



DORCAS MINISTRIES

CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY IN ACTION, INC.

NEWSLETTER

July/August 2011
Volume 11, Issue 4

The Dorcas Thrift Shop
Dorcas Ministries Outreach



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: The Tsunami is Coming!

Six months ago, I couldn't even spell tsunami, but as a result of the tragedy in Japan I'm now all too familiar with what the term means. Strictly speaking, a tsunami is an enormous swell of water, usually in the ocean, triggered by some calamitous geological event. A tsunami can wreak havoc when it reaches land, especially occupied land. The definition notwithstanding, we might use the term to describe any potentially destructive event.

So what is the event that prompts the topic of this message? The fore-ripples (if I may coin a term) are already upon us—it's the upcoming relocation of Dorcas Ministries to Cary Plaza. Many of you have been through this before, the move from Cedar Avenue to Chatham Street and the move from Chatham Street to Maynard Road, to name the most recent. A few of you even remember the move from upstairs, downtown Cary, to downstairs. And last time, some of you said, "Well, we won't ever have to go through this again!" Wrong!

This move has the potential for creating a serious ruffle in our normally placid feathers. The impending location of "pods" in the volunteer parking lot, to be used to clear out the basement, is perhaps the first of a number of inconveniences we will face. Soon, we will stop accepting donations at Maynard Road, requiring some level of operation at both locations. Eventually, we may even have both stores open simultaneously for a short period of time.

Then there is just the stress of departing from a familiar place and a familiar routine. Some won't be happy with various features of the new location. Some won't care for the larger scale of the new operation.

As we go through this together, let's keep our perspective. We have believed from the beginning of our search for a new location that God was with us, that we were doing his will in seeking a way to be of greater service to the disadvantaged in the Cary community. This is what we need to focus on.

In his book, *The 21 Most Effective Prayers in the Bible*, David Earley tells the story of another move in which the people became disgruntled, the exodus of Israel from Egypt. Moses faced a big problem when some people became so upset that they ignored the vision of a bright future and advocated a return to the land of bondage. Mr. Earley says, "Forty years earlier, Moses had tried to deliver Israel in his own strength only to fail miserably. Now he knew that he needed God. Without God, the entire endeavor would be a tragic nightmare. Without God it was hopeless." Moses prayed: "How will anyone know that you are pleased with me and with your people unless you go with us? What else will distinguish me and your people from all of the other people on the face of the earth?" [Exodus 33:16]

Moses asked God to go with them, and we need to ask God to go with us. It's called tsunami avoidance.

Bill Easter



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

THE JOURNEY CONTINUES

The train has rounded the bend and is heading down the home stretch, with the final destination (Cary Plaza) in sight. Since the last edition of our newsletter, our efforts have been focused on two major activities, keeping the train on the track and providing fuel for the engines.

Work permits were released by the Town of Cary on July 15, 2011. The cost of the permits was actually less than the original amount budgeted and we received excellent cooperation from the Town of Cary Permits Department during the entire process. As of July 25th, 2011 all of the demolition work required at Cary Plaza has been completed. Most of the major infrastructure work, such as plumbing, installation of electrical and phone lines, upgrades to the fire alarm system, creation of new doorways and passages, and preparation of the sub flooring have been completed or are in progress. Wall studs have been installed for the Crisis Ministry offices, food pantry, administrative offices, and check out area, public bathrooms, fitting rooms, and drop off area, work room, and break room. Drywall installation is scheduled to begin the week of July 25, 2011. Our “in house” demolition crew continues to salvage metal for recycling while construction is in process. Our first public viewing day will be for our volunteers and is scheduled for August 28th. The Grand Opening is scheduled for October 1st with Mayor Harold Weinbrecht being the guest speaker.

By now you should have noticed an increase in activities related to our relocation at our current Maynard Road site. The most visible will be the location of two storage PODS in our volunteer parking area. The PODS will be used to store donations currently housed in the basement and also incoming donations that will eventually be transferred to the Cary Plaza location. The Dorcas Thrift Shop is also having at least three days each month where “all” items are sold at ½ of the marked price. This resulted in Dorcas having a record sales day in excess of \$3500 on July 21st, 2011.

