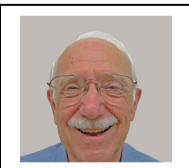




DORCAS MINISTRIES
CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY IN ACTION, INC.
NEWSLETTER

May/June 2011
Volume 11, Issue 3

The Dorcas Thrift Shop
Dorcas Ministries Outreach



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: Family Secret

Do you like to watch family sitcoms? I used to. In fact I remember as a youth delighting in such radio programs as Henry Aldridge and One Man's Family, a sort of high-class soap opera with nary a hint of scandal or smut. Then I enjoyed television shows like I Love Lucy and Father Knows Best and, later, The Cosby Show. I don't watch today's sitcoms, which showcase highly dysfunctional families and flaunt the values that many of us cherish. OK, I confess that I do look forward to The Middle, which features Patricia Heaton as the harried wife who does the best she can to handle three overly-stereotyped kids and a recalcitrant husband. It's the combination of over-the-edge teen angst, preteen insecurity and elementary-age introvertedness that I find amusing.

"So what," you say. "What does that have to do with anything?" I just wanted to lead you into the concept of family. It means something to be family. All through the Bible, we see the significance of family: cohesiveness, love, order, guidance, trust, mutual support, and faith. For example, in Acts 10:1-2 we read, "At Caesarea there was a man named Cornelius, a centurion in what was known as the Italian Regiment. He and all his family were devout and God-fearing; he gave generously to those in need and prayed to God regularly."

Now, all of us belong to a family aside from our relatives. The surname of this family is Dorcas. One of the sweetest things I ever heard 91-year-old Ruth Almond say is, "I just love to come to the Dorcas Shop and work. It's my family."

Does our Dorcas family exhibit cohesiveness? Love? Order? Mutual support? Faith? You bet we do. Oh yes, we sometimes have our little tiffs and minor disputes. Occasionally we get our feelings hurt a bit. But doesn't every family experience these things? When we think of what our Dorcas family means to us, we put those things aside and focus on our greater purpose—serving those in need.

You might have noticed that I left out "guidance" above. Do we experience guidance in our Dorcas Family? Well, those of us whom you have been put in leadership positions do our best to properly guide our family, and we all certainly guide each other. It's a joyful relationship, with balance insured by our mutual faith. Jesus Christ does this for us. "Both the one who makes men [people] holy and those who are made holy are of the same family." [Hebrews 2:11]

That is our big Family Secret.

Bill Easter



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

THE TRAIN HAS LEFT THE STATION

Some of us have purchased tickets for commercial modes of transportation only to find ourselves waiting in a terminal or on a tarmac as our departure time is delayed. I am sure that many of you have been having similar feelings when you are constantly asked: when are you guys moving? I am pleased to provide some uplifting news in regards to our relocation to Cary Plaza in this edition of the newsletter.

At our April 21st Board of Directors meeting, the Board gave approval to award the contract for renovation of the old Food Lion suite to Quality Builders Inc. Quality Builders Inc. is a local general contractor handling commercial construction. Although not limited to, most of their work has been centered on commercial renovation, up fits and restorations. Their quoted costs for demolition and construction are in line with our budgeted resources. Quality Builders Inc. has also agreed to work with us using a value engineered approach to identify and implement cost savings not included in the original construction plans. Quality Builders Inc. started demolition activities on Monday, May 23rd, 2011. We are on target to complete renovation for our use by July 28th as published in our last newsletter. This means that our target of completing relocation activities by the end of August is very realistic.

Prior to Quality Builders Inc. beginning the formal renovation, we were blessed to have a group of Dorcas volunteers remove valuable metal tubing and fittings that were not going to be used in the future. These pieces of metal were separated and sold to a local metal recycler. The proceeds from the sale will be around \$5,000.00, which will be allocated to our Capital Campaign. There are photos of this work and workers included in this edition of the newsletter.

