

December 2020

4th Quarter

Volume 4, No. 2

# Newsletter



## Since The Beginning

### Dining Car

- 340,145 Lunch Meals Served
- 71,174 Volunteer/Group Hours

### Market Depot/Green House

- 884,809 Lbs. of food distributed
- 34,900 Volunteer/Group Hours

### Children's Express

- 83,935 weekend meal bags
- 4,851 Volunteer/Group Hours

## WHO WE ARE

### GRAND CENTRAL STATION

serves the indigent population of Grayson County, serving all ages, without question. Many of our Neighbors are homeless, and we provide outreach support, connecting them with services throughout the community.

Grand Central Station *Dining Car* (soup kitchen) serves between 130-180 meals 6 days per week, providing shower and laundry facilities.

The *Market Depot Food Pantry* serves over 75 families weekly and *Children's Express* after school food program serves over 500+ children weekly.



## FROM OUR PRESIDENT SARA TARVIN

What a crazy year! With all the ups and down and other surprises, this year has seen so many new challenges.

Above all, I am so very proud of our staff and volunteers. Their dedication and determination does not go unnoticed.



Grand Central Station continues to be a bright light in our community. Thank you, too, for your un-wavering support of this wonderful organization.

## COMING SOON!

After several years of careful planning and preparing, Grand Central Station is excited to announce the opening of our new Community Center in January 2021.



Grand Central Station boasts an expanding seating area for dining, and a check-in area for guests who are waiting to be served. We've also doubled the size of our actual food pantry and will be changing the model to a Client **Choice Pantry**.

Finally, Grand Central Station's programs, *The Dining Car* Soup Kitchen, *Market Depot* Food Pantry, *Children's Express* and *Tools 4 Schools* will be under one roof!

Our operations today have become larger in scale, taking us beyond, creating innovative ways to assist our "neighbors" in need.

## 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 Neighbors in Need through *Children's Express* After School Food program, *The Dining Car/Soup Kitchen*, *Market Depot Food Pantry* and day-to-day operations. Your donation is **TAX DEDUCTIBLE**. Please send your donation to:

Grand Central Station, P.O. Box 3173, Sherman, Texas 75091.

## A very special blessing to all from Grand Central Station!

With the holidays upon us, many of us cherish the time we get to spend with our loved ones. This year however, while gatherings may be a bit different than those in the past, we can still celebrate our blessings!

As we reflect on this past year, there are many things COVID-19 has taught us, most important, how precious our friends, family and gatherings can be and especially how blessed we are that this community rallies together to provide for, in times of crisis!

Grand Central Station (GCS) is no different and is using the power of food to heal and strengthen our community during this time of uncertainty, while so many are out of work. We remain committed to our mission to close the hunger gap through our various programs.

With committed volunteers and staff, we haven't skipped a beat, continuing to provide food throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, making sure all food insecure individuals and families do not go hungry. Whether through daily prepared bagged meals provided by the Dining Car, a drive through boxed food pick-up for at-home preparation through Market Depot Food Pantry, and afterschool backpack food for weekend sustainability for our underserved children through Children's Express, Grand Central Station has been on top of it all.

Partners like you have been the reliable voices in our community, helping to raise awareness and spread the importance of fighting the food insecure battle. Giving back is part of Grayson County's decorum and many feel especially called to do so during the holiday season. In the spirit of giving, Grand Central Station needs your support in different ways.

75% of our volunteerism down, we have volunteer opportunities; donations are always welcome both food and monetary. Other needs include tents, blankets, socks, hats, and gloves! We turn to YOU, to make sure we are able to fulfill our purpose and mission. Families have been struggling throughout the pandemic, and your donation will help in many ways.

Karen Bray  
Executive Director

## OUR FRIENDS AND VOLUNTEERS





## GRAND CENTRAL STATION

110 THROCKMORTON  
SHERMAN, TX

### OUR PURPOSE

Provide for the underserved

### OUR VISION

A hopeful and nourished  
community in Body, Soul and Spirit

### OUR MISSION

We provide food, tools for learning, advocacy  
and life solutions for our neighbors in need,  
in an environment of safety.

### ADVISORY BOARD

Shery Bradshaw, Phyllis Hicks, Peg McClure,  
Carol Noltensmeyer, Gail Utter

### EXECUTIVE BOARD

Sara Tarvin—President  
Scott Jasper—VP, Katibeth Worrell—  
Treasurer, Leslie McGee—Secretary,  
Laura Wheeler—Past President

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Charlie Dannel, Loren Hervey, Robin Holbert,  
Robert Little, Allen Martin, LeighAnn McGee,  
Tom Noltensmeyer, Webb Sanderson, Peter  
Schulze, Todd Young

Executive Director: Karen Bray  
Kitchen Manager/Chef: Regina Foster  
Market Depot Coord: Sabrena Keathly



## VOLUNTEERS Sue Gudgel and Myra Williams

Sue Gudgel and Myra Williams are nearing the end of their 14th year volunteering at

The Green House Food Pantry.

