

The Thread

Newsletter Of Dorcas Ministries



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A GOLDEN JUBILEE

A golden jubilee is a celebration held to mark a 50th anniversary. Most **golden jubilees** celebrate the reign of a monarch, king, queen, emperor, prince or other ruling authority that is used to being honored and served by their constituents. Can you imagine a **golden jubilee** to celebrate someone or something that has been giving service instead of being served for 50 years? Well wait no longer, your opportunity has arrived this year, 2018, in Cary, NC.

For fifty years Dorcas Ministries, being guided by the words of Jesus from **Matthew 25: 31-40** has been quietly witnessing to our community with a ministry of service. Over the last 5 years Dorcas has served over 80,000 people and distributed \$4,000,000 of financial assistance and food by providing help when it counts. The measure of our service over 50 years has not been linear in number of people served or dollars spent but it is safe to say our ministry has had a profound impact on our community since 1968. The benefits have reached not only those directly receiving our services but maintained and enhanced the quality of life for all of us.

Jesus reminds us that even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." Our many units of service over the 50 years can no way compare with the service that Jesus gave. It is however reason for celebration as we look back over the good things that have been done and anticipate the greater things yet to come. I invite you to look out for announcements throughout the year as celebrate our 50th anniversary and come join us as we celebrate this **golden jubilee**.

During prayers for the Queen at the Abbey during the 50-year jubilee for Queen Victoria in 1887, a beam of sunlight fell upon her bowed head, which the future Queen Liliuokalani of Hawaii observing noted as a mark of divine favor. Please pray that God will continue to show us divine favor as provide help when it counts to our community.



*Howard Manning,
Executive Director*

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Letter from David Coulter



We started the New Year pretty cold but Dorcas continued to provide an incredible level of service to those in crisis and need. I am blessed to be part of this organization and proud to be your new Board President. Several years ago Jim Speight, who does a fantastic job receiving and organizing donations asked me to consider joining the Dorcas Board. It was a good opportunity for me having just retired as administrator of WakeMed Cary Hospital. After taking Rose Cornelious' "Red Carpet" tour, seeing the many services volunteers accomplished to support the thrift

shop and then learning of how many neighbors were assisted, I was hooked. Dorcas Ministries is truly a very special place.

My wife Susan and I moved to Cary in 1992, raising two children, now grown adults. She is a tennis player, rose gardener and speech pathologist who is the lead coordinator for Silver Spoons, a hospital based feeding program. Our daughter Margaret lives in Washington, DC and son Andrew is local, both have good jobs. My career has been in hospital and health management working both in the Rex and WakeMed healthcare systems. I currently serve on the Glenaire Board of Directors.

As Dorcas Ministries plans for an exciting 50th year celebration I wanted to share several focus points on which I plan on asking your Board and our CEO Howard to monitor and consider.

Glenn Blackley, Board Member and chairperson of the Facilities Committee has done a yeoman's job of designing a "Back of House" renovation project. He has gathered information from day managers and volunteers to design an improved work flow for the donations Dorcas receives. This "Back of House" redesign will improve efficiency and safety of volunteer operations. Many processes will be needed to be restructured to accomplish this renovation. It will be a challenging process but one which yield valuable results. We ask for your patience as this initiative gets underway.

A second focus point will be the updating of Dorcas' strategic plan. Howard and his staff will be working with the Board to review accomplishments and present new challenges for the next few years. We welcome your input. Our ministry is blessed to have strong community support and resources to assist our neighbors in a variety of ways. However, it would not be prudent to try and tackle every opportunity. The planning process will help us determine the best use of Dorcas' resources. Personally, I would like a major outcome to be the envisioning of services on the newly acquired property in front of Dorcas Plaza.

Here is one last focus area to consider. Dorcas is blessed to have over 450 men and women whose contributions make our operation such a success. You have developed friendships and social connections which are often quite meaningful. Perhaps it is time to consider adding a new ministry to our Christian Community in Action. More specifically should we develop programs and services to support the needs of our volunteers? This is an opportunity which I have asked Ellen Frazier, Volunteer Manager and Howard to help us carefully consider.

I look forward to serving Dorcas and you as your new President and am appreciative of the opportunity.

NOTE FROM THE OUTREACH DIRECTOR

Dear Friends:

I'm pleased to announce that effective January 1st, 2018, Dorcas financial assistance will also be made available to those who live outside our service area of Cary and Morrisville, but who *are employed in Cary and Morrisville*. This latest outreach effort is consistent with our mission of serving our neighbors in need, helping them get on their feet so that they can continue to thrive in our community and schools.

This expansion will allow us to serve many more folks who play an important role in the life of Cary and Morrisville. Teaching assistants in our local elementary schools, bus drivers for Go Cary, first responders, grocery clerks in our local supermarkets are important members of our community but quite often live outside the Town limits. It will be so rewarding to be able to offer assistance when these neighbors find themselves in a financial crisis.