The train also picked up a **Very Important Passenger** as it departed from the home terminal. On May 19th, 2011 the Wake County Division of Habitat for Humanity gave its approval to open a Restore at Cary Plaza. Habitat and Dorcas are very excited about the partnership being planned for Cary Plaza. Our organizations working together will have such a positive impact on the citizens of Western Wake County. Habitat is currently reviewing the lease proposal submitted by York Properties before signing a three year lease. We are reviewing joint marketing and sale strategies with Habitat staff. Both agencies are planning a grand opening sometimes during the month of September at Cary Plaza. Please stay tuned for details, and if you see a Habitat staff person wandering around Dorcas, say hello and welcome them to Cary Plaza.

That leaves two (2) suites of 1400 square feet each available for lease. We currently have prospective tenants reviewing proposals for both vacant suites and a third that has expressed interest but not received a proposal at this time.

I hope that everyone has purchased or has plans to purchase a ticket for this segment of our journey. **ALL ABOARD!!** Have a seat. Buckle up. Enjoy the ride. Next Stop: Cary Plaza.

Howard Manning, Executive Director



LET THE FUN BEGIN

Event: Start of demolition on the old Food Lion Store at Cary Plaza

Date of Event: May 5, 2011

Participants: Ms. Betty Johnson, Mr. Charlie Johnson and Mr. Howard Zahn

Chain of Events:

Dorcas Ministries has been blessed with the best group of volunteers in the United States for more than 40 years. Our move to Cary Plaza is providing opportunities for volunteers to give of their time and talents outside of the normal mode of our thrift shop and crisis ministry operations. At our first Sneak Preview event, Charlie Johnson who is a first Saturday volunteer and a retiree of Biting Electric noticed that there was quite a bit of copper in the facility that would not be used once the space was up fitted for use by Dorcas. He volunteered to cut it out so that Dorcas could reap the full benefits from recycling the copper. Charlie's offer was shared with Howard Zahn, one half of our metal recycling team and metal transporter. Howard's response was: sounds like a great idea; just let me know when you are ready. Howard and Charlie decided that May 5th was a good day to get started. To my surprise when I went to check on Howard and Charlie, there was a third volunteer, Betty Johnson, working right along with and providing "supervision" to Charlie and Howard. Here we are, a week later at the time of writing this piece for the newsletter and I am please to inform you that due to the alertness and efforts of our volunteers we received \$1,553 for the first load of high grade copper tubing that we sold to our local metal recycler. There is still more to come. Got any talents and skills you are hiding and willing to share?

Howard Manning, Executive Director



CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE

By Deirdre Jersey, Campaign Coordinator



Don't you just hate misinformation? Me, too! So that's why we thought to give you the scoop on what's happening in the little basement room behind the closed door next to eBay Sales. We're organizing a serious, goal-oriented Capital Campaign. You know we need to raise \$3 million over the next three years to pay down the mortgage at Cary Plaza. How will we do it? And how am I helping? And WHO am I? All good questions. Let's answer a few.

My name is Deirdre Jersey. I live in Willow Spring with my husband, Ira, and mother, Edith. We have two grown sons and three grandchildren. My background includes journalism, public relations, small business ownership, leadership roles in numerous organizations on Long Island (I was born in the Bronx) and since 1994 in North Carolina – particularly as it relates to small business and church. I'm an elder, treasurer of my church and I turned a small, local trade association of women business owners around. When they asked me to be president, they had \$700 in the bank. When I left, there was \$40,000. The sum I raised for that group is a small percentage of what Dorcas Ministries needs but the fact of the matter is - I'm not afraid to ask. I know how to research, write, plan, organize, reach-out to the people from whom we are separated by "six degrees." I'm self-motivated, like to work alone or in small groups, should probably chit-chat more so people don't think I'm rude, don't like being micro-managed (works well for Howard and me), hate wasting time and I'm all about service, just like you. My parochial education instilled in me that God's gifts – time, talents and treasures – are my responsibility to use for His good.

