



DORCAS MINISTRIES
CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY IN ACTION, INC.
NEWSLETTER

March /April 2011
Volume 11, Issue 2

The Dorcas Thrift Shop
Dorcas Ministries Outreach



**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: What Have Spring
Flowers Got to Do With Anything?**

Have you ever seen anything to rival the beauty of the white tree blossoms that have burst forth this year? From the Bradford pears, which look like enormous "popcorn balls," to the dazzlingly white flowering cherries glowing in the sunlight, they surround us as we drive around the streets of Cary. It is as if God is shouting, "Wake up from the doldrums of the cold, dreary winter! Spring is here!" We are reminded of the words of the psalmist: "Great are the works of the LORD; they are pondered by all who delight in them. Glorious and majestic are his deeds, and his righteousness endures forever" [Psalm 113:2,3].

When we consider the pace of our efforts to relocate Dorcas Ministries to a marvelous new facility, we might feel that we are still in the throes of wintertime. We've had the Cary Plaza for more than two years now, "Why is it taking so long?" Well, first of all, Food Lion held the lease on the particular space that we need until the end of 2010, making it impossible for us to move forward, even to plan for renovations, until this year. Then, there's the matter of hiring an architect to develop plans for the upfit, to perform the design and to solicit bids from contractors for the work to be done. And, not to be underestimated, obtaining the appropriate approvals from the Town of

Cary to begin work once a contractor is awarded the job.

As many of you have seen in our recent "sneak peaks," the space is now ours, and the architect has completed the plans. Now you see it coming-- the initial bids for the job far exceeded our estimate for the work. Didn't you think there was a recession and that firms would be falling all over themselves to convince us to award the contract to them? We've extended the bid period, and we have additional contractors, we hope, to encourage competition.

We may feel so frustrated that we are almost moved to tears. But are we not convinced that what we are doing is God's will? Then, we look to the happy conclusion that is to come. We again turn to the Psalms: "The LORD has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy. Restore our fortunes, O LORD, like streams in the Negev. Those who sow in tears will reap with songs of joy. He who goes out weeping, carrying seed to sow, will return with songs of joy, carrying sheaves with him" [Psalm 126:3-6].

So, keep your heads up, focus your gaze on the beauty of the emerging spring flowers, and trust in God to provide. You will not be disappointed.

Bill Easter



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

WHAT'S TAKING SO LONG?

By now I am almost sure that many of our volunteers, staff and board members have been asked; when are you moving? Why haven't you moved? Are you going to move? Mr. Joe Burdell, our long time Friday cashier has the canned answer: When they ask me when are you moving, I simply say next month for 30 days. Then when they ask after that 30 day period my answer is still the same, next month.

There is a new relocation timetable in this newsletter that is based on our latest conversation with the architect and recent staff meetings. This schedule is still a pretty aggressive one based on the work remaining to be done but we think we can accomplish our new goal.

Still the question to be answered is **“What’s taking so long?”** The simple answer is that we are making sure that we get the best value construction job for the dollars spent. Remember that Paul advised his readers that as Christians, we should conduct our business so that our practices are acceptable not only in the sight of God but also in the sight of man. Based on that Biblical principle we did not accept the first construction bid we were given. Will we get a cheaper bid for the work? Maybe so, maybe not. As a matter of fact we are not seeking just the cheapest bid but the bid with the best value for everyone involved. All of our funding comes either from Dorcas Thrift Shop sales or donations from individuals, foundations, churches, or other civic groups.

We are charged by God and our donors to be not just good, but the best stewards possible of the resources entrusted to us. Can we afford the up fit? The answer to that question is a resounding yes. We could have proceeded with the first bid, and may end up doing so, but we are focused on the quality of the outcome, not just the race to the finish line. Dorcas Ministries continues to be one of the strongest nonprofit organizations in North Carolina based on our fiscal health. We have known all along that the relocation would affect our cash flow, and have budgeted and planned accordingly.

We currently are evaluating or waiting on completed bids from 6 contractors. We are sure that once we review the bids we will be able to make a sound recommendation to our Board of Directors. We will be posting our new key events and relocation schedule in the store in the very near future. Please use the new targets in this newsletter as a guide when talking to the public in regards to our revised dates.

