



2010 Newsletter - Fall Edition

Together we can make a difference in our community - one family at a time.

NORCROSS
 COOPERATIVE
 MINISTRY



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Our Stewardship Policy

Our responsibility is to be good stewards of the resources donated to NCM. To achieve that goal, we have policies and procedures in place to allow for smooth operation, fair distribution of limited resources, and the prevention of client fraud and abuse.

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"Power of One" Still Impacting the Needs of the Many

Through simple acts of kindness, the "POWER OF ONE" is still transforming hearts and helping NCM meet its growing needs.

In August, ONE committed church (Perimeter Church), generously donated book bags filled with brand new school supplies. Because of the love of ONE woman, Nancy Burdett from Bethel Baptist, each book bag contained a personalized handwritten note card that offered encouragement and hope to each child.

Additionally, ONE group of men from One Heart Church gave time in September to assist in a project to expand NCM's client intake area.

Also, during the first weekend in October, ONE unified group of local churches, schools and neighborhoods came together through "Compassion in Action" to lay new flooring in the lobby, paint fresh lines in the parking lot, trim shrubs and landscape the grounds, and host over 20 drives that helped to fill NCM's food pantry shelves.

These few examples just go to

show that the "Power of One" is still alive and well in Norcross!

Critical Needs List

Food Items:

- Canned Meat
- Cereal
- Peanut Butter / Jelly
- Spaghetti Sauce
- Rice / Pasta

Other Items:

- Jackets & Coats
- Blankets (Full Size/Larger)
- Diapers (Sizes 3-6)
- Toilet Paper/ Toiletries

Volunteer Needs:

- Translators (M/W/F)
- Job Ministry Program
- Intake Workers (M/W/F)

Christmas is Coming - One Act Can Make a Difference

Each year, NCM helps to make sure that the children in Norcross have a bright Christmas. Through our program, families come to NCM during regular intake hours to register their children to receive toys. This year we expect to receive requests from over 800 families (more than 2,000 children) and we need your help!

DONATE TOYS / GIFT CARDS

NCM is collecting new, unwrapped toys for children ages 0-17. We are also collecting gift cards for our teenagers. We invite you to sponsor a toy drive at your church, place of business, social/civic organization or in your neighborhood. It's fun and is a great way to get more people involved!

DONATE TIME

We need volunteers to help us stock our toy store, pack gifts for families, and assist us on client pick-up days.

DONATE MONEY

You can make monetary donations which can be used to help our "Santa Helpers" shop for toys/gifts.

It only takes ONE compassionate group of individuals to host a toy drive, or ONE caring business to make a financial contribution or ONE willing heart to volunteer time. Together we can make a difference — ONE family at a time.

To find more information about our Christmas program and how you may help, or to download a complete listing of toy suggestions for children of all ages, visit our website at www.norcrossco-op.org. Help us help our children have a very, Merry Christmas.



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Transformational Case Management - One Family at a Time

Those of you familiar with NCM's client services will know about its food pantry, clothing closet and limited financial assistance to local Norcross residents. But you might not know about a behind the scenes program that is quietly helping our clients move from crisis to stability through ongoing case management. This is where Nicole Cornish, Case Manager at NCM, has been making a difference — one family at a time.



For over a year, Nicole has been providing intensive case management to families at imminent risk of eviction through the Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP). This federal program was developed as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009 and is administered at the local level by Gwinnett County Government.

With the assistance of these funds, NCM has helped over 30 households through individualized case management plans designed to help them find gainful employment, reduce household expenses, and set their own personal goals to help them move toward financial stability.

Clients are also given referrals to partnering agencies and community resources that address specific needs unique to individual families.

"Initially, I had a challenging time finding an internship," Nicole says. "Other agencies kept pointing me in NCM's direction. I met with Ms. Shirley and she took a chance on me and later added me to her staff. I am very grateful to her and the Lord for this opportunity to serve, and I know I am right where God wants me."

"I really enjoy encouraging people," she adds. "So many clients feel disconnected from their families and don't have support systems. Our goal is to get them connected, and provide resources to help them make positive choices for themselves and their families."