We have divided our capital campaign into 2 phases. The goal of our first phase is to raise \$1M for relocation construction and expenses. We have raised over 50% of those funds. We have made some positive contacts with GSK and Fifth Third Bank. The Director of Community Affairs at GSK has agreed to serve as a champion for our campaign. Our goal is to not only seek immediate funding assistance from these partners but to establish long term relationships with each. Our Capital Campaign Advisory Board will start back full speed in September after a 2 month summer break. The number of contributors continues to increase and we are so grateful for our members who have not only made personal contributions but also solicited donations from local businesses and neighbors. Production is underway for a DVD that supports the Capital Campaign. Bill Leslie from WRAL is our on camera voice and the mayor will also play a role in this video. At the recommendation of some local pastors, our website is being updated to allow links between Dorcas and our partner churches. We are continuing to submit grant applications to foundations and businesses that may align with our capital campaign or outreach programs as well as mailing, having direct meetings, and phone conversations with individuals.

As we prepare for arrival please complete all necessary tasks, check and secure your baggage, and buckle up for safety.

Howard Manning, Executive Director

Charities and Estate Planning

A number of years ago, I discovered the benefit of reviewing our household vendors annually. Phone companies offered new lower cost program while we paid high rates; insurance values on our home needed to keep pace with the market, will and estate plan needed periodic (we like five years) review. In a recent conversation, it occurred to Howard and me that we should share these ideas with our readers and friends.

There are ways that everyone, including you, can painlessly benefit the Dorcas Ministries efforts and outreach programs.

We are in the initial stages of kicking off our Capital Fund Raising Campaign. One part of that campaign is an effort to educate our wonderful volunteers and supporters about exciting opportunities for supporting this community outreach.

There have been many generous gifts to Dorcas in the past and we continue to value those immediate and much needed contributions. We cannot exist without them. To those who have made such donations, we are forever grateful and pray for your contributions and gifts to continue.

In planning for our upcoming move in August 2011, we've met with a number of advisors including professionals in giving. One way to benefit an organization such as ours is "Planned Giving." Without prudent planning, very few things work as advantageously as they could.

Friends of Dorcas have expressed an interest in becoming more knowledgeable about ways to donate or make a bequest to a nonprofit. Naming Dorcas as a beneficiary to such documents as life insurance, annuities and retirement plans which include 401(K)s and IRAs requires just a little preplanning. Dorcas is blessed with financial advisors who offered assistance to our friends or you may prefer to speak with your own financial advisor. A beneficiary can be named to receive any percentage from 1% to 100% of your estate. Wouldn't it be wonderful for everyone to participate in this campaign by naming Dorcas as a beneficiary, no matter how large or small a percentage? Keep in mind, beneficiaries can usually be changed at anytime and percentages can also be increased or decreased by the owner of a life insurance policy, annuity or retirement savings plan.

Estate Planning and Wills are also often used to leave a "legacy" contribution. Property, cash, stocks, bonds, and even vehicles are frequently donated to a favorite charity in this way.

If you would like to learn more about this "Planned Giving" opportunity to help us better serve those in need through Dorcas Ministries, please fill out the form below and mail it back to us or drop it off at the office of Howard Manning, Executive Director for Dorcas Ministries.

Deirdre Jersey, Campaign Coordinator

YES – I/We would like to learn more about Planned Giving.

Mail to: Dorcas Ministries, 1231 NE Maynard Road, Cary, NC 27513

Please call to arrange an appointment to discuss this giving opportunity.

I would be interested in attending a workshop on Planned Giving hosted by Dorcas Ministries.

Name _____

Best Phone _____ Email _____

Vintage Treasures

"If it's fifty years old, it's Vintage," says Johnnie Johnson of items sold in Dorcas' Vintage Boutique, a small area near the jewelry counter. "We can tell how old things are by their style, color, and quality. We clean and inspect them for any cracks or stains, which affect the price. Manufacturer's marks tell us about their value. If a beautiful piece comes in, we may look it up on e-Bay or check out antique prices on the computer. Then we slice the price in half for our Vintage Area display."

Johnnie and Betty Schiess have worked side-by-side each Tuesday for about eight years, to maintain the area where family heirlooms like china, crystal, pottery, dolls, antique toys, porcelain figurines, vases and handmade quilts are sold for half their resale value, but above regular Dorcas prices.

The inspiration for a Vintage section of Dorcas began when Shirley Carrington was Shop Manager. She discovered that items of antique value were often coming into the Shop and experimented with setting aside a section of the Shop called "Vintage." In the beginning, wedding dresses and some hats were part of the section, but they didn't sell there, and went to another part of the store.

The Vintage ladies often wonder about the original homes of the pieces that come in, dirty and smoke-stained, stuffed in boxes of household items. "They probably come

from old houses where people have lived for years and collected these beautiful things. Now, the old folks are gone and the children aren't interested in their collectibles. People don't have space these days, to save things," says Johnnie.

