

# CS Servant's Heart

The newsletter of the Christian Service Center

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## In Need of a Fresh Start – Scott's Story

By Jacqueline Williams  
Christian Service Center Intern

Scott T. packed his bags, picked up his life and moved to Central Florida after being promised a job selling produce. The company quickly went under due to the economy. Left with nothing, he began to pray.

With a little research and a lot of persistence, Scott found Fresh Start. This short term residential program of Christian Service Center helps men to get back on their feet, but one of the requirements is that residents must remain free of addictive substances. Scott had an addiction to alcohol for most of his life after being introduced to and forced to drink at the innocent age of nine years old. To join the Fresh Start family Scott says he broke his addiction with the help of Jesus, who set him free.

### Left with nothing, he began to pray.

Scott now works at Krystal's restaurant and will be starting school in the fall to study restaurant management. His goals include one day running a restaurant.

One of his favorite parts of the Fresh Start program is the Bible study. The Bible is where Scott finds strength and he believes that "the world gives us temporary joy, nothing like the joy of the Lord". He also found the other group studies on positive thinking and anger management to be helpful on his road to recovery. Scott has been able overcome life's hardships and says "Life's great! If I can make it through this I can do anything."

## Gifts from the Heart



St. Michael's Episcopal Church brought the Christian Service Center quilted blankets made by Vacation Bible School participants to be distributed this winter for the homeless and made cards to remind us that God loves us. Each blanket has tiny hearts inside. The children said a prayer over the hearts and put them in just before finishing the blanket. May God bless the ones that receive them. The Bible says we must all be like a child to enter the kingdom of heaven (Matthew 18:2-4).





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## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR...

When Sirius rises and sets with our sun, we have entered into a period called the “Dog Day’s of Summer.” Sirius, the brightest star in Canis Major, is commonly called the Dog Star. From mid-July to mid-September, it joins the sun giving us this great ancient expression.

However, this summer has been especially, as my Mom would say, dog-hot! July posted record highs almost each day and still we are experiencing 90 degree weather. With a struggling economy, we have seen our neighbors enter their own Dog Days, a time of intense pressure coupled with everyone sharing the same struggles. In this edition of Servant’s Heart, we share the stories of just two of the hundreds we serve each week; James C. and Scott T. Each is a story of survival and hope. Each, we pray, will touch your hearts as we continue to serve our community, one neighbor at a time.

The Dog Day’s of Summer also mean that many of our friends are spending time with their families and sharing a well-deserved vacation. As a reminder, most, if not all of those we serve don’t have that luxury. Your faithful and generous gift, at this time where resources are scarce and needs are great, is deeply appreciated. Please consider a financial gift, or join us at one of our three locations to share your time and talents.

Sirius will slowly disappear for another year. With your support, we can help make some of these needs also fade away and help others start their lives anew...thank you!

Serving together,

Robert F. Stuart  
 Executive Director

### Back to school donation items wanted!

- Pencils
- Glue Sticks
- Crayons
- Tissues
- Zip lock baggies
- Juice boxes
- Crackers
- Fruit cups
- Peanut butter
- Jelly

For donation drop off locations, please visit our website at [www.ChristianServiceCenter.org](http://www.ChristianServiceCenter.org). Thank you!

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## Family Emergency Services – James’ Story

James C. came to Christian Service Center seeking help to make his rent. He couldn’t let his daughters down. James had some health issues and had to have surgery. As a single father, he also had two girls at home counting on him.

James had worked for a local government as a maintenance worker for 6 years, while he did have health insurance; there were a lot of out of pocket expenses such as medicine not covered. He was out total of 31/2 weeks, not long enough for short term disability to kick in, but long enough for his sick leave to run out. Time off work meant less money coming in, but the bills kept coming.

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“I just needed a little help, a paycheck was coming.”

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James turned to Christian Service Center where he talked to a case manager, Maria. He was required to provide documents from past pay stubs showing his income before his illness and doctor’s note. He received partial rent assistance to make up the difference.

