

**Community
Enrichment Center**

**Spring
2011**

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The CEC Connection

Connecting the community to the services of the CEC

When Helping Hurts by Randy Clinton



The CEC continually looks for ways to help the neighbors we serve help themselves.

You want to help people and I want to help, but do we really know how to help someone that is in poverty? Does our desire and enthusiasm make us do things that are not truly beneficial to those we try to serve?

Most every one of us has a heart that truly wants to bless people that are less fortunate than us, either locally or globally. Globally is sometimes easier in that we send funds and experts to help people in third world countries or areas that are in the midst of a disaster.

In our community and within the US borders we many times over step our grounds of helping. We confuse fixing something with helping. As Americans we want the instant gratification of fixing a problem that has existed maybe for generations. As a culture we have created a great divide of those that have and those that need. Those that need are put into government programs to satisfy the immediate need and they remain unchanged. This does not fix the long term problems.

In America we think of poverty as “lacking material things”. In the book, “When Helping Hurts”, we read that God established four foundational relationships; with God, with self, with others and the rest of creation. This book tells us how the lack of these healthy relationships is the real poverty people suffer.

The book goes on to tell us that we must avoid “Paternalism”. This is “doing things for people that they can do for themselves”. Think of your kids or yourself growing up. Children never learn to feed themselves if we constantly stick the food in their mouths. They must learn to pick up the spoon and do it themselves.

At the CEC, we continually look for ways to help the neighbors we serve help themselves. Teach them, hold them accountable and then move them on to survive and flourish on their own. Many times it is an uphill battle to overcome the feeling of “self-worthlessness”. The CEC is about helping people recognize they have many abilities that God gave them and that they truly can make a difference for themselves and their family.

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Look for our Donor List in the CEC’s
2011 Year-End Annual Report!

Adopt-A-Family Program

Helping homeless families achieve self-sufficiency



Derek...He's Living Proof

Derek moved his family to Texas to avoid a culture of abuse, violence and drugs that was prevalent in his life. He wanted more for his girls, Natasha and Alannah. After moving to Texas, his third daughter, Alisha, who suffers from Sickle Cell Anemia, was born. The relationship with Alisha's mother ended, leaving him to care for his three daughters alone. His finances began to spin out of control. He was not able to work because Alisha was hospitalized for days at a time, and he eventually found himself homeless with his three girls.

He was accepted into the Adopt-A-Family two years ago and has recently graduated. He worked extremely hard with his case manager to locate resources, establish support systems and to maintain his housing. He still has a very difficult road ahead as he continues to deal with Alisha's chronic health problems but he remains faithful as he continues toward self-sufficiency. The CEC staff is very proud of the progress that Derek has made, and we are blessed to have gotten to work alongside him on his journey to self-sufficiency.



Derek - on the right track for success!



Colleyville Women's Club celebrates Mother's Day.

A "Mother's Day" Delight

With the help of Colleyville Women's Club and The Hills Church of Christ we hosted our annual Mother's Day Dinner in honor of moms in both Adopt-A-Family and Open Arms programs. Every mother, no matter their situation has a desire to be recognized as a mom on Mother's Day if no other day.

The Mother's Day banquet was held on May 5, 2011 at The Hills Church of Christ and 35 Adopt-A-Family and Open Arms mothers were blessed. The Colleyville Women's Club decided on a Fiesta theme serving up delicious Mexican food.

Darla Dennison served as chair this year and did an excellent job coordinating the event. CWC provided wonderful gift bags for each mother, making them feel even more special. Many of the members volunteering stated this is their favorite event to participate in and enjoy meeting the ladies. Thanks CWC!!!!



Mother's Day at the CEC!

How You Can Help

We are gearing up for the Back-to-School Carnival on August 20th and we are in need of the following items: School Supplies: backpacks, highlighters, colored pencils, pocket folders with brads. Volunteers are also needed for the event and on August 19 to help with set-up. Please contact Cindy White at 817.281.1164 or cindy@thecec.org to volunteer!

Clothing: New clothing and shoes.

For more information, please contact Donna Riddick at donna@thecec.org or 817.281.1164.

Community Ministries

A ministry to move lives toward stability, empowerment, growth and wholeness.



Enriching Lives...The Woodforest Way!

The difficult summer months are ahead of us. We get more requests for food in the summer than any other time of year. School aged children are home during the summer which creates a need for more food. During the school year, many of these youth received free lunches at school. These meals will have to be provided at home during the summer, which creates additional strain on the family budget.