I know if we tell a compelling story – which Dorcas has in abundance about the people we help every day - and if you, the Dorcas staff and me tell it everywhere, then the individuals, corporations and foundation partners we nurture will join our campaign.

The first of these benefactors is the Stephenson family of Cary Oil. Cary Oil was founded in 1959 with a plan to be a dependable, accessible provider of home heating oil to a growing community. From its beginning as a single tank wagon operation in Cary, Cary Oil has expanded into a national leader in refined fuel distribution. They now sell home heating oil and branded and unbranded motor fuel to thousands of customers in 15 southeastern states. They also reinvest a portion of their profits in the community they serve through the Cary Oil Foundation.

The Cary Oil Foundation provides gifts and grants to local non-profits making a difference in the community. Craig Stephenson oversees the Foundation on behalf of the family. Interestingly, a piece of Craig's life experience was assisting in raising funds for a university. He's seen this process from both sides. Now he leads the family's gifting effort and saw the work of Dorcas Ministries as important. To help us with the Capital Campaign, Cary Oil provided a grant to fund a part-time position of Capital Campaign Coordinator – me! There are required annual milestones to be reached for the grant to be renewed and Craig is a wealth of information and I wish I could do a Dr. Spock (Star Trek) mind meld. We are very grateful to Craig, the Stephenson family and the Cary Oil Foundation.

**The Dorcas Ministries Capital Campaign Thanks
Cary Oil Foundation**

Going Once, Going Twice - On eBay

The beautiful silver candlesticks may have been a wedding gift, and Grandma's pride and joy, but her descendants didn't want them, and so they found their way to the Dorcas Thrift Shop. Harold Elixson, the Shop Manager, decided they were too "pricey" to be sold in the Thrift Shop. They were placed in the container for eBay sales which, right now, is Harold's office. (For those of us who didn't know, eBay is an international, on-line auction).

From there, Paul Kondor, our Dorcas Ministries eBay expert, listed them on the eBay website. His work involved taking pictures (from several angles) of the candlesticks, writing a description of them and setting a starting bid price. These articles are posted for seven days, while potential buyers bid on them. At the end of that time -- or whenever Paul decides the price is right -- a bidder is notified, pays for the article (and shipping) and Paul then packs and mails it. So the candlesticks that once graced an elegant table have found a new home, and Dorcas Ministries has \$250.00 to put into helping our neighbors pay bills for rent, utilities, medicine and food.

According to Harold, Dorcas Ministries has been using eBay as a way to sell very valuable donations, for about five years now. "Collectible", he says, "such as Carolina Hurricane memorabilia -- the bobble-heads are hot sellers -- vintage toys, musical instruments and antiques are listed for sale. We rarely list breakable items like fine china, and only for local pick-up. Last week a man bought a flat screen television, but he had to pick it up."

Paul is at work most evenings, after the other Dorcas workers go home. Because of his diligence, eBay sales bring in between \$1500 and \$3000 a month.

What happens if something doesn't sell in the seven days' time? They take it off the site. Sometimes it is sold in the Shop, and sometimes posted on eBay at a later date.

Howard Manning, Dorcas Ministries' Executive Director, says, "Because of adding eBay sales to our portfolio, Dorcas is able to obtain the fair market value for many items that would have been sold for a fraction of their worth on the retail floor. This additional revenue helps us to continue to provide help where it counts, even in tough economic times."

