



Loaves & Fishes

September 2011

We are God's people serving Him and each other.

We've added a new column to our newsletter! "What Loaves & Fishes Means to Me" will highlight a different client in each edition. Loaves & Fishes has not only been able to make a difference in these families' lives, but in turn, through their faith and open hearts, they have made a difference in our lives as well.

What Loaves & Fishes Means to Me...

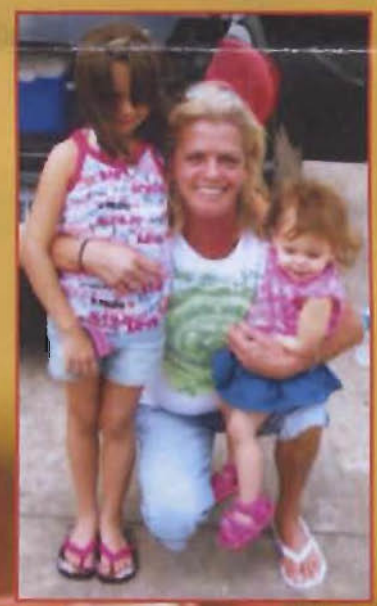
I became aware of Loaves & Fishes in 1999 when my family was in need of food assistance. The volunteers always made me feel welcome in a way that I still had my pride. I was embarrassed that we needed help from them, but that embarrassment turned into gratitude and humbleness. Even though this organization has a religious side, they never pushed it upon me. But you do feel it, they live it, and I wanted it. I looked forward to going there (not just for food) for fellowship, kindness, understanding and compassion. I also attended several budget cooking classes, sewing, etc. I actually enjoyed my weekly visits.

In February, 2005, my husband of ten years was diagnosed with cancer and passed away April of 2005. At that time I was also suffering with a drug addiction. But Loaves & Fishes provided a wake for my husband at a local church with food, flowers, and a service at no charge. I can't express the love I felt from all the volunteers and staff. I can tell you it made a big difference in my life and may have even saved it.

Today, I am happy, free of drugs, working, and my health is stable. I do live in another state now but I was able to visit a few months ago with my son, just to say "Thank you".

Whether it's a smile, kind word, good advice or just a box of donuts, you always leave Loaves & Fishes with something worthwhile.

*My family is grateful to all of you.
-Annette*



Annette with her grandchildren



Happy Faces Prep School



We were so happy to have Happy Faces Prep School take time to visit Loaves & Fishes for a tour. They also brought us a huge donation of food! Thank you!

First Baptist Sweetwater



The W.O.M. (Women on Mission) and Angel Ministries sponsored a church-wide collection of toys. Through their efforts and the generous hearts at First Baptist Sweetwater, we received 558 new toys to help kick start our Christmas! Thank you!

Joshua Kennedy



Seven year old, Joshua Kennedy started his lemonade stand in 2009 at the age of 5. Joshua wanted to give back to help others, and the lemonade stand was his idea. In his first year, Joshua raised \$621 for Loaves & Fishes and in the second year, \$553. At the close of his last lemonade stand for the summer this year, he raised another \$551! During the three years he has received donations from as far as California. Recently, the local newspaper in Apopka did a story on Joshua which led many more people to donate. He's also been voted "Good Kid of the Week" by a local radio station, Sunny FM 105.9. Thank you, Joshua, for your giving heart.

Random Acts of Kindness from Peace Youth



A group from Peace Youth, the student ministry of Peace United Methodist Church in Orlando, showed up unexpectedly and blessed us with food and toiletries. We gave them a tour of our facility and they got to see us in action first hand. They enjoyed watching our caring volunteers welcome our clients with a warm smile. All the students even gave everyone a flower! Thank you!

First United Methodist Church of Pine Hills



First United Methodist Church of Pine Hills, Sunday School teacher, Lori Nolin and students Rochelle, Natalie and Wendy, collected much needed toiletries and cleaning supplies for Loaves & Fishes. Thanks be to God!

First Baptist Sweetwater Vacation Bible School



The Vacation Bible School classes decorated bags and then filled them with food for our clients. In addition to their normal weekly food bag they also received this thoughtful gift. The extra decorated bags were used to put lunches in for our homeless clients.

Birthday Gifts from the Heart



Larabelle and Hanna (8 year old twins), pictured here with their brother, Russel, age 9 requested guests at their birthday party to bring food for Loaves & Fishes in lieu of gifts. What a reflection of Christ. Thank you!

Helping Hands = Changed Lives

For the Record...

| 2011 | Cases | New Cases | Total Ind. | Volunteer Hours | Rx Vouchers | Client Financial Assist. |
|--------------|---------------|------------|---------------|-----------------|-------------------|--------------------------|
| January | 2038 | 26 | 5349 | 1465.50 | \$119.17 | \$1,494.09 |
| February | 1718 | 28 | 4352 | 1225.00 | \$37.99 | \$1,424.10 |
| March | 1974 | 46 | 4884 | 1252.00 | \$239.68 | \$2,230.02 |
| April | 1672 | 21 | 4134 | 1458.50 | \$212.95 | \$1,096.24 |
| May | 1838 | 24 | 4518 | 1549.00 | \$500.34 | \$1,216.79 |
| June | 2002 | 40 | 4932 | 1730.00 | \$158.97 | \$1,060.41 |
| July | 1787 | 46 | 4532 | 1404.00 | \$23.89 | \$530.95 |
| Total | 13,029 | 231 | 32,701 | 10084.00 | \$1,292.89 | \$9,052.60 |

Dates of Interest:

Thanksgiving Distribution

November 21,22 & 23

Christmas distribution

December 19,20,21 & 22

Please let us know if you would like to be added to our email newsletter distribution. Just go to our website at www.loavesandfishesapopka.com to sign up!

"Angel Trees"

Please consider putting up a Christmas Tree in your church or workplace with hanging ornaments listing a toy on the back. Individuals take an ornament and place an unwrapped toy under the tree. this could be a fun project for the whole family or co-workers AND give us a jump start for our Christmas distribution. If you are interested and would like us to print the labels for you, please contact Karen or Lory at (407)886-6005.



It's that special time of year...

The holidays are approaching quickly! If you would like to get an early start on holiday shopping OR if your church/civic group wishes to put up an angel tree, we would deeply appreciate your support!

- Our needs are as follows:**
- BOARD GAMES
 - ART/CRAFT KITS
 - HAND HELD GAMES
 - BARBIE CLOTHES
 - COLORING BOOKS
 - TEEN GIFTS
 - SPORTS BALLS
 - BABY TOYS
 - BIG DOLLS
 - BIG TRUCKS
 - BOOKS

Our pantry is getting bare! We are in need of:

Canned Meats/Goods

Macaroni & Cheese

Dry Pasta

Powdered Milk

Rice

Soup

Peanut Butter & Jelly

Dish Soap

Laundry Soap

Deodorant

Razors

Dishes/Pots & Pans

Shampoo &

Conditioner

Pine Cleaner

Toilet Paper

Tooth Paste

Tooth Brushes

Bar Soap/Body Wash

Baby Food/Formula

Diapers/Wipes

Sheets

Towels

Blankets



CONTACT US!
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Karen Valiente, Director
Lory Reeves, Asst. Director

HOURS OF OPERATION
Monday-Thursday
9:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m.