



December 2016

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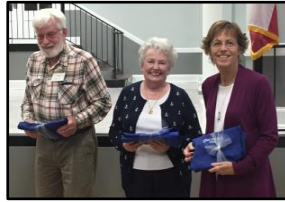
Newsletter

Since our Beginning In October 2010

- ✓ 194,611 meals served
- ✓ 48,292 Volunteer hours
- ✓ 100 – 200 meals served daily

GRAND CENTRAL STATION WISH LIST

- Hams
- Folgers Coffee 3#
- Gal size tea bags
- Plastic Forks, Spoons, Knives
- Styrofoam soup bowls
- Pam Cooking Spray
- Trash Can Liners, 13 & 33 gal
- Sandwich, Quart & 1 gal Zip Lock Bags
- Brown Paper Bags 12#
- Razors
- Deodorant – small size
- Hotel samples of shampoo, lotion, body wash
- Toothbrushes
- Travel size toothpaste
- Mittens
- Toboggin hats
- Blankets
- Sleeping Bags
- Tents, for our homeless



THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS!

What a grand time we had at our Volunteer Awards reception on November 10th at the Municipal Ballroom! We celebrated our heartfelt "thank you's" to the wonderful volunteers and donors who support Grand Central Station!

Some of the awards included: Sue Gudel, Volunteer Of The Year for The Greenhouse, Scott Woodard, Volunteer Of The Year for Children's Express, Katherine Maire, Volunteer Of The Year for Grand Central Station's Dining Car, Pearce Bailey, Conductor of the Year, Peg McClure, the Founders award and Capio

Partners, LLC. The Employer of the year. Congratulations to all our volunteers for their dedicated service. Without them, we couldn't provide for our underserved in Grayson County, where there is always a hot meal consisting of an entree, vegetables, dessert, and beverage served to our guests, in a warm and friendly atmosphere.

None of this would be possible without the kindness of people who donate their time, food, money, and other resources. I am proud to live in such a caring community!

GRAND CENTRAL STATION Appreciates Your Continued Support!

Grand Central Station needs and welcomes your donation in any denomination! Every dollar counts and is used for food for our visitors, Children's Backpack program, and day-to-day operations for our Soup Kitchen. Your donation is TAX DEDUCTIBLE. Please send your donation to: Grand Central Station, P.O. Box 3173, Sherman, Texas 75091.

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, Sheryl Bradshaw,

Leigh Ann Sims, Buffy Todd,

Laura Wheeler, Ralph Bluemel, Webb Sanderson,

Rita Noel, Jamie Riddels, Samantha Riddels, Anne

Webb, Debbie Allison, Natalie Hulsey, Scott Jasper

Executive Director: Karen Bray

Kitchen Manger/Chef: Ben Merrill

PHONE: 903-957-0264

Email: grandcentralstation@gcecisp.com

Website: www.grandcentralsherman.com

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Grand-Central-Station-The-Dining-Car-Soup-Kitchen-129468947076611/>



THANKSGIVING DAY

There is no better way to give thanks on Thanksgiving Day than to head down to Grand Central Station soup kitchen to volunteer.

Four years ago, some of our volunteers wanted to give people eating at the Soup Kitchen in Sherman, a Thanksgiving they would remember. They decided to create a dining experience like a restaurant where volunteers would take each person's individual order and serve them with pure thanksgiving! Each year our visitors look forward to this special "sit down" dinner with genuine fellowship with other visitors and volunteers. "It's a little fancier than the regular meals," Merrill said. We have tablecloths down and serve turkey with all the fixings.

The soup kitchen was filled to capacity by 11:30 am Thursday, with more than 75 people served by that time. Karen Bray, Executive Director with GCS, estimated that close to 130 people were served at the Dining Car Thanksgiving Day.

"Most people this time of year, they're not feeling their best. They're a little down, depressed, wishing things could be better," says Katherine Maire, a volunteer

with the soup kitchen. GCS is a place where they can get a hot meal, and a warm, safe, and welcome environment.

