



4th Quarter Newsletter 2017

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Wow! I don't think I've been this worn out and tired after the holidays since I started working at The Family Center. I still look back on the last couple of months and can't believe all that we did this year! We distributed 507 turkeys and the boxes of food that go with it... that is a lot of lifting, sorting, collecting and distributing. Then you have the toys! I don't know how many toys actually came in but we helped 631 children have a happy Christmas. That was a lot of toy pickups, deliveries, sorting, organizing and lifting!!!! And don't get me started on the ringing of the bells...those were some cold late nights collecting buckets and filling slots. We had to make sure enough turkeys came in and went out on time, all the donated presents were distributed to the families that applied and that all the kettles were in place and ready for ringing. It is exhausting work let me tell you! We are tired... bone weary tired!

From October to December, staff volunteers and board members work hard to make sure everyone is served through our holiday programs and maintained our regular programs as well. But no matter how exhausted we are, we will never get tired of seeing the faces of parents who have gifts for their children on Christmas, the hugs and tears of gratitude because their children will feel the joy of celebrating like all the other children in our community! We will never get tired of the excitement 507 turkeys brings to this community; the smiles from those that are dropping off the turkeys knowing they will be helping feed a family and the joy the box brings to those that receive it.

And of course, the sound of the bells...we will never get tired of hearing those bells and knowing the volunteers who are ringing for Salvation Army are experiencing the generosity of this community we get to experience every day at The Family Center.

Physically, we are exhausted... it is hard work providing for those in need during the holidays but our cups runneth over! We are full of love and gratitude because thanks to the support of this wonderful community, we can do what we are asked to do; we get to help those in need, we get to be the bridge out of crisis, we get to serve our neighbors. We wouldn't have it any other way!

We served more families this holiday season than ever before and we are so grateful for your support! It was a wonderful holiday season and we are looking forward to an even busier one in 2018! Because no matter how tired we may be, we are doing what we are called to do and there is no greater joy than that!



Dawn Taylor
Executive Director

Upcoming Events

SAVE THE DATE

**Reverse Raffle
March 24, 2018**

The Family Center 2018 Reverse Raffle
"Night at the Movies"

March 24, 2018 - 6:00 p.m.
The Memorial Building

Drawing starts at 6:30 p.m.
Do NOT have to be present to win.

TICKET GOOD FOR
MOVIE NIGHT
MOVIE + POPCORN + FUN

\$50 ticket -
2 people in the door /
1 chance to win
grand prize

Attire is casual. You are encouraged to come dressed as your favorite movie character but not required.

Common Threads

We are so blessed by this community. Our little thrift store is continuing to grow and thrive. If you haven't been to the store yet, now is the time to come by to see what all the buzz is about.



We appreciate everyone that has helped us spread the word about this easy way to give back to those in need. All proceeds from the thrift store sales come back to the Family Center to help with our programs. Your donation or purchase will help someone with food, utility or rental assistance. Please continue to send people to the store and shop! If you would like to donate items, you may do so anytime the store is open. We are always in need of purses, jewelry, books and small furniture. The store is located at **1300 Hatcher Lane** next to Dr. Wilhite's Dental office. (931-398-5658)

[Watch our video on MY TOWN MONDAYS](#)

Store Hours: Tuesday-Friday 11-5 & Saturday 10-2

Volunteers Needed-
If interested, please contact Gina to
find out how you can get involved.

Youth In Action

A big thanks to everyone who volunteered their time or
donated items to help our neighbors in need!



Thanks to Girl Scout Troop 2083 for
collecting food for the pantry.



These are just a few of the young bell ringers that helped us this year. THANK YOU!



Thankful for the giving hearts of the kids at Blue Springs Baptist Church. They raised money to buy food and hygiene items for our pantry.



Millie and Farrar from Columbia Dance Academy dropping off toys for Santa's Workshop.



Morgan started a toy drive at the Maury County Arts Guild.



Columbia Central Band donates fresh fruit for us to give out to our clients in December.



Once again the 6th graders at Columbia Academy played a big part in helping us stock Santa's Workshop.

Future Educational Opportunities

*Budgeting Classes-January 17, February 21 & March 13 (evening class)

*Anger Management Classes- as requested

*Mind, Body & Soul Classes- January 31st, February 28 & March 28

If you would like to teach a class, please contact Teresa at 388-3840 or teresa@familycenter.org.

