



SUMMER TWENTY 13



REVIVING COMPASSION

This summer, the North Carolina State legislature elected to make dramatic changes to the state's unemployment benefits. Effective July 1, maximum weekly payments dropped from \$535 to \$350 and the maximum number of weeks that state benefits will be paid dropped from 26 to 20. These changes come at a time when North Carolina's unemployment rates remain over a full percentage point higher at 8.8% than the national average of 7.6%. The rates for Guilford County are even more disturbing at 9.5%. This decision has affected at least 70,000 North Carolinians, 12,000 of which are in the Triad region. Equally disturbing is the legislature's decision to disqualify the state from federal extended benefits by choosing to alter NC's Unemployment Insurance standards without federal government approval. As a result, North Carolina is the only state that has lost its federal extended benefits.

What does this mean to Greensboro Urban Ministry and other non-profits which serve the hungry and poor? A greater need for food, utility, rent, and mortgage assistance, as more individuals and families fall into poverty, or even worse, homelessness. This problem is compounded by the timing of these changes. During the summer months the demands for services are already increased as children are out of school. Despite increased efforts by the government and school systems to continue free breakfast and lunch programs during summer months, many children do not have access to these meals. With their budgets

already stretched thin, families with young children, like the child pictured above, are forced to turn to non-profit agencies to help make ends meet through community kitchen meals, food assistance bags, and financial assistance.

"We need a Revival of Compassion," says Rev. Mike Aiken. On the part of our legislators and our community, we need to renew our commitment to helping the least of these. The problem is serious with 2,300 children in our community already identified as homeless. Working together, reviving our compassion, we can ensure that everyone is fed and has a warm bed in which to sleep.

The government defines **"food insecurity"** as a condition where people must skip meals, cut back on the quality and quantity of what they eat, or rely on emergency sources for food.

North Carolina ranks 2nd in the nation for food insecurity.

1 in 4
27.6% of children in NC are food insecure

1 in 5
19.6% of all North Carolinians are food insecure

Sources: Feeding America "Map the Meal Gap: Child Food Insecurity 2012"

CROP HUNGER WALK

ONE WORLD, ONE COMMUNITY, ONE STEP

More than thirty years ago, a group of compassionate individuals joined together to fight hunger. The group walked 10 miles, raising a meager \$120. Since that time, thousands more have joined in the fight. This fall, as an anticipated 6,000 individuals gather for the 33rd Annual Greater Greensboro CROP Hunger Walk & Run, the event will exceed **\$5 million dollars in historic contributions**. For our local community, this means that over the past 33 years, \$1.25 million dollars have been contributed to Greensboro Urban Ministry's Potter's House Community Kitchen to feed the hungry in our community.



This year's CROP t-shirt was designed by GTCC graphic design student Kat Jackson.

Sadly, according to a recent study by Feeding America, North Carolina still ranks 10th in the nation in terms of childhood food insecurity with 27.6% of children not knowing if they will eat on a given day. While the percentage of adults facing food insecurity is much lower at 19.6%, the number still places North Carolina 2nd in the nation for overall food insecurity. This is a plague in our community and our state, but one that we can end with your help.

Join us at NewBridge Bank Park on October 20th for the Greater Greensboro CROP Hunger Walk & Run as our community joins together to raise funds for Potter's House Community Kitchen, where 450-600 meals are served daily to those in need, and for Church World Service, an international organization that works with partners to eradicate hunger and poverty and promote peace and justice around the world.

For more information on CROP, please visit us online at <http://www.greenergreensborocropwalk.org>.

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Sigma Kappa Omega Chapter of
Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

2013

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

AUG 27

CROP KICK-OFF
11AM - 1PM
Greensboro Urban Ministry

AUG 29

CROP KICK-OFF
4PM - 7PM
First Lutheran Church

SEP 12

CLASH OF THE POTTERS
6PM - 8PM
Greensboro Cultural Center

SEP 21

GROOVE JAM AT DOODAD FARM
5PM - 11PM
Doodad Farm

SEP 28 & 29

LEADERSHIP GREENSBORO
SENIORS FOOD DRIVE

OCT 4 & 5

LEADERSHIP GREENSBORO
SENIORS FOOD DRIVE

OCT 20

CROP HUNGER WALK & RUN
Registration 1PM
Walk & Run 2PM
Grasshopper Stadium

OCT 29

HOLIDAY HONOR CARD LUNCHEON
11:30AM - 1PM
Christ United Methodist Church

NOV 21

FEAST OF CARING
4PM - 7PM
First Baptist Church

FOOD ASSISTANCE

CLAIRE THORNTON

An independent woman who believes in hard work and is rarely idle, Claire has worked minimum wage jobs most of her life, never earning more than \$25,000. However, Claire says that she has had a comfortable life and was able to travel a little and do the things she enjoyed. In 2005 when she was laid off during a company merger she wasn't concerned because she was willing to work and knew that she would find something. While seeking employment, Claire suffered a massive heart attack and underwent triple bypass surgery. Though grateful to have survived the ordeal, Claire was left unable to work and without a source of income.



“You should never be too proud to ask for help.”