Katherine Parrish

2011 Holiday Schedule for Dorcas Shop

July 4,	Independence Day (Monday)	Closed
September 5	Labor Day (Monday)	Closed
November 23 – 24	Thanksgiving (Wed – Thur)	Closed
December	Christmas falls on weekend	No Closing Schedule
December 31	New Year's Eve	No Closing Schedule



DORCAS MINISTRIES FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

	2011 Budget	Jan. – Apr. 2011	Jan. – Apr. 2010
Benevolence	\$ 42,669	\$ 43,665	\$ 85,304
Dorcas Shop Net Sales	\$162,609	\$174,267	\$163,710
Donations, Grants and Interest	\$ 6,800	\$ 5,290	\$ 9,340
Operating Expense	\$120,272	\$100,110	\$104,785
Capital Campaign Receipts	\$ 30,040	\$ 14,462	\$ 8,600
Cary Plaza Expenses Debt Payments, Repairs, Relocation	\$358,120	\$ 27,020	\$ 80,000

Alger Faber, Financial Analyst



FROM THE CRISIS MINISTRY MANAGER

April 2011 CRISIS MINISTRY FINANCIAL REPORT

CRISIS MINISTRY ASSISTANCE

FAMILIES

EXPENDITURE

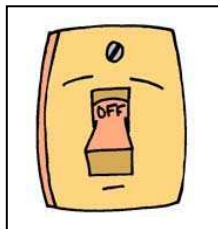
Food Pantry Replenishment		202.20
Electricity Assistance	19	2,252.68
Rent Assistance	20	3,700.50
Natural Gas Assistance	4	568.56
Water Assistance	5	641.19
Misc./Other (Tornado Relief)		50.00

