



**DORCAS MINISTRIES**  
CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY IN ACTION, INC.  
**NEWSLETTER**

January/February 2011  
Volume 11, Issue 1

The Dorcas Thrift Shop  
Dorcas Ministries Outreach



**FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

**FIRST THINGS FIRST**

The first statement on the *values* page of our strategic plan reads; "In everything we do, we will conduct ourselves with caring and compassion and in keeping with Biblical principles." The most important Biblical principle we can remember and act on is constantly reminding ourselves that it is God's work we are doing. If we keep this principle constantly in front of us, we will be obedient to His word and rely on our faith in Him regardless of what challenges we face.

With our relocation so close upon us our needs are many. We need an up fit cost that matches our ability to pay; we need community philanthropists who are familiar enough with our cause to donate to our capital campaign; we need community leaders to help identify and contact these philanthropists; we need volunteers with unique skill sets to help us through and after the move; we need a reliable source of material donations to fuel Dorcas Shop sales once we relocate; we need nonprofit partners to join us in our vision of creating a nonprofit hub for Western Wake County; we need increased support from our local churches; we need financial assistance from government agencies; we need..... and the list could go on and on.

For more than forty years Dorcas Ministries-Christian Community In Action has shown God and the community where our heart and treasure is. Both are centered on an agency based on local people helping local people, using Matthew 25: 31-46 as our marching orders and Dorcas the seamstress from Acts 9:36 as our Biblical model. Just as sure as God is aware of where our heart and treasure is, He is also aware of all of the things we need. God has promised to supply all of our needs if we are faithful and obedient to Him.

**Now is NOT the time** to place God on the back burner while we seek earthly support for our relocation. **Now is the time** to make sure we put God first in our organizational and personal affairs. If God can array the lilies of the field in their finest splendor, even greater than that of Solomon, shall He not much more clothe you? As we go forth and prepare to enlarge the kingdom of God here on earth by serving even more of our disadvantaged neighbors, remember the words of Lord and Savior from Matthew 6:33, "**But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things (that we need) shall be added unto you.**"

*Howard Manning, Executive Director*

## CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE

In mid-December, Executive Director Howard Manning and Advisory Committee Member Kate Mazza met with David Cooke, Wake County Manager. It was learned there may be some funds available from the County's Public Agency Funding Program that might be directed to the Capital Campaign. A team of staff and volunteers worked tirelessly on the proposal which was submitted to Wake County on January 27. If you bump into any of the county commissioners please mention your interest in Dorcas Ministries and the importance of the Capital Campaign and ask for their support.

While we don't expect an answer for several months, we ask everyone to pray that the county commissioners see the value of our work and support it financially. In the meantime, while we await word from the county, we'll be planning and working diligently on the next tasks of capital development.

## CAPITAL

## CAMPAIGN

## EVENTS

**FEBRUARY 27 - 5 PM**

**CARRY THE LIGHT**

Benefit Concert Series

Performance by Rod Propes

Genesis United Methodist Church

850 High House Road Cary, NC

\$10 ticket available at the Dorcas Shop.

**FEBRUARY 14**

Monday Dorcas Thrift Shop volunteers are organizing a Valentines' Day hot dog lunch with all profits going to the Capital Campaign.

**APRIL 30 9 AM- 5 PM**

Cary Spring Daze: Cupcake Booth

**DONATE TO**

**DORCAS CAPITAL CAMPAIGN**

**DIRECTLY FROM YOUR IRA**

Late in 2010, Congress passed legislation extending the option to make donations to charitable organizations directly from IRAs through December 31, 2011. The advantage of making a sizeable donation in this way is that it can satisfy RMD (Required Minimum Distribution) requirements while not

counting as income for tax purposes. Of course, it cannot then be taken also as a tax deduction. To qualify for this option, the money must be transferred directly from the savings institution to the charitable organization. (If you first take it out as cash, it becomes income on which you will have to pay tax.)

If you are interested in taking this option, direct your savings institution to send the distribution to

Dorcas Ministries

Capital Campaign

1231 NE Maynard Road

Cary, NC 27513

Request them to send you a confirmation copy of the transaction.