“For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it?” Luke 14:28. Sometimes the counting may take a little longer than planned, but is the most essential part of the project. We are all very anxious to get to our new location. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

Howard Manning, Executive Director

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Executive Director, Howard Manning, wrote late last year about the “quiet years” of Old Testament life. The 400 years when the Israelites didn’t know if God was listening. It’s good we believe that He’s always listening.

Yes, the Capital Campaign experienced it’s “quiet” time, too, as we prepared, identified and asked community and business leaders to join us on the Advisory Board, and prepared documents and statistics to help tell our story. There have been presentations in small groups and training of the people who have stepped up and said “Yes” to help us raise the \$3 million needed to pay down the Cary Plaza mortgage. We’ve written and prepared proposals for Wake County Government Public Agency Funding and the Town of Cary’s General Funding and Community Development Block Grants. Raising the money to achieve this goal is important to all of us because no debt means most of our revenue from The Dorcas Shop can be directed to the needs of people and families in crisis.

Also as we emerge from this “quiet time,” there are community activities to help our cause – Genesis United Methodist Church hosted a concert, the Cary Area Ministerial Association (CAMA) is discovering new and effective ways to work with Dorcas to serve the crisis needs of our neighbors and fill Dorcas needs for special services in this transition period.

And now we’re ready to focus on telling our story boldly – to friend-raise and fund raise. Did you know that in the last five years you’ve been God’s hands and feet serving over 37,000 people?

Did you know that during that same time period we have assisted individuals and families with over \$1.9 million in assistance?

Did you know that we need to tell our story to everyone in ear shot? We had a pastor tell us recently when we named one of our volunteers who attends his church that he “didn’t know they volunteered at Dorcas Ministries. “True, it’s good not to boast,” yet when we share what we do as a



volunteer, it engages others and puts our cause on their radar.

So while the Advisory Committee does its work, we also need our members and friends telling the story of Dorcas Ministries to everyone. You don’t have to give a 20 page presentation, just share your heart stories of fellowship, caring, and giving.

I have a friend who has the gift of hospitality (among many others). She always says that her husband had the “gift of the purse.” Perhaps you know people like that and would introduce us. We welcome all contributions large and small. This campaign is a “team effort.”

Perhaps you’ve seen the new Capital Campaign gauge hanging in the front of the store. Your gifts have given us a good start – we’re over 10% on our way.

When we did the math, we discovered we need to raise \$83,000 a month to reach our goal of \$3 million by December 2013. Does it sound impossible? No. Those of us focused on the friend-raising and fund-raising believe it is doable, even in this economy. Faith – knowing that with God all things are possible – will see us through. We are grateful for your prayers, friend and fund-raising ideas, energy, personal gifts of time, talent and treasure and most of all we give thanks for your desire to serve others. Thank you.

Deirdre Jersey, Campaign Coordinator

RELOCATION TIMELINE UPDATE

Progress is being made on the relocation of Dorcas Ministries to the Cary Plaza. Dorcas Ministries has closed all the bids from the interested contractors on March 05, 2011. Construction bids from the six contractors will be in by March 28, 2011. Information including cost analysis will be presented to the Board of Directors during the next meeting on April 21, 2011. Contract for upfit the Dorcas facility at the Cary Plaza will be awarded by April 28, 2011.

Nancy McNitt



FROM DORCAS SHOP MANAGER

The Dorcas Thrift Shop is fortunate to have many volunteers who have special interests and skills. One area of sales that uses these skills is the Vintage Section. The Vintage Committee of volunteers works on Tuesdays and makes decisions about the items that have been collecting on a designated shelf. Many volunteers every day are familiar with items of quality and will place them on the shelf.

Appropriateness of items is based primarily on age and on quality. Anything over 50 years old is collectible; over 100 years old is antique. Generally the vintage items are priced higher because of age and value. Reference books are used but the volunteers mostly use their own experience in shopping vintage and antique items.

The Dorcas Shop often benefits from some of our customers. One customer, David Godfrey, takes the rarer or collectible vintage items to auction in Hillsborough. This way Dorcas Shop gets top dollar and exposure to a wider audience. As a general rule, eBay is not used to sell vintage items due to issues related to shipping.

All volunteers every day can help the Vintage Committee use their special skills by saving items for their review.