Total Expenditures (cash) 7415.13

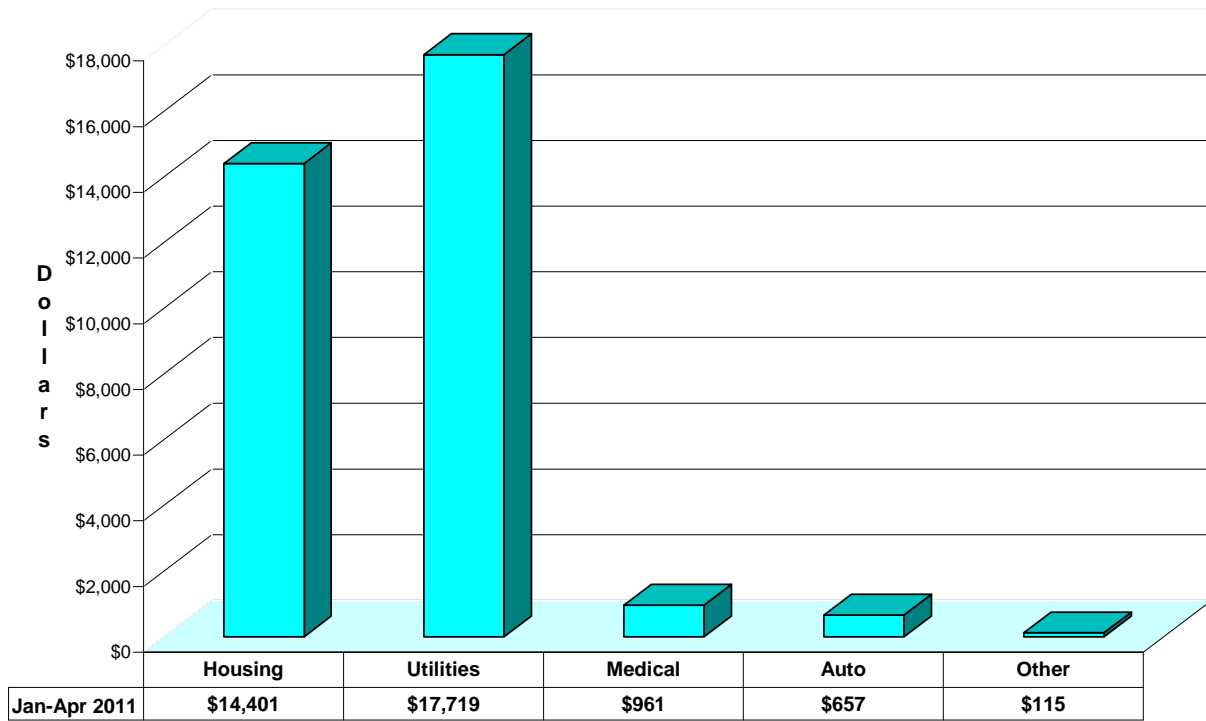
Food Assistance (159 people) 79

Total Expenditures (noncash: food \$/lb.) 7903.00

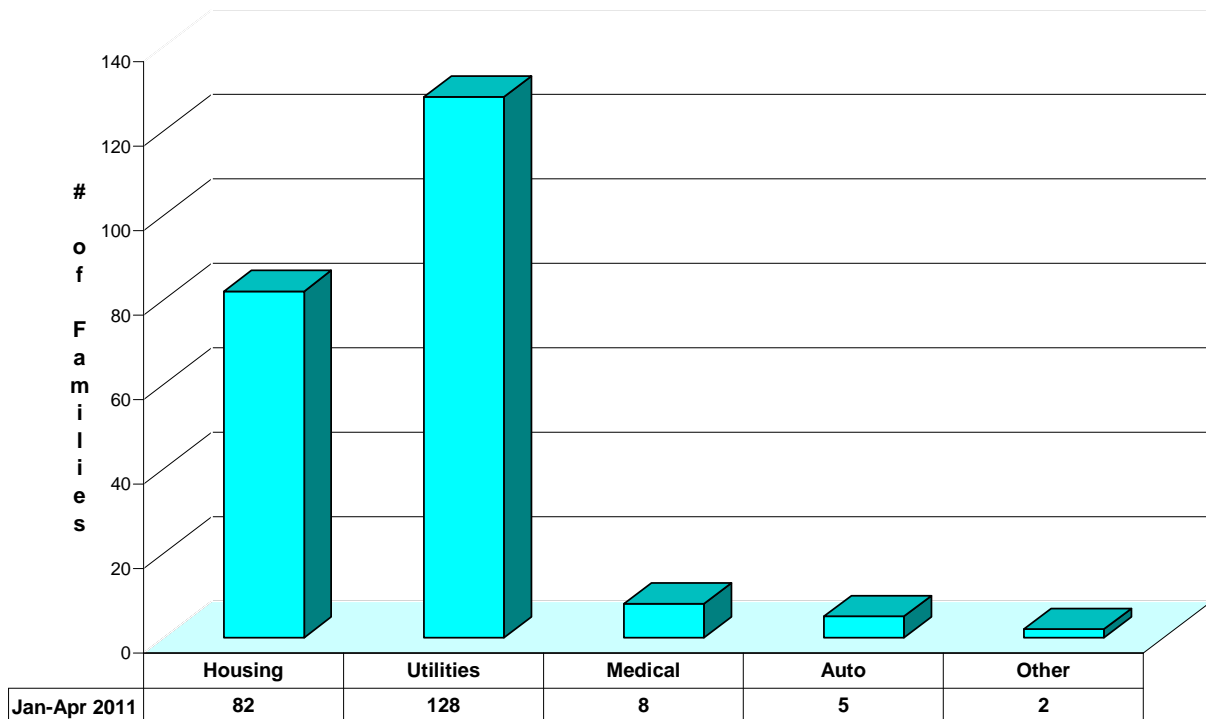
Total Adults Served: 191
 Total Children Served: 138
 Total People Served: 329
 Total Families Served: 130



Crisis Ministry Financial Report during Jan - Apr 2011



of Families Assisted by Crisis Ministry



Jill Wissing, Crisis Ministry Manager

OUTREACH MINISTRIES REPORT

January 1, 2011 - April 30, 2011

Crisis Ministry	\$34,915	1344 neighbors served
Childcare Assistance	\$6,914	24 children assisted
Margaret Keller Assistance	\$1,703	3 adults assisted
Food Donations	\$31,673*	805 neighbors fed

*Calculated on NC Food Bank \$1.59 lb value.

