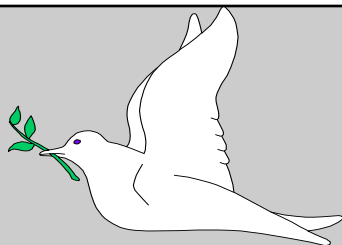


Norcross Cooperative Ministry  
The Greg Ellis Center

*Serving those in crisis through the  
resources of the community given  
in the love of Christ.*



# NCM Herald

A publication of the Norcross Cooperative Ministry

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## Norcross Cooperative Ministry

Helping those in crisis through the resources of the community given in the love of Christ.

### What is the Norcross Co-Op?

The Norcross Cooperative Ministry is a faith-based, non-profit, non-political organization dedicated to serving men, women and children in the Norcross community, a metropolitan suburb north of Atlanta, GA. Founded in 1988, the mission of the Norcross Co-Op is to provide emergency assistance to families in crisis. The Co-Op is an ecumenical ministry supported by twenty-one churches in Norcross. NCM also receives support from local businesses, civic and social organizations, foundations and individuals.

### Bruester's Ice Cream Coat Drive

Ms. Karen Sutton, Manager of Bruester's Ice Cream on Indian Trail, and Ms. Wendy Leslie, VP and Executive Director of Operation Warm, a non-profit organization located in Chadds Ford, PA, did a coat drive through which we were able to provide 200 new winter coats in a variety of children's sizes for children in Norcross. The coats were distributed during and following the Thanksgiving lunch at Campus Church of Christ. We appreciate individuals like Karen and Wendy and their organizations who work very hard to help us provide for our clients needs. They both gave very generously of their time and talent.

### Thanksgiving & Christmas Meals

Campus Church of Christ prepared 700 meals on Thanksgiving Day. 400 people, including NCM clients, ate Thanksgiving lunch together. Children's winter coats provided through the Bruester's Ice Cream on Indian Trail and Operation Warm's coat drive were distributed. The remaining winter coats and 300 meals were delivered to families in local extended stay hotels. On Christmas Eve, Greater Atlanta Christian School staff prepared and volunteers from Campus Church packed two hot meals and two bagged meals for 300 families for a total of 1,200 meals. Those 1,200 meals were delivered to families in local extended stay hotels. We appreciate the wonderful meals prepared by Carolyn Maddox and her staff at GACS and the dedicated volunteers from Campus Church of Christ and the community who made it possible for Campus, GACS and NCM to provide these meals to the community.

### 2004 Highlights

Here are some highlights from a very fulfilling year:

- Co-hosted a Job and Career Fair along with Gwinnett Coalition, Hopewell Baptist Church and the Georgia Department of Labor with over 500 job seekers in attendance.
- Hosted the UNITE Health Fair.
- Donated space for PCA to take applications for heating assistance from more than 500 low income families.
- Provided administrative office and meeting space to Good Samaritan Health Center—Gwinnett.
- Hosted the Mobile Dental Unit which provides screening and other dental services to children.
- Hosted free weekly ESOL classes with an average attendance of 15 adult students.
- Collected and distributed school supplies to 15 schools in the Norcross and Meadowcreek school clusters. NCM also conducted a charity book fair with Barnes & Noble at the Forum to support the Co-Op's ESOL and school supply programs.
- Hosted Gwinnett Tech Resource Fair and Career Scope Assessments. NCM also participated in local mission and resource fairs.

### 2005 Goals / Changes

In 2005, our primary goal is to raise the last \$100,000 needed to pay off our building mortgage. Being debt-free will allow us to provide even more financial aid and other services to families in need. Mark your calendars—NCM will now be open on Tuesday nights from 6:00PM to 8:00PM instead of Wednesday nights. We always need volunteers!

### NCM & Stock Donations

NCM can accept donations of common stock. Our broker, Mr. Dan Kinney of The Kinney Group, can be reached at (770) 449-9079. For some people, the direct donation of stock can have certain tax advantages. The Kinney Group has been gracious to offer us their assistance in maintaining an account that will ensure the proper processing of gifted stock.

NCM gratefully acknowledges the donation of printing supplies and services by Trinity Press.

## NCM Job Ministry

Please keep us in your prayers as we strive to help our underemployed and unemployed clients find work in 2005. Throughout 2004 we saw more than 50 people each month who indicated that they were looking for a new or better job. The type of work they look for includes non-technical to highly technical and management level jobs. In an effort to service their needs, the Job Ministry team works to identify new job leads and job fairs, and then contacts candidates to share this information with them.

