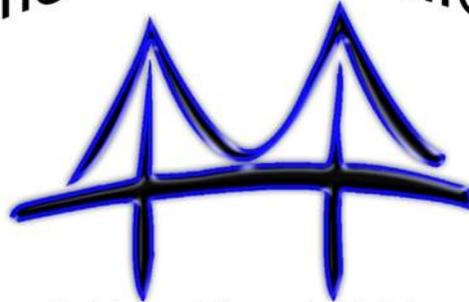


# The Family Center



*Bridging Those in Crisis*

1st Quarter Newsletter 2014

## We are expanding!

We receive so many wonderful donations from the community but struggle to store them in our building. We use the same room to store donations, teach class, have meetings and giveaway clothing, school supplies and Christmas presents. This makes for a lot of moving and shuffling of items and some worn out staff and volunteers. New board member Wade Kincaide gave us the plans and wonderful volunteers have donated their time and energy to provide The Family Center with a new addition we will use for storage while also allowing us to expand our lobby area. This storage area will increase the amount of donations we can accept and distribute and allow our Community room to be used for education and gathering.



**APRIL 26TH IS OUR ANNUAL REVERSE  
RAFFLE!! Do you have your ticket yet?  
Call today!**

## MAY 6th--First Annual Big Payback On-line Giving event!



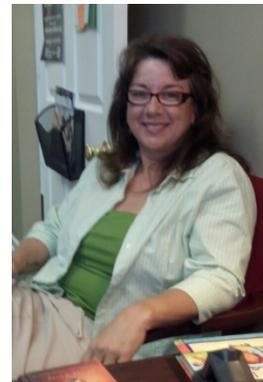
The Family Center will be participating in "The Big Payback on May 6th. This is a 24 hour on-line event to help over 350 non-profit agencies in the middle Tennessee area raise money. This will be an annual event and we are excited to be a participant!

Our goal is to raise \$3,000.00 to supplement our pantry during the school months when children are home and do not receive the free or reduced meals at school. More information will be shared on our Facebook, Twitter and web page!

## Opportunities at the Family Center

### Life Enhancement Skills (L.E.S.)

Not all of our clients are ready to enter the workforce immediately. Our LES program will focus on the importance of independence, stress management, setting goals, problem solving, managing money and time, learning effective communication skills and staying motivated in the face of everyday obstacles. And if the client is unable to work, they will learn skills to live on a fixed income. Robin Watson will lead this new program for The Family Center.



Life Skills Coach Robin Watson

## Future Educational Opportunities

- \*Positive Parenting Classes- April 2nd, May 7th, June 17th
- \*Budgeting Classes-April 17th, May 21st, June 4th
- \*Anger Management Classes- April 30th, May 28th, June 25th
- \*Brunch and Learns-April 17th (Senior Care), May 22nd ( Facing addictions) June 19th (CPR and safety in the home)
- \*Lunch and Learns- April 24th (Job Fair), May 29th (Time Management) June 26th (Learning to Knit)

[Visit our Calendar for more details!](#)

## 2014 Year to Date Statistics

Paid this quarter	Families Served	Amount
Columbia Power	212	\$22,098.02
Mt. Pleasant Power	30	\$3,140.00
Atmos Energy	32	\$3,521.57
DREMC	43	\$4,360.43
Rent	54	\$5,627.00
Eyeglasses	13	\$1,417.00
Emergency Lodging	18	\$1,439.77
Gasoline	15	\$413.70
MRMC Foundation/ Medication	15	\$1,278.33
Miscellaneous	6	\$549.60
Food Purchased		\$4,763.50
Value of food donated		\$19,744.69
<b>Total</b>	<b>438</b>	<b>\$68,351.61</b>



Greg Martin teaching "Simple Home Repairs" for a Lunch and Learn

### Other Services for the Quarter

Pantry (food, hygiene, cleaning products, diapers etc)	576 Families
Budgeting Classes	23
Lunch/Brunch and Learns	62
Anger Management Class	4
Positive Parenting Class	6
SOS Program (Sustainable Occupation Services)	47

## LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

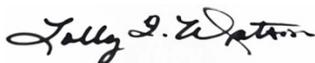
Dear Friends,

Life stories that are really interesting and engaging are the ones in which individuals had to overcome obstacles and rise to meet difficult challenges. Why? Well, problems test our character and our ability. Obstacles challenge us to think creatively, to change our approach, to rise to the occasion. If we are unable to do so, the obstacle becomes a stumbling block. I personally have learned more from my heartaches and my failures than from my successes. I guess that is why we are so motivated at The Family Center to give our people the tools to turn these stumbling blocks into stepping stones.

Let's be honest. Some people do not have the skills, the mindset, or the ability to enter the job search. One solution is to teach them the skills. We have to convince people of the benefits of working. Thus our new MILEstone arm of The Family Center. (Mentoring for Independent Living Essentials) Employable? Raquel will assist with job search preparation and the actual search. She is hosting a coffee each Friday to "inspire" and to exchange leads! Incentives such as gasoline assistance, celebratory dinner, etc. make the journey enjoyable! NOT employable? First step, let's have a reality check because you need to learn how to live on a fixed income! If you don't aspire to work, then you need to learn to live on what you have. Hard, cold fact. If you DO aspire, Robin will assess what skills are needed and mentor the client until he is ready for sustainable employment! And our final step? Upon completion of our intense study program and with a saved emergency fund of \$500, The Family Center will jointly open an account with the goal of \$2,500 saved. Once the client has met that goal, we will match another \$2,500 AS LONG AS the goal is home ownership, higher education, or business adventure. Our Good Samaritan emergency financial assistance and pantry are Band-Aids for the wound of poverty. Let's heal that wound. Ownership and Aspiration and living life to the fullest! Please be our partner and be that example of how to live a better life!