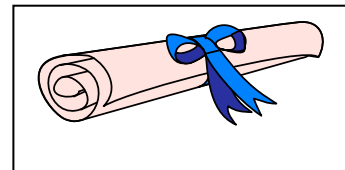
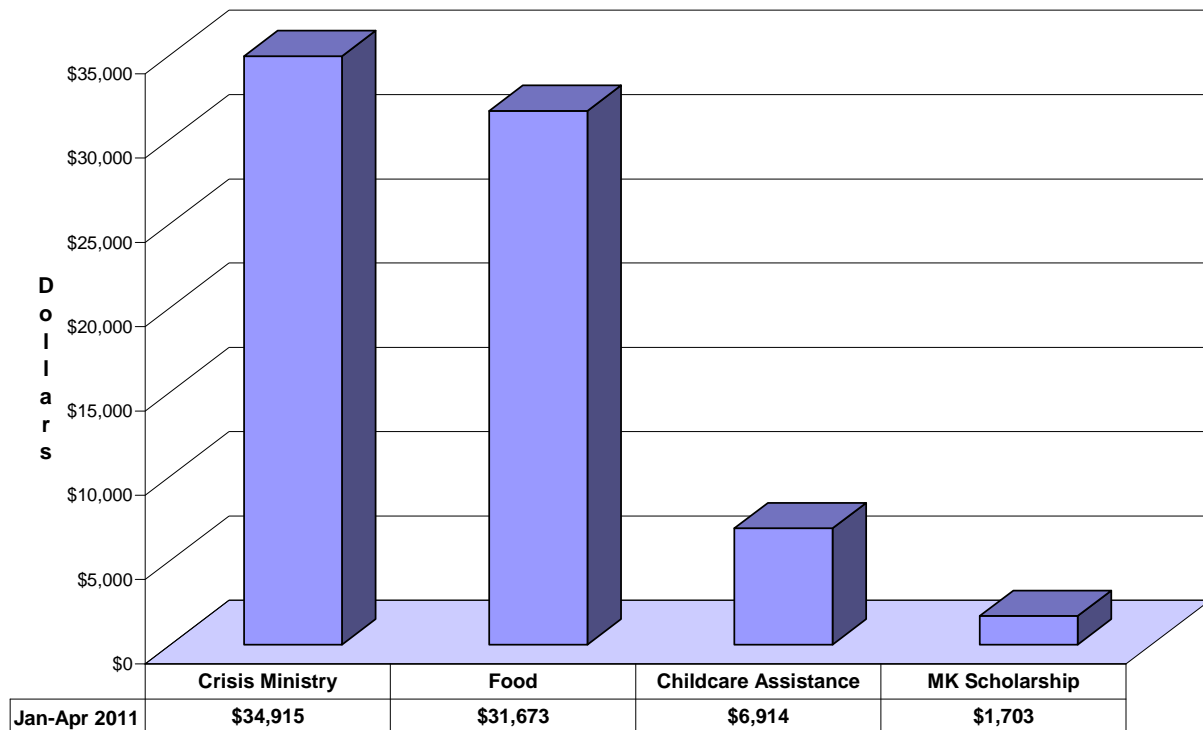
Dorcas Thrift Shop inventory donations sometimes go to others; listings in manager's report.

Crisis Ministry administers Cary Parks and Recreation Scholarship funds.

