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The 2012 Connection Wish List

Range/Oven
Clothing Racks
Shelving
Office Supplies
Kitchen Flooring
Furniture
Cell Phones
Clothing
Shoes
Vehicles
Appliances
Household Items
Children's Books
Books

VOLUNTEERS!

THE CHRISTIAN CONNECTION

We offer a big thank you to all of you who responded to the *Connection Wish List*. With your help we were able to accomplish several projects.

A very generous donation of office related items allowed us to supply a computer and printer to someone who desperately needed it and to replace an old printer/fax machine in the CEC office.

Even though it is hard for most of us to comprehend, this past winter CEC was made aware of someone who was residing in a dwelling with a dilapidated door that had a two inch space at the top that allowed the air on the inside to be almost as cold as the air on the outside. We were in the process of publishing our newsletter so we added the door to our wish list and immediately received a heavy door that we were able to install.

It seems that all we need to do is let people know of a need and it is supplied. It's all about connecting those in need with those willing to share what they have.

A very generous donation of a bedroom suite, including mattress and box springs and linens, allowed us to furnish a bed for someone who had been sleeping on a cot.

A woman in need of eyeglasses was supplied a new pair compliments of a very generous optical store who desires to remain anonymous.

A large donation of books has supplied reading material for several people who love to read but who are not financially able to purchase books.

A big thank you goes to the businesses and individuals that are willing to help others so generously.

Help us continue making these connections by donating any item from our wish list, or contact us to discuss additional items that could help someone in need.

**All donations are tax deductible.
More importantly you are choosing
to glorify God by
"STANDING BESIDE ONE ANOTHER".**

FIRST THESSALONIANS FIVE:ELEVEN

Matching Funds Reach \$750.00

An anonymous donor offered CEC an amazing fund raising tool. They are matching dollar for dollar up to \$2000.00 any funds raised in 2012. I am excited to announce that, as of this newsletter, we have received donations of \$750.00 from individual donors, which means a total of \$1,500 because it is being matched!! In the history of our organization we have been blessed with donations, but the “matching funds” offer is a first. It has been a huge motivation to reach out to others and educate them as to what we accomplish and how we impact lives and ask them to help make it happen.

We are thankful to each of you who have donated and

want you to realize that with the “Matching Funds” your donation allows CEC to have double the impact on people. Elsewhere in this newsletter you can read of lives we have affected by “standing beside someone” through tough times and offering not only encouraging words but financial assistance as well.

We encourage you to help us reach the \$2000.00 goal by December 31, 2012, so that

we can double our impact!

I love talking about CEC and would enjoy visiting with you personally about helping us reach

this fund raising goal or any of our projects. If you want to know more about us or want to get involved, please email me at kvsprad@gmail.com or if you prefer to call you can reach me at 405-204-4570.

Kathryn Spradley-
CEC PRESIDENT

GOD PREFERS
TO WORK
THROUGH
PEOPLE
RATHER THAN
PERFORMING
MIRACLES SO
THAT WE
WILL DEPEND
ON EACH
OTHER FOR
FELLOWSHIP.”

RICK WARREN



“Therefore
encourage one another
and build each other up...”
first thessalonians five:eleven

EXCITING NEWS FOR CEC, INC

WEAR IT OR SHARE IT

May 1, 2012 the “Wear It or Share It” project again, along with the members of a local congregation, were able to pack and ship clothing to Christians in Honduras. Manuel Pastrana with the help of Rigoberto and Mary Escoto are now in the process of distributing the eight large boxes (approximately 1200 pounds) of very nice clothing to members of congregations in and around the area of Tegucigalpa, Honduras.

We are so thankful for all who have contributed clothing to our “Wear It or Share It” project. I wish that each of you who donate, pack and contribute funds to ship, could have been present when this last shipment of clothes was received in Honduras. I don’t believe those who are blessed with so much can even imagine how exciting it is to receive even a few items of used clothing. There are more clothes needed than we can possibly collect and ship but knowing that each shipment blesses so many people encourages us to continue our project.

Our goal with the “Wear It or Share It” project is to meet the clothing needs of people no matter where they are located. If you know of someone in need of clothing, please contact us, and we will do our best to supply that need.

*When you are in the process of changing out your summer wardrobe for winter, and getting rid of items, please consider helping with our project. You are not only helping yourself clean out the closet, but you are helping others by supplying much needed clothing. If you are in need of a tax-deductible donation for 2012, please remember to **WEAR IT OR SHARE IT.***

At the present time your plenty will supply what they need.....

2 Corinthians 8:14

VEHICLE DONATIONS

• One of the benefits of CEC being registered as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, allows CEC to accept vehicles as tax deductible donations. A few months ago we received a vehicle that had broken down, and the owner chose not to have it repaired. Instead they donated it to CEC. First we looked at selling the vehicle for scrap metal, and would have received around \$250.00. Then we talked with a local mechanic who, after inspecting the vehicle, was willing to purchase the vehicle “as is” for \$500.00. He was excited to invest his labor and a few parts in order to sell the vehicle, and we were excited to double the amount we received from the donation.

A second vehicle was received, this time a very generous donation of a car that was running. We were able to sell the second vehicle almost immediately. The proceeds from that sale were \$900.00.

We encourage you to consider us when contemplating what to do with your used vehicle. Your vehicle can be a tax deductible donation and the vehicle or proceeds from its sale can be used to continue our efforts of glorifying God by helping those in need.

We are so thankful that there are individuals who are willing to be a part of what we do by donating their vehicles.