Harold Elixson, Dorcas Shop Manager

2011 Holiday Schedule for Dorcas Shop

April 22	Good Friday (Friday)	Closed
May 30	Memorial Day (Monday)	Closed
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

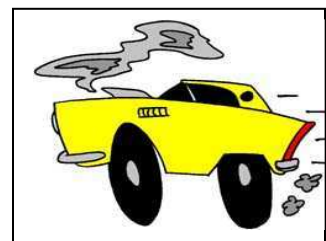
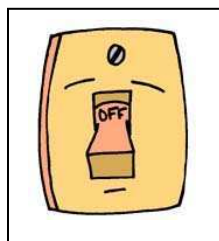
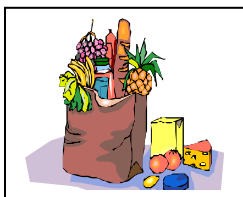


FROM THE CRISIS MINISTRY MANAGER

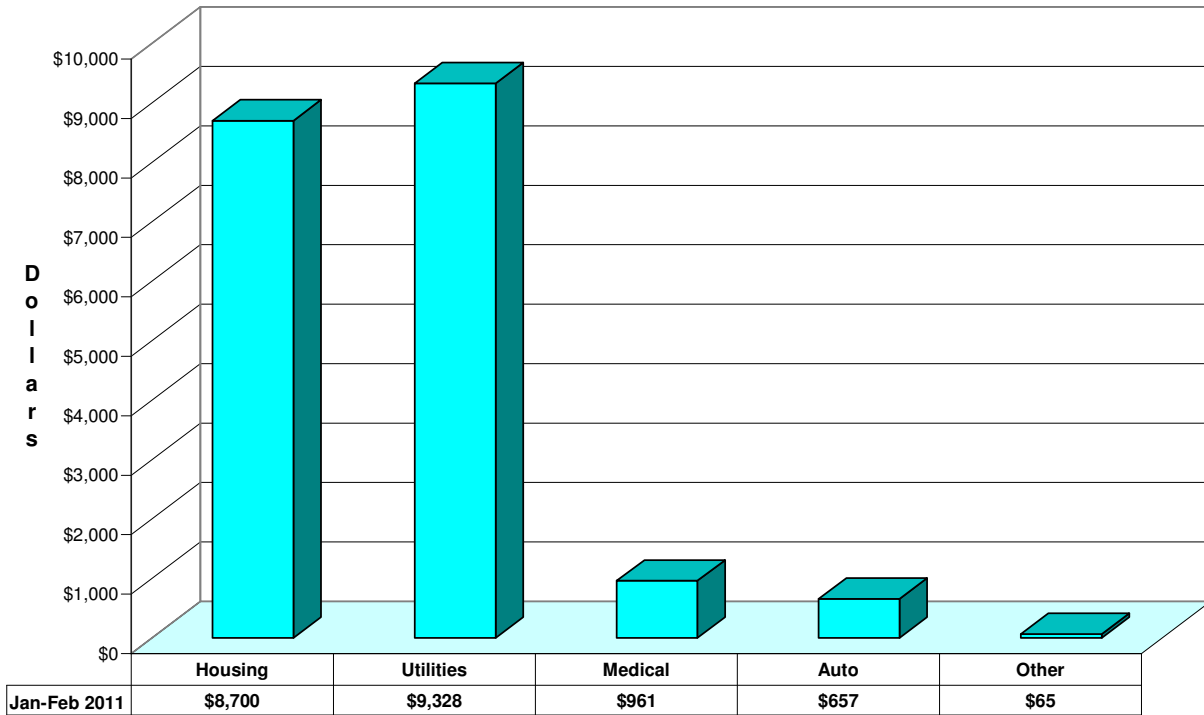
**February 2011
CRISIS MINISTRY FINANCIAL REPORT**

<u>CRISIS MINISTRY ASSISTANCE</u>	<u>FAMILIES</u>	<u>EXPENDITURE</u>
Electricity Assistance	25	3318.87
Rent Assistance	18	3000.00
Natural Gas Assistance	5	728.49
Car Payments	1	200.00
Water Assistance	8	712.79
Medical Bills/Medicine	1	190.99
Total Expenditures (cash)		8151.14
Food Assistance (159 people)	68	6589.00
Total Expenditures (noncash: food \$/lb.)		6589.00

