



Newsletter

Grand Central Station Sherman, Texas

Since our Beginning

October 2010

- 153,163 Meals have been served
- 40,454 Volunteer hours have been documented
- We're serving between 150-170 meals daily



As mentioned in the last newsletter, we serve a full Thanksgiving Dinner on that day each year, November 26 in 2015. We serve a traditional lunch to about 200 people. Unfortunately this year, turkeys are not as prevalent. North Texas Food Bank has not offered them for us to purchase and says they may not be available through them. We will be relying on Sam's and local groceries if this occurs. So..... if you are looking for something to donate this Thanksgiving we would love to receive turkeys. Volunteers to help prepare and serve on Thanksgiving have filled our kitchen, we are particularly thankful for the Williams family from McKinney who have come every year to help. We have other volunteers who vary, some of our regulars and some who just call to help who are not a part of our regular crews. It is a great day to be a part of the GCS team.

We assume the same thing will happen with turkey for our Christmas Eve meal but we can also serve chicken (which we do have) and hams for that meal. We will be having our Annual Christmas party for the children on Saturday, December 19th and our Christmas Eve lunch on Thursday December 24th. Capió Partners will provide toys for our children. We have been saving full sized toiletries for our adults and usually supplement these gifts with scarves, gloves, hats and socks for winter. If you want to contribute these things, let us know.

We want to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and a very Merry Christmas. We are blessed to have all of our volunteers who help and visitors who attend.

Good To Know about GCSS

We have mentioned various programs offered through Grand Central Station: Children's Express, Great Days of Service, and our own history at The Dining Car for breakfast, lunch, shower and laundry facilities. I thought you might like to know about some of the other non-profit organizations that we collaborate with in our service to those in need. We are members of **Grayson County Social Service** organization and have a representative, Joanne Fowler, who attends monthly meetings. We were chosen two years in a row to be the recipient of their Outstanding Social Service Organization award. We are also a part of **The Homeless Coalition** which meets to collaborate on serving those in need. They supervise the survey "Point in Time" which interviews the homeless population annually in Grayson County. In previous issues of the newsletter we also covered the local businesses that support us so generously all year long. We are so grateful for these organizations and have recently added a new one: **Sunny Delight**. We just got

on their list, and can get up to two pallets of products weekly. Good to know we will always have drinks for our visitors.

Close to our location is **SHARE MINISTRIES**. It began as a program supported by Fairview Baptist and has now become independent. They do a great deal for our Sherman community, providing food, monetary support if needed, food pick up from various groceries and businesses in Sherman to share with all of us, religious services at their location at Willow and Houston St. Their director Bill Whiteacre often loans us their truck and even has someone do our large pick-ups when a larger vehicle is needed.

THE GREEN HOUSE, formerly Key Care, is still in business though no longer a part of Key Memorial Church since their closing. They are still located in the same green house to the East of the church and are open MWF from 1-4 pm. They distribute 3 bags of food every 90 days to those who sign up and qualify, and also distribute clothing as needed by those who use the service. They receive donations of

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Grand Central Station's Success

food and clothing from the community and are currently receiving money from Grand Central Station for food purchases to supplement those donations.

FOUR RIVERS is another non-profit organization located behind the old Steam Laundry Building at Lamar St and Rusk. They serve in many ways, particularly those who have alcohol or drug addictions they want to reverse. They serve lunch, have temporary housing for their clients, and provide dental services by appointment to all of the community. There is quite a waiting list for the dental appointments but many have been helped. They offer assistance with GED diplomas, tutoring, job placement, and other social services.

MASTER KEY is perhaps the newest of our organizations serving the community. They are located on 1417 just south of Hwy 56. They offer after school tutoring and have a Food Pantry from which those who qualify can obtain their choice of food once a month on Saturday mornings. They are also a faith-based group that serves all faiths. Their success has been recognized by teachers in the public school system whose students have benefitted from their after school tutoring. They receive donations from the community and are supported financially from various donors and churches.

Our homeless population is further served by **SHARE: Taking it to the Streets**, administered and served by Camile Snyder and a Board of Directors. She collects food products from around the area from various organizations, retail outlets and private groups. She has found where the homeless live and takes groceries to them, and in the process can also help them with other social service needs. She goes to them because they do not have the means to come to our other physical locations, and so serves a real need in our area. Although some of the homeless do come to GCS, Four Rivers, Share Ministries and other groups, not all are able to take advantage of these services. They will be starting a new "Food Bus" program serving hot meals from their bus at Trinity Baptist

Nov-Feb, 4-6 pm every Saturday and Denison on another night.

All of the above organizations benefit greatly from **North Texas Food Bank**. This federally sponsored organization receives funds to purchase huge quantities of food. They are located in Dallas, Texas, and Grand Central Station is a member which qualifies us for re-purchase and distribution of their products. Each week they post what foods are available and we go online and order what we need that week or in the future for meals. On Thursday of each week, a semi-truck from Dallas arrives with the orders for the Sherman and Denison organizations who are members. If the orders made do not fill the semi, foods available free of charge are placed on the truck and distributed to those groups in Sherman/Denison who need them. The cost of these foods is amazingly low, i.e. cases of meats and chicken at \$5 or less. We encourage those wanting to help us to donate money instead of physical food products because we get such a good price for foods. Although they do not have a lot of the staples we need such as coffee, tea, sugar, flour, condiments, soaps and detergents, paper products, etc., they are a valuable resource for us and the other organizations that need food products.

We have many other services available for assistance in Sherman and Grayson County: **Salvation Army, Grayson County Shelter** in Denison, **St. Vincent De Paul** at St. Mary's Church, **TCOG**, other churches in the area and many other amazing institutions. In fact, we maintain listings in a green notebook in the office of The Dining Car and also a Social Service file on the computer. Anyone coming in who needs services such as rent assistance, utility assistance, housing, gas money, food, shelter, clothing, jobs, Veteran's assistance, etc. can be helped through many of the organizations we have written about today and certainly through **Grand Central Station**.



GRAND CENTRAL STATION DINING CAR

SERVING LUNCH TO THOSE IN NEED

110 THROCKMORTON SHERMAN, TX
(Between E. Lamar and E. Houston)

Anyone that comes to our dining car is welcome.

Service area: North Texas

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

Volunteer assistance with applications and forms

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.

Board of Directors

Gail Utter ~ Peg McClure ~ Sheryl Bradshaw

Advisory Board

Leigh Ann Kloppers, Buffy Todd, Mary Hamel, Ben Merrill, Laura Wheeler, Ralph Bluemel, Webb Sanderson, Garrett Riddels and Jim Gay

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