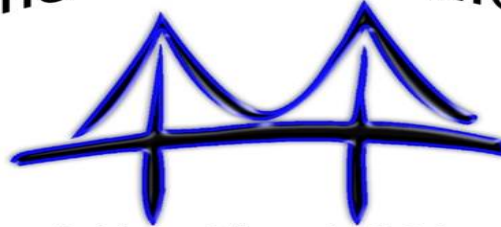


The Family Center



Bridging Those in Crisis

1st Quarter Newsletter 2015

8th Annual Reverse Raffle a Big Success!

Piñata's, auctions, great food and wonderful entertainment! We could not have asked for a better event! A good time was had by all and we have some crazy pictures to prove it. Thank you to all who purchased a ticket, we could not have done it with out you!

And a great big thank you to our sponsors:
Fleming Flynn and Murphy, Lightning Lube, Nathaneal Lafferty M.D, Community First Bank and Trust, Lucas Chevrolet, Parks Motors, BMC Metalworks, Title Associates of Columbia, Rocky Top Outdoors, Columbia Power and Water Services, Bart Durham, La Fuente, and Mid-South Distributing



Master of Ceremony Terry Hendrickson and Executive Director Dawn Taylor

3rd Annual Bowling Tournament - June 6th!!

The Family Center will once again hold our bowling tournament at Ebonite Galaxy Lanes on June 6th. Join us for an afternoon of fun and fundraising.

Not a bowler? Don't worry, there are lots of ways you can participate and not bowl! Stay tune for more information!



First Presbyterian Church
Winners of the 2014 Church Division

Peanut Butter Galore!

One little e-mail: "**Spread the love, Spread some peanut butter**"... One article in the paper...over **2,000** jars of peanut butter and it is still coming in! This community never ceases to amaze us! Thank you for your overwhelming response. We are so grateful for the love!



In May we will be collecting cereal to prepare for the summer break and the children who would normally receive breakfast at school. Please join us in collecting "**Cereal for Summer**"



The Big Payback

This year, we will participate in the 2nd Annual **Big Payback** - a 24 hour online giving event hosted by The Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee. On May 5, 2015, your online donations will be boosted by matching funds, bonuses, and additional prizes!



Kids Who Care



Instead of birthday presents, Olivia asked for donations to help the hungry and homeless people!



Emma Grace exchanging her birthday presents for canned food!



Joseph Brown Elementary School Annual Canned Food Drive

In The News!

In case you missed some great articles in the newspaper about The Family Center, here they are again!

[Off The Duck focuses on The Family Center Reverse Raffle](#)

[Watch The Family Center on Maury County Now!](#)

[Prom Dress Fundraiser for The Family Center](#)

[\\$2,840.00 stuffed inside Salvation Army kettle!](#)

[Spread the love, spread some peanut butter](#)

Future Educational Opportunities

- *Positive Parenting Classes- as requested
- *Budgeting Classes- April 16th, May 21st and June 10th (evening class)
- *Anger Management Classes- as requested
- *Brunch and Learns-April 23rd, May 21st and June 18th
- *Lunch and Learns- April 30th, May 28th and June 25th



Jennie Denny teaching financial responsibilities

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

2015 1st Quarter Statistics

	Families Served	YTD	Amount Paid 1st Quarter	Paid YTD
Columbia Power	148	148	\$16,574.58	\$16,574.58
Mt. Pleasant Power	16	16	\$1830.37	\$1830.37
Atmos Energy	62	62	\$13,296.06	\$13,296.06
DREMC	15	72	\$2,617.82	\$2,617.82
Rent	41	41	\$5,415.00	\$5,415.00
Eyeglasses	15	15	\$1,508.00	\$1,508.00
Emergency Lodging	9	9	\$991.47	\$991.47
Columbia Oil	2	2	\$250.00	\$250.00