From the Heart of an NCM Client

A lighthouse in darkened places. When you are in the valley of the shadows, there are times when a light is seen at the edge of the forest. NCM is that light for me. In a place where I don't know anyone, it is good to know that there are people who do care and can be of help to you. NCM truly exhibits the love of God. They have blessed me to remain with a roof over my head, food to eat and a ministry of people that love me. You can't find many people that actually believe in God, and who actually do His will. I am eternally grateful for the help that this ministry has given me in reference to trying to establish myself in Georgia.

Ms. Shirley, Ms. Leslie and Ms. Nicole, 'Thank you.' NCM, 'Thank you.' Lord God, 'Thank you.'

I love you all, and I do appreciate you so much.

Natasha

One-on-One Transformation through Life Coaching and Discipleship

NCM's Mission

"Helping those in crisis by collaborating with the community to offer programs and services that transform lives through the love of Christ."

In line with its mission to "*transform lives through the love of Christ*,"

NCM has a new program offering life coaching and one-on-one discipleship.

Driven by the desire to see clients move from crisis to stability, Dr. Warren Jones, a certified life coach, retired minister and NCM Intake Volunteer, is currently offering life coaching and discipleship sessions.

"Serving in intake has allowed me to interact personally with our clients," says Warren. "I see a real need to help people find their God-given passion. Coaching offers a practical way to engage people in living lives that really work. Instead of a mindset that is focused on what *"I"* want, the goal is to help them move to one of what *"God and I"* want. It's a partnership that is only successful

when they understand that God uniquely created them with a purpose in life."

When asked if he had any thoughts to share with other pastors, Warren stated, "I believe what I am doing is part of the Great Commission. I have found that many times the only interaction individuals have with their pastors is in the pulpit. NCM offers clergy the chance to personally talk to people in their valley and empower them to live life with both feet planted in heaven and on earth. Because people have an opportunity here to be transparent and share frustrations, sometimes they are more open to hearing the gospel presented. I encourage all ministers of the "Good News" to get involved in what God is doing at NCM. 'The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few.'

If you are interested in becoming a part of this ministry in any way, please call NCM at 770-263-0013.

Recap of Recent NCM Events

June: Vacation Bible School

Every summer, churches provide VBS for the children of clients being served. Thank you to the following churches for helping this year: 1) Peachtree Corners Christian Church, 2) Johns Creek United Methodist, 3) Peachtree Corners Presbyterian, and 4) Norcross First Baptist.



July: Career Fest 2010

NCM hosted its annual job fair, now in its 10th year. In partnership with the GA Department of Labor (DOL) and Norcross First United Methodist, the event attracted over 500 job seekers who attended workshops on resume writing, effective interviewing, and networking. Hiring companies met with attendees, and agencies shared community resources. One week prior to the event, NCM held a career coaching day to help clients with their resumes and to practice interviewing techniques. They also were given business attire to wear to the event. Over 30 clients attended.

August: Back to School

In August of each year, NCM distributes book bags filled with school supplies to Norcross children in need. This year, thanks to the generosity of our community, NCM provided over 950 bags to help children start the school off right. NCM wants to extend a special thanks to Perimeter Church, Infinity of Gwinnett and our community of churches and caring individuals.



October: Norcross Arts Fest

NCM had a booth at the Arts Festival in downtown Norcross. Over 40,000 people attended the event, allowing NCM to gain great exposure in the community.

City of Norcross Recycling Day

The City of Norcross also hosted a recycling day in early October, which included a food drive netting more than 23 boxes of food for NCM.

October: California Pizza Kitchen

On October 7th, California Pizza Kitchen (located at the Forum) sponsored a fundraiser and 20% of the sales were donated to NCM. Thank you to the staff for making this happen, and to everyone in the community who came out to **"Dine for NCM."** Proceeds from the event were in excess of \$350.

Compassion In Action: Every year, Unite churches come together on the first weekend in October for "Compassion in Action" weekend. During this time, they take part in various community projects. This year, groups were responsible for hosting neighborhood food drives, putting down tile in the NCM lobby, painting fresh lines in the parking lot and landscaping the grounds. Groups also hosted a carnival for the kids that included food, games and other activities.