We are teaming up with Woodforest National Bank for a food and diaper drive starting June 1st through the summer. Many times, the food pantry is how we first meet those who need help. Food is the most immediate way we minister to others to show them God's love. The need for food is often times what first brings people in need to our door, but once inside, it is discovered that they can be helped in many other ways by the many services offered through the CEC.

Please drop by any branch in Tarrant County to make your donation. The Woodforest branches are listed below:



Tom Thumb
1701 Randol Mill Road
Arlington 76012
817-861-9300

WalMart Market
7401 Park Vista
Fort Worth 76137
817-605-9502

Instore
1515 FM 407
Lewisville 75077 972-317-1743

Super WalMart
4800 US Hwy 287
Arlington 76017
817-561-0319

Super WalMart
8520 Beach Street
Keller 76248
817-281-3005

WalMart Market
2951 Matlock Road
Mansfield 76063 817-453-5368

WalMart Market
735 West Sublett Road
Arlington, 76017
817-466-3718

WalMart Market
2130 Rufe Snow Drive
Keller 76248
817-656-2661

Kroger
9135 Boulevard 26
N. Richland Hills 76180
817-605-3439

Super WalMart
7451 McCart Avenue
Fort Worth 76113
817-263-0746

Instore
1035 Hickory Creek Blvd
Lake Dallas 75065
940-497-0336

Super WalMart
9101 North Tarrant Pkwy. N.
Richland Hills 76182
817-788-9800

Super WalMart
3851 Airport Freeway
Fort Worth 76111
682-647-1374

Super WalMart
6360 Lake Worth Blvd.
Lake Worth 76135
817-238-7825

Traditional
8408 Davis Blvd Suite 100N.
Richland Hills 76182
817-503-4200



The Food Pantry provides much-needed food for families served by the CEC and within the community.

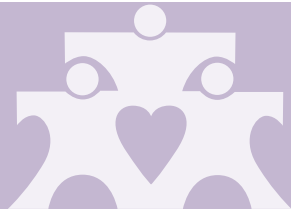
How You Can Help!

Designate the CEC as beneficiary of your purchases by linking your Kroger Card to the CEC. Please take the barcode below to your Kroger store. Ask the clerk to scan the barcode and link your Kroger card to the CEC's account. Each time you make purchases have the clerk scan your Kroger card and a portion of your purchases will be donated to the CEC.



Open Arms Program

Caring for women and children fleeing domestic violence



The “Friday Guys” Working to Make Homes Ready

The retired builders group, colloquially known by the CEC as the “Friday Guys”, has been working hard on many projects at the newly acquired apartment complex lately. The group has been involved with the rehabilitation of the complex since last year and continues to share their skills and knowledge for a variety of projects every week.

Recently, the volunteers have been busy replacing exterior doors and damaged window screens throughout the complex. The group has also assisted with plumbing improvements, deconstruction of vacant units and fence gate installation. The “Friday Guys” consistently bring great attitudes and are always willing to help with new projects. The CEC and apartment complex staffs are very grateful for all the group has done and continues to do at the apartments!



Butch, Carl, Larry and Ron, aka the “Friday Guys”, prepare an apartment for a family.



Volunteers help prepare apartments for families.

Prepared to Move

In January, the CEC began the transition of Open Arms staff and families to the newly acquired apartment complex. The staff has successfully completed their move, allowing for on-site case management and group therapy classes for program participants. The Menders for the Master volunteers through The Hills Church of Christ spent several weekends deconstructing and rehabilitating vacant units to be used for incoming Phase 1 clients. Once complete, many of these Phase 1 units were adopted by small groups and churches who have truly transformed them from houses to homes. The groups have generously devoted their time and effort to collecting furniture, decorations, dishware, cleaning supplies, linens and various other necessities in order to prepare each unit for incoming families. Currently, four clients have moved into completed units, with five more on the way.

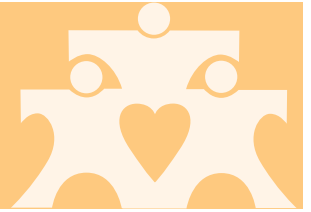
How You Can Help

As additional units become available, we will need groups to furnish those units. Open Arms families also need cleaning supplies, personal hygiene products and diapers. For more information, please contact LouAnn Pressler at Louann@thecec.org.

