



# Mt. Juliet Help Center

Compassion Caring Community

Vol. 2 Issue 2 April 2016



The Exchange Club of Mt. Juliet presents the Help Center with a donation.



The Daisies of Girl Scout Troop #1459 pose for a picture during their tour of the Help Center. They dropped off a donation & learned about how their contribution gets directly back out into their community.

## Spring greetings!

It's hard to believe, but this time last year we were watching as the foundation of our future home was taking shape. It's been humbling to see how generous our community has continued to be throughout this transition year. We are supported by many local church organizations of varying denominations and congregational sizes who work together to accomplish the singular goal of showing love to their neighbors by meeting basic needs. It's encouraging to witness so many different people from different walks of life working as a collective whole for the greater good. It's a beautiful thing to witness and an honor to be a part of.

Looking ahead, we have several events on the horizon. Coming up on Saturday, May 14, the annual National Association of Letter Carriers Stamp Out Hunger food drive will take place, and we are busy preparing our space for this single largest food collection of the year. More details are inside, but stay tuned to our website and Facebook page over the next several weeks for updates and possible volunteer opportunities! We're also preparing for school to be out for the summer, which can mean that households require more food as more meals are eaten at home. We will be hosting a Back to School Supply Giveaway in July, and plans are already under way for Hunger Action Month in September. We'll have more information about these future events and others in the next edition of our newsletter.

We hope you enjoy this edition of the newsletter, and thank you for keeping the community to which we all belong in your thoughts day to day. We are so grateful to be a part of Mt. Juliet! Until next time...

*Carolyn Smith, Director*

# First Quarter News

On February 13, local Boy Scout troops participated in the Boy Scouts of America annual Scouting for Food community service project. The temperature had dropped to around 20 degrees earlier in the morning, but they bundled up, made sure a hot chocolate station was ready to go at the Help Center, and set out to collect over 2,500 pounds of much appreciated food! Troops 341, 438, 439, 753, 1204, and 2015 worked together to help sustain our food levels through the winter months, and we are incredibly thankful for their hard work, their continued dedication to their community, and for everyone who supported their efforts by placing food at their mailboxes for them to collect.



Above: Troop leaders, volunteers, & Board Members sorting donations as they start to arrive.  
Left: Troop #753 (Rutland Elementary Pack) braving the cold to help feed the hungry.



HAD TO CHOOSE  
BETWEEN  
FOOD & ELECTRICITY



HAD TO CHOOSE  
BETWEEN  
FOOD & MEDICAL CARE



HAD TO CHOOSE  
BETWEEN  
FOOD & HOUSING

\*Data collected during the Feeding America *Hunger in America 2014* study.

## Volunteer Appreciation



*"Volunteers are not paid, not because they are worthless, but because they are priceless."* This quote by Sherry Anderson sums up how we feel about our stellar crew of dedicated volunteers at the Help Center. We couldn't function without them! Would you believe that they collectively logged well over 3,000 volunteer hours in 2015? April is Volunteer Appreciation Month, and in honor of that we would like to spotlight two volunteers who just happen to have been married to each other for over 60 years, Mel and Joan Laszewski!

Mel and Joan are originally from Milwaukee, WI, and moved to the Del Webb Community in 2008. In 2009, Joan attended a Del Webb Women's Club meet-

ing where the guest speaker was a representative of the Help Center. Both Joan and Mel decided to contact the Help Center about the possibility of volunteering. We just happened to need some additional help on a certain day, and the rest, as they say, is history!

When they're not at the Help Center, Mel and Joan are very busy people. Joan loves to read and to walk outdoors on the walking trails at Del Webb and Long Hunter Park, but she especially loves to tap dance! She has performed with the Tap'n Dolls adult tap group for seven years, and they dance at the Wilson County Fair, local nursing homes, and hold an annual recital at TPAC. Joan says tap dancing is great exercise and so much fun!

Mel stays busy, as well. He reads, golfs, and watches all kinds of sports, especially the Green Bay Packers. He has been on the Board of Directors of the Del Webb HOA for 4 ½ years, has been on the Resident Board at Del Webb for the past two years, and helps out on various other committees there.

Mel & Joan volunteer because they feel they've been blessed and want to give back and help those less fortunate. Mel and Joan, thank you for your years of hard-working dedication and support for your community. We appreciate you both very much!