In Case you Missed it! Family Center in the News

Rocking the Bells

Ring in the Christmas Season

Thank you from the Family Center

Turkey Drive Enters Home Stretch

CA Students Collect More than 82,000 can of food

Family Center gives more than 500 Turkeys away

He's Homeless, but he donated \$23 so others can enjoy Thanksgiving

[Click here to read our blog- This is Maury](#)

2017 4th Quarter Statistics

	Families Served	YTD	Amount Paid 3rd Quarter	Paid YTD
Columbia Power	75	455	\$7,852.59	\$49,602.54
Mt. Pleasant Power	6	31	\$562.77	\$3,384.95
Atmos Energy	22	157	\$5,253.35	\$28,729.31
DREMC	14	46	\$2,449.74	\$9,083.94
Rent	57	222	\$8,733.98	\$30,531.33
Eyeglasses	10	37	\$1,160.00	\$4,292.00
Emergency Lodging	1	1	\$125.68	\$125.68
Columbia Oil	0	0	0	\$
MRMC Foundation	25	66	\$2,214.93	\$7,235.21
Bus Ticket	0	0	0	0
Mt Pleasant Water	4	8	500.00	\$860.03
Miscellaneous	1	8	\$150.00	\$890.56
Kroger Cards	44	167	\$1,100.00	\$4,175.00
Pantry	1610	5784	\$10,781.86	\$24,271.67
Common Threads Support Cards	689	871	\$3,885.00	\$5,430.00
Total	2558	7853	\$44,769.90	\$168,612.22

Extreme Givers: Thank You!

Berea Church of Christ

Columbia Academy

Bigbyville United Methodist	Cornerstone Cowboy Church
Blue Springs Free Will Baptist Church	United Daughters of the Confederate
First Family Baptist Church	Homer & Brenda Martin
First Presbyterian Church	Dr. Gaylon & Elaine Harris
First United Methodist Church	Rebecca Hawkins
Highland Park Baptist Church	Medical Necessities
Maury Baptist Association	Mr. & Mrs. James Riddle
Maury Hills Church	Linda Blackmon
Pleasant Heights Baptist Church	Dorothe Horne
Riverside United Methodist Church	Salvation Army
Rock Springs Baptist Church	United Way
St Catherine Catholic Church	Riverview Baptist Church
St. Peters Episcopal Church	Viola Baptist Church
Central Presbyterian Church	McCain's Church
Mt. Nebo Missionary Baptist Church	South Point Church of Christ
Trinity Family Church	Trotwood Garden Club
Williamsport Baptist Church	Highland Corporation
Arrow Rock Church of Christ	Thomas Napier Gordon
John & Mary Cotham	Eastern Stars
Porter King	John Dixon Green
Beverly Horner	Darlene Baxter
Bill Hunter	Constance Matlock
Deborah Sutton	Dottie Leway
Farm Bureau Health Plans	General Motors

Partner Spotlight!



Spring Hill Elementary is our Partner Spotlight this quarter. This amazing group of kids, teachers, parents and community supporters showered us with toys and gifts for Santa's Workshop. It was amazing to see the generosity. We are thankful for everyone that helped us make Christmas brighter for the children.



Volunteer Spotlight!



Linda Nelson is one our new Thursday morning volunteers. She has jumped into her role of serving each week and is finding new ways to help. We are thankful for her willingness to give of her time and talents. Thank you Linda!!

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!](#)



<p>Good Samaritan Program</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>I would like to add:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> \$1.00 <input type="checkbox"/> \$3.00 <input type="checkbox"/> \$5.00 <input type="checkbox"/> \$10.00</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> \$_____ to my bill each month.</p> <p>Name: _____</p> <p>Account No.: _____</p> <p>Address: _____</p> <p>Signature: _____</p> <p>Date: _____</p> <p>CPWS Columbia Power & Water Systems</p>
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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 cannot pay reconnection fees or past bills on other utility bills.

[Get To Know Your Board Members](#)

Frank Bellamy, President

Susie Baxter, Vice President

Suzanne Jordan, Secretary

Donnise Warf, Treasurer

Ed Campbell

Wade Kincaid

Debra Dooley

Cindy McCann

Betty Gibson

Pamela Nelson

Destini Gonyon

Jimmy Phillips

Terry Hendrickson

Jennifer Tiger

Lori Hughes

Raquel Waters

Staff Members

Dawn Taylor, Executive Director

Lisa Frierson, Good Samaritan Coordinator

Teresa Prinzo, Family Services Coordinator

Cathy Stoltz, Volunteer/Office Coordinator

Gina Russell, Common Threads, Manager

Tina Bullock, Common Threads, Assistant Manager

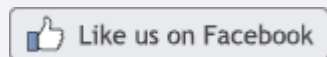
Plus 25 Volunteers!

Dawn Taylor
Executive Director
931.388.3840

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

Bridging those in Crisis

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The Family Center, 921 South Beckett, PO Box 576, Columbia, TN 38401

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