James says that Maria was easy to work with. She listened to him. He feels that other might try to take advantage of our generosity, but he could tell Maria knew his heart and that he was legit.

“It was hard to ask for help. When you need help, you need help”, James said, “Sometimes you got to do what you got to do. I just needed a little help, a paycheck was coming.”

If James could tell the people who support Christian Service Center, he would say thank you. His mother taught him to be appreciative of help, and he in turn wants to teach his girls the same. He realizes that not all the people who come asking for help are able to get help. There is just not enough money aid to go around. He feels blessed.



## BBQ as fellowship at Daily Bread

In June, Dr. John Porter trailered an oak wood smoker up in front of the Christian Service Center’s Daily Bread building and prepared smoked barbeque for all. A recent article caught his attention and prompted an inquiry to cook for our Daily Bread clients. John is actively involved with the Central Florida Chapter of Fishers of Men, a Christ-based outreach for sportsman who fish, where he has faithfully cooked for fishing tournaments, festivals and other outdoor events.

“Cooking is an avenue to fellowship with men and may be used to build relationships between men and the church at large,” John says, “No one ever goes home hungry at our events! God honors what the Christian Service Center is doing, and it is a pleasure to be involved with this ministry. I love to use my hobby as a way to give back to His work. I hope more people can learn as I have about the amazing number of meals the Christian Service Center serves every year and the numbers of lives that are helped each day. I think if more people knew of the need and the great work happening at the Center, they also would like to participate.”

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“I love to use my hobby as a way to give back to His work.”

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When John is not cooking, he provides medical care to small animals at the Kirkman Road Veterinarian Clinic that he founded with his wife, Melanie. Thank you, John, for a day of great food and fellowship at the Christian Service Center’s Daily Bread.

# FEED THE NEED

**BENEFITING THOSE IN NEED THROUGH  
THE CHRISTIAN SERVICE CENTER**

October 7, 2010

6:00PM - 10:00PM

At the Tap Room at Dubsdread

Tickets \$50

Join us for an exciting social evening of food, fun and great silent auction items. Thank you to our Supporting Sponsors: Massey Services, SeaWorld, CNL and New Traditions Bank. To purchase tickets or for more information go to [www.FeedTheNeedOrlando.com](http://www.FeedTheNeedOrlando.com).

## Volunteer Spotlight: Loews Hotel's Good Neighbor Program



For almost seven years employees from the four local Loews Hotel properties (Loews Portofino Bay Hotel, Loews Royal Pacific Resort and Hard Rock Hotel at Universal Orlando, and their Central Support Facility) have volunteered once a month to serve food at the Daily Bread kitchen. Doing service in the community is one of the key principles of the Loews Hotel brand. The Robert Tisch Family, Loews Hotel founders, has always been big supporters of giving back and that attitude has been passed down to today's management through their Good Neighbor Program.

So moved by her Daily Bread volunteer experience, Tara Kennedy, Director of Training and Development, inquired as what more Loews Hotel employees could do for Christian Service Center's clients. Tara felt that it was a privilege to serve and wanted to encourage others in the organization to do the same. Tara says, "Being here is being a good neighbor." She thought about ways to match the talents of the Loews staff to the needs of the Center and finally settled on doing a video on the agency and its volunteer opportunities.

In July, employees from Loews' IT department served food at Daily Bread, while Eric Armstrong, Director of Sales at Swank Audio Visuals, Loews' on-site audio/video provider, taped them in action. Eric also interviewed Christian Service Center staff and other volunteers, and followed Robert Stuart, the Center's Executive Director, on a tour of the main campus. The final tape would be multi-purposed and used in the Center's social media campaigns, volunteer training and agency outreach. Another version of the tape will be used in the Loews Hotel's Team Member Employee Cafeteria video stream to hopefully inspire others to volunteer.

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**"Being here is being a  
good neighbor."**

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Thank you, Loews Hotel employees, for giving of your time and talents as a good neighbor.



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