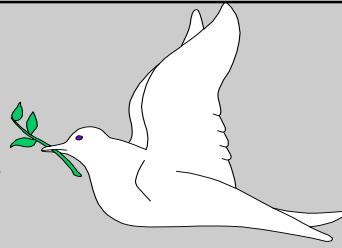


Norcross Cooperative Ministry
The Greg Ellis Center

*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

May — August 2005

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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.

The President's Corner

The gospels of Matthew, Mark and John tell us about Jesus visiting the home of Simon of Bethany. A woman named Mary poured very expensive perfume on Jesus' head and feet. Some in the crowd were indignant and complained that this was a waste saying, "This perfume could have been sold for a lot of money and given to the poor." Jesus responded, "The poor you will always have with you, but she has done a good thing as she has poured perfume on my body to prepare it for burial." We often debate Mary's generosity or waste, depending on your perspective. If we help feed, clothe and house the poor of our community by offering our time, our talents, and our financial gifts are we not pouring sweet perfume in honor of our Lord? Working together through the Norcross Co-Op to meet the needs of others gives us the opportunity to be the hands and feet of Jesus in our time. Our reward is in knowing that a family receives food, to know that a child has the school supplies he/she needs, to know that someone was able to find work as a result of our job services ministry or that the family was able to stay in their temporary or permanent home or keep the utilities turned on because we were there for them when they most needed us. And on those occasions when barriers come down, our greatest joy comes when a client allows us to pray openly with them for their specific needs. "The King will reply, **'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.'**" Matthew 25:40 (NIV)

Announcing The Advisory Board

We are very pleased to announce the formation of NCM's first Advisory Board to the NCM Board of Directors. We called upon the following leaders in the community who graciously accepted the invitation to serve on NCM's Advisory Board:

*Elliott Brack, Editor & Publisher, Gwinnett Forum
Bill Burton, Principal, Greater Atlanta Christian School
Jim Coughlin, Sr VP, Transwestern Commercial Services
Jim Ellis, President, Jim Ellis Companies
Steve Franzen, Judge, Gwinnett County
Michael Frech, Gwinnett County Public Schools
Debra Herring, Hopewell Missionary Baptist Church
Barbara Kasbo, Norcross Cooperative Ministry
Dan Kinney, Financial Advisor, The Kinney Group
Mayor Lillian Webb, City of Norcross*

The Advisory Board will assist the members of the Board of Directors (BOD) by reviewing proposals, policy changes and other items of importance, as requested, by the Board of Directors.

NCM 1st Quarter Service Report

Total number of families served3,259
Total number of adults served4,437
Total number of children served3,855
Total number of senior citizens served101
Total number of individuals served.....8,393

NCM & Stock Donations

NCM can accept donations of common stock. Our Financial Advisor, 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, at no charge to us, 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.

Norcross Cooperative Ministry

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Food Pantry Needs



NCM distributes over 3,000 bags of non-perishable food each month to more than 900 families. The summer months are particularly difficult for children in Norcross many of whom depend upon one or two meals through the free or reduced lunch programs which are not available when school is out for the summer. Your donations are important.

Please give generously. Avoid glass containers.

Canned Meats (Tuna, Chicken, Ham, Spaghetti & Meatballs)
Canned Fruit & Vegetables
Cereal and Juice (Apple, Grape, Orange)
Macaroni & Cheese
Peanut Butter & Jelly
Spaghetti Sauce & Spaghetti Noodles

Personal Care Items for men and women including soap, shampoo, toothpaste, toilet tissue, feminine products and laundry detergent.

NCM Job Ministry

Networking is an essential tool for today's job seeker. It is one of the key techniques to learn about new jobs that are posted internally or job opportunities in different areas of the community. This is where you can help. Share your job leads with us. We strive to spread the word to our clients providing greater awareness of these opportunities and continued hope to their job search. Your job lead can help make a difference to our unemployed and underemployed. Call (770) 263-0013, send faxes to (770) 263-0998, or e-mail us at jobministry@norcrossco-op.org. We would love to hear from you!

Career Fest 2005 and Job Fair

Planning is underway for this year's CareerFest 2005 and Job Fair!

Scheduled for Thursday, June 23rd, 2005, our goal is to provide a wide-range of career related services including job leads, resume assistance, interviewing techniques and more. We will also include access to other community related programs addressing educational needs and social services.

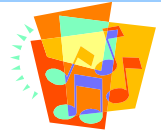
Watch for upcoming news and registration information in the months ahead. If you or your company would like to participate in this event, please contact NCM at (770) 263-0013 or e-mail us at jobministry@norcrossco-op.org

Donations Envelopes Included

We invite you to make any donation you can using the convenient self-addressed envelope included with this newsletter. You may designate your financial donation's purpose using the memo field on the bottom of your check. Your gift may be designated for "General Operations", "Building Loan", "Food Pantry", "Christmas Assistance", "School Supplies", or "Client Assistance". Make your check payable to "NCM". Every donation helps someone!

"Chicago in Norcross" Saturday, May 14, 2005

Peachtree Corners Rotary Club
And It's Preferred Charities
Celebrating 100 Years of Rotary



7PM Until 11PM
At the Carlyle House
173 South Peachtree Street
Norcross, GA 30071

Come out & enjoy party activities, live music, silent and live auctions and hors d'oeuvres!
A portion of the proceeds benefit the Norcross Co-Op.
Tickets are \$30.00 per person.
Call Shirley at NCM at (770) 263-0013 for tickets.

Building Fund Report

Praise be to God! Thanks to generous donations from individuals, member churches, businesses and foundations, the outstanding mortgage on the new facility is now less than \$98,000. Our goal is to eliminate the remaining balance by year-end. Several debt elimination ideas have been proposed including:

- *If 1,000 people gave \$10/month for 10 months, NCM would be debt free.*
- *If 500 people gave \$20 each month for 10 months, NCM would be debt free.*
- *If each of our 20 member churches made a one-time donation of \$5,000 to NCM's Building Fund, NCM would be debt free.*

Supporting NCM's fund raising events throughout the year also helps. Contact Shirley at NCM at 770-263-0013 to schedule a private or group tour of the facility. Please prayerfully consider what your family, your business or your church can contribute to NCM's Building Fund during 2005.

National Volunteer Appreciation Week

In honor of National Volunteer Week, April 17—23, 2005, we would like to thank each and every volunteer who has contributed time, talent and service to NCM. We have been in operation now for 16 years providing essential needs of food, clothing, financial assistance and more to our neighbors in Norcross. It is only through the blessings of your help and time that we have been able to continue to support these needs. Our many thanks to each of you, our volunteers, for helping us continue to grow and serve the increasing needs in our community. If you are interested in volunteer opportunities, give us a call to learn more about the dynamic and growing ministry that is the Norcross Co-Op.