MRMC Foundation	13	13	\$941.01	\$941.01
Bus Ticket	1	1	\$57.50	\$57.50
Mt Pleasant Water	3	3	\$100.00	\$100.00
Miscellaneous	2	2	\$148.99	\$148.99
Gas Cards	39	39	\$975.00	\$975.00
Pantry	687	687	\$18,810.58	\$18,810.58
Total	1053	1053	\$63,516.38	\$63,516.38

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

The snow was pretty, and ice formed on the trees in picturesque settings. Kids (and some adults) spent the day sledding and eating snow cream. We had a nice break from our everyday activities, and spent some much needed quality time with friends and family. It was a different winter than years past, and definitely one to remember.

For many, snow days leave parents scrambling to find childcare or activities to fill the day. For others, they are days of rest, relaxation, or indoor chores usually reserved for the weekends. But for the families we serve, snow days can be hard and dangerous days.

This winter has been especially hard on the families we serve, and The Family Center has been pulled to extremes trying to cover the effects of snow days and cold nights. No school means children are home for breakfast and lunch. 44% of Maury County students receive free or reduced lunches and parents rely on this service to stretch their grocery bill. This means that 44% of the children who were home this winter may not have had enough food to eat when school was out.

Cold days also mean higher heating bills. Homes not insulated properly can drain our senior citizen's fixed incomes, creating a higher need for assistance through agencies like ours. We have seen many more senior citizens applying for assistance since the cold weather began.

Also, many restaurants had to close due to the ice and snow. Their servers who rely on tips to pay rent were not able to make it these past few months which means more request for assistance with rent than in months past. Requests for gas cards has doubled because pay checks were short.

Perhaps the most identifying moment of this winter was the Saturday I received a call at home from our Maury County Emergency Management center asking for our assistance. They received a 911 call from an 86 year old resident who had run out of food and had no way to get more. She relies on public transportation to grocery shop, and they were not able to transport due to the ice. She was stranded in her home, hungry, and without the means to get more food. Good Samaritan Coordinator Lisa Fields braved the winter weather, loaded up supplies from our pantry, and personally delivered a box of food that would last until the ice melted.

The break in weather will give us a break in the requests for services. People are back at work, electricity bills will go down, and the kids are back in school eating breakfast and lunch. Things will be back to normal, and we can breath a little...until school is out, kids are home, air conditioners raise electricity rates...etc.!

Thank you for supporting The Family Center and our mission. We were needed by many this winter, and grateful to be of assistance. We could not do it with out you!

Sincerely,




Dawn Taylor, Executive Director

Ways to Help!

Kroger Community Rewards!

Kroger Community rewards is a new program that helps Non-Profit organizations by earning money as the community shops. By registering your Kroger card and selecting The Family Center's number **89559**, you will help us earn points every time you shop. The points turn into dollars for The Family Center which turns into assistance for Maury County residents. Help us by enrolling in the rewards program today! [Click here to enroll!](#)



Good Samaritan Program	I would like to add:
<small>You can add to your utility bill each month to help pay the electric bills for a needy citizen in Maury County. Simply fill out this registration card and return to Columbia Power & Water Systems (CPWS) for processing.</small>	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1.00 <input type="checkbox"/> \$3.00 <input type="checkbox"/> \$5.00 <input type="checkbox"/> \$10.00
<small>I (we) do hereby authorize and empower CPWS to increase my utility bill to support the Good Samaritan Program. This and all sums collected pursuant to the Good Samaritan Program will be paid into a fund to be administered by the Family Center for the purpose set forth above.</small>	Name: _____
<small>This authorization obligates me to pay the additional sum per month until such time as I deliver to CPWS a written request that this obligation cease. Upon receipt of written request, CPWS will terminate my Good Samaritan Program participation as of the next regular billing cycle, and I will no longer be obligated to make said payments.</small>	Account No.: _____
	Address: _____
<small>Columbia Power & Water Systems</small>	Signature: _____
	Date: _____

Plus 1\$

Columbia Power and Water Services, Mt. Pleasant Power, Atmos, and Duck River Electric Membership Cooperation all have programs that allow you to add a few dollars to your utility bill. We can use this money to help pay utility bills for our families. Please contact

your utility company for more information



You shop, Amazon gives

Did you know you can help The Family Center by purchasing items on Amazon Smile? This is similar to Amazon website but a portion of your purchase will be sent to The Family Center as a donation.