Antique dealers come to browse the Vintage Area, and often find choice items there. Customers are delighted at their "finds" and sales are good, according to Harold Elixson, Dorcas Shop Manager.

Johnnie and Betty work at Dorcas on Tuesdays--inspecting, cleaning and arranging the Vintage merchandise. Between Tuesdays, sorters in the Shop put items they think are especially valuable on a particular set of shelves in the workroom. Some of these will be sold on eBay, but fragile collectibles like glassware and porcelain go to Vintage. "Just a couple of months ago," Johnnie recalls, "we got a sterling silver tea set. It went on e-Bay and sold for close to \$400.00."

The "pay" is good at Dorcas' Vintage Boutique. "It's a super place to work," says Johnnie, remembering a time when a daughter came in to buy a beautiful porcelain figurine for her mother, at a price she could afford. It's all part of what we're doing at Dorcas Ministries--helping where it counts.

Katherine Parrish

2011 Holiday Schedule for Dorcas Shop

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. – Jun. 2011	Jan. – Jun. 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

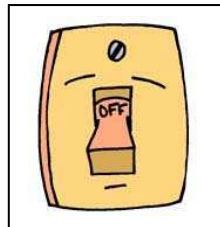
Alger Faber, Financial Analyst



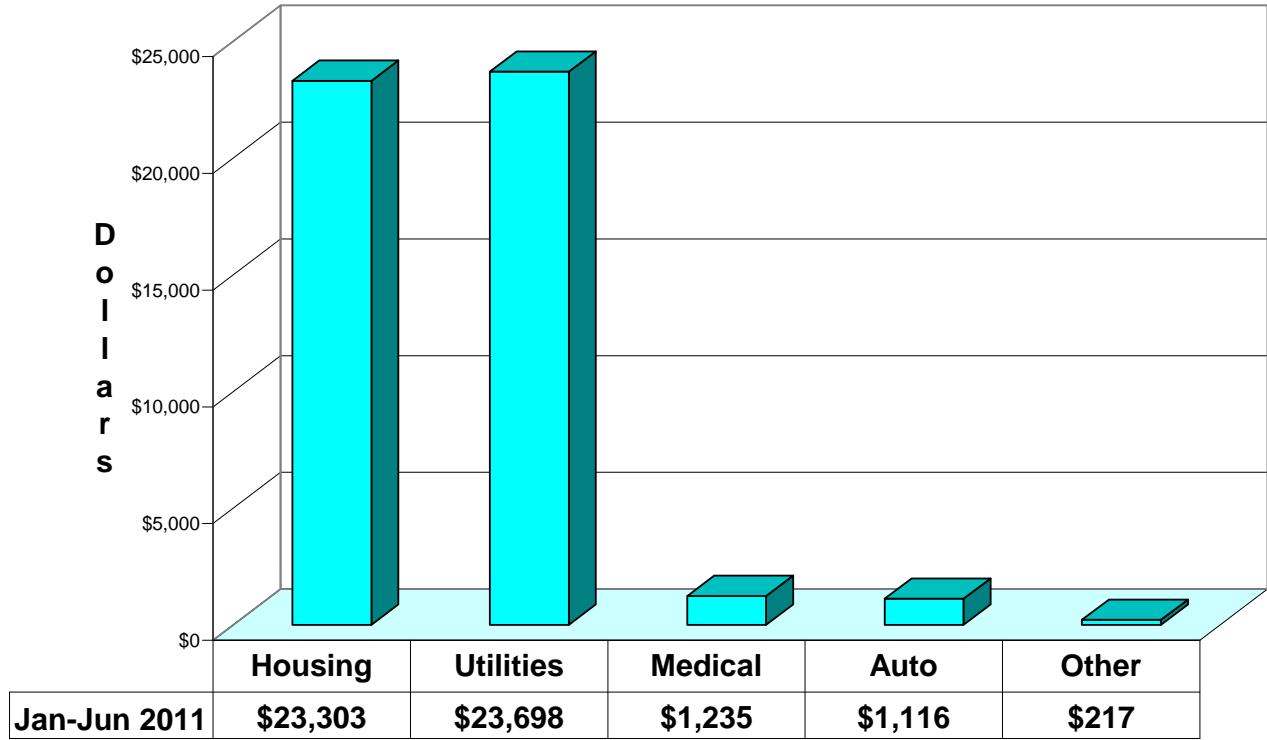
FROM THE CRISIS MINISTRY MANAGER

June 2011 CRISIS MINISTRY FINANCIAL REPORT

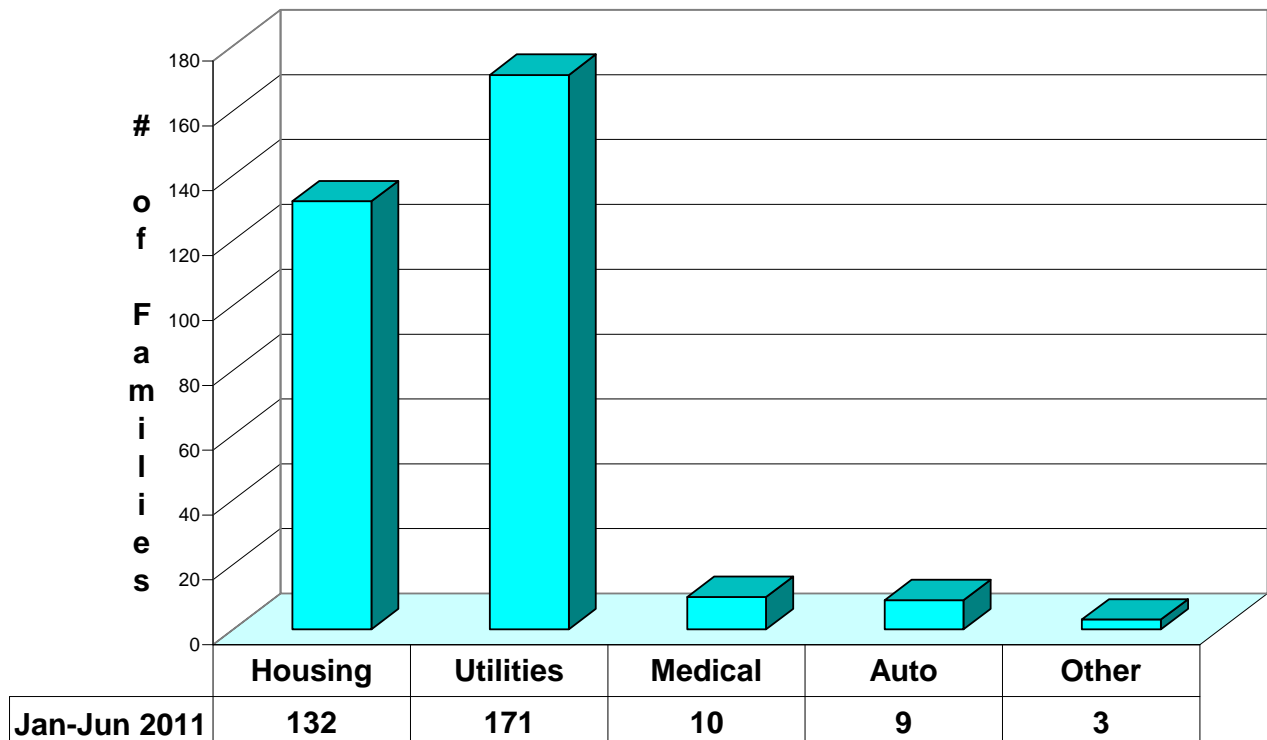
<u>CRISIS MINISTRY ASSISTANCE</u>	<u>FAMILIES</u>	<u>EXPENDITURE</u>
Food Pantry Replenishment		229.59
Electricity Assistance	20	2,464.93
Rent Assistance	28	5,275.00
Natural Gas Assistance	1	50.00
Gasoline Assistance (cards purchased)	1	100.00
Water Assistance	1	100.68
Oasis Assistance	5	442.27
Medical Bills/Medicine	1	186.89
Car Insurance Assistance	1	120.20
Misc./Other	1	<u>101.04</u>
Total Expenditures (cash)		9,073.70
 Food Assistance (217 people)	 92	 10,673.00
Total Expenditures (noncash: food \$/lb.)		10,673.00
Total Adults Served: 189		
Total Children Served: 146		
Total People Served: 335		
Total Families Served: 142		



Crisis Ministry Financial Report during Jan - Jun 2011



of Families Assisted by Crisis Ministry



Jill Wissing, Crisis Ministry Manager

OUTREACH MINISTRIES REPORT

January 1, 2011 - June 30, 2011

Crisis Ministry	\$51,509	2,048 neighbors served
Childcare Assistance	\$6,914	29 children assisted
Margaret Keller Assistance	\$1,	4 adults assisted
Food Donations	\$51,651*	1,265 neighbors fed