For the first time in her life Claire was forced to seek assistance. With the support of her family, Claire was lucky to be able to move into Hall Towers, a Greensboro Housing Authority apartment building for individuals over 55. Although her housing needs were met and her children were providing her with a small stipend each month, Claire still struggled to make ends meet while she awaited the approval of her Social Security Disability application. At the suggestion of neighbors, Claire turned to Greensboro Urban Ministry for food assistance.

For nearly two and a half years Claire utilized Greensboro Urban Ministry's food assistance program to ensure that she had enough to eat. “It saved my life” says Claire as, with tears in her eyes, she recounts how the assistance bags bridged the gap until she was approved for food stamps. Once she began receiving government assistance, Claire stopped coming to Greensboro Urban Ministry as a client and began assisting with food drives.

Though still unable to work because of her on-going health issues, Claire is an active community volunteer. She shares her stories with individuals she meets and encourages them to realize that bad times can happen to anyone and when those bad times come, she's grateful to know that there are community resources available to help.

Last year Greensboro Urban Ministry's Emergency Assistance Program provided food assistance to over 13,000 individuals. According to Tyra Clymer, Emergency Assistance Program Director, “Many individuals we serve are seniors on fixed incomes who need a little support to make ends meet. We expect the number of these individuals to increase over the next year due to cuts to government feeding programs. Although we are seeing a record number of people, the community's continual outpouring of support has made a tremendous difference in the lives of the people we serve.”

FRIENDS ASKING FRIENDS

Greensboro Urban Ministry is excited to announce the launch of our new Friends Asking Friends online campaign program. This online giving tool allows you, our supporters, to create your own campaign as you join us in our fight against hunger and homelessness in our community.

How it works:

Simply create your own online campaign page, use your personal online contact list to select individuals whom you would like to ask to support your campaign, customize your message, and watch your friends support your efforts. When someone gives to your campaign an e-mail notification alerts you of their gift so that you can make sure to thank them for their support. Integration with online social networking makes the program even more effective as you can share your campaign online and have your friends share it with their friends.

An early user of the program, Bob Scheppegrell says “Implementing Friends Asking Friends will allow those who love GUM to do an even better job raising funds to better serve the Greensboro community.” We invite you to join Bob by creating your own Individual Campaign today. For more information, please visit <http://greensborourbanministry.kintera.org/individualcampaign>

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM



DOMINIC BOOKER

Many families who find themselves homeless feel as if their situation occurred overnight. For Dominic Booker and her young son, that feeling was a reality when a house fire destroyed everything they owned.

After the fire, Dominic was left homeless and forced to move in with family while she searched for housing. A single working mother, Dominic struggled to find time to look for housing, but

was delighted when she located a two-bedroom rental home that would provide her energetic son with somewhere to run and play. However, Dominic's finances and an old utility bill prevented her from moving in, leaving the family doubled-up with relatives and technically homeless. With few options available, Dominic turned to Greensboro Urban Ministry's Emergency Assistance Program for help. Through a partnership with G-CAN (Guilford Congregational Assistance Network), Greensboro Urban Ministry was able to arrange for Dominic's past bill and deposit to be paid so that the family could emerge from homelessness and move into their new rental home.

As a member of Partners Ending Homelessness, Greensboro Urban Ministry is fortunate to work with many partner agencies to help individuals emerge from their situations of homelessness and regain stability. Our clients, many of whom share stories similar to Dominic's, are in need of our support to help them rebuild their lives. Whether through food, housing, employment, or case management assistance, we meet these individuals where they are and work with them to rebuild. With their cooperation and input to ensure success, Greensboro Urban Ministry provides the tools and support needed until they can again become self-sufficient.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS INFO

Greensboro Urban Ministry would like to welcome the following new members to our Board of Directors:

Cathy Johnson
James Shell
Pete Dalldorf
Kelly Starkey
Sandra Yarborough
Keith Hennessy
Jeff Davis

New Officers:

Chair - Fritz Kreimer
Vice-Chair - Bonita Porter
Secretary - Craig Siler
Treasurer - Don Cupit
Executive At-Large -
Bill Conner, Don Hughes,
Andrew Chamberlin,
Bob Scheppegrell

Best wishes to our retiring board members:

Shane Carrico
Dorothy Colson
Ed Lemons
Kate Maleski
Timothy McNeal
Vincent Sims
Charles Zimmerman

ESTATE PLANNING

Remember Greensboro Urban Ministry in your will and other estate plans. For more information, contact Rev. Mike Aiken, (336) 553-2639

CITY, STATE, COUNTY AND FEDERAL EMPLOYEES

You can designate your pledge to Greensboro Urban Ministry through the following:

- State Employees Combined Campaign (charity code 1511)
- Combined Federal Employees Campaign (charity code 58975)
- City/County Employees Campaign (write in "GUM" with United Way Campaign)

SPONSOR PROGRAM

At Greensboro Urban Ministry, our programs are about much more than food and shelter. We believe that success is achieved when we meet our clients where they are, provide for their basic needs, and, through the support of case management, work with our clients to help them regain their independence and self-sufficiency.

