



NEWS FROM TILESTON OUTREACH

JULY 2010

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Still needing volunteers to help with the July Yard Sale for set up on Friday, July 16, and for the Sale on Saturday, July 17. It's a lot of work, but we made about \$1,300 at the last one, which Sr. Isaac put toward our triple, commercial-grade refrigerator & freezer.

If you can help either day, please contact Barbara McGowan, 383-3256, bmgcgowan@aol.com.

The Food and Nutrition Program Update

By Sharon Kissling

Wow, end of June already! Where did the past 10 months go? As we all know, things here at St. Mary-Tileston Outreach have been busy. With so many people affected by the current economic conditions in the Wilmington area, as well as around the country, we've seen a dramatic increase in people seeking help with their food needs.

In July of 2008, St. Mary-Tileston Outreach was lucky enough to be chosen from a select group asked to assist the Department of Social Services in New Hanover County to identify citizens that may qualify for the Food and Nutrition Services Program (formerly the Food Stamp Program) but that were not receiving benefits. Sr. Isaac was excited at the prospect of helping our guests get thru the difficult task of qualifying for the program. Sister asked if I'd be interested in working to help accomplish this, and I jumped at the chance..

In September 2008, Sr. Isaac, Barbara Bruhn and myself went to the Food Bank in Raleigh for a day of training and round-table discussions on the particulars of the program. In March of 2009, we started seeing guests to assess their eligibility for the Food & Nutrition Service Program, nicknamed "SNAP." From March thru July of 2009, 70 or so people had been seen and 50 % of those appeared to qualify for assistance. Since September of 2009, 35 or so guests have been interviewed, and again 50% appeared qualified. Of those who did not qualify, most had too much money coming into their homes. The rules is, if you have more than 130% of the "Federal Poverty Limit" based on the size of the family, you are automatically disqualified.

Well, good news--the Department of Agriculture, which finances the program is changing that number from 130% to 170% as of July 1, 2010. This means a family of 4 that was only allowed to have an income under \$2,390 a month will, as of July 1, 2010, be able to have an income as high as \$3,125 a month and still be able to apply for Food and Nutrition Services. The Department of Social Services plans to put on additional help in order to process the number of new and repeat applications they expect will pour in after July 1. Hopefully, we'll get to inform as many of our guests as we can of this upcoming change. That way, the can make application for benefits with the increased limits as soon as possible.

Let's pray that this helps so many that are in need find the assistance they need.



Sharon Kissling
Interviewing Guest for
SNAP

Phoenix Employment Ministry...

Is a non-profit ministry empowering people who are trying to get into the job force. They enter a six-month program that gives support to one another as they hone skills for interviewing, punctuality, responsibility, etc.

Our part is to provide a clothing area for them to find suitable dress for job interviews. Participants come by weekly/monthly. Jennie Brown and her new helper, Monica Amin, spend hours sorting and arranging the outfits and are present to welcome so respectfully those who come in need.



Jennie Brown & Monica Amin

Jennie's description of Phonenix's visits to Tileston Outreach... *Michelle and her Phoenix "flock" arrive all "abuzz" with hope & encouragement...like actors coming to be outfitted for their own "special" part in a production...some having been down & without a job (even a home) for so long, there wasn't much hope. I feel especially blessed to be a small (but enthusiastic) part in the fruition of their future. All the love, charity & time of those who have freely given, sorted, carried, sized & arranged the clothing--comes together so clearly in this moment...when a group of complete strangers, each with their own unique challenges, becomes like a child-like family full of hope & possibility. I thank God for Tileston Outreach.*
 Jennie

Save these dates...

July 5 Closed for the Holiday

July 16 - Set-up for Outreach Yard Sale

July 17- Tileston Outreach Yard Sale

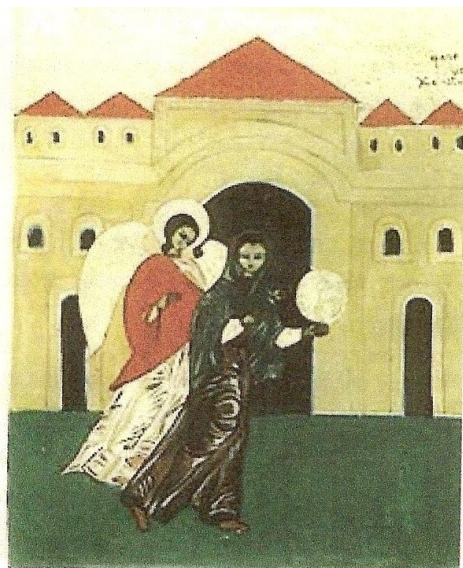
August 2- Sr. Isaac's Annual Appreciation Party

August- Closed for the Month

Sister Isaac's Column

During the last two weeks of July, 2010, my community, the Sisters of St. Ursula, will be holding our General Chapter in Baltimore, Maryland. The Chapter, which I am participating in as a delegate, is held every six years. It is basically the governing body of our Society. During the sessions, plans are developed that will guide our ministries during the next six years, and we will elect a Superior General and her Council. All other positions in our Society are through appointments. Our Society is International; so, there will be about twenty of us from Europe, Africa -the Congo and the U.S. and we represent 80+ members. Please keep the gathering in your prayers. Take good care of the ministry while I am "meeting" and I hope to see many of you at our August 2nd thank you luncheon.

Sr. Isaac, S.U.



The Sisters of St. Ursula were founded in Dole, France, in 1606.

Our Foundress, Anne de Kainctonge, encouraged us to be little lamps in the church, giving light and hope. This icon, painted by one of our Sisters, shows Anne, guided by her Guardian Angel, carrying her little lamp.