

# The Thread

Newsletter Of Dorcas Ministries



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## GOODNESS IS BEING MEASURED BACK

**“Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over, will be given to you. For with the same measure you measure, it will be measured back to you.”**

**- Luke 6:38**



**T**hese are borrowed types of sayings. Taken from those who used to measure dry things, as corn and such, who do it in a rather forceful manner, thrust it down shake it together, press it, and put it into a pile. “Dry things” being measured, shaken together, and pressed into a pile sound familiar? If you have never had an experience working with dry things, stop by our sorting and processing area for donated items at Dorcas Ministries. I am not sure that Jesus had Dorcas Ministries in mind when he did this teaching, but

His words are sure applicable to the volume of donations Dorcas is receiving. For almost 50 years, Dorcas has been giving to the community by providing help when it counts to those in need. We are not surprised that goodness is now being measured back to Dorcas.

Since our relocation and opening at High House Road in 2011, we have been blessed with generous improvements in the quality and quantity of donations. In order to remain good stewards of the many blessings we are receiving, Dorcas is exploring methods beyond our current processes for receiving and processing donations more efficiently. We thank our volunteers for going above and beyond the call of duty to address the increased volume and everyone for their patience and advice as we address this wonderful opportunity that been measured back to Dorcas.

*- Howard Manning, Executive Director*

# STITCHING TOGETHER A COMMUNITY: 50 YEARS OF SERVICE

Where has the year gone? It is almost July and half of 2017 is behind us. If the rest of this year follows the same pattern, in no time it will be 2018 and we will be marking our 50th year of Dorcas Ministries' service to our neighbors in need. This is a big milestone and planning is underway to commemorate our 50th anniversary. As we finalize plans, we will let you know details, but there is a way right now for you to help in our planning by connecting us with quilters in our community.

## *Why quilters?*

We will be celebrating our 50th anniversary and the central theme will be, "**STITCHING TOGETHER A COMMUNITY: 50 years of Service.**" As a part of this, we will be enrolling area quilters to create 50 quilts that tell the story of our past and present. These quilts will be displayed in area businesses throughout 2018 telling our story, and then be auctioned off at our 50th Anniversary Celebration Event in November 2018. Getting 50 quilts completed in one year is no easy task, and we will need help from many of our neighbors to get the job done.

Please take time to read the flyer on the next page of this month's newsletter with details about volunteering to sew a quilt, and please pass the word to friends and family who might be able to help us.

Let me close by saying how blessed I am to be a volunteer for Dorcas Ministries. Six years ago, I didn't find Dorcas Ministries as much as Dorcas Ministries found me through God's good grace and plan for me. To think that this has been happening for 50 years, stitching people and community to achieve God's will, is indeed glorious and great.

God Bless You!

*- Bob Stapleton,  
Board of Directors President*

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## FOOD PANTRY NEEDS



SPAGHETTI

CAN FRUIT

BEEF STEW

CHILI

CAN HAM

PAPER TOWELS

BAKING MIXES

BAR SOAP

TOOTHPASTE

SIZE 5/6 DIAPERS



STITCHING TOGETHER A COMMUNITY

*50 years of service*

**Calling All Quilters – Dorcas Ministries Needs You!**

*We are looking for 50 Volunteer Quilters to be a part of our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*

Dorcas Ministries will celebrate its **50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2018** and the central theme of our anniversary is **STITCHING TOGETHER A COMMUNITY - 50 years of service**. Dorcas is named after a woman from the Bible who made garments for the poor and became notable for her charitable work. Today, Dorcas Ministries provides crisis relief to western Wake County residents who seek stability and sufficiency through food and financial aid, scholarships, training programs, referrals, and an affordable thrift shop.

As a part of our celebration, we are looking for 50 volunteer quilters (either individuals or quilting bees), to knit a quilt inspired by our 50 years of service to the community. We are asking quilters to donate their quilts to Dorcas. They will then showcase them in local area business throughout 2018, and then auctioned off at our commemorative event in November 2018. The funds raised will go directly to support our outreach services.

If you are interested in volunteering to make a quilt, please contact Ellen Frazier at [efrazier@dorcas-cary.org](mailto:efrazier@dorcas-cary.org).

To support our effort, Dorcas Ministries will:

- Provide sketches, pictures, and themes to assist in the creation of their quilts.
- Assist in the cost of quilting supplies if a volunteer quilter is unable to afford the quilting materials.

**Partner with Cary Quilting Company:** <https://www.caryquilting.com/> who has graciously agreed to extend a discount on supplies used to make the Dorcas quilts. They are located at their new location at 935 N Harrison Ave in Cary.

- Acknowledged quilters for their gift of time and talent at our commemorative event.

