

Longtime friends Judy Osborne (left) and Barbara Clark, who volunteer together at Pathways Center and the Food Bank.

2015 SPRING Newsletter

BLESSED TO SERVE

Winter, with its biting cold, turns our attention more keenly to the most vulnerable among us. This winter was harsh for the poor and homeless in our city. The folks at Greensboro Urban Ministry were some of the many working, each in our own way, to help folks in crisis.

Some great examples of this desire to help crossed my desk this winter. One little girl sent us her allowance. A woman, who was dining with a friend when someone “paid it forward” and covered their check, sent us a contribution in the amount of their dinner, so she could pay it forward, too.

None of us can do this work alone. But each of us can make a difference in the fight. The power of one is astonishing. This is something I have seen time and again in my 30 years at Greensboro Urban Ministry.

This is my last newsletter article for you, and I just want to say thank you to each of you who have taken the power of one, or two, or many, to new levels to help those in need in the Greensboro area.

As we celebrate National Volunteer Week this month, I especially want to recognize the work and commitment of the 2,000+ caring people who volunteer at Greensboro Urban Ministry in the course of a year. I appreciate you and the generous spirit you have shared with us.

In this issue, you will read more about the power of one – and how you can help on May 5 through the simple act of dining out. Serving Greensboro Together is a wonderful reason to share a meal with family or friends.

Choosing what and where to eat is a gift some folks have the good fortune to enjoy. This is not the case, however, for many of our brothers and sisters in this community. As I said recently in an article on our website, I often reflect on how such everyday things as a meal and conversation at the kitchen table would be disrupted if I were experiencing homelessness.

That’s why I am such a proponent for Rapid Rehousing, a model that local homeless service providers are moving toward together. Rather than folks staying in shelters until they are “ready” to be in housing again (whether financially, physically or mentally), rapid rehousing seeks to put those in crisis in a stable environment – with support and services to help folks get back on their feet. Time and again, this approach to addressing homelessness is producing promising results.

I invite you to commit to learning more about how poverty is holding our community back from its full potential. And then invest your power to help, whether it is volunteering to serve a meal to those who need it most, collecting food, or dining out for Serving Greensboro Together. When we serve the least among us, we are truly equally blessed.



Rev. Mike Aiken, Executive Director





SERVING *Others*

BUDDY GIST & UNCG JAZZ

Buddy Gist and Steve Haines' friendship went the distance. It started with a trumpet and a man named Miles.

"We did originally meet because he was friends with Miles Davis, and we are the Miles Davis Jazz Studies Program," recalls Steve, director of the UNCG program named for the jazz great. "He used to come in all the time. I had him tell me and the students all sorts of stories. Buddy and I laughed a lot together."

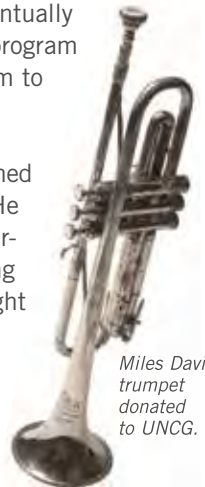
Honoring Buddy's life and contributions is the inspiration behind "An Evening with Molly Ringwald and the UNCG Jazz Ensemble I and Strings," at 8 p.m. April 24 at Aycock Auditorium on the UNCG campus. All proceeds from ticket sales will be donated to Greensboro Urban Ministry.

Arthur Taswell "Buddy" Gist Jr. grew up in Greensboro. His father and mother, Arthur and Louise Gist, ran the Magnolia House Motel on Gorrell Street. The motel was one of the few providing quality accommodations to African Americans during segregation. Entertainment and sports greats, including Ray Charles, Satchel Paige, Jackie Robinson and Tina Turner, stayed at the Magnolia House.

Buddy moved to Harlem and became a prosperous business owner. He continued to brush elbows with celebrities. In 1949, he was introduced to Miles Davis by heavyweight boxing champion, Ezzard Charles. The two became fast friends. "Buddy was a mover and shaker up in Harlem," Steve recalls.

Miles gave Buddy a prized trumpet, something Buddy brought back to Greensboro when he returned home in the 1980s. He loaned it to UNCG for an exhibit and eventually donated it to the school in 2001. The jazz program became the Miles Davis Jazz Studies Program to honor the men's longtime friendship.

Steve went on sabbatical in 2008 and returned to learn that Buddy's fortunes had changed. He took Buddy to lunch and learned the 83-year-old was living in Center City Park and sharing his stories. Steve was heartbroken. He brought Buddy to Greensboro Urban Ministry, where he moved into Partnership Village. Buddy was also adopted into the family of the UNCG music faculty. He remained close with the professors, staff and students until his death in 2010. Buddy's name will be forever connected to Miles Davis through the generosity of his two greatest treasures, the trumpet and his relationship with the faculty of UNCG.