Volunteers are needed for childcare on Monday evenings. To volunteer, please contact Cindy White at 817.281.1164 or cindy@thecec.org.

Education & Employment Services

Helping adults improve their educational and employment opportunities



The Education & Employment Services Program has

NEW HOURS!

Beginning May 5, 2011, Education & Employment Services changed their hours to better accommodate those in need of services.

Job Club

Job Club helps adults improve their job opportunities and earning power. Staff assists each participant with resume preparation, interview skills, online job search and occupational skills training.

New Job Club participants are required to attend a job club orientation held each Tuesday and Thursday at 9 a.m.

Job Club Hours:

Tuesdays and Thursdays 9 am to 2pm.

Computer Classes are held Wednesday 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm.

Class size is limited to 14 students per class.

Literacy for Life

The CEC empowers people to reach their educational and career goals by providing GED preparation and adult literacy classes. Through personalized assessments, workshops and classes, the CEC also assists participants with college planning, scholarship searches and college financial aid applications.

New student orientations/assessments are held the first Thursday of every month at 5:00 p.m. Call 817-281-1164 to sign up prior to the class.

Literacy for Life Hours:

Tuesday's **Open Lab is 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.**
 Class Time is 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Saturday's **Open Lab 9 a.m. to 10 a.m.**
 Class Time - 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
 Open Lab 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

How You Can Help

Each month families in CEC programs have the opportunity to take part in life skills classes. These classes cover a variety of topics, related to helping them learn how to retain and advance in their career. If you would like to work with Education & Employment Services on teaching life skills classes, contact Leslie Thompson at 817-281-1164 x. 141.

Volunteers are needed to help in Job Club on Tuesdays and Thursdays. To volunteer, please contact Cindy White at 817.281.1164 or cindy@thecec.org.



Spotlight On... Literacy for Life GED Teacher Ms. Crowe

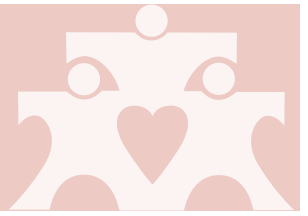
Most people don't know that Ms. Crowe started her relationship with the Community Enrichment Center as a participant in the Adopt a Family Program.

Even with a degree in business, Ms. Crowe found it hard being a single-parent. She had difficulty supporting 2 small children on her own and had trouble balancing the hours of work expected from her employer with the time necessary to raise her children on her own.

With help from her CEC Employment Case Manager, Ms. Crowe evaluated her current education and how it could be applied to a career that would allow her to spend time with her children and provide a decent income to raise her family. She decided that she wanted to teach school, so she enrolled in the ECAP alternative teacher's certification program. Once she received her certification, the rest just "fell into place". Ms. Crowe was named Teacher of the Year her third year of teaching in the Arlington ISD in 2007-2008. The following year she moved to the Fort Worth Independent School District. She applied her talents and once again received recognition as one of Fort Worth ISD's Teacher of the Year in 2010-2011

While continuing her career as a teacher, the opportunity to be the GED instructor at the Community Enrichment Center opened up in June 2005, and Ms. Crowe stepped right in to help students obtain their GED. Last year, 42 students received their GED through the CEC.

Volunteers & Second Glance



Center Point Church's Pastor Jay Bruner presents a check from the Fore CEC Golf Tournament to CEC Chairman Randy Moresi and Vice Chair Ray Oujesky.

Center Point Church – Fore CEC Golf Tournament

Last year Center Point Church teamed up with the CEC and hosted the FORE CEC 1st Annual Golf Tournament because there was a need to help the families in our communities. Center Point raised more than \$6,500 providing childcare for approximately 13 children for a week, sponsored three families in Adopt a Family Program for six months, and purchased approximately 36,000 pounds of food.

This year was even better - Center Point more than doubled their fundraising efforts raising a little over \$14,000. This contribution will allow the CEC to provide 22,000 pounds of groceries for the food pantry, feed 350 people for a week or four (4) families for a year; support two (2) women and her children in the Open Arms program for one (1) year helping them transition to a healthy life free of abuse; offer five (5) weeks of literacy classes to adults so they can improve their education and gain better jobs and so much more. We appreciate the support of everyone that participated in the FORE CEC Golf Tournament.

Thanks a million Center Point Church!

Don't Forget About the BEST Deal in Town!

Visit our Second Glance Resale Shop today! The store is full of great items for those hot summer months that are just around the corner!