**Thank you for considering being a Dorcas Quilter Volunteer to celebrate our 50<sup>th</sup> year!**

If you are interested in volunteering to make a quilt, please contact Ellen Frazier at [efrazier@dorcas-cary.org](mailto:efrazier@dorcas-cary.org)

# A LIFE TOUCHED

**F**rank came in to the Dorcas Outreach Office on referral from a Cary Oxford House. Oxford House is a group home for people in drug and alcohol recovery. Frank had only been out of detox for two weeks when he came in for help. Asking for help was a new experience for Frank, who had never done any drugs in the first forty years of his life. He didn't even drink alcohol. Then a close friend introduced him to heroin at age 42.

Frank became addicted from the first hit and his life spiraled out of control. He lost a professional job, had his driver's license suspended and ultimately landed in jail when a judge gave him the option of treatment or jail time.

Today, Frank is clean and trying to put his life back together. Dorcas gave him bus passes so that he can get around town to find a job, paid his rent, gave him food for the next three months, a clothing voucher to the thrift shop—all the resources he needed to be stable for the time being, until he can get back on his feet.

A shy man, Frank broke down and cried with appreciation for all he received. The counselor assured him that he'd share his appreciation with all those donors and volunteers who make the generous funds available for our neighbors in need.

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## UNC MOBILE CLINIC

*Struggling with diabetes?*

*High blood pressure?*

*Obesity?*

Staffed by nursing professors and students from UNC School of Nursing, the Mobile Clinic comes to Dorcas give you important tips on managing your chronic disease. Visitors to the clinic have high praise for the time and



attention the nurses offer. One clinic patient raved, "I check my weight every time I visit the clinic and I've been losing some!" Other patients stop by for blood pressure checks and still others get advice on diabetes-friendly food preparation.

Starting in July, the clinic van will be available outside the Dorcas Thrift Shop on Tuesday afternoons. Come on by and check it out! It's free!

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## VOLUNTEER!

**D**orcas Ministries is always looking for volunteers! We need people to fill all kinds of volunteer roles, especially cashiers, sorters, pricers, and runners. If you are interested in learning more about how you can give back to our community, contact: Ellen Frazier at [efrazier@dorcascary.org](mailto:efrazier@dorcascary.org) or 919-469-9861, ext. 101.

**CUSTOMER  
APPRECIATION:  
JUNE 15TH ONLY**

JOIN US IN CELEBRATING 49 YEARS  
OF DORCAS MINISTRIES



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## RED CARPET TOURS



Happy chatter greets you as you walk through the pricing area of the Dorcas Ministries' Thrift Shop. Women and men and youth talk, laugh and joke with each other as they price items that will soon be placed on the shelves of the store. One gets a sense of community and friendship. This is one of the typical scenes in store for you when you go behind the scenes on a tour of Dorcas Ministries.

"People typically leave really appreciating the work of our volunteers, donors and staff for struggling people in our community," said Howard Manning, Executive Director. "There is so much to see here and most people don't really know what we do or how we do it. A lot of people who shop in the store or drop off

donations in the back don't even know that most of the proceeds from our sales go to helping people with things like rent, utilities, childcare and other essentials. We couldn't do it as efficiently as we do without our volunteers. They are critical to our operation."

These tours, called *Red Carpet* tours, take visitors throughout the thrift store, the processing area and also includes a visit to an area that serves our clients in need and includes our food pantry. "Most people never visit a food pantry unless they need help. Our food pantry has become a model that other organizations are trying to emulate," said Jill Straight, Outreach Director at Dorcas Ministries. "Our set up and process for receiving and giving out food has made us one of the busiest and most respected food pantries in North Carolina. We are gearing up for a busy summer!"

# HIRE YOURSELF!



**H**ave you ever thought of starting your own business? Or maybe just picking up a side gig? Wake Tech's "Hire Yourself: Create Your Own Career" class at Dorcas can give you some pointers and get you on a path to independent work. Taught by Maxine Terry, a seasoned instructor in the Human Resource Development department at Wake Tech, this class is a great opportunity to explore opportunities to be your own boss.

The class will be held in the Dorcas Training Center on July 17-20 from 10 AM – 1 PM. Space is limited! Call to register: 919-469-9861, ext. 203 or email: [outreach@dorcas-cary.org](mailto:outreach@dorcas-cary.org).



## Want to make a difference in someone else's life? Consider becoming a CHAMPION!

We are looking for career coaching mentors, whom we call champions, to partner with students to help them prepare for meaningful employment.

Classes meet Tuesday and Thursday from 6PM to 8PM from September 19<sup>th</sup> to November 16<sup>th</sup>.

Ready to be a champion? Or just learn more? Call Jill on 919-984-333-0058 for details.