By sponsoring a program for a day, a week, or even a month, you can help change the life of someone facing hardship in their life. What a great way for you to honor a friend or loved one for a special occasion such as a birthday, anniversary, wedding, or graduation while supporting the work of Greensboro Urban Ministry.

WEAVER HOUSE BED

DAY	\$21
WEEK	\$146
MONTH	\$630

POTTER'S HOUSE TABLE

DAY	\$12
WEEK	\$84
MONTH	\$360

PATHWAYS APARTMENT

DAY	\$80
WEEK	\$560
MONTH	\$2,440

PARTNERSHIP VILLAGE

DAY	\$17
WEEK	\$118
MONTH	\$515

MEMORIALS

APR-JUN

- Carl May**
Joan May
- Isaac and Carrie Adams**
Linda Adams
- Sandra Allen**
Pollard Stanford
- Richard Lewis Apple**
Anonymous
- Carson Bain**
Fanny Bain
- Jim Barber**
John & Laurie Barber
Lucy Barber
Cynthia & Donald Money
- Mildred Beam**
Minta Coeyman
- Bertha Bennett**
Ida Singleton
- Martin Bernstein**
Howard & Sally Marsh
- Martha Bigham**
Minnie Morphis
Robert & Linda Thompson
- Arthur Bluethenthal**
Louise Bowles
Jim & Kathryn Mims
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Harry & Anne Morrison
- Happy Brown**
Alice Corey
- Mary Burch**
Walter A Burch
- Anita M Burton**
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- Robert Byrd**
Lila Neal
- Carl I Carlson, Jr**
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William Black
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Charles & Mary Braley
David & Suetette Brown
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John & Sally Cohen
Alan & Sally Cone
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Marianne & Xaver Hertle
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Richard & Julie Holderness
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Mary King
Sarah & David Kuratnick
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Carolyn Maness
Nancy May
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Dalton & Susan McMichael
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Jim Millikan
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JW & Fay Reid
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Rosalie Ruffin
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- Anita & Jim Schenck
Rebecca & Michael Schlosser
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Aurelia Stafford
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Ann Stroud
Tom & Martha Stukes
Sigmund & Ellen Tannenbaum
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Alf & Lee Webster
Charles & Dorothy Weill
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David & Lauren Worth
Ellen & Robert Worth
Ruth Wilcox
- Glenna L Chandler**
Sallie Ward
- Ted Christopher**
Jane Christopher
- Elizabeth "Lib" Conner**
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- Bain & Blanche Culp**
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Daughters of Penelope
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- Dominick & Carmella DeBellis**
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- William DesForges**
Jack & Karen Griffiths
- Rev. Jimmy Dillon**
Ann Miller
- Julia & Clyde Elrod**
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Christine Christie
Kris & David Cooke
Park & Patsy Davidson
Stephen & Leigh Elrod
Kay & Chip Hagan
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Julia Ross and Harper Thayer
Mary Beth Tobin
Tommy & Anne Webb
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- Julia Elrod**
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Ruffin & Sandra Franklin
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Louis & Patricia Fecile
- Brooks Ferrell**
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- Henry Flint**
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Dorothy Ballinger
- Lucille Gilmore**
Rachel Walters
- Ernest Graham**
Jane Setzer
- Helen Grayson**
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- Lara Hahn**
Frank & Carolyn Grove
- Ernest Hansen**
Doris Hansen
- Martha C. Harris**
Nancy & Howell Roberts
- Zebedee Hicks**
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Patsy Holmes
- Thurman Horney**
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Barbara McLoughlin
- Zula Meadows**
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We compile the lists in this report carefully. Any errors or omissions are inadvertent. If you find that your name has been omitted, please accept our apology. We would be grateful if you would notify us of any corrections.




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ISAIAH'S GARDEN

For many, garden represents beauty, growth, and perhaps sustenance, but for 15 year-old Isaiah, a garden represents the fruition of a dream.

Isaiah, like all of the children at Partnership Village, was provided with the opportunity to work with tutoring volunteers on Tuesdays and Thursdays during his stay. During these tutoring sessions, many of the volunteers discovered that Isaiah had a passion for growing things. These volunteers fed his interest by introducing him to books about gardening and educating him on the process of starting seedlings at home. With a dream of a garden of his own, the tutors and Partnership Village staff helped Isaiah transform a small corner of the property near the office into "Isaiah's Garden."

"Perhaps the most wondrous aspect of the teamwork that came about [during the planting of the garden] was the appearance of [other Partnership Village children] who showed up and worked hard," says Bill Seabrook, a tutor and friend of the Partnership Village community. Gardening brought out the best of Isaiah and allowed him to display his leadership ability. "He was clear, demanding and got the results he was after from his volunteer team," Bill shared.

Just like Thomas Jefferson, whom he learned about in History class, Isaiah carries a journal to assist him in his agriculture. He notes details about the weather for the week, when he waters, what and when he has planted, and the like. Excited about the final results of his hard work, Isaiah plans to sell the fruits of his labor in the Partnership Village parking lot so that the other residents can enjoy the produce that they have watched grow from mysterious mounds of dirt into a beautiful, organic yield.