And don't forget, we also take donations! Take care of that Spring Cleaning and help a great cause. Proceeds from the store still support the Open Arms Program and provide items for families enrolled in the program. Whether shopping for bargains on gently used clothing and furniture or donating items to the store, your support of Second Glance ensures that the CEC can continue to serve families in need.

Store Location:

6308 Rufe Snow Drive,
North Richland Hills, Texas 76180
(Northeast corner of Rufe Snow & Mid-Cities Blvd., next to Big Lots)
817-581-1909
Store Manager - Judy Stewart

Drop Off Items:

Second Glance sells and accepts donations of gently used: Furniture, Men's Clothing, Antiques, Women's Clothing, Home Décor Items, Seasonal Items, Children's Clothing, Jewelry, Housewares, Books and Linens.

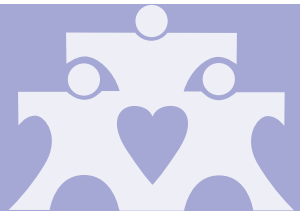
Donations of the items listed above are accepted at the store Monday thru Saturday 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

For large items (gently used furniture and/or working washers & dryers) call 817-909-8765 or 817-281-1164 x116 to arrange a free pick up of your donation. The pickup area is limited to Tarrant County.

Thank you for shopping and donating to the Second Glance Resale Shop!



Special Events



Join us for the CEC's Annual Golf Classic!

Get your clubs ready!!!! The CEC Annual Golf Classic will be held on Tuesday, September 20th at Sky Creek Ranch Golf Club. This event is one of our primary fundraisers that help cover the costs of providing the resources, tools and encouragement families need to improve their lives and become self-sufficient.

So, don't wait...take advantage of the early bird discount. The registration includes lunch, a fun round of golf, a chance to win great prizes, dinner from Outback Steakhouse, and a chance to hear from a program participant. Sponsorship opportunities are still available, For more information please contact the Development office at dev@thecec.org or 817.281.1164.



2011 CEC Golf Classic
Tuesday, September 20th
at Sky Creek Ranch

Fall into Fashion at the Seasons of Hope Luncheon & Style Show

This fall the CEC will host its 5th Annual Seasons of Hope Luncheon and Style Show on Wednesday, November 9th benefiting the Open Arms program providing long-term housing and care for victims of domestic violence and their children.



For more information about joining the planning committee, participating as a sponsor, or purchasing tickets please contact the Development office at dev@thecec.org or 817.281.1164.



Charity through Roofing!

In light of the recent storms that have hit around our local community, we have an exciting new fundraising opportunity available! The CEC has partnered with a local roofing company (Roofity LLC.) whose unique business model has pledged 15% of all their proceeds, from business generated through this fundraiser, to go directly back into CEC outreach opportunities. Roofity LLC will provide a free inspection of your residential or commercial property to see if you have sustained damage from the recent storms, and work directly with your insurance if needed to complete all your restoration needs

For more information, please contact Joel Webb at 469.585.8483 or JBW@roofity.com and mention CEC.



Community
Enrichment Center

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North Richland Hills, TX 76180
P: 817-281-1164
F: 817-281-1879
www.thecec.org

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Fort Worth, TX

Return Service Requested

Restoring hope. Sharing God's love. Changing lives in our community.

GET THE LATEST CEC NEWS VIA EMAIL OR FACEBOOK

If you'd like the latest news about the CEC's programs and events please join the monthly e-news list or the new Facebook fan page. Visit www.thecec.org to sign up for one or both!

Just a reminder, we didn't forget!
All donors will be listed in our new Annual Report for 2011!



The CEC helps change thousands of lives in the community each year.

A United Way Community Partner

Adopt-A-Family

- Provides qualified homeless families:
- Housing
- Case Management
- Education counseling
- Employment Assistance
- Referrals

For more information about this program or to request an application, please call 817-281-1164 x. 230.

Community Ministries

- The Food Pantry provides food assistance to residents of 17 zip codes in the NE Tarrant County.
- Seniors meet each Wednesday at the CEC Community Room.
- The Single-Parent Family Network meets monthly at local churches.
- Free GED and adult literacy classes are available on Tuesday evenings and Saturday mornings at the CEC.

Call 817-281-1164 for information.

Open Arms

- Provides victims of family violence:
- Housing
- Counseling for women & children
- Case Management
- Education counseling
- Employment assistance
- Referrals

If you would like to learn more about this program or request an application, please call 817-238-9469.