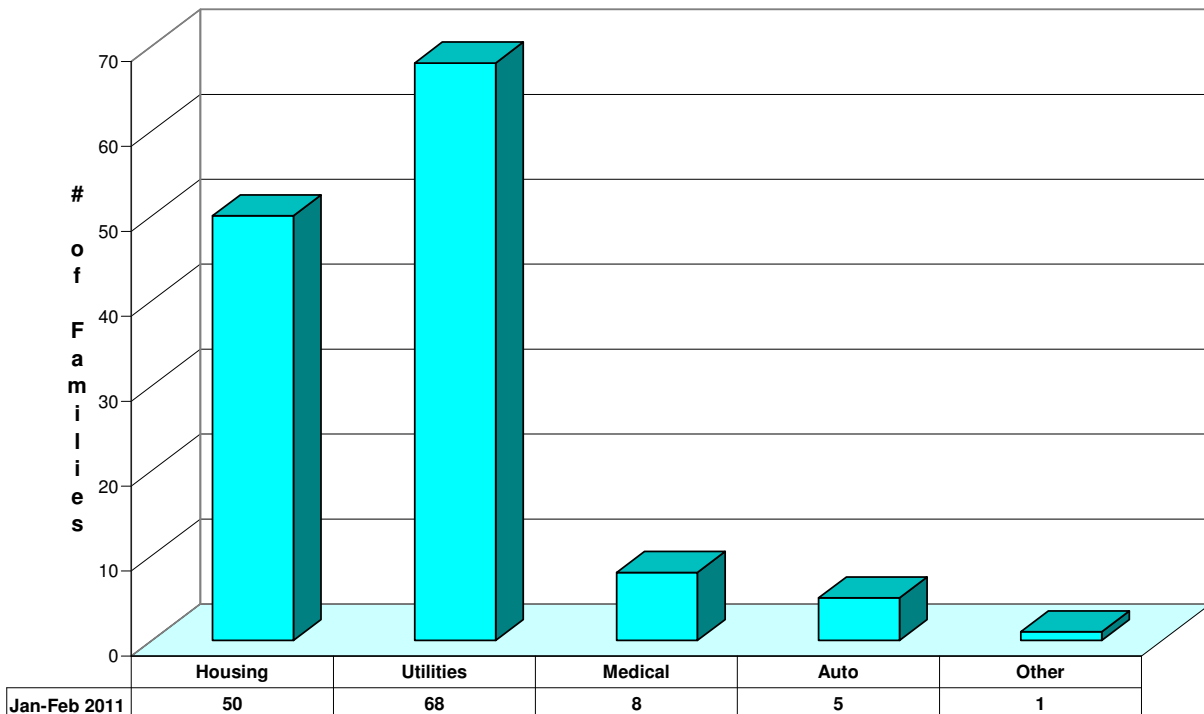
Total Adults Served: 158
 Total Children Served: 126
 Total People Served: 284
 Total Families Served: 122