They began volunteering in January of 2006 when it was known as Key Care Food Pantry, run by the former Key Memorial Church of which both ladies were long-time members. They stayed on through the transition of becoming part of Grand Central Station and will be instrumental in as we move to our new location and change to a "Choice Pantry" model and become The Market Depot Food Pantry.

Sue and Myra pitch in and do whatever is needed to continue the operation of the food pantry. They package food to be handed out, pick up food donations and purchases, stock shelves, package flour, sugar, and soap, and anything else that needs to be done. They are the backbone of our food pantry working 5 days each week and we so appreciate their years of dedicated service!

Children's  
continued  
bags for



Express (CX)  
to distribute food  
students even in the

midst of COVID-19. We stayed in constant communication and worked closely with the Sherman ISD (SISD). SISD and CX established a drive through plan to assist in delivering weekly food.

CX went from distributing over 700 bags of food prior to COVID each week to about 500 each week. This Fall, we continue to provide about 500 bags each week. Also, we have provided the SISD with reusable water bottles for those who could not provide their own.

## TOOLS 4 SCHOOLS

Due to COVID, with the schools shutting down, Sherman Independent School District reached out to Grand Central Station for school supplies. We provided the needs for 75 underserved in-home virtual learning students.



## MARKET DEPOT—News from Grand Central Station!

Changes are in the air for our Food Pantry. Over 40 years ago Key Care Food Pantry was established and later adopted by Grand Central Station in 2014, renamed **The Green House** (because it was relocated to a "Green House"). As this program evolves to meet the needs and wants of our community, we are changing the model and name to a Choice Pantry called **"Market Depot"**.

While our primary mission is to assist the neighbors with food, this name change allows us to better convey the function of our organization once we move to our new location early 2021. A Client Choice Pantry allows clients to select their own food instead of receiving a pre-packed or a standard bag of groceries. With this method, clients do not have to take items they already have, do not like, or cannot eat for health reasons. Our operations today have become larger in scale, taking us beyond, creating innovative ways to assist our neighbors in need.

COVID-19 created a challenge for us this year as we closed our doors to clients mid March 2020, moving from a general food pantry to a drive through model. Prior to COVID, we provided monthly food pickup to families and individuals in need, now providing bi-weekly food pickup.

Financial qualifications changed, as we make available to those in emergency situations now, not requiring documentation of job loss. Partnering with our local transportation outfit TAPS, we delivered food to elderly shut-ins two days per week. In addition, food demands increased as families are feeding their children at home while out of school.

Prior to COVID we provided on average 13,500 lbs of food to families each month; we are now providing on average 20,000 lbs of food. Our mission has never changed and our volunteers forge ahead to meet the demands of the community.

**COUNTLESS INDIVIDUAL DONATIONS, ANONYMOUS DONATIONS,  
CORPORATE AND FOUNDATION DONORS, MAKE IT POSSIBLE TO FEED  
OUR GRAND CENTRAL STATION FAMILY! THANK YOU!!**

## Grand Central Station needs volunteers!

***Is your Church or business looking for a mission/outreach program? Are you personally looking for a meaningful volunteer opportunity?***

**Grand Central Station's** existence depends on volunteers to prepare and serve meals, greet our visitors, sort and hang up clothes, pack food bags for our children, pick up and deliver food and help with our ministry!

For more information on a program that meets your individual, church or organization's needs, please contact our volunteer coordinators below!

Dorothy McKee – Dining Car - [dodiemckee@gmail.com](mailto:dodiemckee@gmail.com);

Patricia Whitson – Green House - [patriciaagreenhouse3@gmail.com](mailto:patriciaagreenhouse3@gmail.com);

Or Sara Tarvin – Children's Express at [gastrvn@gmail.com](mailto:gastrvn@gmail.com)

***Your commitment to serve the underserved citizens in the Texoma area is appreciated. You are making a difference in their lives!***



## GRAND CENTRAL STATION'S COMMUNITY CENTER— BUILDING COMMITTEE

Almost everyone wants to do something to make a difference...

Grand Central Station's Building Committee leaders are no exception!

This team has met weekly for over two years designing and executing plans to make the Community Center possible. They are making a huge difference in the lives of our neighbors in need.

Thank you Sheryl Bradshaw, Karen Bray, Kent Hughlett, Leslie McGee, Tom Noltensmeyer, Webb Sanderson, and Todd Young for your endless work.



☐ Please send me more information about including Grand Central Station in my estate plans.

**Donate online at:**  
**[Grandcentralsherman.com](http://Grandcentralsherman.com)**

P.O. Box 3173  
Sherman, Texas 75091  
903-957-0264

## YES! I wish to make a donation to Grand Central Station.

**Enclosed is my tax-deductible gift of:**

☐ \$500    ☐ \$250    ☐ \$100    ☐ \$50    ☐ Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**I want to make this gift in recognition of (name & address)**

\_\_\_\_\_

☐ Check enclosed payable to Grand Central Station

☐ Charge my credit card: ☐ AMEX    ☐ Mastercard    ☐ Discover    ☐ Visa

No. \_\_\_\_\_ Name on Card \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

## Grand Central Station

P. O. Box 3173  
Sherman, Texas 75091