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

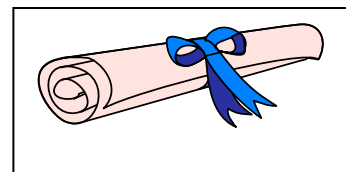
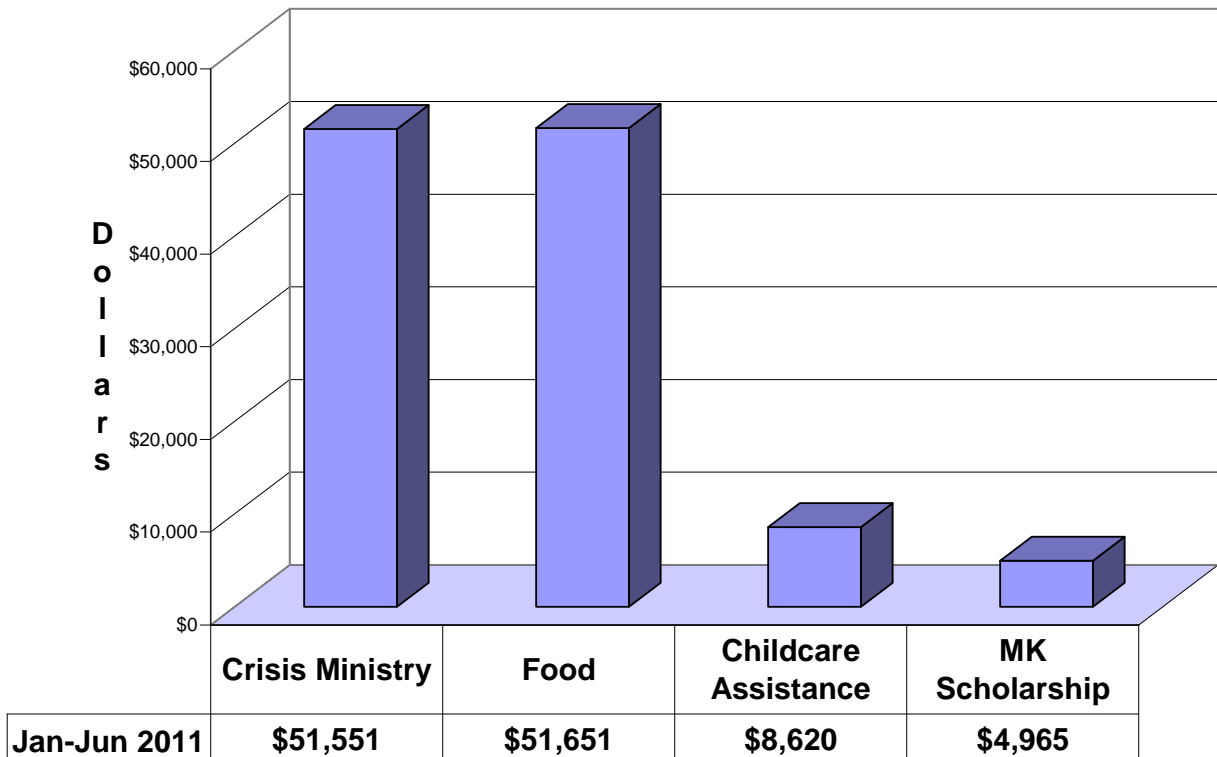
Dorcas Thrift Shop inventory donations sometimes go to others; listings in manager's report.

Crisis Ministry administers Cary Parks and Recreation Scholarship funds.