Miles Davis trumpet donated to UNCG.

Buddy's name will remain connected also with Partnership Village and Greensboro Urban Ministry, where he found a second chance to return to a stable home and regain independence.

Learn more about the jazz program and concert by visiting <http://performingarts.uncg.edu/areas/jazz-studies/>.

Stephen MINISTRY

BERNADETTE



Bernadette Uveno has had her years between a rock and a hard place. But she says she wouldn't trade those experiences because of what she learned.

"Sometimes God lets you hit rock bottom so that you will discover this truth: He is the Rock at the bottom," she says.

On March 3, Bernadette graduated from the Stephen Ministry training program at Greensboro Urban Ministry, which trains lay ministers to provide a ministry of listening, caring and presence for those in need. She hopes to offer that kind of solid support for others dealing with crisis in their lives.

As a child, Bernadette was molested by a family friend, creating more than 20 years of turmoil that included drug addiction, suicide attempts and periodic homelessness. "I can recall what it was like when I realized that I was sinking deeper and deeper," she said. "There is no greater feeling of hopelessness and helplessness than that."

"That is where I discovered Jesus," she says. "Even in that terrible time of my life, Jesus loved me, heard me and reached out to me." She began to rebuild her life. Her journey led her to graduate school to study social work. In 2009, she became an intern at Greensboro Urban Ministry. "I had the awesome opportunity of serving some of the most compassionate, loving and wonderful people I had ever met," she says.

"I felt so blessed that God would choose me to serve some of His most valuable jewels and misunderstood people," she says. "At the end of my journey at Weaver House, I can truly say that I left a much better person and Christian than when I arrived."

Now Bernadette returns to Weaver House as a Stephen Minister and looks forward to continuing to share the message of God's "unending, unselfish, unmerited and unconditional love."

"Everybody is somebody. Being homeless is not what people dream of when they are children. Something dramatic happens," Bernadette says, adding that as caregiver and listener, she can share what she has learned. "God loves them so much, and one person plus God is a majority! And, that one person can make a difference."

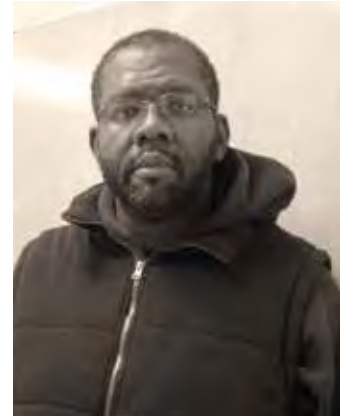
The next Stephen Ministry training program will begin the first week in September. For more information, contact the Greensboro Ministry Chaplaincy Office at 553-2651 or 553-2650.

BEYOND GUM NEW STAFF

Urban Ministry has added two positions in 2015 to help the Beyond GUM program improve case management and connect clients with housing options.

When clients come into an Urban Ministry shelter, the Beyond GUM program staff members work with clients to determine their eligibility for rent and utility assistance. These subsidies are paid for by Urban Ministry through contributions from corporate and private donors. This assistance often is the key to helping clients move from shelter to stable housing.

Terry Polk, housing case manager, started in early February and works afternoon and evening hours to help better serve clients of Weaver House night shelter and the Winter Emergency shelters. Terry was previously a Weaver House shelter manager. Terry counsels clients both before and after they are placed in housing to help them develop budgeting and personal skills that will help them be successful. His office is at 305 West Lee Street.



Barbara Currie, housing locator, joined Urban Ministry in January. She worked for many years in the home building industry. Barbara works at Partnership Village. She helps identify landlords who are willing to work with clients leaving shelters and makes connections with potential tenants who will be a good fit. Currie works with clients, case managers and landlords to build positive relationships. "We want to help clients look beyond where they are," she says. "It's not just about finding a home and putting them in it and hoping for the best – it's about helping them learn to be successful tenants."



Program Director Mark Sumerford says these two new positions will help Urban Ministry move families and individuals out of shelters and into housing as quickly as possible. "Barbara and Terry give us a greater capacity to provide the help that clients need. I'm very happy to have Barbara join our staff and to be able to fully utilize Terry's case management skills."

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Lottie Allen

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Nadine Allen

Vernon H. Allen
Sue Wright

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Paul & Evelyn Zopf

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Lena Lanier

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Fran Atkinson

Emily C. Bagley
Dot Ballinger

Carson Bain
Fanny Bain

Phyllis Baird
Jack & Mary Cirincione

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Dana Ballard

Isabelle Banks
Cheryl Wilson

Lorell Barber
John & Laurie Barber

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Helene M. Belfi

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Nancy Benson

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Marsha Guenzler-Stevens
Kari Keaton

Jerry Berkelhammer
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Aaron Michael Bobb
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William Idol

Virginia Booterbaugh
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Did you know that Greensboro is a city facing one of the highest levels of food insecurity in the nation? One in five adults and one in four children in our county lack access to adequate food. This is an alarming distinction. This prevalence of hunger ranks North Carolina as one of the most food insecure states in the country. For families that struggle with unemployment, shrinking government assistance and rising food costs, the choices are stark: Will they choose shelter, food or heat?

