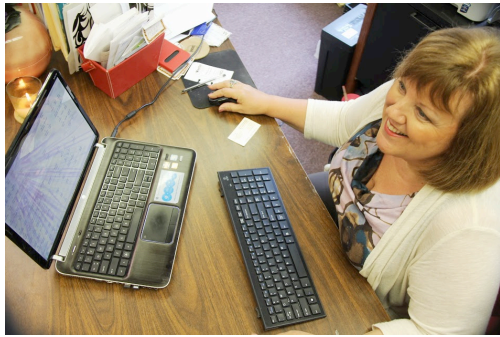


Small digital cameras were provided for each of the 25 children who participated in the week-long camp held in July at GSC. Phillip Popejoy led the team of volunteers and local artists who inspired the young creators.

Framed reproductions of some of the children's photographs are on display at various locations around the community and will be sold in silent auction at "Tables by Design" which will be held at The Elms on September 17. Proceeds will help fund an art camp next summer.

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

The face of The Good Samaritan Center has changed over the 23 plus years of my



employment, but the very basic mission remains the same. We are still feeding people to prevent hunger and working with families to prevent homelessness.

One of the biggest struggles I am experiencing in this new role is missing the contact with individuals whose lives I have followed for many years. I have had to turn that role over to our two very capable caseworkers, Jennifer and Mary Lou.

We continue to operate with some tremendous resources in the forms of great staff and volunteers who keep this place running smooth. Many of the directors on the board are hands-on volunteers who are frequently on site helping things happen. And, all of our work here is dependent on the contributions of you, our donors. Thank you!

Our great challenge at this time in the Center's history is to meet as much need as we can while making sure the Center remains financially stable.

It is my goal that everyone who walks through the doors of GSC is treated kindly and with respect whether it be someone DONATING a box of food or someone RECEIVING a box of food.

Martha

Chris Tavares moves into role as pantry coordinator



Catholic Charities Senior Training Program provides salaries for Title 5 workers

Chris has been working as a volunteer at the Center for the past 18 months. Thanks to funding from a program that employs seniors, he is now working five days a week for a salary. His new duties include helping with volunteer coordinating as well as overseeing the food pantry. Chris says volunteering "fills your heart, and it is fun!" He says help is really needed so please consider it.

Good Samaritan Center of Excelsior Springs Staff & Directors

Staff

Martha Buckman, Executive Director |
Liz Hull, Broadway Bargains Thrift Store Manager/Volunteer Coordinator
Mary Lou Greim, Caseworker
Jennifer Chappel, Caseworker
Crystal Canfield, Custodian/Thrift Store
Greg Martin, Senior Home Repair Director
Gayle Geiger, Senior Advocate
Opal Fields, Silver Sneakers
Sonya Morgan, Electronic Communications

Linda David is new Title 5 worker at BB



Volunteering becomes a paid position at Broadway Bargains Thrift Store

Linda filled many different roles at the Center when she began volunteering last fall. She has helped with just about every capacity available there, but really found a niche in the thrift store. She works at the cash register, at sorting, and hanging. when her BB shift is through, Linda might be found filling in at some other function in the Center's operation. She says volunteering gets her out of her studio (she is an artist) and meeting people. She says, "Please volunteer, we need help!"

Directors

Martin Conrad, President
Christine Snedden, Vice-President
Robert Hart, Treasurer
Shawna Mull, Secretary

Ambrose Buckman, Ann Case, John Hill, Bernadette Hodges, Cliff Nelles, Marlene O'Dell, Phillip PopeJoy, Nora Reinhardt, Eartha Taylor, Larry Tesar.

Sam's Story

A young family is aided by GSC in its journey toward self-sufficiency.

Sam moved with her husband and two babies to Excelsior Springs from Georgia in 2010. Soon after, she learned that her husband was unfaithful so asked him to move out of their apartment. It wasn't long before she was stressed about her situation and finances. She kept their apartment as both their names were on the lease. The children's father, coming to the apartment to care for the children while Sam worked, brought a girl friend there.

When Sam came to GSC for help, she was angry with him, he wanted her to get out of the apartment, her family was in Ohio but she was afraid to take them across state lines. She had applied for housing help, but was on a waiting list. At GSC, Sam was advised to relax and find her power. She was to contact Legal Aid, and continue to accumulate some savings. She was to call the GSC caseworker if she got stuck. Two weeks later she called to say her prayers had been answered and she was getting into an apartment at Ruey Anna. She used her savings for half the deposit, and GSC paid the other half.

Several months later Sam returned to GSC to see if she could get help moving from Public Housing to Section 8 Housing. The caseworker made the call to see about a new deposit. Sam had been a good tenant, so her deposit was rolled over to the new place. GSC helped her with

Christmas for her kids that year. The caseworker says Sam was very emotional with gratitude.

A year and a half later, Sam asked for help with an electric bill. She had been a full time student for a year, working toward becoming an abused women's counselor. She had been abused by her father and her ex-husband. The ex-husband had quit paying child support. She had been unable to find work that would fit with her student/mom schedule so was living off student loans. She was receiving food stamps. She promised to do well on her mid-term exams in gratitude for help with the electric bill.

Sam called this year to say she and the kids are doing well. They moved to a house near Penguin Park. Her son is starting kindergarten. She has finished her bachelor's degree and will start work on her master's soon. She wanted to thank GSC for the support during a very difficult time of her life. She believes it was an important component of her success.

What it means to volunteer

If God wouldn't have volunteered, we wouldn't be here.

God's love is so dear, we need to volunteer.

To show each other how much we care for them each year, we need to share our love each year.

God feeds us back with joy and cheer. That's the purpose for us to volunteer.

Les Spooner, Resident at Superior Park & Volunteer



Box truck donated by Rita & Lamar Hunt Jr. and Molle Chevrolet

Truck was long time need for collecting donations.

The Center board and staff are grateful to the Hunts and Molle Chevrolet for this truck which has been on the wish-list for many years. It enables staff and volunteer drivers to pick up food donations and some thrift store donations. It is much more energy and time efficient than using the old van.

Poverty Simulation will be held at GSC on September 12

Reserve your place by calling Martha at 630-2718 x 28 or by emailing at gscmj@goodsamaritancenter.com

Many of us have little understanding of the day to day realities of life with a shortage of money and an abundance of stress. This simulation will give participants an opportunity to view poverty from a different perspective.

This Community Action Poverty Simulation will be held in the Great Hall, 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm. Community leaders and policy makers are especially encouraged to participate. Please know and understand your neighbors and/or your constituents.

Heart to Heart Good Samaritan Center of Excelsior Springs MO Inc

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Tables by Design to be held at The New Elms on September 17

Tables by Design, the annual Fall fundraiser, will return to the Elms Hotel and Resort this year. The Tour of the Tables will be open for the public from 10 am to 5 pm. During that time the silent auction will be set up for bids. Framed photos from the children's summer art camp will be offered, as well as some artwork from local artists. There will also be a raffle for a wine basket. The proceeds from the event will be earmarked for services to families. The silent auction will help fund a children's art camp next summer.



Community Partner

Neighborhood Assistance Program

Tax credits in the amount of 50% are available from the State of Missouri. Call Martha for more information, 630-2718, x 28.

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