Crisis Ministry Financial Report During Jan - Feb 2011



of Families Assisted by Crisis Ministry



Jill Wissing, Crisis Ministry Manager

OUTREACH MINISTRIES REPORT

January 1, 2011 - February 28, 2011

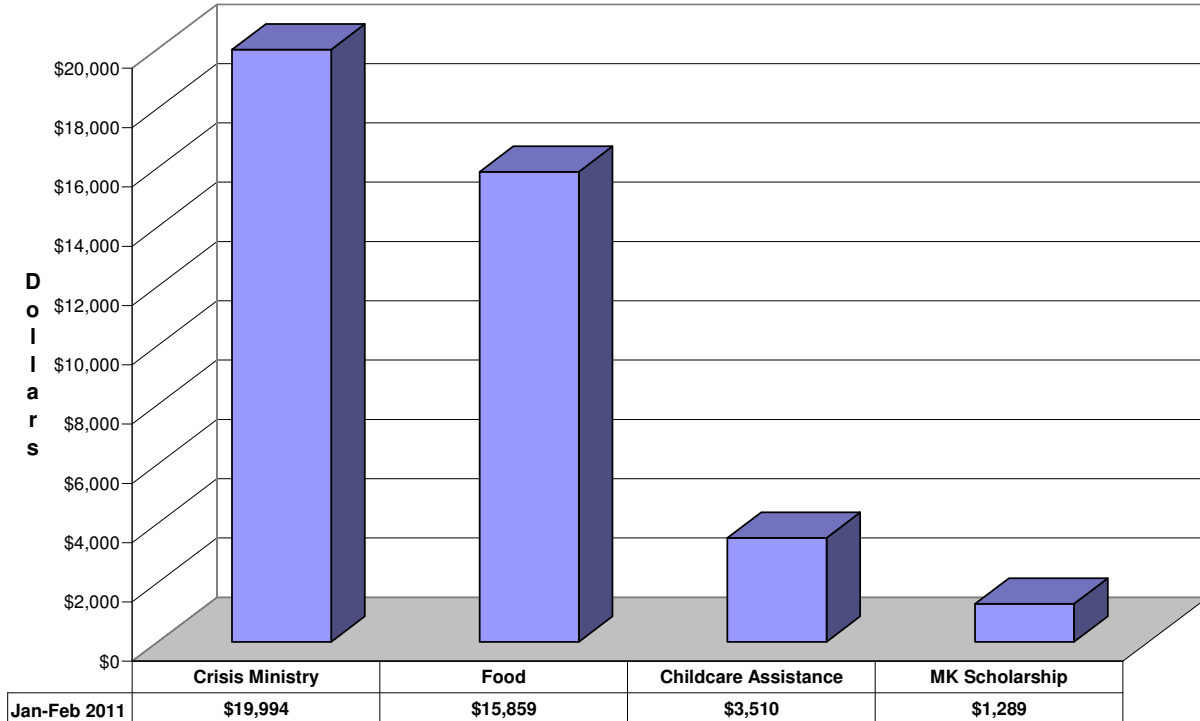
Crisis Ministry	\$19,994	704 neighbors served
Childcare Assistance	\$3510	24 children assisted
Margaret Keller Assistance	\$1289	3 adults assisted
Food Donations	\$15,859*	425 neighbors fed

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

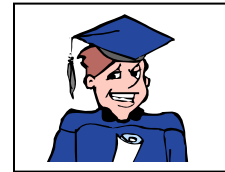
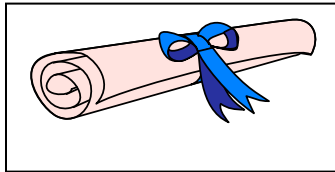
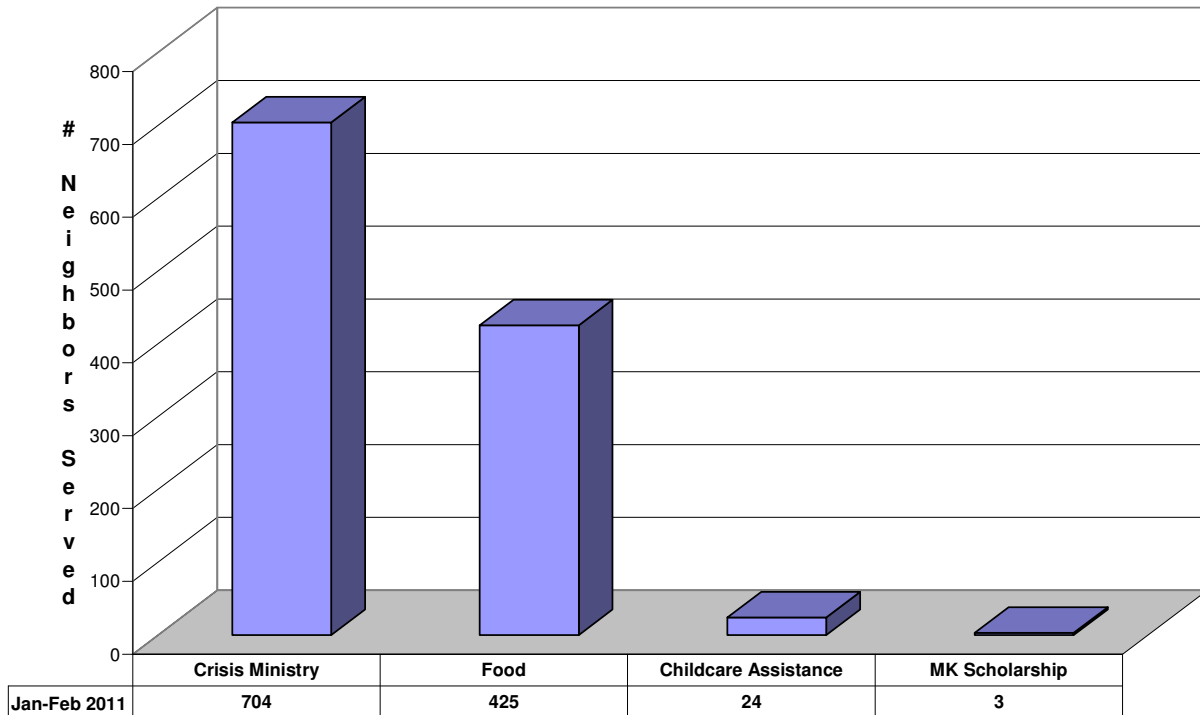
Dorcas Thrift Shop inventory donations sometimes go to others; listings in manager's report.