In 2005, you can help us increase these job leads by networking with us! The next time you hear about a job opening, see a 'Now Hiring' sign, or if your church has a career function scheduled or receives a job lead, let us know! We will be happy to pass the word! We have several ways you can reach us: e-mail us at [jobministry@norcrossco-op.org](mailto:jobministry@norcrossco-op.org), call us at (770) 263-0013, or send us a fax to (770) 263-0998. We would love to hear from you!

## GCPS Homeless Outreach Social Workers

The Norcross Cooperative Ministry plays a vital role in the work of the Gwinnett County Public Schools Outreach Social Workers. The Co-Op provides homeless outreach social workers access to a variety of resources including the clothing closet, food pantry, and financial assistance for extended stay hotels as well as identifying families with school-aged children who are homeless. We appreciate the support we receive from NCM.

## Volunteers Needed

Volunteering at NCM is about sharing and caring with our friends and neighbors. Our client needs range from short-term to long-term needs. Some clients have recently lost a job, some are dealing with medical disabilities while others are facing economic and family challenges. Last year 10,920 clients visited NCM.

The generous commitment of time and resources from the community allows us to serve families in need. The needs of our clients are growing and you can help. Whatever your schedule allows, we have volunteer opportunities. We need volunteers on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 10AM to 2PM. We also need help sorting clothing donations on Tuesdays & Fridays.

Call, e-mail or stop and see us to learn more about NCM and how you can be a part of this dynamic ministry. Call us at (770) 263-0013 or contact us by e-mail at [info@norcrossco-op.org](mailto:info@norcrossco-op.org).

## Food Pantry Needs

NCM distributes over 3,000 bags of non-perishable food each month to more than 1,000 families. Even with the generous donations we received during the holidays, our pantry supplies will be depleted within the next six weeks. Your donations are important. Please give generously. Avoid glass containers.

Baby Formula & Baby Cereal & Diapers in Sizes 3, 4, and 5  
Canned Meats (Tuna, Chicken, Ham, Ravioli, Spaghetti & Meatballs)  
Canned Fruit & Vegetables  
Juice (Apple, Grape, Orange)  
Cereal  
Macaroni & Cheese  
Peanut Butter & Jelly  
Spaghetti Sauce & Spaghetti Noodles  
Personal Care Items (soap, shampoo, toothpaste, toilet tissue, feminine products and laundry detergent)



## Financial Donations

The enclosed self-addressed envelopes are provided for your convenience. You may direct your financial donation to any area of need such as "building loan", "food pantry", "Christmas", "school supplies", or "financial aid for clients rent and utilities". Make your check payable to "NCM". We appreciate your support!

## 2004 NCM Holiday Assistance Report

Thanks to generous donations of toys, cash, food and time from the community, our 2004 Holiday Assistance Program was a huge success. Together we helped 1,302 families with food and provided over 3,500 children and teens with toys and gifts. A special "Thank You" goes out to the forty businesses in Technology Park who donated toys and, with the help of the Gwinnett County Fire Department, delivered nearly 30,000 toys to NCM. We also want to thank Toys for Tots for their donation of toys and the North Gwinnett High School DECA club for collecting and sorting those toys for us. We also very much appreciate the generous donations of time and resources by the following individuals and businesses:

- David & Patti Henderson, Tim & Michelle Taylor, Bill & Leslie Buchanan, and Rodney & Diane Lewis
- Jim Ellis Automobile Dealerships
- Transwestern Commercial Services

Lastly, we want to thank the hundreds of volunteers who sorted, packed, distributed or helped in many other ways from October through December 2004. For the 1,300 families who applied for holiday assistance your collective efforts made Christmas morning brighter for more than 3,500 children in our community.

## Encourage Literacy

Children love to read and they look for books when they are in our office. You may donate current, gently used books appropriate for children up to age 15. We also encourage donations of Bibles in English and Spanish.

## Thank You

To the family of Norcross Cooperative Ministry— I just want to send you a heart-felt thank you. This Christmas will be one of the most difficult, but blessed thanks to the gifts you have given me for my children. My children and I have just relocated her from another state. I have not been able to find a job as of yet, but thanks to you I will be able to give my children something on Christmas morning. Thank you again and may God bless each and every one of you. Signed—*A Grateful Mother*