



Wesley Community
Service Center, Inc.

Wesley Works

Newsletter Summer 2011

As we begin to settle back in to our renovated quarters at the former Elm Avenue/Martin Luther King United Methodist Church, I am amazed at the nature and volume of the use of our facilities already by our community and neighbors. Our records indicate that since January and our return to 1701 Elm Avenue, Wesley Community Service Center has. . .

Hosted a **funeral service** in our sanctuary

Hosted a **family fellowship** following a funeral service in our fellowship hall

Hosted monthly meetings of the **Prentis Place Civic League**

Conducted building tours for nine groups

Hosted meetings to plan **Portsmouth's Homeless Assist Day** in collaboration with supporting organizations and individuals

Distributed 27,887 pounds of fresh foods (meat, fruit and vegetables) through our relationship with the Foodbank of Southeastern Virginia to more than 500 men, women and children in families

Processed **ninety-six income tax return** assistance requests

Rented the sanctuary for a **gospel concert**

Rented the fellowship hall for a "**theatrical production**"

Conducted weekly "**coffee house conversations**" for an average of seven persons regularly

Delivered a meal weekly to thirty eight home-bound elderly and disabled neighbors

Assisted 50 + families (including children) with food and gift cards donated by churches and individuals

Assisted over 250 individuals (including children) in families with emergency financial assistance through the **Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program** administered by The City of Portsmouth in cooperation with local human service organizations.

In addition to the above, Wesley has continued its partnership with Brighton Elementary School to conduct a **Standards**

of Learning (SOL) afterschool enrichment program for second graders serving some twenty youngsters. We are also preparing to host **Camp Celebration** – a six week program for children beginning June 27th and featuring African Drumming, Dance, Creative Writing, Crafts, Day Trips and Performance Arts.

A Word
from the
Executive Director

Yep a lot is happening these days around Wesley, and it feels really good to be back home!

Wesley Works

is published on the quarter, by Wesley Community Service Center, Inc. Share the works of Wesley Center, by forwarding this newsletter to friends and church members!



United Way
of South Hampton Roads

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We gratefully acknowledge 2011 gifts received through April:

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St. Andrew UMC (Virginia Beach)
St. Andrew UMC (Portsmouth)
St. Andrew's Lutheran Church
St. John's UMW (Norfolk)
St. Mark UMW (Hampton)
St. Mark UMW (Portsmouth)
Thalia UMW
Trinity Episcopal Church (Portsmouth)
Trinity UMW
Unit II Ladies of Bethel UMC
(Mathews)
Uzzell UMW
Wesley Bible Class of St. John UMC
(Norfolk)
Wesley Memorial UMW
West End UMW



**Wesley Community
Service Center, Inc.**

Wesley Community Service Center, Inc.

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The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, and provide for those who grieve in Zion, to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the LORD for the display of his splendor.

They will rebuild the ancient ruins and restore the places long devastated; they will renew the ruined cities that have been devastated for generations. *Isaiah 61:1-4 NIV*



The Richmond District United Methodist Women visited the Wesley Center on Saturday, May 21 and installed curtains, packed school bags, stained an outside ramp, and cleaned sanctuary pews! Whew! Wesley Board members provided lunch for these hard workers! We greatly appreciate their hard work!

MEET VERONICA POWELL-WIGGINS

Veronica is a “work search” enrollee of the AARP (American Association of Retired Persons) work search program, in training as a program assistant at the Wesley Community Service Center. She assists with clerical duties related to the Homeless Prevention Program conducted at the Wesley Center in cooperation with the City of Portsmouth. A native of Brooklyn, New York, Veronica is married and currently resides in Chesapeake following a four year residency in Portsmouth.

“The staff at Wesley Community Center is a blessing in Portsmouth - loving, committed and dedicated. Their main focus is about helping the community,” states Veronica.

Veronica explains further, “I work hand in hand with Mrs. Diana Chappell-Lewis. The most rewarding part of my work is witnessing a pledge being made from Wesley to keep individuals and families from becoming homeless or having their utilities disconnected. Thank God for Wesley Community Center, and thank you AARP Work Search, for the opportunity of this brand new and



exciting experience. I look forward to coming to Wesley every day!”

Veronica’s passion is children and she has been in the business of caring for children for over thirty-five years, and hopes to resume that work upon completing her training experience at Wesley. In the very short time that she has been with us, Veronica has endeared herself to the staff and our neighbors and we are glad to welcome her to our family!

What is Camp Celebration?

A six-week camp experience for children, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. daily beginning on June 27th and running through August 5th!

The following items are needed by Wesley Community Service Center on an ongoing basis and would be welcomed at any time.

1. School back packs for elementary to middle school students
2. School supplies (all variety)
3. Trash can liners - 13 gallon and 48 gallon
4. Bathroom tissue and paper towels
5. Wal-Mart and/or Food Lion Gift cards of any value (for after school snacks and emergency food baskets.)
6. Canned/package food (especially meat products i.e. tuna, soups, salmon, stews etc.)
7. Copier paper (assorted colors)

In addition, there continue to be renovation and improvement needs as we settle into our new quarters. These include:

1. Round or rectangular tables seating six to eight
2. Industrial buckets and mops
3. Counter top can openers for #10 size cans
4. Commercial size entrance doormats
5. 13 gallon trash cans for offices/restrooms
6. Commercial cookware and utensils
7. Four drawer file cabinets with locking capability
8. Installed water fountains
9. Outdoor installed flag poles

Wesley Community Service Center thanks each of you for your efforts, on behalf of the neighbors we serve.



**Wesley Community
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A little help from our friends! Beta Sigma Chapter members of the Phi Beta Sigma fraternity meet regularly at the Wesley Center and recently scheduled a work day to wash windows in the fellowship hall and dust and vacuum the Sanctuary on April 16th. The Executive Director is a member of the fraternity. The Chapter has been chartered since 1925 - the fraternity since 1914.