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

Outreach Ministries Financial Report during Jan - Feb 2011



Neighbors Served by Dorcas Outreach Ministries



MARGARET KELLER ADULT SCHOLARSHIP

Sixteen local adults, in 2010, achieved their education goals with Dorcas Ministries financial assistance. Pat Johnson reports a mom who had help with buying her books received "beautiful grades". Another woman, 50 years young, received assistance to attend truck driving school. As a follow-up after she graduated, the woman told Pat on the phone that she was answering our call on the job, driving a truck, in Texas. Another participant, a man, completed his CNA nursing degree and is now working.

Read more about the Margaret Keller scholarship, including rules for applying, on-line at <http://dorcascary.org>. You can help this outreach succeed: *encourage applicants*. Consider volunteering with Sandy Umstead and Pat Johnson as a committee member to occasionally interview applicants. Please speak to Bill Easter, Tuesdays, or Howard Manning about volunteering.

Nancy McNitt



DORCAS MINISTRIES FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

	2011 Budget	Jan. – Feb. 2011	Jan. – Feb. 2010
Benevolence	\$19,316	\$ 24,914	\$ 37,722
Dorcias Shop Net Sales	\$85,274	\$ 83,479	\$ 76,651
Donations, Grants and Interest	\$2800	\$ 4,255	\$ 5,242
Operating Expense	\$47,238	\$ 43,281	\$ 44,254
Capital Campaign Receipts	\$10,011	\$ 3,725	\$ 4,631
Cary Plaza Expenses Debt Payments, Repairs, Relocation	\$129,159	\$ 27,040	\$ 0

Alger Faber, Financial Analyst

TOO MUCH OF A GOOD THING!!

Dorcias Thrift Shop often gets donations that are not ready for sale for some reason and some that can't be sold. With some work many of these items can be sold and bring needed dollars to our income. Please see if you can help with any of the following activities in the recycling effort. The estimated time per week can be less if several people work on the same task.

Kitchenware Scrubbers--Some people donate dirty kitchenware in great shape--go figure! (30-60 minutes per week)

Baby ware Checkers--Most donated baby equipment is NOT on recall but not sell-able unless cleared by phone or Internet searches. Companies provide "800" or "888" numbers for Customer Service which I will be happy to provide. (30-60 minutes per week)

Wire Hanger Boxers--Consignors buy our wire hangers for one dollar a box. Hangers are stored under the conveyor belt until pick up. (30 minutes per week)

Used Candle Boxers--Send me your tired, your ugly, your used up candles and crayons. "Street Ice" Miles will trade dollars for wax, but Jason needs someone to unload his upstairs stash and store it in boxes under the conveyor belt until pick up. (15-30 minutes per week)

AND OF COURSE:

People Who Like to Get Their Gloves Dirty--We mine copper, brass, steel, aluminum and "other" from nick knacks, appliances, furniture, you name it. Love of tools is a must, but the hours are flexible and the company fine. This job can be done on site or in the comfort of your home. (30-600 minutes per week)

Note: Helene Stalker (467-4808) accepts any and all help. Call now, you *know* you want to.

Helene Stalker

DORCAS NEWSLETTER HISTORY

Effective March 2011, Elizabeth Broome has resigned her position as editor of The Dorcas Newsletter. Elizabeth has served as editor of the “CCA Newsletter”, now the “Dorcas Ministries Newsletter”, since 2004. We are grateful to Elizabeth and all of the former editors for their diligent efforts over the years to keep us informed and updated on what’s going on in the Dorcas community.