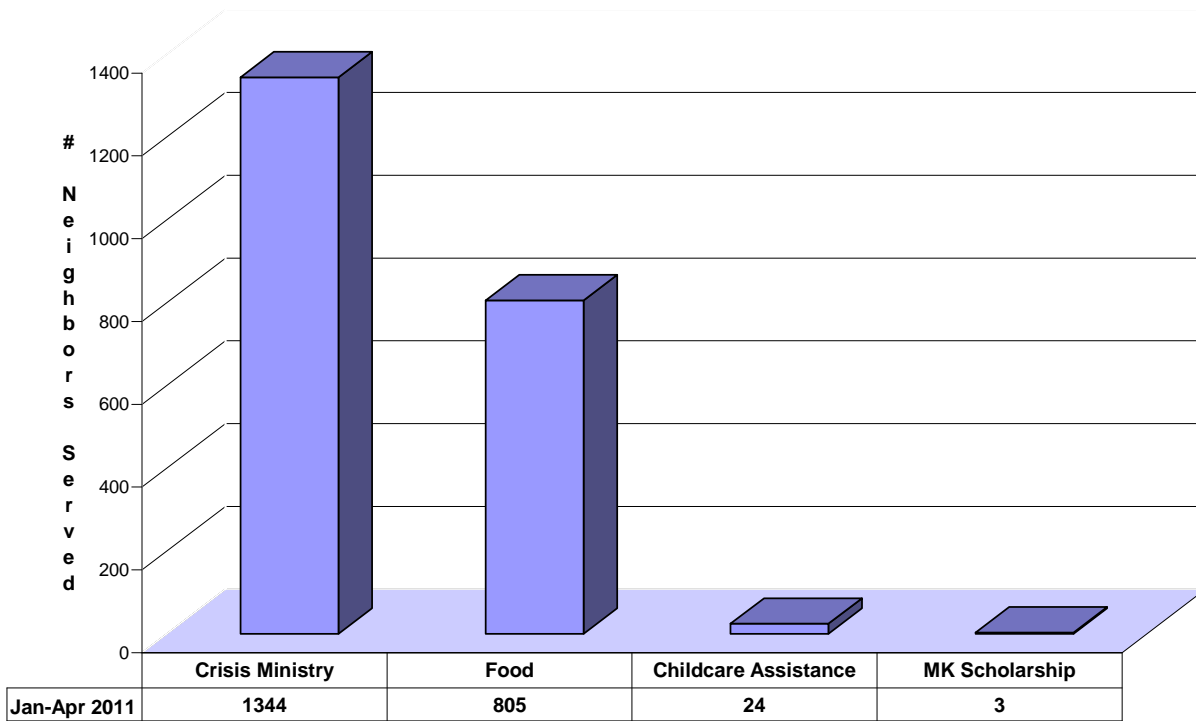
The Crisis Ministry office loans medical devices such as wheelchairs, canes, walkers, and shower stools.

Crisis Ministry administers Cary Oasis funds that assist neighbors with water bills.

Outreach Ministries Financial Report during Jan - Apr 2011



Neighbors Served by Dorcas Outreach Ministries



CHILDCARE ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE

How can a young child attend preschool if a family cannot afford tuition? Howard Manning and members of Dorcas Ministries Childcare Assistance Committee met with Cary Area preschool directors to discuss this very issue on April 7. The dialog included looking over the guidelines to make sure a family that is not able to pay tuition can have their child attend preschool.

Preschool directors told of their commitment to provide a child/family, without full financial resources, a space in their program. Dorcas Ministries assured preschool directors that the Childcare Assistance Committee will continue to share tuition assistance when a family qualifies for help. Childcare Assistance members and individual preschool directors will continue working together so local preschool children can attend school.

"Tell everyone thank you so much" the mom of a 4 year old recently repeated over and over on learning Dorcas Ministries could help with her son's preschool tuition. She shared, "he needs this so much" and again tell everyone thank you so much." Even with the extended family helping with tuition, his 4-year-old class was too costly for this single mom.

Nancy McNitt

TEST YOUR METAL!

(Or, Are you smarter than a non-recycler?)

1. How many aluminum cans have been recycled the past 40 years?
a. 1 million b. 1 billion c. 1 trillion d. 1 quadrillion
2. How many 6-packs of 24 ounce cans would it take to hold up a 4,000 pound car?
a. 4 b. 40 c. 400 d. 4000
3. One recycled aluminum can saves enough energy to run your TV for
a. 1 hour b. 2 hours c. 3 hours d. 4 hours
4. How many aluminum cans are recycled every minute?
a. 100 b. 1000 c. 10,000 d. 100,000
5. Recycled cans made into new cans return to the grocery shelf every
a. 20 days b. 40 days c. 60 days d. 80 days

Correct answers: 1. c 2. a 3. c 4. d 5. c

Five right answers means there's probably a place for you in the aluminum industry.