Each person's situation may be different; therefore, you should check with your tax adviser before making a final commitment.

Peace, Bill Easter

**CHRISTMAS COOKIE SALE** that was held on December 15, 2010, brought \$335.65 to the Capital Campaign fund. Thank you to all volunteers who contributed "goodies" and who helped with the sale.

## DO YOU KNOW HOW WORK GETS DONE IN DORCAS MINISTRIES?

Did you ever wonder who makes the decisions about how Dorcas Ministries operates? Of course, you know that the Board of Directors has the final say over most matters, but many of the operating decisions and procedures come from several committees appointed by the President. Going into a new year, we have numerous vacancies in our committee structure, and we would ask that you prayerfully consider becoming a part of their activities.

Programs Committee: This committee coordinates the undertakings of all outreach programs and makes recommendations to the Board of Directors.

Finance Committee: This committee oversees management of the funds of the organization and proposes the budgets to the Board and the Membership.

Facilities Committee: This committee reports to the Board of Directors any issues regarding the facilities, grounds and property of the organization and its subsidiary.

Nominating Committee: This committee provides nominees from the Membership to fill positions on the Board of Directors.

Communications Committee: This committee maintains communications with the community, utilizing all forms of media (newspaper, radio/television and internet).

Sunshine Committee: This committee is responsible for sending expressions of love and concern to members and their immediate families for occasions of joy, hospitalizations, illnesses or deaths.

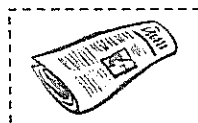
Chaplain: This person is responsible for providing devotional messages for the Membership meetings and for arranging the program for the annual worship service.

We can use interested persons in all of these areas, but the Communications Committee is especially in need of persons with public relations and/or website experience.

If you would like to volunteer for or learn any more about any of these committees, please contact Bill Easter (telephone 467-9989, email [weaster@ieee.org](mailto:weaster@ieee.org)). "You'll be glad you did!"

## NEEDED IMMEDIATELY! NEWSLETTER EDITOR FOR DORCAS MINISTRIES

If you have had experience with newsletter preparation, please consider using your valuable skills to serve Dorcas Ministries in the volunteer position of Newsletter editor. If you are interested, please contact Bill Easter (467-9989). The editor gathers information and reports from staff and from volunteers and prepares it for copying and mailing. Assistance with formatting will be available from a volunteer, and current editor Elizabeth Broome will help you get started. Volunteers are also available to assist with the preparation for mailing.



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: ARE YOU WEAK AND HEAVY LADEN?

Quick now—what old, beloved hymn is this question from? (The answer appears at the end of this article.)

There are times when we feel this way. We have so many burdens and distractions that we just don't feel up to the tasks ahead. Maybe you feel this way about our acquiring the Cary Plaza Shopping Center, obligating ourselves to a big debt and making the move to this new facility.

Well, you're not the first to shiver over increased, and sometimes daunting, responsibilities. A fellow named Nehemiah found himself in that position more than 2000 years ago. His nation, the Israelites, had been conquered; their capital city, Jerusalem, leveled; and their people exiled to a strange and faraway land. But after many years of captivity, a benign ruler finally released them to return home, or to whatever was left of it. Nehemiah dedicated himself to the seemingly impossible task of rebuilding the city walls.

The story is retold by Dave Earley in a wonderful little book, *The 21 Most Effective Prayers of the Bible*, which I purchased in that very special bookshop that you all are familiar with. (Sorry, I purchased the only copy!)

Nehemiah was beset by trials on all sides, not just the logistics of the actual construction, but by taunts and intimidation by enemies outside the country's borders. According to the author, "Nehemiah turned his burdens for the broken-down walls into prayer." From Nehemiah 6:9 we read, "They were all trying to frighten us, thinking, 'Their hands will get too weak for the work, and it will not be completed.' But I prayed, '*Now strengthen my hands.*'"

A simple little prayer. one that we need to pray daily in the Dorcas community. We have believed from the outset that we were following the Lord's guidance in seeking to expand our ministry through acquisition of new facilities. We have not faltered in our belief. Our volunteer committee members and our staff have worked diligently to "rebuild the walls of Dorcas," and now we have a glimpse of the "promised land." Many of us will be heavily involved in seeking funding to pay for the facility and with the actual move. We must renew our strength.

