



Sheltervoice

The Women's Shelter | Fall 2017

2017 THANKSGIVING "SOUPER"

By Rhonda Fulmer

"A reminder that hunger and homelessness exists in our community. The "Souper" is meant to be a teachable moment for everyone about the true meaning of the Thanksgiving holiday. Many have used the evening as a "kick-off" to their holiday season...and to catch up with old friends and share stories from the previous year." Kathy Riley

On Thursday, November 16th, The Women's Shelter will celebrate its 38th year of hosting the "Souper." Please join us for an evening of friendship over a bowl of delicious soup at Eastminster Presbyterian Church, 3200 Trenholm Road. The asking donation is \$5.00 and "it is still the best bargain in town." It brings us immeasurable joy that Chick-fil-A will once again sponsor the event, as it has since 1994! Also, for the last 36 years, the big-hearted community of Eastminster Presbyterian Church continues to support us including hosting the "Souper" in their perfect-in-every-way kitchen and fellowship hall!

We also convey heaping hugs of thanks to our volunteers, many of whom will be serving at the "Souper," including guest saxophonist, Bob Michalski.

While we are gathered for so many generous and hopeful reasons, we remember those who are hungry and homeless in our community and around the world. Resources are also needed for people who are hungry and homeless as a result of having been harmed by so

many natural disasters. We feel the importance of offering help, and often don't know where to begin, while facing our own pressing needs. I searched to balance the giving of my time, heart, and gifts. I found the answer in taking the leap. Soon time grew gracefully and free. I now recognize the balance - it became devotion with unbelievable rewards. Excellent leadership,

remarkable results and the re-empowerment of women recovering at the Women's Shelter have captivated me for 22 years!

The "Souper" is the Shelter's major fundraiser for the year. Monies raised help off-set operating expenses and fund serious and immediate needs of our residents. The "Souper" is modeled after the Shelter - simple, straightforward and inviting. It is our wish that many will come to renew friendships and form new ones.

We invite you to spend some time with us. Who knows what revelations we will have over a nice bowl of soup and the world's best ice tea?

The Women's Shelter
"Souper"
Thursday
November
16
Always Thursday before Thanksgiving
5:30 p.m.—7:30 p.m.
Eastminster Presbyterian Church
3200 Trenholm Road, Columbia

We are so grateful for this food,
it restores our strength,
it heals our bodies,
it fuels our brains.

We are so grateful for this time,
to renew our spirit,
to share our trials,
to find new strength.



EASTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN



My Journey

By Karen

As I sat on the porch that first afternoon, I felt so many emotions - fear, panic, hurt, wounded, unworthy, abandoned, betrayed, shocked and alone. But there were other things I felt too, like grateful, safe, and protected. I came to The Women's Shelter just over sixty days ago. Through a series of bad decisions, I found myself homeless and between the cracks. I had just enough money to temporarily get by but not enough to get a place of my own with all of the luxuries of lights, food and water. When I called I was terrified. Miss Angie calmed me down, set me right and gave me entrance into what has become a sanctuary and a home.

During my time here, I have begun to heal, find my true self again and become a much stronger person. For the first time in my life someone told me that they had my back and meant it with no strings attached, and I believed it. Thus I am learning how to trust again. I have learned many life-improving lessons and skills so far on my journey here and I know that I am barely out of the driveway!

One of the most important lessons I have learned is that I have to be my own best friend. I have to love me and take care of me - no matter what is happening around me. I used to sacrifice myself for EVERYONE. I didn't take time

for me and gave my all to everyone around me - friends, family, work. At the end of the day there was nothing left for me but exhaustion, anxiety, and stress. Other people's problems were easier to deal with than my own.

I have learned that it's ok if I am not perfect because no one else is perfect either. I am learning to live in the now and be happy. It is not selfish to make me happy. Now I

think of my past as a suitcase with limited space for my journey to the future. I only want to take the best stuff with me - good memories and important lessons. Finally I have learned to be still and trust, believe, and find comfort in God's love. God is always there - no strings attached - day or night. He won't abandon me or make me regret loving him.



So what does my future look like? That's an awesome question - I can truly say it is looking bright and happy now. I hope to enter school and complete a degree in medicine so that I can give back. I want to continue to grow and develop as an artist. One day I hope to live in my cottage by the ocean and tend my garden. This is a dream that would make me very happy. Now, thanks to The Women's Shelter, I can see my dreams coming true.

Thank you!



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Revente's Second Chances

3050-A Millwood Avenue, Columbia, SC 29205

All net profits benefit The Women's Shelter.

THIRTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL THANKSGIVING "SOUPER"

Thursday, November 16, 2017, 5:30-7:30 P.M.

Eastminster Presbyterian Church, 3200 Trenholm Road, Columbia

\$5 per person

Sponsored by *Chick-Fil-A* of Columbia

HOW TO SUPPORT THE "SOUPER:"

SELL TICKETS: For more information, call (803) 779-4706.

BUY A BUNCH OF TICKETS: Treat some friends to dinner at the "Souper."

CAN'T MAKE IT? Join us in spirit. Use the enclosed envelope to support the Shelter with a "Souper" donation.

SPONSOR A TABLE: Sponsor a table in honor of a special woman. For a donation of \$150.00, send a message about your wife, mom, daughter, mother-in-law, friend, role model or mentor. Your honoree's name will grace a lovely table, and she will receive recognition in the "Souper" program. Complete the following information and return the form with your contribution in the enclosed envelope by Monday, November 13, 2017.

Your Name: _____

Your Address: _____

Circle one: In honor of or In memory of

(Please print names as you want them to appear on the table and program.)

Honoree's Name: _____

By (*your name or group's name*):

Return to: The Women's Shelter
3425 N. Main Street
Columbia, SC 29203



*The Women's Shelter
3425 North Main Street
Columbia, SC 29203*

*Nonprofit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit #1018
Columbia, SC*

Address Service Requested

Wish List

The Women's Shelter greatly appreciates and strongly depends on donations from individuals, churches and other civic groups. We do not have a lot of storage space, but the items listed below are frequently needed. If you have any other items you would like to donate, please contact us. Thank you for your continued generosity!
(803) 779-4706

SEASONAL:

- ◆ Holiday baked goods/desserts
- ◆ Soft drinks
- ◆ Fresh fruits/vegetables
- ◆ Watches
- ◆ Bedroom slippers
- ◆ Gift cards for haircuts
- ◆ Phone cards
- ◆ Zoo/movie/entertainment tickets
- ◆ Basic alarm clocks
- ◆ Answering machines
- ◆ Umbrellas
- ◆ Small Day Planners

ONGOING:

- ◆ Gently used or new black pants
- ◆ Tennis shoes/black no-show socks
- ◆ Shower caddies
- ◆ Creamer/sugar
- ◆ Coffee/tea
- ◆ Sugar-free snacks
- ◆ Toilet paper/paper towels
- ◆ Paper plates
- ◆ Tall kitchen bags
- ◆ Tin Foil/cling wrap/zip lock bags
- ◆ Laundry detergent/Regular & HE
- ◆ Dryer sheets/liquid softener
- ◆ Cleaning supplies