Three to four right answers means you're a pretty savvy recycler.

One to two right answers means you could use some help.

No right answers means even a broken clock gets the time right two times a day, so what does that say about you??

Helene Stalker

SPECIAL SURPRISE VISITOR

The Dorcas Shop was blessed two weeks ago by a very special surprise visitor. We don't get a lot of interest in the plaque that honors our deceased volunteers. Needless to say, I was very surprised to enter the shop a couple of Thursdays ago and found two gentlemen reviewing the plaque and a picture of our founder, Margaret Keller. As our conversation progressed I was thrilled to find out that I was talking with one of the sons of our visionary and founder. Charles Keller and his friend toured our facility and got an update on our plans for relocation. "Mom would be real proud of the progress that Christian Community In Action has made and our vision for the future" said Charles. The

Keller family has been added to our mailing list and will be invited to the grand opening of our new location.



Howard Manning, Executive Director



COUPON CUTTING OUTREACH STRETCHING SHOPPERS BUDGET

"I got some coupons yesterday that I used at HT super doubles sale -- and got 2 packages of cheese for less than a \$1! I'm back looking for more I can use." Continuing to sort coupons in the basket the shopper added, "This helps my food stamp dollars to buy more." The customer was using the basket of cut out coupons sitting on the Dorcas Thrift Shop entry way table. Thank you, from many shoppers, to Dorcas Ministries volunteers who keep adding clipped coupons to the well used coupon basket.

Nancy McNitt

DORCAS MINISTRIES SPRING DAZE SUCCESS

"Only one of the 311 vanilla, strawberry cream icing cupcakes we sold, supplied by "The Cupcake Bar" fell on the ground so we gave away a replacement", reports Jill Straight who chaired the very successful Spring Daze Dorcas Ministries area. "Our booth was a great success! The cupcakes were so popular that we sold out at 1 PM."

Additional volunteers including Nancy Ryan, Elizabeth Nelson and Michelle Clements spent "many good hours spreading the word about Dorcas Ministries, handing out coupons for \$1 off with a \$10 purchase at the new facility and answering the age-old, 'When are you going to move?' question." The committee achieved the goal of creating a buzz about Dorcas.

Jill writes, "The staging, preparation and set-up was all smooth -- thanks, Howard and Jason! The banners were fantastic and made very clear who we were and what we were selling -- thanks Harold! We got a lot of compliments on the cute aprons -- thanks, Nancy Ryan! Truly it was a lot of fun with support from so many people."

Nancy McNitt



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MAY/JUNE 2011
 VOLUME 11, ISSUE 3

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

“HELP WHEN IT COUNTS”

Serving the residents of Cary and Morrisville

MISSION STATEMENT: Dorcas Ministries' mission is to help our neighbors who face immediate crises, using proceeds of our Dorcas Thrift Shop and donations from the members of our local sponsoring churches and the community.

STAFF MEMBERS

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Deidre Jersey, Capital Campaign Coordinator	djersey@dorcas-cary.org
Drop-off Assistant, Jason Fleming	
Drop-off Assistant Weekends, Al Cruke	

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President – Bill Easter	Mary Campbell
Vice President – Elizabeth Broome	Kathie Goodall
Treasurer – Sidney Dalis	Nancy McNitt
Secretary – Jill S. Straight	Elizabeth Nelson
Community Pastoral Representative – Kyle Allen	Nancy Ryan

CCA is a member of the
 National Association of Resale & Thrift Stores (NARTS)
 and
 The Cary Chamber of Commerce

Newsletter Editor: Eleanor Sun