

# **SERVING OUR** COMMUNITY

#### Matthew 2:12



"When it was time to leave, they (the 3 wise men) returned to their own country by another route, for God had warned them in a dream not to return to Herod."

This verse is not one that I have ever meditated on until God just guicken my spirit about this. This verse is talking about the three wise men. Herod secretly called the wise men, and he found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. It was probably months after the birth that they visited Jesus. The three wise men had a specific task: "Go and make a careful search for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me so that I too may go and worship him." We know that Herod wanted to kill Jesus. Just like all of us when we have an encounter with Jesus, things change! God spoke to them in a dream and told them not to go back through Jerusalem. You may be going through some life altering experience and times in your life that you have to go another way.

You might, and certainly our clients at the Christian Caring Center could be in mourning for a spouse or close person, a loss of a job, eviction, utilities shut off, etc. Or maybe like the Christian Caring Center, you have been doing the things of God a certain way and been blessed and God wants to increase His presence in your life and increase your ministry. Like Mary, the Angel said she was "highly favored, and the Lord is with you". And then the Lord decided to use her and Joseph in a new direction to bring forth the Messiah! As we get to go into a new year fresh, CAN WE BE OPEN TO A DIRECTION FROM GOD? Finding Jesus in 2025 may mean that your life must take a different direction, one that is responsive and obedient to God's word. I'm asking myself and for the ministry of the Christian Caring Center, what way is Jesus affecting the direction of my life and the ministry of the Christian Caring Center?

For our friends at the Christian Caring Center facing the mourning for a spouse or close person, a loss of a job, eviction, utilities shut off, homelessness etc., what new direction can we minister and help them? I would really implore you to join me in prayer as we seek Jesus and His word to grow the ministry of the Christian Caring Center.

We can only continue to do ministry to people who are lost and hurting with the help, support and prayers of all of you. It takes the kingdom of God to empower this work, and we count it all joy to have you on our team.

Thank you so much for continuing to support the Christian Caring Center.

Madelyn Sutton











# **Giving Tuesday**

Our best ever- you gave \$5,912-PTL!!! on Tuesday, December 3, 2024. This amount will help allow us to finish off 2024 with all our bills paid! No amount is too small or to large and its not too late to give a year end gift as God will multiply it to meet all our needs! Thank you in advance.



## **Holiday Baskets**

We were blessed to be able to give great
Thanksgiving Baskets to 369 Households with your
help- PTL!!!

Get ready for our upcoming Basket outreach events for Christmas in December. It's all about blessing our community's children, families, seniors and homeless individuals! We're gearing up to provide holiday meals filled with essentials including turkeys, and ensuring every child has gift. Here's how you can get involved:

Volunteer your time, We can really use your help on December 18th to the 20th 2024 from 10am-3pm.

'Donate \$35/basket.

Donate toys, board games or gift cards,

'Organize a food drive and/or donate your free turkey or ham that you are not using.

'Have your church, Sunday School class, Bible study group, civic group, school or school club or business, etc. start a food or gift drive, write encouraging notes, Christmas cards, gospel tracks to tuck into the food boxes. These personal touches can mean the world to a child or senior with a little extra support and encouragement. Donate a stuffed stocking for a senior citizen filled with candy, socks, hygiene items, crossword puzzles, gospel tracks or devotionals, socks, etc.

If you're interested in participating or learning more, drop us an email at christiancaringcenter@yahoo.com. Your involvement can make a big difference in the lives of children and families in our community, and we'd be

thrilled to have you on bo

### **Gideon's Army**

We invite you to prayerfully consider joining our ranks as committed supporters, pledging \$35 per month to be a Gideon Army supporter of hope for those facing darkness. Together, we can be instruments of change, bringing light to the lives of the people we encounter in our midst. Thanks!







# Men's Emergency Shelter



Jack Stelle Men's Emergency Shelter: We have 3 men in the shelter right now. QJ, RG, and RM. QJ is working at Dollar Tree, RM just started a new job, and RG is working at the Christian Caring Center. All are looking for a room or affordable apartment to rent. We are asking for your prayers for all the men.

Holman House: Is temporarily closed to residents right now as we are going through renovations of adding a bathroom and bedroom for isolation room. We are finally making progress an passed our rough plumbing and filled back the concrete on our slab-PTL!