The news of our latest expansion was received very well by community partners who praised Dorcas Ministries for our commitment to serving those in need and helping them get back on their feet. "We really appreciate all Dorcas does to help people get back on their feet," exclaimed a community outreach specialist at the YMCA.

Our ability to expand services to more neighbors in our community is thanks to the generous donations and hard work of our volunteers. On behalf of the many struggling workers who will be served through this expansion, I thank you for all you do to support our mission.

Grace and peace,

Jill

2018 MAGGY AWARDS

We are excited to say we have been named Cary Magazine's 2018 Maggy Award winner for

Best Nonprofit AND Best Retail Shop!

Come join us for the celebration on **Wednesday, February 21st from 6 PM – 9 PM** at Prestonwood Country Club to meet all the winners! The Maggy

Party will feature samples from winning restaurants, boutique pop-up shops, a silent auction and more!

Tickets are \$10!



A RECORD SETTING EVENT

2017 Dorcas Ministries' Thanksgiving Breakfast

On Thursday, November 9th over 400 people gathered at Prestonwood Country Club in Cary for Dorcas Ministries' Thanksgiving Breakfast fundraiser. Over **\$216,000** was raised through sponsorships and donations. Many of the people in the audience were not very familiar with Dorcas Ministries. "Some people take for granted that everyone knows about Dorcas Ministries, but there are still thousands in our area who don't know about us or how we serve the community," said Rose Cornelious, Development Director. "The breakfast is one way to



tell them about our history in this community and it allows them to hear directly from some of our clients."



Those client testimonies included a riveting story from a woman who had experienced domestic abuse. Dorcas Ministries assisted her family with food, tuition assistance, childcare and the resources she needed to keep her house. She related how important it was for her kids to be able to play at summer camp; she said they were able to be like normal kids and forget about the stress of their family dynamic during that time. Another client had gotten terminated from her job as a flight attendant due to chronic back pain. Dorcas Ministries helped her with financial management counseling and other resources so that

she and her daughters didn't have to go to a homeless shelter. She informed the audience that the airline has since rehired her because her termination was not justifiable; the back pain she had experienced was actually a form of cancer. She is recovered and ready to return to work. Finally, one client spoke of how the *Jobs for Life* program offered at Dorcas Ministries helped him overcome frustration in his job search and set a new direction for his life. He and his family are more financially stable and new career options have opened up for him.

Howard Manning, Executive Director at Dorcas Ministries, spoke of the upcoming 50th Anniversary of Dorcas Ministries in 2018. There will be several celebrations and gatherings throughout the year to make this momentous occasion. You will receive notifications of those events.

Next year this fundraiser will be on Thursday, **November 1, 2018 at Embassy Suites Hotel**, 201 Harrison Oaks Boulevard in Cary. The move is necessary to accommodate the expected crowd that will gather during Dorcas Ministries 50th anniversary year. "We had reached maximum capacity at Prestonwood Country Club, and as this event continues to grow, we wanted to make sure we had space for everyone," said Cornelious.



If you would like to sponsor this event or serve as a table captain, contact Cornelious at 984-333-0059 or rcornelious@dorcas-cary.org

JOBS FOR LIFE

Jobs for Life is an 8-week long job readiness program, but so much more. Participants learn resume-writing, interviews, networking and all the skills you need to find a job, but it's all done in the shelter of an affirming faith community. Each student has a mentor that we call a "champion". A champion is a cheerleader, listener and a connection to the community. Over the course of 8 weeks, a community of friends blooms that changes the lives of all involved, students and champions alike.

We are looking forward to our 11th session of Jobs for Life in the training center at Dorcas Ministries, starting March 1st on Tuesday and Thursdays evenings, 6-8pm.

Call 919-469-9861, ext. 201 for more information or visit our website under Outreach/Job Training for details on how to apply.

MONEY WISE COMING IN FEBRUARY

We'll eat, laugh, and struggle together as we learn to overcome financial obstacles, set savings goals, make spending plans, manage debt and loans, and more. Participants will explore how God's plans for their money might be larger than their own.

Saturdays in February 10am-12pm. The class is **FREE!** plus... light refreshments will be served and graduates receive a free gift card. To register, call 919-469-9861, ext. 204.

VOLUNTEER NEEDS

We are looking for volunteers to fill various roles and shifts. Below are some of our immediate needs. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Ellen Frazier at efrazier@dorcas-cary.org or by calling: 919.469.9681, ext. 101. We would love to have you on our team!

Outreach Programs

Receptionist
Scheduler

Administrative Offices

Receptionist

Dorcas Thrift Shop

Cashier
Pricer
Runner
Jewelry Counter