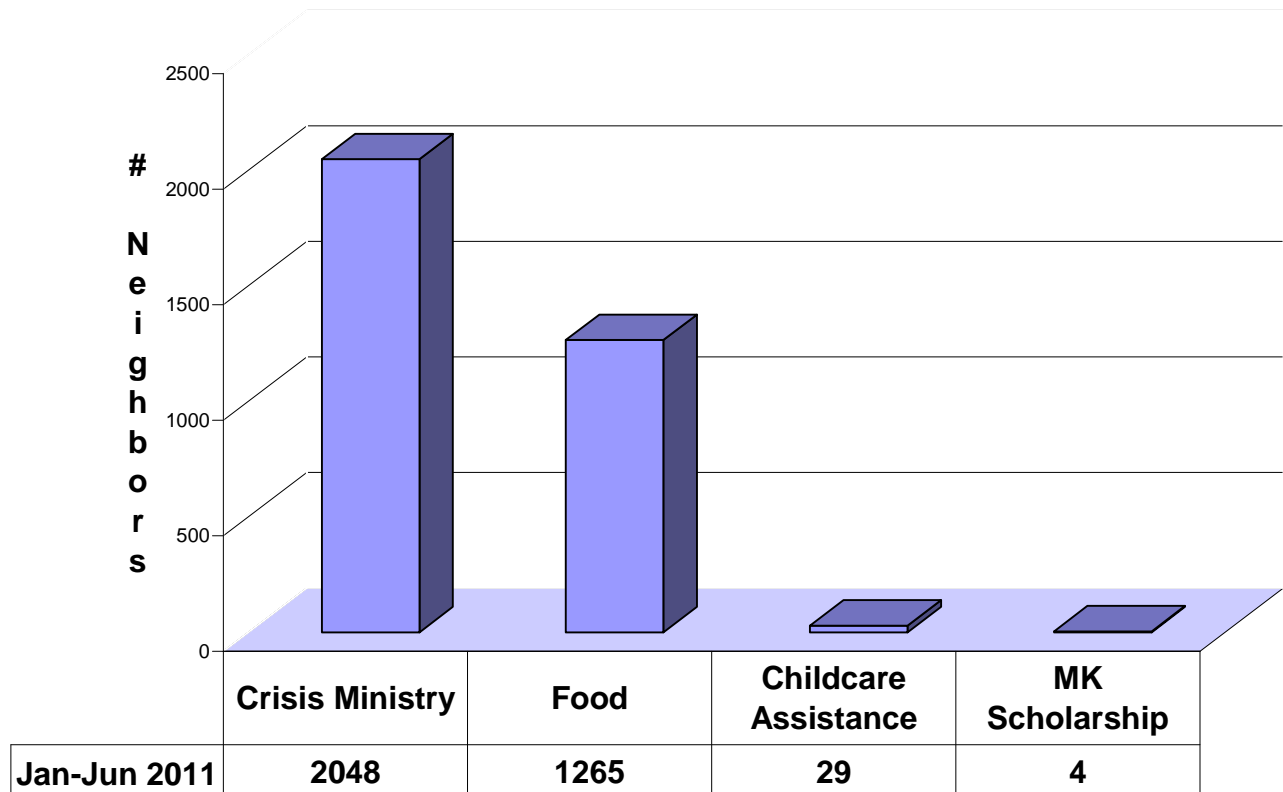
The Crisis Ministry office loans medical devices such as wheelchairs, canes, walkers, and shower stools.

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

Outreach Ministries Financial Report during Jan - Jun 2011



Neighbors Served by Dorcas Outreach Ministries

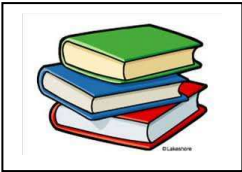


HELP WHEN IT COUNTED

"You're giving me goose bumps" shared a married father of two, close to tears, as a result of food assistance. Coming to Crisis Ministry for food, he asked if we could help by just giving him some food for his school age children. Beyond the usual one week of food, food volunteers packed bags of fresh produce donated daily by a local store. As each bag went in his neighbor's car, he continually said "thank you".

The father collected JobLink resources from the waiting area while waiting to see a counselor. Jill Wissing began talking with him about his job search. She added additional job seeking leads from the JobLink site. As he prepared to leave, he said, "You've given me hope."

"Having been on dialysis for 17 years has made me fortunate enough to meet interesting people. Normally, I encounter sympathy and sorrow, but at Dorcas Ministries I found understanding and patience. Your counselor prayed with me and went to bat for me. These rare qualities reinforced the faith that God has given me in the human race. Every once in a while you meet strong, beautiful people that make you wonder if they're angels walking the earth. Thank you, Dorcas Ministries."



STARTING TO MOVE--BOOKS AND MEDIA



The first boxes filled with books to see at the new store went into storage PODS early Monday morning, July 25. Over the next weeks, many more media boxes will be temporarily stored for the move.

"The boxes for the new shop contain a cross representation of what we sell now", said Glenn McNitt. "Each box is labeled so the team can unpack them in the correct place."

The six person book team, for a few months, has been following a plan to keep the current Thrift Shop stocked while putting aside media for the new store. First, sorting by hardback and paperback, books are then divided into nonfiction, fiction, youth, children's and cook books. Then fiction is sorted into different topics. Always looking for books to bring in more income, the team maintains a higher priced book area and will continue by using more book area for these books in the new space. DVDs, books on disk, and CDs are also sorted, and many boxes of these are ready for the move.