<u>Marion House:</u> We have a new family mom, and 5 children going into the shelter-PTL!! Please pray for them as they look for permanent housing.





# Eden Village @ CCC

We received an amazing gift of \$30,000 towards this project-PTL! We are currently in Phase I and have raised over \$20,000 for our licensing and we are contacting MO Eden Village to set things up. We have also met with township officials and they love the project. Next step is to find suitable land of about 5 acres. Please keep us in your prayers.

# **Bridge of Hope**



We have our 2 new moms: the one who has 2 children has found an apartment in Edgewater Park. Our second mom has 5 children, but her rental in Willingboro is not passing inspection so we need to search for another place. Thank you for all your support and prayers.

# **Emergency Food**

The Lord through the Christian Caring Center helped 618 families or 1,857 individuals (including 618 children) with 33,426 meals in the month of November, 2024- PTL!!!

# Community Lunch/Rural Homeless Program

The Lord through the Christian Caring Center served 871 hot cooked lunches and continental breakfasts in the month of November, 2024. We also go out to streets/woods on Wednesday and Friday to deliver 40 lunches and outreach to the homeless, alcoholic, addicted or mentally challenged men, women in 2 area motels. Please continue to pray for the people still out there that are homeless and struggling as well as the staff and volunteers.

# Salvation Army Service Units & Grants

The Christian Caring Center serves as a volunteer service unit for the Salvation Army and 3 other grants. They provided the following: 4 Households with 14 individuals with rent. 31 Nights of Lodging to14 Individuals and Utilities to 8 Households with 19 individuals.

### Code Blue Shelter

The shelter facility is not ready yet, but at the time of this writing we have had 11 nights. We have sheltered the guests in motels until the shelter is ready. We have sheltered 72 unduplicated individuals.

# The opportunity Christian Caring Center



### Volunteer

### **7 Most Wanted Volunteer Positions**

- 1. Interviewers/to pray with the people receiving food.
- 2. Volunteers to work with homeless clients locating housing and jobs.
- 3. Volunteers for making gift baskets for auction at our fundraising events.
- 4. Volunteers to sort our clothing at the Center.
- 5. Volunteers to help organize Food Drives.
- 6. Volunteers to help organize toy drives

### **Needed Items**

### **FOOD PANTRY CLOTHING**

Peanut Butter & Jelly
Hamburgers/Hotdogs and buns
Cereal, Breakfast bars, Nutra grain bars
Juice, shelf milk, Water bottles, Gatorade, Juice
Boxes

Tuna fish

Adult underwear & Hygiene items

**Sneakers** 

Sweat Shirts/hoodies

Jeans of all sizes, but especially 32-36, belts

### **SHELTERS**

Twin Sheets for our 3 shelters
New comforters or Gently Used for our 3 shelters
Gently used or new pots and pans
Cleaning supplies (Dawn, bathroom cleaner, etc.)
Gently used or new towels and wash cloths
Zippered plastic sheet protectors for twin beds

The Christian Caring Center also receives YOUGIVEGOODS.COM, you can purchase items, and they will ship them to us.

### **Upcoming Fundraisers**

We have 2 upcoming fundraising events.

- 1. Regifting Baskets for Valentines Day. You know those gifts you can't use, don't eat or don't fit? You can regift them to the Christian Caring Center and we will make gift baskets that our community will be able to purchase for their Valentine Sweetie.
- 2. <u>Souper Bowl Soup Drive.</u> You can hold a Soup Food Drive for the Super Bowl Game on February 9, 2025 at your church or at the party you are attending. Give us a email at <u>christiancaringcenter@yahoo.com</u> and we'll help you set it up. THANKS

### Volunteerism

As we are open 5 days per week, we greatly need volunteers. We only have 9 regular staff ( 4 full time and 5 part time staff) to run 11 programs. We have opportunities to fit your schedule: weekly, monthly, virtual, project oriented like Holiday baskets, food pickups, food or basket shopping, events.

Randy Holston, Development Coordinator, is eager to work with your group, church, and volunteers to further our ministry and minister to our growing needs. If your work place, group, church, are looking for opportunities to serve the community, Randy would love to talk to you. We can all come into agreement in prayer and serve. Drop us a email at <a href="mailto:christiancaringcenter@yahoo.com">christiancaringcenter@yahoo.com</a> or call him at 609-793-3917.



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