



Caring

NORCROSS CO-OP
FOR OUR COMMUNITY

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

FALL 2012

48,000

families in Gwinnett County lost their homes to eviction and foreclosure in 2011

88%

of children in the elementary schools served by NCM are on free and reduced lunch

14,105

people were served by NCM in the first six months of 2012

NCM Launches Development Plan

Norcross Cooperative Ministry announces its new five year development plan called Restoring Hope!. The initiative focuses on three important strategies.

Transform Lives

Identify families from among our clients and help transition them from homelessness to stable housing.

Expand Current Services

We anticipate a 10% increase in our client population each year over the next five years. Since many of the federal and local programs providing short term emergency assistance for rent and utilities have been curtailed or eliminated, NCM must make up for this loss. We also anticipate increasing the amount of food we supply each family and in addition, fill the critical need for non-food items (diapers, personal hygiene,



soap, toilet paper, toothpaste, laundry detergent, etc.) that we have not been purchasing in the past.

Educate and Communicate

Many who live and work in the greater Norcross area are unaware of the plight of those in dire need and those who are homeless. We will expand efforts to educate churches, businesses and elected officials about issues facing our area and the importance of providing food and housing for those in need.

The Restoring Hope! plan was developed by board members, volunteer leaders and staff

with the assistance of First Community Development, a local business specializing in non-profit fundraising.

After Board approval in January, a feasibility study was begun with 64 leaders, representing 51 churches and businesses being interviewed. Local leaders overwhelmingly embraced the five year plan, with 91% stating the Restoring Hope! plan is excellent, necessary and beneficial, 98% consider NCM “very important” to the Norcross area and 100% believe a campaign for funding the program should be launched

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A Variety of Programs for Clients of All Ages

Over 1,200 **BOOK BAGS** were given to kids going to school this fall. Our heartfelt thanks to *Infiniti Gwinnett* and *Perimeter Church*, and many community donors.

For four weeks this summer, we reached out to children

through **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**. Several member churches including *Peachtree Corners Christian Church*, *Perimeter Church*, *Norcross First UMC*, *John’s Creek UMC*, *Peachtree Corners Presbyterian Church* and *One*

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Critical Needs

- **MEAT IN A CAN**
(Spam, Treet, Salmon, Ham, Roast Beef, Chicken)
- **JELLY**
(in plastic jars please)
- **MEAL-IN-A-CAN**
- **CEREAL**

- **MEN'S & BOY'S CLOTHING**
(all sizes)
- **KING/QUEEN SIZE BEDDING**
- **BABY EQUIPMENT**
- **CHILDREN'S TOYS**
(new & gently used)



Linda and Lloyd fill bags in the food pantry. In 2011, the Co-op distributed 34,056 bags of food to over 4,800 families in the greater Norcross community.

A Variety of Programs for Clients (continued from pg. 1)

Heart Church joined our efforts to bring peace and hope to our children here at NCM. VBS can be offered throughout the year if you are interested in helping!

In partnership with the *GA Department of Labor – Gwinnett and Norcross First UMC*, our annual **CA-REERFEST/JOB FAIR** was held in July. The event kicked off with a motivational speaker from the GA Dept of Labor. Over 400 job seekers met with employers from a variety of hiring companies, learned about different educational opportunities from local colleges, and had access to other community programs.

Thanks to the generous people of *Associated Credit Union (ACU)*, we are thrilled to offer **FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT SESSIONS** for our clients. Each month we explore a key topic designed to help us better manage, protect and care for financial needs. Meetings are the last Monday of each month at 6pm, open to the whole community,

and child care is available.

Volunteers from *Victory World Church* benefit children and families through **HEALTH AND WELLNESS PROGRAMS**. One Saturday a month screenings for blood sugar levels, blood pressure



While their parents received assistance at the NCM office, over 300 children learned more about God's love in Vacation Bible School this summer!

and nutrition are just a few of the vital programs offered. Learn more about these classes on our website, www.norcrossco-op.org, and call 770-263-0013 to register.

From the Executive Director: Volunteers Give Hope to a Homeless Grandmother

Last month a grandmother, raising her two grandkids, came in to NCM. They were homeless, living in a hotel, and needed help paying for the room. Unfortunately we were out of funds that day. However, payment on the room was only a small part of what she was dealing with. She and the kids had not eaten for several days. There were barriers enrolling her grandkids in school because they

“Our volunteers are a blessing to our clients.”

were homeless. She had no family or support network. She was at the end of her rope and feeling hopeless.

