

March 2015

Volume 1, No. 1

Newsletter

Grand Central Station Sherman



Since our Beginning October 2010

- 118,096 Meals have been served
- 32,854.70 Volunteer hours have been documented
- We're serving between 125-150 meals daily



Staff Highlight Ben Merrill

Employing a Manager for Grand Central Station became a necessity two and a half years ago, and we couldn't have found a better one! Ben has over 50 years experience in the food industry business. He went to high school in Richardson, attended Texas Tech in Lubbock, served our country in the Army and VietNam and we're lucky to have him. Ben has one daughter and two grandchildren ages 5 and 3.



Since Ben has joined our team we've obtained retail partners like Sam's Club and WalMart, the North Texas Food Bank of Dallas, Olive Garden, Chiplote, Target, Tyson and Ruiz. Ben makes sure our weekly menu is in place, food is available, and coordinates with the weekly cooking staff. "The fellowship here is just fantastic, the community is just great they support us so well."

About Grand Central Station March 2015

We are a 501-C3 group of volunteers who help to provide meals and services to those in need. On a monthly basis we have over 150-200 volunteers rotating to serve in preparation and serving food and acting as administrative helpers, advocates for social services, and just helping where needed. We have several women with skills in helping with social services who come once a month. Most of our volunteer teams of workers are from churches, businesses, industries, and some who are just friends serving together rotating on a monthly basis in the running of the kitchen.

We also serve as an agency where those who have been required to do community service can serve their hours.

Grand Central Station, with the help of all the churches and community members,

continues to thrive thanks to leaders, donations, and volunteers.

- Dorothy McKee

Monday-Friday 9:00am-1:00pm
Coffee, Juice & Rolls at 9am
Hot lunch served between 11-1
Saturdays-Sack lunches
9:30 until all distributed
Showers, washer, dryer
available M-F

TV & Computer with
Internet Access available

Volunteer assistance with
applications and forms weekly

EMAIL ADDRESS:
grandcentralstation@gcecisp.com
PHONE: 903-957-0264



GRAND CENTRAL STATION DINING CAR

SERVING LUNCH TO THOSE IN NEED
110 THROCKMORTON
(Between E. Lamar and E. Houston)

Board of Directors

Gail Utter
Peg McClure
Sheryl Bradshaw

Service area: North Texas

Anyone that comes to our dining car is welcome.

Our Mission

The mission of Grand Central Station is: To operate as a local outreach mission sponsored by a group of Grayson County Texas churches that share a commitment to help reduce the effects of resource limitations by helping those in need.

We hope to do this by:

- Providing nutritious meals to alleviate hunger.
- Education, training, and social services to empower lives.
- Opportunities for community services as needed.

The History of Grand Central Station

It was September 14, 2005 that a group of eleven members started as a special interest group at First United Methodist Church. They met weekly for several months, researching the needs for assistance in Sherman, Texas. Specifically they found that a soup kitchen was something that might be needed. They reached their decision by visiting various kitchens in the North Texas area, consulting existing organizations and programs involved in serving the community in similar ways, and consulting with various leaders in the Sherman/Denison area. As a result of their many hours of research and consultations, they decided that such a place was needed and the study committee added many additional people and became an action committee. The group became very diverse, representing many of the churches in Sherman. The property and building were acquired and grants were applied for and received. Kent Hughlet a local architect and experts in all fields relevant to building and running a soup kitchen advised. The larger group met weekly for many months and then biweekly for many more months.

The enthusiasm and excitement grew with each success. In preparation for opening, all the Sherman churches were contacted by letter and attempts were made to contact them personally for volunteers. Five years later it became a reality.

Our Guests

Guests at Grand Central Station are ethnically and racially a diverse group. We hope to serve this diverse group, many of which may fall through the cracks of other social services. We do not currently use an intake form unless they are requesting services other than those we provide. We do include homeless and low income but offer lunch to anyone who comes. Many of our guests contribute to our donation jar at the food line. We started with lunch service only but expanded to breakfast. We offer clothes washing facilities, showers, and referrals to other agencies that might help our guests. The Dining Car is one place where guests can have a nutritious meal and socialize in a safe and secure environment.

Grand Central Station Dining Room

