

CHRISTIAN CARE CENTER

Benevolence Center

Mission Statement: Meeting needs and sharing Christ with families in need by providing food, clothing and other household necessities.

Purpose

The Benevolence Center provides food, clothing and household items free of charge to needy Lake County residents. The program is designed to supply families with five days worth of food and eight articles of clothing per family member each month. As the largest food pantry in Lake County, the center serves an average of over 2,400 individuals each month, giving out over 160,000 pounds of food each month.

Program Details

As a partner agency of Second Harvest, the Benevolence Center receives food donations from grocery and discount stores all around Lake County. Benevolence Center trucks make daily trips to participating stores to collect meat, bread, produce, eggs and packaged foods to stock the warehouse. Volunteers unload the donations and stock the shelves, refrigerators and freezers. Our food and clothing ministry serves the four residential facilities of the Christian Care Center with over 90,000 meals each year, Lake County residents in need and community partners who serve veterans, children, the elderly and other at-risk individuals.

The Benevolence Center services are free and available to all Lake County residents. On the first visit, a counselor begins a client chart with family information and documentation. Our appointment based system allows clients to meet with a counselor once per month to determine their current needs, make referrals for needs that are outside the scope of the Benevolence Center and offer to pray with them for any concerns that they may share.

Volunteers then select and package five days worth of food for each family, taking into account the number and ages of children, living situation and any dietary restrictions. Special care is taken to ensure that each client leaves with the necessities for at least five days of nutritious meals, as well as snacks and treats.

Clothing and household items are donated by partners from the surrounding community. Volunteers sort, clean and prepare these items for display in the clothes closet. Each client is able to select up to eight items of clothing per family member at each appointment. Dishes, bedding and other household items are available by request.



Facilities

The Benevolence Center has changed locations several times over the years. It is currently housed in a historic building that was originally a train depot. The facility has four counseling rooms, office space, a clothing room, a food room and a work room. The warehouse space boasts a commercial walk-in refrigerator and freezer. The Benevolence Center is open Monday—Friday from 9:00 to 11:00 am.

A new facility has long been a dream of the Benevolence Center staff. We are currently in the process of purchasing a new property for our Benevolence Center that will increase the efficiency and effectiveness needed to meet the great need in our area.

History

The Benevolence Center became a separate ministry of the CCC in 1991, but the practice of providing food and clothing to the needy dates back to the early 1980's when FBC gave clothing away from an upstairs closet at the church. The center moved to its present location in 1998. In 2003, the center entered into an alliance with Second Harvest Food Bank as a partner agency, allowing for substantial growth in the number of families that can be served.

Partnering Opportunities

Volunteer partnership opportunities include:

- Counsel clients
- Make appointments and greet clients
- Pack food for families
- Help keep warehouse organized
- Sort clothing and household supplies
- Enter data into computer system
- Fold plastic bags, sort eggs and bag rice
- Partner financially toward daily operating costs
- Donate clothing and household items
- Partner financially toward non-perishable food purchases, allowing us to purchase 500% more food through Second Harvest than at local stores



The staff is supported by a dedicated team of volunteers who serve in many capacities, from client counseling to loading groceries for clients. Efficient operation requires 22 volunteers each day.

Staff

The Benevolence Center staff consists of four positions:

- The Director oversees all operations of the Benevolence Center, its programs, facilities and staff.
- The Assistant Director oversees the daily operations of Benevolence Center.
- The Warehouse Manager oversees collection and delivery, stocking and warehouse operations.
- Drivers pick up donations and handle loading and of unloading food shipments.



Glenn Shires

Benevolence Center Director

Glenn brings decades of grocery experience and business ownership to lead Lake County's Largest Food Pantry, our Benevolence Center. His passion for helping people and sharing about the Lord comes through in everything he does. He and his wife, Sonya, live in Leesburg near their two grown kids.