During August, the team will follow the sorting plan to keep book sales going. At the same time, boxes from continuing donations will go to the new facility.

CARY SCAVEBGER HUNT PLAYERS HELP STOCK FOOD PANTRY

A Cary Scavenger Hunt Saturday July 24 featured the new Dorcas Thrift Store as a clue. Teams got a booklet of tasks to complete in a designated time frame. Following one clue to buy a can of food at Whole Foods, teams were instructed to donate that food to the Dorcas Ministries Food Pantry at the new location. A team member had to present the food to Dorcas volunteer Bill Easter, Nancy McNitt, or Elizabeth Broome while another team member took a picture documenting the clue's completion. Each team was given Dorcas Ministries information to take with them.



Nancy McNitt



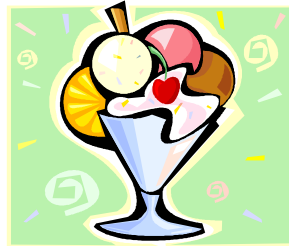
DUNGEON DUO DRAGGIN'



Selling items from the sales floor generates the most money for Dorcas Ministries, but our old floor isn't big enough! Metal recycling is the next best thing: since January, this operation generated \$8,700. However, we REALLY pushed ourselves and could use a lot more help. If you feel "called", please "call" Helene at 467-4808 or tell Harold. Can't wait to move to our new digs!!

Helene Stalker

Volunteer Appreciation Ice Cream Sundae Social



Sunday, August 28, 2 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

**Dorcas Shop, Cary Plaza
179 High House Road
Cary, NC**

**Come Sunday to enjoy a Sundae and meet the
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday
Volunteers.**

**Hosted by Deirdre Jersey & Friends
with our grateful appreciation for your service to Dorcas Ministries.**

WHY DO CUSTOMERS AND VOLUNTEERS KEEP ON COMING BACK?

It seems that one major reason for the Dorcas Shop's success is its prices, especially compared to other thrift stores in the area. In light of the recent News and Observer story about the man who bought an original artwork at the Cary Goodwill; I want to share a similar story. A Dorcas Shop customer for over ten years told me that he once bought a sterling silver bowl from the shop for \$8 and sold it for \$400. The difference in this story is that the customer gave a portion of the proceeds back to the shop.

In addition to prices, customers also commented on the Dorcas Shop's merchandise. The shop is a favorite place find books, fabric, and unique, eclectic items. Customers also appreciate that the merchandise is changed out frequently. Volunteers enjoy working at the Dorcas Shop because they feel productive, it's a "wonderful ministry," and they like the friendly customers and volunteers. I must agree because the volunteers that I work with are like a second family to me; I enjoy every minute of my time with them.

Jamie Buning

INSTRUCTIONS FOR GETTING ONTO THE DORCAS EBAY SITE

Dorcas Ministries has had an active eBay site for several years listing many interesting items. These items range widely from DVD's, collectable science toys, kits, rare books, various collectable items, etc.. Dorcas volunteers should keep in mind during their sorting that unusual items may be applicable for eBay sales. Harold Elixson can give guidance on items considered for sale.

If you would like to view items listed for sale by Dorcas Ministries, then follow the instructions listed below:

1. Open the eBay window on your computer by entering eBay.com in the browser space.
2. The eBay window will open. In the upper left is a box labeled *Community*. Click on this box.
3. The *Community* page will open. There is a box on the left saying *Enter A User ID*. Type Edorcas1231 in this box. Then go to the next box titled *Find a Member*. Click enter on this box.
4. The *Find a Member* screen opens. In the center of this page is a blank box. To the left of this box is a verification code which is skewed but readable. Type this code in the blank space and push Enter.
5. A line comes up with Edorcas1231. On the left says *Sellers Items*. Click this open.
6. The Dorcas Ministries eBay list opens showing items for sale.

Nancy McNitt

LOOKING FORWARD AT DORCAS MINISTRIES

Months of waiting for the time when The Dorcas Shop and Outreach Ministries is moved and settled into a much larger building on High House Road will soon be at an end! The move from the “old” to the “new” requires a lot of preparation, both on the new premises and within the work of the volunteers/members. Faithful people, who have upheld this organization through over 40 years of crisis help, are planning ways to prepare for a vital transition.