# With Appreciation

We gratefully acknowledge the generous support of the following individuals and organizations throughout the first quarter of 2016:

*many thanks*

Aldi  
Allstate  
Brandie Ambrose  
Helen Beasley  
Beta Club of MJMS  
Randy Birch  
Boy Scout Troop #341  
Boy Scout Troop #438  
Boy Scout Troop #439  
Boy Scout Troop #753  
Boy Scout Troop #1204  
Boy Scout Troop #2015  
Brickhouse Cardio Club  
Terry Brostoff  
Big Brothers  
Carol Campbell  
Cedar Creek Church  
Cloyd's Cumberland Presbyterian Church  
Cook's UMC  
Callie Corley  
Covenant Fellowship Church of the Nazarene  
Davie & Cheryl Culbertson  
Del Webb Community  
Diamond Academy of Dance  
Cherie Diefenbach  
Troy Edens  
Andrew Engel  
ESC Lab Sciences  
Exceptional Properties of TN  
Exchange Club of West Wilson County  
Linda Frame  
Tiffany Fry

John & Carolyn Gillette  
Girl Scout Troop #214  
Girl Scout Troop #874  
Girl Scout Troop #1459  
Owen Gleaves  
Global Vision Church  
Green Hill Baptist Church  
Marilyn Haley  
Christopher & Melissa Hayes  
HCA Foundation  
Michael & Carla Hennesy  
Hickory Grove Presbyterian Church  
Hobson Pike Baptist Church  
Angela Howard  
Larry Johnson  
Just Give  
James & Marjorie Kennedy  
John Kinnard  
Kroger  
Lake Forest Acres Garden Club  
Sherry Ledbetter  
Sandra Lemmonds  
Red Lobster  
Rep. Susan Lynn  
Wendy Matthews  
Jim & Mary McHugh  
Roy & Mary Jane McKuhlen  
Bruce & Kathi McLaughlin  
Richard Meshling  
Steve Nieters  
Our Father's House Comm. Church  
Panera Bread

Papa John's  
Linda Patterson  
Jacqueline Phillips  
Pizza Hut  
Robin Propst  
Providence Dental Care  
Providence UMC  
Publix  
Laura Pyron  
Jeremy Randolph  
Paul & Tanya Raney  
Dr. & Mrs. Ray  
Remax  
James Rinde  
Ruth's Circle at Grace UMC  
Peter Schulert  
Ronald Sharpe  
Silver Springs Baptist Church  
St. Stephen Catholic Community  
Stage Left Catering  
Steel Magnolias Salon  
Pat Totten  
United Way of Wilson County  
Victory Baptist Church  
Richard & Cheri Wallower  
Jim Wegler  
Tommy Williams  
ALL of our Anonymous Donors!

## NALC Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive

On Saturday, May 14, the annual NALC Stamp Out Hunger food drive will take place. America's largest food drive is the easiest way for communities to work together to support their neighbors in need. Stamp Out Hunger is crucial to maintaining the level of food support that we wish to offer our clients. Remember to sit any plastic grocery sack of non-perishable food items by your mailbox on May 14 (check those expiration dates, please!), and our awesome Letter Carriers and volunteers will work together to make sure the donations are picked up and delivered to the Help Center. Stay tuned to our Facebook page and website for updated information, and remember that if everyone gives a little, it makes a huge difference!



## Aldi Partnership

Aldi has joined Publix and Kroger in feeding our community! Both Mt. Juliet Kroger locations have Second Harvest barrels in their lobbies, which makes it easy for donation drop off and collection. Both Publix locations hold twice-yearly Food for Sharing programs, and the Mt. Juliet Village location donates bakery items, including fresh bread, that are rotated out to make room for the next day's selection. Aldi Corporate has now taken a huge step in furthering their commitment to responsible supply chain management and for people, nature, and the environment by donating recoverable food to local food pantries affiliated with Second Harvest. We are thrilled that the Mt. Juliet Aldi location has partnered with us to get these healthy food items in the hands of the food insecure, and we look forward to working with their amazing team!



Publix.



## Quarterly Stats

2016	Jan - Mar
Families Assisted	300
Individuals Assisted	890
Food Bags Distributed	4,368
Pounds Donated	23,729

## Mt. Juliet Help Center

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### Office Hours

Monday – Friday 8:30a – 12:30p



## Board of Directors

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