While the people that pass through these doors may not know where their next meal is coming from, GCS hopes the small time they spend together here gives them a new hope. Seeing them come in is heartwarming for us because many don't have family here, they're by themselves on Thanksgiving and we are their family.

On behalf of GCS, we give special thanks to the community coming together to supply **Grand Central Station** with all the needed food for this Thanksgiving Day meal.

GCS received monetary donations, canned goods, turkeys, hams, pies, and all the needed trimmings to make this an extra special day. It was beyond words the number of donations that came in from all over, including Bonham, Plano, Frisco, McKinney as well as our local Texoma. Many thanks to each and every one of you!



One of Grand Central Station's programs is ***Children's Express!*** This program began in 2013 to feed children during the summer months, Thanksgiving, Christmas, Spring Break and holidays, to ensure that children in Grayson County do not go hungry. February 2016, we expanded to include a Backpack Food program

to include weekend lunches during the school year. A bag of healthy food is distributed to children on a weekly basis. With over 30 regular volunteers, including a 15-member board, the program is sustained year-round. All funding for Children's express is through donations and grants



COAT GIVE-A-WAY

We look forward to our Coat Give-away all year long and start collecting early as people clean closets after the winter. We take gently used coats anytime!

GCS is so grateful for Women's Gift Exchange in Kelly Square as they pick up the coats from the lost and found areas at our public schools. Texas Laundry and Dry Cleaners clean them as a gift to GCS. This is how we get most of the children's coats. Our adult coats come from local donations, and volunteers and TCOG. TCOG has a coat give away each year and donates all their leftover coats for GCS to pick up, and we go and get as many as we can to add to the supply.

Our first coat giveaway this year was Nov. 19th and we gave away over 200 coats! There had been many of our visitors asking about coats as they did not have a warm coat with the cooler temperatures that descended on us that week. It was so gratifying to see the joy of those finding a great coat that fit perfectly. The quality of what we give away is amazing, as many are almost new and are truly the heavy warm coats needed.

Thanks to all our donors of coats, hats, gloves, socks, blankets, and other winter necessities. We will be using lots of the hats, gloves, socks for some of our Adult Christmas gifts. We will also have a second coat give away later in winter.



VOLUNTEERS AND PICKLE BALL?

We continue to add new volunteers and are always scouting around to add new ones here at GCS! Our newest volunteers are active Pickle Ball players. Donna Fritchman and Donna Lamb heard all about the soup kitchen from Carol Noltensmeyer, Harold Patterson, Janet Fletcher, and Jane Seale. Other volunteers that play pickle ball include Honey Adair, Diane and Randy Hudson and Margaret Kloppers.

Let us know if you or your friends would like to volunteer at the kitchen. If you want to know more about pickle ball contact the city of Sherman, Parks, and Recreation Department!



On behalf of Grand Central Station's Dining Car, Visitors, Staff, and Board, we thank you for your support in 2016 and wish you a Merry Christmas and happy and healthy New Year! As we prepare for 2017, it's only natural to reflect on the past year. With your support, this is what we have accomplished this year thru November 2016!

- The Dining car served 34,155 meals to Sherman area visitors, 6366 volunteer hours were served, and over 250 regular volunteers served at our soup kitchen this year;
- Children's Express packed and delivered over 10,000 weekend backpack meals, 189 spring break meals, and 1500 summer food boxes, for our underserved children;
- The Greenhouse served 2,481 families, 7,161 individuals, 112,884 pounds of food, and 29,779 pieces of clothing and household items;
- 200 Coats were distributed through our coat give-away, and...
- GCS reached it's \$1,000,000 milestone of local donations since inception!

Thanks to your support you have helped feed hungry families and individuals throughout Grayson County and provided life-changing programs that help our struggling neighbors. We are grateful for your generosity.

As many of you know, Grand Central Station relies heavily on the support of individuals like yourself to continue our mission. If you have not yet made your 2016 tax-deductible gift to Grand Central Station, please donate today, or send a check to: Grand Central Station P. O. Box 3173 Sherman, Texas 75091.



GRAND CENTRAL STATION

110 South Throckmorton
Sherman, Texas 75090