One important part is adding more and new *volunteers*, using wise recruitment and placement methods. This has been an ongoing task, one that is enhanced by electronic methods. A *Volunteer Coordinator* has been appointed, and leaders are studying methods that will be put into place soon. Informing applicants more fully about all the types of jobs and making sure more people are able to have a satisfactory “hiring” experience will be the task of long-time member/volunteer, Eleanor Sun. Meaningful one-on-one interviews will be held and good placements made to the best work for the person “trying out” a new way to serve---good fits will be the goal.

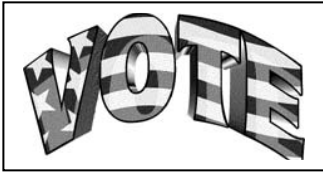
So whether you are a current volunteer or have never tried it, great value is placed on all the jobs, such as interviewer in the Crisis Ministry office, delivering food to the pantry or packing food bags to go out, preparing the donated goods for the sale in the Shop, or serving on Committees like Child Care Assistance, Adult Education Assistance, or others. This may be of special interest to you if you have recently retired and wish to continue meaningful service and to follow Christ in your own time and community. Keep informed by your church’s bulletins/newsletter AND go to the evolving web page: www.dorcas-cary.org.



IMMEDIATE NEEDS

Polly Jenkins

Volunteers needed to pick up surplus food from the Food Lion (Cary Pkwy. and Chapel Hill Rd.) and bring to the food pantry at Dorcas Thrift Shop. Prefer teams of two for each weekday, able to lift approximately 30-40 lbs. Pick up time is around 10 a.m. Contact Eleanor Sun, *Volunteer Coordinator* at EleanorSun1967@yahoo.com or by phone at 469-8482 for more information.



NOMINATION COMMITTEE

The Nominations Committee would welcome the names of people to be considered for Board members. If you want to suggest someone, please give the name of the person to a Nominations Committee member: Arnita Abney, Jim Davis, Joyce Kulkarni, Kay Wilson, or Elizabeth Broome.

Elizabeth Broome



IN LOVING MEMORY

IN MEMORY
Helen Ruth Hauser Almond
January 13, 1915 - June 2, 2011

IN MEMORY
Loretta Joyce Deuel
November 8, 1927 - June 7, 2011

Ruthie Almond was the mother of my friend Judy Graybeal and was such an asset to us on Tuesdays...she took care of sorting the plastic bags for use at the registers and delighted in shopping when she was not doing that. She started at Dorcas in her late 80's. She lived at Glenaire and was always thinking of the ladies there and found things they would like. She told me one time she had never had so many blouses to wear...some of us visited her through the years at Glenaire and she loved to talk about her children and grandchildren! She helped assist the "older" customers when Shirley had Senior Sale Days, she was Mrs. Santa one year and had a good time and it was a great event for her! She dearly loved working at Dorcas. She told me on many occasions that "Dorcas is my family. I just feel that things aren't right if I can't get to the shop." At 96 Ruth was our oldest active volunteer. One highlight of her life was celebrating her 95th birthday with her friends at Dorcas. We all fully believe that Dorcas increased her fun in life as it was such a major event to come on Tuesdays until she was no longer able. She will always be missed!

June was a hard month as we also lost another volunteer, Loretta Duel. I met her right after we moved to the "new" building and we both laughed over the fact that she was older than she looked and I told her she was my role model forever!!! Loretta always had a genuine love for all persons, regardless of their social, economic, or spiritual situation. She displayed true unconditional love at all times toward all people. Loretta was a soft-spoken, gentle lady who worked on toys with Ann Gruber and is so missed. She went about her work quietly, and she always displayed a joyful spirit.

When you have a "family" like we have on Tuesdays, most of us have been there for over 10 years and as we all get older, there are more empty places! Even though we all agree they are in a better place and we just have to go on.....and on and on!!!

Dot Hoover, Bill Easter and Howard Manning

Dorcas Ministries
 Christian Community In Action, Inc.
 1231 NE Maynard Rd.
 Cary, NC 27513
 Phone: 919-469-9861
www.dorcas-cary.org

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JULY/AUGUST 2011
 VOLUME 11, ISSUE 4

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

Executive Director: Howard Manning	hmanning@dorcas-cary.org
Dorcas Thrift Shop Manager: Harold Elixson, Jr.	helixson@dorcas-cary.org
Crisis Ministry Manager: Jill Wissing	jwissing@dorcas-cary.org
Financial Analyst, Alger Faber	afaber@dorcas-cary.org
Deidre Jersey, Capital Campaign Coordinator	djersey@dorcas-cary.org
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