



# Sheltervoice

The Women's Shelter | Fall 2018

*"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*

## 2018 THANKSGIVING "SOUPER"

By Kathy Riley

I have done a lot of reflecting on why our annual fundraiser, the "Thanksgiving Souper", has continued to exist for the past 38 years. Believe me, I never expected it to last this long! The simple meal of soup and crackers was meant to be more of an educational event than a fundraiser. It was envisioned as a time for families to come together, reflect on the meaning of Thanksgiving and acknowledge that Columbia had a homeless problem.

Over the years the basic vision has really not changed very much. The soup became much better when Chick-fil-A entered the picture years ago and the price has remained affordable for families. It is seen by many who attend as a kick-off to the Holiday Season.

The parents of the young families who supported the "Souper" in the 1980's now are grandparents! They come with the grands telling them about how they brought their mothers and fathers to the event. The "Souper" has far surpassed my expectations as to what a simple gathering of folks can become.

It is one of the most hope-filled nights of the year for me. I see new faces wondering what The Women's

*The Women's Shelter*  
*"Souper"*  
**Thursday**  
**November**  
**15**

Always Thursday before Thanksgiving  
**5:30 p.m.—7:30 p.m.**  
**Eastminster Presbyterian Church**  
**3200 Trenholm Road, Columbia**

Shelter is all about and I get to hug old friends I only see once a year. Yes, many of us have grown old together believing that together we can make a difference in the lives of others.

The money raised is a good thing and helpful for our work to survive but the relationships that have grown out of this event is priceless. The Chick-fil-A owner/operators have always made the staff and board of the shelter feel like this is something they truly enjoy doing. They take so much

delight in seeing large numbers attend the event. What a special group of men and women to work for us after a long day at their stores and do it with such grace and joy.

Eastminster Presbyterian Church has allowed us to make Thompson Hall our home for many years. They have never asked anything of us and like Chick-fil-A folks love to see a successful evening. We realize that these friendships are invaluable to our success.

To the faithful individuals and families who have chosen to spend the Thursday before Thanksgiving with us at Eastminster, our sincere appreciation for your love and support. I would like to believe that the "Souper" is going to be around a long time.

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



# MIRACLE ON NORTH MAIN STREET

*By Amber*

I first came to The Women's Shelter on April 30, 2018. A few weeks prior to that my life was completely out of control. My drug use had taken over my whole life. I was living with my mom and my son but because of my aggressive and hostile behavior I was asked to leave her home. My son and I moved in with my sister and her family. After about a week I was told to leave, once again, because of my drug use. I was at the end of the road, no place to go, and no one in my family trusted me at all.

I called The Women's Shelter the morning of April 30, 2018 and was asked to come by and talk to Ms. Angie. I did just that. I arrived and was embraced with compassion and love. I didn't expect to be able to move in that day but I was asked when I wanted to come in and I told her that I wanted to stay

right now if possible. It WAS possible!! I was welcomed into my new family at that very moment. I walked in crying, scared and "pill-sick". Each lady welcomed me with a smile, a hug and an encouraging word. It was at that moment I realized that I was not alone and that I was loved and that I mattered to someone other than my babies.

I was fortunate to have my sister agree to care for my son while I tried to sort out the mess I had made of my life. That was a blessing. The staff and other

residents loved me and believed in me until I was able to believe in myself. It was here that I learned to trust people again. I was given tools to curb my aggression and was able to show compassion and empathy for others.

The most important thing I have learned so far is to take care of "me" first then I would be able to care for others especially my babies. I will always remember one of the staff members telling me this phrase "choose me over we". At first, I thought that meant to only worry about me, which I was good at since my addiction was all about me, so I thought. I was wrong.

As the days turned into weeks I began to understand what those four words meant. To me it is a simple reminder that if I don't take care of ME then I will not be able to take care of my children. I was able to reconnect with myself, my values, and the morals that I had been raised with but had strayed away from.

I was spiritually asleep when I first arrived but today I can honestly say that my spirit is wide awake. I am beyond grateful for The Women's Shelter and every person on staff for their commitment to my growth and success. Today, I have my life back and for that I AM GRATEFUL!



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**Revente's Second Chances**

3050-A Millwood Avenue, Columbia, SC 29205

All net profits benefit The Women's Shelter.

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# THIRTY-NINTH ANNUAL THANKSGIVING "SOUPER"

Thursday, November 15, 2018, 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 12, 2018.

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*

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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