Greensboro Urban Ministry's Potter's House Community Kitchen has provided support for those in need for more than 30 years. Staff and volunteers offer a hot, nourishing lunch each day to 450-500 people. Potter's House also serves breakfast and dinner to the men and women who are guests in Weaver House night shelter. Addressing hunger meets an

urgent need – and helps folks in crisis focus their attention and limited resources on other areas of their lives that can help them regain self-sufficiency.

On May 5, you can help fight hunger in our community by participating in Serving Greensboro Together. When you choose to dine at one of the more than 100 participating restaurants, proceeds from your meal will support the work of Greensboro Urban Ministry's Potter's House Community Kitchen. Please join us!

Check out a full list of participating triad restaurants on the back cover and at www.GreensboroUrbanMinistry.org, click on "Events." For more information, contact Cheryl Ledford at ledford@guministry.org or at (336) 553-2641.



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For a complete listing of 2014 donations please view our annual report online.



On Tuesday, May 5 these restaurants will donate 10% of their total sales to Greensboro Urban Ministry to help fight hunger in Guilford County. Dine at one of these participating restaurants and be a part of Serving Greensboro Together.

Current list of participating restaurants as of 3/20/15 with additional restaurants signing up daily. Please visit www.greensborourbanministry.org for an updated listing of participating restaurants.

*Reservations Recommended

- 1618 Wine Lounge
- Arigato Japanese Steakhouse*
- Bill's Pizza Pub (Randleman Rd.)
- Bill's Pizza Pub (Oak Ridge)
- Binh Minh
- Burger King (all Greensboro locations)
- Captain Bill's Seafood Restaurant
- Center Grove Grill & Soda Shop
- Cherry Pit Café and Pie Shop
- Cincy's Downtown
- Country Kitchen
- Crafted, The Art of the Taco
- Elizabeth's Pizza (N. Battleground)
- Elizabeth's Pizza (Bridford Pkwy.)
- Elizabeth's Pizza (Groometown Rd.)
- Elizabeth's Pizza (Lawndale Dr.)
- Elizabeth's Pizza (Quaker Village)
- Elizabeth's Pizza (Summit Ave.)
- First Carolina Deli
- Fishbones
- Fishers Grille
- Ghassan's (all Greensboro locations)
- Green Valley Grill
- Herbie's Place
- Jack's Corner Mediterranean
- Jams Deli (Martinsville Rd.)
- Jams Deli (W. Friendly)
- Juice Shop Smoothies (Friendly Ctr.)
- Juice Shop Smoothies (Lawndale Dr.)

- Kabuto Japanese Steakhouse & Sushi Bar*
- Lox, Stock, & Bagel
- Lucky 32 Southern Kitchen
- Mad Hatter Bar & Grill
- Maria's Gourmet Catering and Take Out
- Mark's Restaurant*
- Mayflower Seafood (Randleman Rd.)
- M'Coul's Public House
- Midori Japanese Restaurant
- Mythos Grill (Battleground)
- Mythos Grill (W. Market St.)
- Oakcrest Family Restaurant
- Painted Plate Catering
- Papa John's Pizza (all Greensboro locations & Summerfield)
- Pastabilities
- Pavilion
- Positano Italian Restaurant
- Print Works Bistro
- Red Mango
- Reel Seafood Grill*
- Rio Grande Mexican Grill (W. Friendly)
- Sakura Ichiban Japanese & Thai
- Sarah's Kabob Shop
- Spring Garden Bakery & Coffee House
- Stamey's Barbecue (Battleground)
- Stamey's Barbecue (High Point Rd.)
- Sticks and Stones

- Taste of Thai
- Taste Yogurt Bar
- The Brooklyn Pizzeria
- The Corner Slice
- The Melting Pot*
- The Porterhouse Bar & Grill
- Village Tavern
- Yum Yum Better Ice Cream

New Participating Restaurants in 2015:

- Benders Tavern
- Bistro 150 (Oak Ridge)
- Brixx Wood Fired Pizza
- Elm Street Grill
- Emma Key's Flap Top Grill
- Iron Hen Café
- Koshary Southern Mediterranean Eatery
- Kyoto Fantasy Express (Battleground)
- Marisol Restaurant*
- Park Place Restaurant at Embassy Suites Hotel
- Rio Grande Mexican Grill (New Garden)
- Rio Grande (Summerfield)
- Super China Buffet
- Sushi Republic