And what about Nehemiah? We read in Nehemiah 6:15, "So the wall was completed on the twenty-fifth of Elul, in fifty-two days." Nehemiah's prayer was answered, and ours will be, too.

It was a miracle, but many hands had to chip in, haul the rocks, mix the mortar, and lay the stones. As stated so beautifully by Earley, "Sometimes God prefers to do the miracle *in us.*" So, every Dorcas volunteer's strengthened hands will be needed in our venture also.

Bill Easter

[Answer: What a Friend We Have in Jesus]

**Outreach Report**

January 1 - December 31, 2010

Crisis Ministry	\$208,136	4,907 neighbors served
Childcare Assistance	\$35,814	75 children assisted
Margaret Keller Assistance	\$16,913	16 adults assisted
Food Donations	\$83,942*	2,657 neighbors fed

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

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

**Dorcas Ministries  
Financial Highlights 2010**

<u>Outreach Spending</u>	
Crisis Ministry	\$ 208,716
Childcare Assistance	35,815
Margret Keller Assistance	16,913
Total Outreach	<u>\$ 261,444</u>
<u>Income</u>	
Dorcas Shop Net Income	\$ 226,311
Donations and Grants	67,414
Total Operational Income	<u>\$ 293,725</u>
<u>Other Info</u>	
Capital Campaign Net Receipts	\$ 117,374
Cary Plaza Expenses	
Debt Payments, Repairs, Relocation	198,888

**Dorcas Thrift Shop  
Donations**

The Dorcas Thrift Shop contributed approximately 400 children's books to The Cary Rotary Clubs' new literacy project. Cary Rotary Club members are directing the books to pre-school to third grade students who have no to few books in their homes.

A thank you from Jim Lovejoy, Cary Rotary Club Literacy Program chair: " I enjoyed ... seeing the operation at Dorcas Ministries. The books (Dorcas Ministries) gave me were delivered to Briarcliff Elementary School the next day. The Briarcliff resource teacher was ecstatic and will put them to good use with children who have little or no books at home Thanks so much for the great start to the Cary Rotary Club literacy project!"

**2010 Dorcas Thrift Shop Highlights**

Over 57,000 transactions with average customer spending of \$8 each transaction. The largest number of items purchased was 55,177 tops and pants for total amount of \$116,000.

Number of items	Amount
33,000 books	\$28,000
28,700 children/toys	\$37,000
4500 shoes	\$21,500
2851 jewelry	\$11,425

This is a partial list and is only an example of the items sold. All figures are approximate.

## NEWS FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

At its meeting held on January 6, 2011, the Board of Directors elected the following officers for the year:

**President: Bill Easter** has volunteered with Dorcas Ministries for about 9 years, primarily testing electrical items for resale. He is retired from NCSU where he taught electrical engineering and served in several administrative positions. For CCA, he was president in 2006-07, a member of the Personnel Committee, and the committee to search for a new location.

**Vice President: Elizabeth Broome** has volunteered with Dorcas Ministries for about 12 years in the Dorcas Thrift Shop and has previously served on the Board as recording secretary and treasurer. She also was on the committee to search for a new location. She is a retired educator.

**Treasurer: Sid Dalis** has volunteered with Dorcas Ministries for about 4 years in the Dorcas Thrift Shop. He is serving a second term as a Board member and as treasurer. He is retired from the National Institute of Health, Accounting System department.

**Secretary: Jill Straight** has volunteered with Dorcas Ministries Crisis Ministries for about 3 years and has served on the CCA Board of Directors since 2009. Previously she was an adult education program director and teacher trainer and has been involved with several nonprofit organizations.