ONE More Way You Can Help — "THINK NCM"

There are a lot of different ways you can help the families in the Norcross community — most of which will cost little or no money. But, there is **ONE** sure way to always keep the needs of others in the forefront of your mind — just **THINK NCM**. You see, helping a neighbor doesn't have to be hard. In fact, it can be something so simple that we might not even see its real value. There are a lot of ways to care for your community — doing **ONE** small thing at a time.



Did you know that each year, NCM serves over 11,000 families, many of which have been displaced due to an eviction, foreclosure or financial crisis? We help supply them with food, clothing, and the basic necessities they need to help weather the crisis and move toward stability. You can help us — just **THINK NCM**.

- **BLANKETS/COATS:** As the cold months approach and our thoughts move toward cool mornings, winter coats, and nights by the fire, we hope you'll remember those in our community who could use some warmth. You can help us wrap them in love by donating new or gently used blankets and coats. For a family facing an uncertain future, **ONE** blanket or **ONE** coat can assure them that they are loved by their community, and their Savior, and can make a life changing impact both now and forever.
- **HOMELESS BASKETS:** As the holidays draw near and we make plans to spend time with our families — eating Thanksgiving turkey and sharing Christmas gifts — we encourage you to think about those who are far from family and displaced from their homes. Many have secured temporary lodging, but lack the general comforts of home. You can help us by donating fully assembled family baskets filled with basic necessities, or making a contribution toward these baskets. Most commonly donated items are towels, laundry detergent, paper goods, eating/cooking utensils, Bibles, and children's games and activities. For a child without a stable living environment, having the simple pleasures of home can bring security and hope.



For more information, contact our office at 770-263-0013. Remember, helping others is easy— just **THINK NCM**.

How Can You Join our "Power of One" Movement?

DONATE RESOURCES: NCM gratefully accepts:

- **Food:** Non-perishable food items
- **Clothing:** New/gently used and clean
- **Financial:** Credit card payments (via our web site) or check made payable to NCM
- **Matching Funds:** Check with your company's Human Resources Department for details
- **Other:** New/gently used toys, linens, small kitchen items, baby items, toiletries, school supplies, new/unwrapped Christmas gifts, and recycled shopping bags.

Donation Hours: Monday-Friday 9:00 am - 4:00 pm
Tuesday 9:00 am - 8:00 pm
Saturday 10:00 am - Noon

VOLUNTEER WITH US: NCM volunteer opportunities include:

- **Client Assistance Volunteers & Translators:** Mon, Wed & Fri (10:00am-2pm); Tues (6:00pm-8:00pm) & Saturday (10am-Noon)
- **Warehouse, Clothes Closet, Office & Special Projects:** Mon through Fri (9:00am-4:00pm). Hours are flexible.
- **Job Ministry:** Flexible Hours. Assistance is needed with calling clients, researching job leads, preparing resumes (developing, editing and proofing), and keeping the NCM job information board up-to-date. We are also looking for business professionals willing to share their expertise in a one-on-one or workshop setting.
- **Prayer Partners:** We need compassionate individuals who will pray for the needs of our clients. We have a prayer request box and we can email prayer concerns to prayer warriors weekly.

NOTE: NCM is not able to accept furniture, mattresses, computer equipment, TVs, stereos, etc.



By working together, with One unwavering purpose and One bond of unity, we can not only meet the demands of immediate crises, but we can provide programs that will transform the lives of the families we serve for many years to come. Through the **POWER OF ONE**, we believe that greater things are yet to come for our community. Please join us!

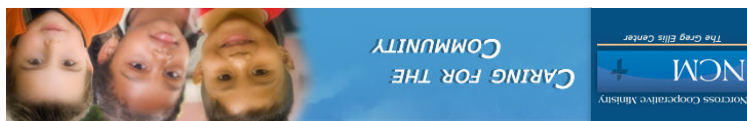
OUR MISSION:

Helping those in crisis by collaborating with the community to offer programs and services that transform lives through the love of Christ.

One smile to encourage the hopeless. One prayer to lift a burden.
One willing heart to volunteer. One business to donate resources.
One woman living in one neighborhood to hold a coat drive.
One committed church to answer God's call to serve.
One body of compassionate individuals to care
for our community – one family at a time.

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