My point to this story – NCM could not

offer this grandmother any financial support, however she walked away with so much more: food, resources for her kids, encouragement, prayer and hope. The volunteers at NCM provided the encouragement and resources that she needed for her family. Our volunteers are truly the heart and soul of NCM each bringing their own special gifts and talents. Please consider joining us! *- Shirley Cabe*

VOLUNTEER PROFILE

Jim Z.

I was introduced to NCM when my small group at Christ the King Lutheran church decided to volunteer in the food pantry once a month. Through circumstances I now call fortunate, I was arrested for the first time in my life. I was able to do my community service at NCM since it was a court sanctioned facility. I intended to get those hours done quickly and return to my “normal” life.

At first, I was pitying myself as stuck in court appointed punishment. But quite soon, I became overwhelmingly inspired by the service I saw provided at NCM. I heard so many “thank yous” and “God bless yous” from families coming in to receive services and saw so many thankful faces leaving out that back door.



Prior to this experience, I was lost in my alcoholic self-centeredness. Now I was part of a team helping a community in

need. I was initially sent here to pay a penance. But really I had received a gift – I found a meaningful way to see outside myself and serve alongside others who cared for the needs of strangers.

From that point in December 2007, I was certain I would continue to volunteer as long as I could. Each week, I am privileged to join my NCM family and friends to witness the blessing and impact made on the lives of others. I wonder who gets the most benefit from passing through these doors – me or the clients served.

Volunteers like Jim are what make Norcross Cooperative Ministry! We are blessed to have people come each day and give of themselves. Sorting clothes, reviewing finances with clients, playing with children, providing translation services, answering phones or many other jobs are needed. Please join our community!

NCM Launches Development Plan (continued from pg. 1)

immediately.

Jesse Joyner, Co-President of the Norcross Cooperative Board of Directors, said, “This development plan gives us a clear direction for expanding our current programs as well as developing exciting new programs that will literally change people’s lives. We are grateful for the involvement of our church and community leaders in addressing those issues.”



The co-op’s Executive Director Shirley Cabe concurs. “This has been a meaningful opportunity for our leaders to share their insights and opinions on the future of our vital ministry. Now it’s our responsibility to move forward with these programs.”

Cheryl, an NCM volunteer, visits with one of the 16,794 children served by the co-op last year.



HELP WANTED:

NCM offers great benefits (satisfaction in doing God’s work), an excellent work environment (fellowship with other volunteers and clients, yummy snacks), and no pay! Join our TEAM!

- Monday-Friday 2pm-4pm to help with **incoming donations**
- M-T-W-F between 9am-1pm to help with **phones and other office administration**
- T-W-Sa between 1pm-4pm to help **monitor and restock the clothing closet**
- M-W-F-Sa between 10am-12pm to help with **childcare activities**

PLEASE CALL 770-263-0013 or email info@norcrosso-op.org

Norcross Cooperative Ministry Mission

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

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are grateful for their continued support
of our ministry.



Find True Meaning of Christmas at NCM

The true meaning of Christmas can be found at NCM in December! Clients come to the co-op during regular intake hours and register their children to receive toys. This year we expect requests from over 800 families (more than 2,000 children) and we need your help!

NCM is currently collecting **new, unwrapped toys** and gifts for children and teens, ages 0 – 17. We are also collecting gift cards for our teenagers and seniors citizens. Consider sponsoring a toy drive at your church, office, social/civic organization or in your neighborhood. It's fun and is a great way to get more people involved!

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

Below are a suggestions for the gifts we need to stock our shelves. Help us help

our children have a Merry Christmas.

- Infant toys (ages 0 -2)
- preschool toys (ages 2-5)
- Remote control cars
- Footballs, basketballs, soccer balls
- Dart boards
- Skate boards
- Lego sets
- Craft kits for older girls
- Bath/body sets
- Cologne sets
- Board games for older children (Battleship, Clue, Monopoly)

Gifts for Teens and Seniors

- \$25 gift cards to Walmart/Target
- \$25 gift cards to a grocery store

To find out 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.

PUMPKIN PATCH
proceeds at
Norcross
Presbyterian
and Peachtree
Corners
Christian
Churches
benefit NCM!



October 6 & 7. Visit our booth!

NORCROSS ART FEST

Upcoming Events

Norcross Cooperative Ministry
The Greg Ellis Center
2275 Mitchell Road
Norcross, GA 30071



OR CURRENT RESIDENT

NONPROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE PAID
NORCROSS, GA
PERMIT NO. 651