[Click here for more information!](#)

Atmos Assistance!

Do you know someone that needs assistance with their **Atmos** Gas bill? The Family Center can pay their old bill, current bill or reconnection fee for the next few weeks provided we have not already assisted them with their Atmos bill this year. **There is no income limit!** Please do not let someone go cold this year because of an old bill or reconnection fee! Call 388-3840 for an appointment.



This offer is only for Atmos bills. All other utility assistance must meet regular Good Samaritan eligibility requirements. We can not pay reconnection fees or past bills on other utility bills.



Highland Corporation (Fast Stop) employees selected various charities to give to and The Family Center was one!

Extreme Givers: Thank You

Berea Church of Christ, Bigbyville United Methodist, Blue Springs Free Will Baptist Church, Columbia Academy, Columbia Dance Academy, , First Cumberland Presbyterian Church, First Presbyterian Church, First United Methodist Church, Gerald Sullivan, Graymere Church of Christ, Liberty Baptist Church, Maury Baptist Association, Maury Hills Church of Christ, McCains Church, McCandless Trucking Company, New Life Church, Pleasant Heights Baptist Church, Riverview Baptist Church, Rock Springs Baptist Church, St. Catherine Church, South Point Church of Christ, St Peters Episcopal Church, Trotwood Garden Club, William Barron

Opportunities to Serve



Debbie and her son prepared a brunch with items purchased with coupons and then taught a class on how to save the most money grocery shopping

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!

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!



Members of Central High School Key Club



Members of Central High School Key Club

We want to say a special thank you to Columbia Central High School Key Club and their wonderful giving spirit. They held a canned food competition in the homerooms to help feed the hungry in our community!

Volunteer Spotlight!

Narcissus is one of our wonderful volunteers who helps us stay clean and organized. Narcissus usually comes to the center on Tuesday and Friday afternoons to help us with paperwork, filing and organization. She is always so happy with a big smile on her face that lights us up! We are so grateful for her time and dedication to us and all the things she does!



Goodbye Robin and Raquel

Job Research Coach Raquel Waters and Life Skills Coach Robin Watson have said goodbye to The Family Center. Both have taken positions to help underserved individuals to find affordable housing. Raquel will focus on Williamson County and Robin will focus on Maury County. We wish them both the best of luck in their new adventure!

Letter of Appreciation

I wish to offer THANK YOU for the generous donations given in honor of my late brother, Mike Johnson. Mike was a gentle hearted soul who traveled to the beat of a different drummer. I still miss him terrible but with your love and support and HIS promise, I will continue to travel on thru this world with his memory in my heart.

Cathy Johnson Stoltz
Office and Volunteer Coordinator

Get To Know Your Board Members

Shelly Taylor, President

Jennifer Cook, Secretary

Fran May

Glenna Mingledorff

Donald Flowers

Suzanne Jordan

Karen Vest, Vice President

Lucas Burt, Treasurer

Frank Bellamy

Elizabeth Cox

Terry Hendrickson

Wade Kincaid

Kathy Lafferty
Jeff Smith
Venus Hoover
Katrina Armstrong

Jimmy Phillips
Donnise Strong
Robert (Robin) Wilhite, Jr.

Staff Members

Dawn Taylor, Executive Director
Lisa Fields, Good Samaritan Coordinator

Cathy Stoltz, Volunteer/Office Coordinator

Plus 25 Volunteers!

Dawn Taylor
Executive Director
931.388.3840

Bridging those in Crisis

[Click Here to Donate!](#)

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The Family Center