Normally, the officers are elected at the December meeting of the Board, but that meeting had to be cancelled because of snow. Future Board meetings will be held on the 3rd Thursday of each month (except for July) at 1:30 p.m. at Cary Presbyterian Church. Once the move to Cary Plaza is completed, the meetings will be held in the new location.

Two new members were welcomed to the Board: Elizabeth Nelson and Nancy Ryan.

The "Sneak Peek" at the new facilities on High House Road was a success with over 100 Dorcas Ministries members in attendance on two Saturdays in January. The information session included a history of the many Dorcas Thrift Shop moves and was followed by a detailed introduction to the new space.



### THINKING OF OTHERS

Please remember to check the "Concerns" list on the bulletin board in the kitchen to keep updated on the people who need to be remembered in our prayers.

IN MEMORY  
HELEN S. FOSTER  
Died January 3, 2011

Helen volunteered for many years with the Dorcas Thrift Shop. Her hard work and her quiet sense of humor was enjoyed and appreciated by the Wednesday volunteers.



IN MEMORY  
AGNES C. BUTLER  
Died December 19, 2010

Agnes enjoyed her volunteer work in the Dorcas Thrift Shop for several years. She was a member of Christ the King Lutheran Church.

## RECYCLING HEROES

Time once again to spread the praise around to the recyclers of Dorcas Ministries:

Yay! Howard Zahn mines the metal mountain downstairs and hauls it to buyers.

Yay! Intake Team Jason contributes mightily to the metal pile--uncrushed items are especially appreciated because they're safer and easier to break down.

Yay! People stuff cardboard and paper in our cardboard bags hanging in "Pricing" and "Seasonal." Please save the corrugated cartons for the cashiers.

Yay! Faithful kitchen recyclers contribute cans, bottles, chip board. Sad to say, Cary does NOT accept Styrofoam, clear clam shell food containers or unwashed cans.

Yay! Soda drinkers drop bottle caps in Gary's bucket on the refrigerator (ask him about that).

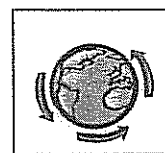
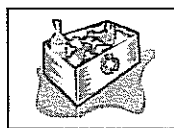
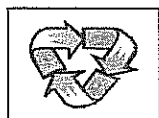
Yay! Consigner Audry Mansden buys wire hangers; "Street Ice" buys used candles and wax; Hal at "Play It Again Sports" buys sports equipment (duh); Birthchoice accepts strollers; and CAP's accepts our unwanted bikes.

Add to these the buyers of "Book Mountain" downstairs, as well as "Textile Avalanche" at intake!

Yay! as well to all the people who slip beneath my radar--we do good works!!!

Yay! For Recycle Coordinator, Helene Stalker!

F.Y.I.: Yes, items with recycling numbers are recyclable, but Cary doesn't accept all of them. Please see the list on the kitchen mirror.



## Thank You!

### Notes to Dorcas Ministries

From a Crisis Ministries recipient: *"Your kindness and generosity are a true blessing. Thank you so very, very much for your assistance. May God bless you all. Xxx"*

The Childcare Assistance committee, partnering with Cary Presbyterian Preschool and two children's parents, assisted the family so the children can continue their preschool education. By phone, the mom joyfully gave several "thank you's" to everyone at Dorcas Ministries for this gift.

Dorcas Ministries  
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 VOLUME 11, ISSUE 1

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**"HELP WHEN IT COUNTS"**  
 Serving the residents of Cary and Morrisville

**MISSION STATEMENT:** Christian Community in Action's 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	<a href="mailto:hmanning@dorcas-cary.org">hmanning@dorcas-cary.org</a>
Dorcas Thrift Shop Manager: Harold Elixson, Jr.	<a href="mailto:helixson@dorcas-cary.org">helixson@dorcas-cary.org</a>
Crisis Ministry Manager: Jill Wissing	<a href="mailto:jwissing@dorcas-cary.org">jwissing@dorcas-cary.org</a>
Financial Analyst, Alger Faber	<a href="mailto:afaber@dorcas-cary.org">afaber@dorcas-cary.org</a>
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