*Spring 2017 Graduates and Champions of Jobs for Life*

# GROUP VOLUNTEERS!

**A**re you a part of a group that is interested in volunteering with us at Dorcas? We are happy to talk with you!

Group shifts are available Monday – Saturday during store hours and are no more than 3 hours. Groups can be anywhere from 10 – 15 people. We work with youth groups, Sunday school classes, small businesses – really any group of people interested in volunteering! Group participants must be at least 11 years old.

There is limited availability for groups each month. Please contact us if you are interested in setting up a date! Contact Ellen Frazier at [efrazier@dorcas-cary.org](mailto:efrazier@dorcas-cary.org) or 919.469.9861, ext. 101.

# DORCAS MINISTRIES

## 2017 THANKSGIVING BREAKFAST



*Photo by Brooke Meyer*

On Thursday, November 9, 2017 Dorcas Ministries' 2017 Thanksgiving Breakfast will be held at Prestonwood Country Club, 300 Prestonwood Parkway, Cary from 7:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. This fundraiser brings together almost 400 people each year to hear touching and dramatic testimonies of clients who have benefitted from the services of Dorcas Ministries.

The breakfast is free and is fueled by table captains who serve as host of a table, inviting nine other people to sit with them at their table. The highlight of the event is client testimonies. These testimonies remind people of the struggles that some face in our

community and the ways in which Dorcas Ministries serves our them. Last year Dorcas Ministries assisted almost **20,000** people with such things as rent, utilities, tuition, medical bills and prescriptions, child care, transportation, food, job readiness training and counseling – including providing clients the means to obtain mental health counseling.

Sponsorship of this event is available at various levels. For more information on becoming a sponsor or table captain of this event contact Rose Cornelious at 984-333-0059 or [rcornelious@dorcascary.org](mailto:rcornelious@dorcascary.org)

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## GRANT RESEARCH OPTION AT DORCAS MINISTRIES

Dorcas Ministries is host to a database that contains information on foundations that fund nonprofits, and many area nonprofits have benefitted. As the regional host of the **Foundation Center Grant Database**, Dorcas Ministries affords area nonprofits the use of this invaluable resource **at no cost**. According to Rose Cornelious, Director of Development at Dorcas Ministries, "This resource had been free at local libraries, but due to funding cuts it was discontinued. That meant that if you could not afford to pay the yearly subscription fee that is well over one thousand dollars per nonprofit, you had to go to a library out of our area to do grant research. That can be difficult for many of us who write grants, as we often wear a variety of other hats in the organizations in which we work."

The Foundation Center Grant database is considered one of the most useful tools for grant researchers, with information on over 90,000 foundations and the causes they typically fund. Grants can be an essential source of revenue for nonprofits, and given governmental cuts to social services, many nonprofits rely on grant money from foundations, companies and civic groups to keep their doors open.

Since last fall, when Dorcas Ministries began serving as host of this database, dozens of area nonprofits have used it for grant research, some coming as far away as Rocky Mount. If you are an area nonprofit that is interested in utilizing the Foundation Center database contact Rose Cornelious at 984-333-0059 or [rcornelious@dorcascary.org](mailto:rcornelious@dorcascary.org).

# FUNDRAISER AT CITY BARBECUE: SAVE THE DATE!

On Thursday, August 3<sup>rd</sup> **City Barbecue** will donate 25% of its proceeds to Dorcas Ministries when you eat there and present a **flyer**. All you have to do is go there anytime during that day and show them a flyer when you order your food and Dorcas Ministries will benefit.

“City Barbecue is graciously allowing us to do this at their Cary location, one of their busiest in the nation,” said Rose Cornelious, Development Director at Dorcas Ministries. “They are one of only a few restaurants that donate 25% for fundraisers, so we are very fortunate to partner with them on this.” City Barbecue is located at 1305 Kildaire Farm Road in Cary.

The flyer is below. It can also be obtained for this fundraiser at the Dorcas Ministries website ([www.dorcas-cary.org](http://www.dorcas-cary.org)) or at Dorcas Ministries Thrift Shop located at 187 High House Road in Cary closer to the event.

## Eat at City Barbeque and raise money for our group!

Please join us and help raise money  
25% of all proceeds go towards our group. All Day!

Sale Amt:

\$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Office use only

**Group: Dorcas Ministries**

**Date of Fundraiser: Thursday, Aug 3, 2017**

Participating Location:

**Cary City Barbeque  
1305 Kildaire Farm Road, Cary, NC 27511**

Good all day on Dine In & Carry Out Orders (919) 439-5191

Note: If ordering carry out for large groups, please use our Pig Up 'n Go Menu.

Flyer must be presented at time of order to receive credit for the sale.

Flyers cannot be passed out on City Barbeque property. Fundraiser cannot be combined with other promotions or offers. Not valid on gift card purchases.

Check out our NEW APP and even Order Online [www.citybbq.com](http://www.citybbq.com)

**City  
BARBEQUE**

We look forward to serving you to help raise money for your organization!