From Dependency to Sustainable Living,

Sincerely,



Lolly Watson  
Executive Director  
The Family Center

## Extreme Givers: Thank You



Anonymous donation of \$2,000 in cash was received at The Family Center. The donor felt compelled to give to us.

Maury Hills Church, First Presbyterian Church, First United Methodist Church, Columbia Pediatrics, Jennie Southhall Trust Fund, Unite Way, David and Connie Adcox--Highland Corporation, Jeff and Karen Smith, MASCO, Alison and Brandom Gengelbach, TN Farm Bureau, William Barron, TIMCO, Inc.,

## Thank You for Partnering with Us

### Made with Love

Bob Jones, member of First United Methodist Church and loyal supporter of The Family Center, has created hundreds and hundreds of crosses for this community. Each cross requires an average of one hour's work and is covered with blessing. Bob's ministry is making a huge difference in our community. The Family Center is blessed to be a recipient of his work and we love to pass the blessing on to our clients. As they take the cross, we tell them to behave like a child of God!



## 4-H Service Project



Through the month of February, students from the 4-H program gave their time and talents to The Family Center. They cleaned inside and outside, organized the pantry and helped with our clothing giveaway. We are so appreciative of all they did for us.

## Joseph Brown Elementary School Annual Food Drive

We are grateful for the very generous students at Brown Elementary. They donated over 3,000 pounds of food and \$130.00 to The Family Center. What a wonderful group of kids to give so much!



## Feeding 5000

The Kindergarten through 5th grade children at First Presbyterian Church gathered different food items each Sunday for the past 6 weeks to promote "Feeding 5,000". Each week the children learned about the Bible story and brought food to help feed their community. Half of what they collected was distributed to Harvest Share and the other half to The Family Center. They also made and sold bean soup to the congregation raising \$109.00 for The Family Center. We are so thankful for the generosity of the children and the excitement they had when delivering the food!



## "A Family Centered"



Donald and Paula found themselves in a dire situation; the house they were renting did not have heat and their 3 children were not able to stay warm during the coldest weeks in January. Donald needed emergency housing to warm up and to make plans to move his family. We were able to assist Donald with a hotel room which allowed him to make phone calls which led to more suitable housing. Donald and Paula were so appreciative of the assistance we gave them, they invited The Family Center staff to a housewarming party after they moved in.

## Opportunities to Serve

### Teach a class

We are beginning a new year of Educational Opportunities. If you have something you would like to share with our families and would be willing to facilitate a program or lead a discussion feel free to contact us. We are always looking for new learning experiences for our families!



Shannon and Steve from Gateway Tire teaching Car Mechanics 101

### Prepare a meal

The Family Center needs volunteers to prepare meals for our Brunch and Learns and Lunch and Learns! If you would like to help please give us a call at 388-3840!

## Partner Spotlight!

We want to say a special thank you to all the volunteers who helped build our addition. We had community members, board members, office volunteers and many more give their time on the weekends to expand and spruce up. With out your generosity and love we would never have been able to make this dream a reality!



Jimmy Andrews and Michael Lawrence working on the addition

## Volunteer Spotlight!



Linda was referred to The Family Center by another volunteer. She is a retired teacher who loves to help people. At first Linda volunteered only when we needed a substitute, but soon she became a regular volunteer working every Wednesday morning at the front desk. We love Linda and her giving heart!



### You shop, Amazon gives.

Did you know that you can help The Family Center by purchasing items on Amazon Smile? This is similar to Amazon website but a portion of what you purchase on this site will be sent to the Family Center.

[Click here for more information](#)

## Board Members

Kyle Bratton, President	Kathy Lafferty	Jeff Smith
Andrew Szaflarski, Vice President	Donald Flowers	Jack Cobb
Jennifer Fulbright, Secretary	Wade Kincaide	Pam Williams
Karen Vest, Treasurer	Jimmy Phillips	Robin Wilhite, Jr.
Beverly Horner, Finance	Debbie Turner	Donnise Strong
Frank Bellamy	Shelley Taylor	Mary Jane Parks
Lee Bergeron	Jeff Smith	Sundown Kelley
Jennifer Cook	Sherri Mitchener	Karen Johnson
Elizabeth Cox	Suzanne Jordan	Terry Hendrickson
Allison Gengelbach		

## Staff Members

Lolly Watson, Executive Director	Beth Fischer, Office Manager
Dawn Taylor, Assistant Director/Action Coach	Raquel Waters, Job Research Coach
Lisa Fields, Good Samaritan Coordinator	Robin Watson, Life Skills Coach

Plus 25 volunteers!

Lolly Watson  
Executive Director  
931.388.3840

Bridging those in Crisis

[\*\*Click Here to Donate!\*\*](#)

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