FACEBOOK OR FACE 2 FACE

Recently a friend shared a news story from ABC News about a study published in the journal of “Cyberpsychology, Behavior and Social Networking”. She knew that I would, as a long time advocate of “face-to-face friendships”, find the story interesting. As a matter of fact, the study is so interesting that I would like to share it with you. The article is entitled “Facebook: Friends’ Happy Pictures Make You Sad?” ABC’s News Ned Potter contributed to this story.

There are plenty of reasons to feel down in today’s fast-paced, hectic world, and you wouldn’t think that the world’s most popular social networking site would be one of them. But that’s exactly what a new study by Utah Valley University has found. According to the study, Facebook is making us sad. Why? It’s all about the kinds of pictures people post on their pages.

Facebook photos generally depict smiling, cheerful people having good times, conveying a sense of happiness. Of course everyone likes to smile for the camera, so that good cheer may be inflated or false. As others view the photos, they may believe this conveyed sense of intense happiness is real, making them think that their friends are much happier than they are.

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Sociologists Hui-Tzu Grace Chou and Nicholas Edge said they interviewed four-hundred-twenty-five students, asking them whether they agreed or disagreed with such statements as “Many of my friends have a better life than me” and “Life is fair”. They also asked about the student’s Facebook usage, including how many “friends” they had on the site, and how many of those friends were really people they knew.

After controlling for race, gender, religious beliefs and whether the volunteers were unattached or in a relationship, the researchers saw a pattern: The more time students spent on Facebook, the more they thought others had it better than they did.

“Those who have used Facebook longer agreed more that others were happier, and agreed less that life is fair, and those spending more time on Facebook each week agreed more that others were happier and had better lives,” wrote Chou and Edge. “Furthermore, those that included more people whom they did not personally know as their Facebook “Friends” agreed more that others had better lives.”

The study, which was published in the journal ‘Cyberpsychology, Behavior and Social Networking’, also found that people who spent less time socializing with friends in cyberspace and more time socializing with them in real life were less likely to report they were unhappy. So if you are looking for a way to cheer yourself up, the researchers say you may do well to log off Facebook. Call your best friend instead.

Instead of being a “collected friend” I encourage you to be a “connected friend”. I challenge you to balance the time spent on Facebook (or any other social media) with an equivalent amount of time developing stronger, deeper, more authentic relationships with your “friendly few”.

Kathryn Spradley

CHRISTIANS IN DISTRESS

Who would you turn to if you were unemployed and in financial trouble? What if you were told by a mechanic that you needed several hundred dollars worth of repairs performed on your car and there were no funds to have it performed? What if you needed new glasses to be able to see to do the work you do but couldn't afford them? What if it was suggested to you to purchase more professional clothing before going on job interviews? Imagine that all of these things were happening to you simultaneously and how overwhelming it could be. These are not imaginary scenarios but are actual life experiences of an individual, who wishes to remain anonymous, but wants to share their story with you.

One of CEC's board members made us aware of this person's circumstances and was willing to coordinate a plan for us to encourage them by helping them through a very stressful time. The following plan was set into motion.

- (A) A CEC volunteer helped them:
- * update their resume and allowed them to use their computer to apply for jobs online
 - * develop a personal budget and provided on-going counsel so that they could survive financially until they obtained employment
 - * create meal plans from their existing food supply, which enabled them to spend a minimal amount of money and effort for excellent meals
 - * focus on their God-given strengths and prayerfully create a detailed plan to move in a positive direction with ongoing prayer, check-in, counsel, support, and encouragement
- (B) A CEC volunteer met with them and determined what maintenance/repairs actually needed to be done to their vehicle to make it safe to drive. Then, using CEC funds, necessary parts and supplies were purchased and the maintenance and repairs were made.

- (C) A consistent supporter of CEC was contacted about the professional wardrobe needs of this individual. They immediately selected several items of clothing from their closet and willingly donated them to the cause. Another volunteer completed some necessary alterations to make the clothing fit perfectly and professionally.
- (D) The owner of an optical shop, who wishes to remain anonymous, was contacted and was willing to donate a new pair of glasses. They also arranged for an optician to perform the necessary adjustments to the glasses free of charge.
- (E) A computer, printer, monitor, and necessary accessories (donated to CEC) were delivered to the individuals home so that they could have access to the internet, which would give them more flexibility for on-line job search and applications

"I FEEL THAT CEC HAS HAD A GREAT IMPACT ON MY CIRCUMSTANCES BY ENCOURAGING ME IN MY JOB HUNT AND WITH MY SPIRITUAL LIFE. THEY HELPED ME WITH CLOTHING NEEDS, CAR MAINTENANCE, AND COMPUTER EQUIPMENT AND HELPED ME OBTAIN NEW GLASSES. I AM PLANNING ON GOING THROUGH MY OWN HOUSE TO SEE IF I HAVE SOMETHING THAT I MIGHT DONATE TO HELP SOMEONE ELSE. I WILL SAY THAT CEC CERTAINLY LIVES UP TO ITS NAME AND HAS BEEN A GREAT ENCOURAGEMENT TO ME."

The following quotes are taken from an email we received from our recipient, "I feel that CEC has had a great impact on my circumstances by encouraging me in my job hunt and with my spiritual life. They helped me with clothing needs, car maintenance, and computer equipment and helped me obtain new glasses. I am planning on going through my own house to see if I have something that I might donate to help someone else. I will say

that CEC certainly lives up to its name and has been a great encouragement to me."

At the time of this newsletter, our recipient has found a job with excellent benefits and has been employed for over 3 months. They have received a performance review that indicates that they are well-fitted for the job. We ask that our readers keep this recipient in their prayers and that God will continue to be glorified

"Encouragement can actually change the course of another person's day"
Chuck Swindoll