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Current Needs List:

- Towels
- Blankets
- Winter Items

We depend on your prayers, financial support, and volunteerism to provide our services. Thank you for your support!!!

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Volunteer Voices

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Children's Area Renovation



This fall our children's area was renovated. It is now a bright beautiful space. The area is used as an activity / homework space for the kids living in the shelter. Thank you to all of the volunteers who helped with this project. A very special thank you to Daisey Eck and Hailey Schepp's family. Daisey and Hailey raised funding for the renovation, planned the project, and helped recreate the space. The funding was provided from the Community Grant Program from Walmart. Daisey and Hailey's family became involved with Churches United about four years ago when they

decided their family wanted to become more involved with the community. This has evolved to include a "Christmas Cookie Time" where the family hosts a day at Churches United to decorate cookies/Ginger bread houses and play games with the residents. Daisey's says that, "Our family looks forward to this every year!" Daisey and Hailey's family was asked if they would be interested in helping with our children's area downstairs and after they saw the space, they knew they wanted to help. Daisey and Hailey say, "We enjoyed the opportunity to help create a space for the kids where they can do



homework, read, play games etc." We also wanted to say **Thank you** to a group of students from VCSU and their two professors who also bought new items for the space and painted the floor; giving the space the finishing touches in needed! The students had worked on a project with residents during September and October and ended the assignment with an all day service project. The group also helped freshen up the family lounge area. Thank you all for your hard work!!!



Volunteer Opportunities

Drop-In

Volunteering– This opportunity allows you to "drop-in" between the hours of 1-4 pm on Tuesdays and 1– 6 pm on Wednesdays; without making a time commitment or calling ahead.

Individuals:

- ◆ Kitchen Assistant
- ◆ Shelter Assistant
- ◆ Facilities Worker

Groups:

- ◆ Weekday Lunch servers
- ◆ Host a Drive
- ◆ Plan an Event

Please contact Andrea DeMars at 218-236-0372 or ademars@churches-untied.org for more information

Special Opportunities:

Al-non Facilitator-Weekly Al-non facilitator Thursdays at 1 pm Please contact Kelly at 701-235-9159

Christmas Season Helpers-

If you or your group would like to plan an activity for the kids during winter break, help in the Christmas Store, or plan any other holiday events, please contact Andrea

Special Thank you



As of October 2014-

- ◆ over 99,000 meals served, an average of 328 meals a day!
- ◆ Over 50,000 pounds of food distributed through food pantry and Community Bread Shelf
- ◆ 33,500 pounds of clothing distributed
- ◆ 4,000 volunteers have contributed more than 13,500 hours

Thank you to all of our dedicated kitchen workers, serving groups, youth and student groups, and individual volunteers. We appreciate all of your efforts.

We would also like to say **Thank You** to all of our volunteers who have donated their time in the Food Pantry and Thrift Store. We appreciate all of your time and effort. Without you, so many things we do would not be possible!

“No joy can equal the joy of serving others.” -Sai Baba

Check us out on the web at www.chuches-united.org

Don't forget to like us on Facebook

www.facebook.com/churchesunitedforthehomeless

Changes Happening at Churches United

For a long time we have been stretching to help meet many needs for many people. As the number of people experiencing homelessness continues to increase, we are at a point of needing to limit some of our services in order to focus even more intently on helping people find homes.

This means we will be reducing our services that are open to the community in order to provide for our residents.

These are the changes that will occur to Community Center services.

Effective Mon., Nov 10th, Community Center hours will be 8 am - 7 pm daily.

Changes to donation-based services:

Churches United currently operates a food pantry and a free thrift store that is open to the community. Those services will end on November 25th and 26th, respectively.

We will maintain a supply of goods to provide for residents' needs

Fresh bread and non-perishable food on the Community Bread shelf will still be available to community members.

Because we will no longer have the free store, **we are no longer accepting clothing donations except for specific requests.**

However, many services still depend on donations, so we will still need help with many items such as towels, bedding, boots and socks. Please contact Churches United or go to our Community Center link on our website to find out which items are most helpful at this time. Please contact Lisa Lipari, Community Center Director, with any questions or concerns.

How this effects Volunteers:

With the closure of our free Thrift Store, we need to re-focus our volunteer force. We are inviting our volunteer groups to consider doing specific or themed “drives” in order to get the essential items for our residents; for example, having a group work on a “bedding” or “winter boots” drive.

To adequately provide for our residents we will still rely on the donation of certain essential items; therefore, we may still need groups to sort and organize donations every now and again. This will be a big change for us, so please have patience as we make this transition.