In 2000 the Board of Directors made a decision to provide information to the members by sending a newsletter instead of holding monthly meetings. Polly Jenkins, president of CCA wrote the “CCA INFOsheet” during that year. The reports from the Dorcas Thrift Shop, The Crisis Ministry, and the committees were included in the news sheet. Cynthia LaChapelle served as the editor of the CCA Newsletter in 2002 and Carol Regular became the editor in 2003 and served until Elizabeth’s tenure started in 2004.

Many people are involved in this communication of news. The staff provides information and articles, and volunteers write articles, gather thank you notes from our neighbors, and provide other interesting information. “These contributions must continue to make the newsletter possible.” Elizabeth wants everyone to know that the newsletter is the result of the efforts of many persons and never has been a one

person performance. “Stories about how we have helped our clients have been the most effective part of the newsletter and inform everyone of the major reason for our existence. Every effort is made through the newsletter to keep the volunteers and community informed about the work and needs of Dorcas Ministries.”

Many people, staff and volunteers, are involved in the copying, folding, sealing and attaching address labels to the newsletters. These tasks may seem minor, but Elizabeth wants us to remain aware of the importance of such small tasks. After all, a newsletter that doesn’t get mailed is of no use to anyone.

As we move onward and upward, to borrow a phrase from our President, “continuing to improve the newsletter format so that it is appealing and effective to all audiences is number one priority,” said Elizabeth. “We must continue to recognize the efforts of those who contribute material for the newsletter as well as those who prepare the newsletter for distribution.”

Here’s thanking Elizabeth for serving as newsletter editor for the last 7 years as well as her predecessors. We are indebted to you for showing us the way and spreading the news for Dorcas for all of the previous years.

Howard Manning

DORCAS MINISTRIES OPEN HOUSE

Reengaging conversation between Dorcas Ministries and local African American Christian churches centered a March 19 open house. Dorcas staff and volunteers along with invited local African American Christian church pastors and members gathered in the morning. They engaged in meaningful dialog focused on refreshing mutual outreach ministry.

Rev. Cynthia Kelly, as part of her Drew University doctoral work, organized the Open House. Numerous other Dorcas Ministries volunteers helped. Rev. Kelly and the advisory group met March 22 to assess the successful event. The team focused on ways to continue the refreshed conversation between the two groups.

Nancy McNitt

VISIT DORCAS MINISTRIES BOOTH APRIL 30, 2011

Support Dorcas Ministries at the Spring Daze Festival , Bond Park 9 AM-5PM, Saturday April 30. Many volunteers, organized by Jill Straight, are busy planning a colorful festival food booth that will sell \$1 cupcakes with strawberry butter cream frosting . Dorcas volunteers, wearing new Dorcas aprons made by Nancy Ryan, will hand out coupons to use at the Dorcas Shop after we move. Staff members worked with committee members on many of the booth details. All profits will go to the Capital Campaign.

Nancy McNitt



DONATIONS IN 2010



Churches

Abundant Life United Methodist Church	Cary First Christian Church
Cary Presbyterian Church	Christ The King Lutheran Church
Church of The Latter Day Saints	Ephesus Baptist Church
First Reformed Church of Cary	First United Methodist Church
Good Shepherd United Church of Christ	Greenwood Forest Baptist Church
Hope Chapel Foursquare Church	Kirk of Kildaire Presbyterian Church
Northwest Community Church of Cary	Resurrection Lutheran Church
St. Francis United Methodist Church	St. Michael The Archangel Catholic Church
Summit Evangelical Covenant	The Fountain of Raleigh Fellowship
Union Bethel AME Church	Westwood Baptist Church
White Plains United Methodist Church	

Businesses and Organizations

The Adcock Agency, Inc.	Blue Fin Enterprises, LLC (Woodland Terrace)
Business-to-Business	Cary Area Assoc. of Early Childhood Professionals
Cary Garden Club	Cary Newcomers Club
Cary Oil Foundation, Inc.	Cary R&D Enterprises Inc.
Children’s Hospitals and Clinics	Food Lion
Garden Supply Company	Livingood Family Chiropractic
Town of Cary	United Way of The Great Triangle
Veterans of Foreign Wars – Post 7383	XYZ Club of Cary



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 VOLUME 11, ISSUE 2

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	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
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