

# Newsletter



## Since The Beginning

### Dining Car

- 354,300 Lunch Meals Served
- 76,070 Volunteer/Group Hours

### Market Depot/Green House

- 1.01 Lbs. of food distributed
- 38,0820 Volunteer/Group Hours

### Children's Express

- 95,935 weekend meal bags
- 6,073 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 90 families weekly and *Children's Express* after school food program serves over 500+ children weekly.



## Introducing our new

## Executive Director

**Wendy Vellotti**

Wendy started at Grand Central Station at the beginning of April. She and her husband Chris have lived in Sherman for the past 22 years. They are active members of First United Methodist Church in Sherman where Wendy enjoys volunteering with the youth on Wednesday nights. Wendy and Chris have 3 boys Alex (17), Anthony (13) and Preston (11). If you visited GCS this summer, you probably saw them unloading trucks, moving water or anything else that needed to be done. The Vellotti's are a scouting family and enjoy outdoor activities. But their real passion is watching the SHS band in the half-time show and weekend competitions.

Wendy is a graduate of Van Alstyne High School and attended Southeastern Oklahoma State University where she acquired a bachelors in science with an emphasis in elementary education. She was a previous director of a local preschool where she oversaw the schools rebranding and boosted % over 5 years. She currently sits on the Sherman ISD Board of Trustees and is serving in her first year as a board member.

Our new executive director has a passion for feeding people and helping those in need. Wendy believes that her prior volunteer experiences have led her to this moment in life and she is so excited to be leading excited to be leading Grand Central Station.

## 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.**

## We have moved: 619 E Houston Street

I am very please to announce that Grand Central Station has been functioning completely at the new address since the end of February. This new facility is amazing. We have 3 beautiful showers that are used daily. We have anywhere from 10-15 clients showering daily. We also have 4 large capacity washers and dryers, that are used from the hours of 9-10:30 and there are usually about 12-15 loads washed in that time frame. We have 3 computers with internet that our clients are able to use to apply for food stamps, check on stimulus checks, email and even apply for jobs. We also have a phone available for the clients to use to make calls while they are visiting.

A normal day at GCS consists of clients coming in at 9, starting a load of laundry, eating and then showering. We have been serving around 30-35 breakfasts daily. Lunch then starts at 10:45 and we are currently serving 80-110 people at lunch time. On Fridays at GCS we have been making fresh popcorn from a beautiful new popcorn machine that was donated by Dorothy McKee. We also received drinks and candy from the Sherman band booster concession stands. We have been passing our drinks and candy along with a bag of popcorn. When available we have been video streaming a movie. This just makes a fun day all around!!

We will be starting Bingo on September 20th and we have accumulated several Bingo items from our Target donations. We are super excited to get this up and going again.

Sincerely,

Wendy Vellotti  
Executive Director

## OUR FRIENDS AND VOLUNTEERS



### Community Outreach

Sherman Middle School is having their inaugural year this year at their new facility. The old high school. They did an outreach project in the community to get their teachers out in the public and noticed and in turn for the teachers to learn about agencies that their families might be using. We had 4 teachers show up and spent 3 hours with me at GCS. They bagged up cookies, made toiletry bags and help unload a couple of deliveries that were delivered that day. They received a tour and went back to the school with a new understanding of what Grand Central Station has to offer for Sherman Middle School families in need. They are looking forward to doing something again with us in the future.

We were also able to host 2 separate groups of students that were on mission trips this summer. They came for 3 days each and help with essential duties around Grand Central Station.

## GRAND CENTRAL STATION

SHERMAN, TX E Houston St

### OUR PURPOSE

Provide for the underserved

### OUR VISION

A hopeful and nourished  
community in Body, Soul and Spirit

### OUR MISSION

We provide food, 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

Katibeth Worrell—VP, Scott Jasper—Treasurer, Loren Hervey—Secretary,  
Laura Wheeler—Past President

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Lisa Brown, Charlie Dannel, Leigh Ann Della Rosa, Tommy Gibbs, Robin Holbert,  
Robert Little, , Leslie McGee, Tom Noltensmeyer, Peter Schulze, Rodney Ward

Executive Director: Wendy Vellotti

Kitchen Manger/Chef: Regina Foster

Market Depot Coord: Sabrena Keathly



It's been an exciting first half of 2021 for The Market Depot Food Pantry (formerly known as The Green House). We moved out

of The Green House starting on January 8th and the food pantry was closed for a week as we completed the move and got things organized on our shelves, walk-in refrigerator, and freezers. We opened back up on January 18th, but due to COVID restrictions we were still operating on a drive-up basis and our volunteers continued to pack the boxes for pickup. With COVID restrictions starting to lighten up, we were able to open our pantry to our customers and allow them to come in and shop for and make their own food choices. This has been met with a great deal of excitement from our customers as they now have power over what food they receive. We have been blessed by generous grants and donations which have allowed us to supplement the food we receive from North Texas Food Bank and provide our customers with a great deal of variety in the food we have on the shelves. This has also allowed us to purchase popular items like skillet helper meals, rice and pasta mixes, canned meats, and other items which are not available from the Food Bank. We have also had an influx of volunteers for the summer as school let out, which has helped us have sufficient staff to shop with our customers who are unfamiliar with the new process and need guidance as they get used to the new setup. As school is about to start up again, we are seeking additional volunteers to replace our volunteers who are returning to school. If you or anyone you know are available to help out on Mondays, Wednesdays, or Fridays from 12:30pm-4:00pm, we would be grateful to have you join our team. It has truly been a wonderful transition to a Choice Pantry model and it's such a delight to empower our customers to make their own food choices. Our next big project is to computerize our customer database so that we can more easily keep records and have more accurate reports. After we have computer software available, we also plan to transition to a voucher system where each family gets a set amount to spend based on family size. All of our food items would have a dollar value and our customers can choose how their dollars are spent which will help them with budgeting skills. We plan to make healthier food choices like fresh meat, fruits and vegetables, and fresh dairy products priced less than processed foods which will give our customers incentive to make healthier food choices. We are greatly looking forward to being able to better serve our customers in every way. Great things are on the horizon! Sincerely, Sabrena Keathly, Market Coor.



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.

Sara has her first team coming in September 7 in the evening. If you are interested in helping with Children's Express please reach out to Sara Tarvin.

## TOOLS 4 SCHOOLS

I BIG Thank you to Jamie Riddels for taking on this endeavor for the last several years. If it wasn't for dedication and hard work we would not be up and running. Unfortunately, this will be our last year to sponsor tools 4 school. Given our limited resources and various needs, the board of directors, decided to focus-in on current programs that more closely align with our mission.

## 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, 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!

Sharon Menger – Dining Car - [diningcar.volunteer@gmail.com](mailto:diningcar.volunteer@gmail.com)

Sabrena Keathly – Market Depot - [sabrena.keathly.greenhousedir@gmail.com](mailto:sabrena.keathly.greenhousedir@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!***

### *New Volunteer Coordinator Sharon Menger*

I recently moved to this community from Wisconsin. I have worked as a volunteer serving those in need both in Wisconsin and Colorado. I have found this service to be beneficial to the people that I have served and just as importantly beneficial to myself.

We are working on setting up new software that should be more user friendly in the volunteering process. Please watch our website, <https://grandcentralsherman.com>, for these improvements. I will also keep you updated by email.

I appreciate your patience with me as I transition into this new role. Any ideas and feedback are always welcome. I look forward to working with, and meeting, all of you.



☐ 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.**

En- ☐ closed 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