



When **HELP** Can't Wait NEWSLETTER

August 2013

Wow! End of the second quarter already and they are announcing the end of summer. For us at When HELP Can't Wait – it seems that it just started. Our quarter has been stunted some due to our move to a larger building on our street in March of this year. The move was absolutely necessary to house our many in-kind donations that we receive to donate to the nursing home residents, as well as sell at fund-raising events to meet our overhead expenses.

We did have wonderful help getting into the beautiful new space, but there have been many stumbling blocks. The first one being we could not get our security system moved because the company refused to return our requests. It took us five months to correct that without help from the nationally known system provider who sold it to us. Then no one has been able to find our building. We were not allowed to put a sign on our old location (one building over) to let people know we had moved. They would see the empty store front and assume we were out of business. No neighboring properties with space, would allow us to put signs on their property but Augusta Signs have allowed us to place one on the corner of their property to help locate the street



We have managed to have a successful yard sale, several sales of Scrubs for the nursing home CNAs and we had a Ribbon Cutting at our new location by our wonderful Columbia County Chamber of Commerce.

It has been our 'Classy Closet' women's Boutique that has suffered most. We had programmed it to help us become self-supporting and since no one has been able to find our building, it has caused a huge shortfall in our funding for the year.

We have managed to continue our programs and help to the nursing homes despite these set-backs. We held multiple Clothes Closets and distributed beautiful new clothes to our residents who are so delighted, that many of them have their new clothes on before our volunteers leave the building!

We also continue to distribute MP3 players loaded with their favorite music to residents by request. Activity Directors bring in the 'Wish Lists' from their residents and we do our best to fill them. One lady wanted a wrist watch. We have lots of watches donated, but most are not running. We found one that was brand new, with a large dial and we purchased an \$11.00 battery, and she was thrilled.

At a clothes closet, we took some 'accessories' along as well to enrich their shopping experience. We had some used purses in good condition, but one volunteer along with the generosity of Dollar General, donated NEW purses for the occasion. Upon return, we noticed that while the used purses were not selected, all the new ones were taken. When I told the donor she made a very profound statement: she said, "We may not be changing the World, but for those ladies who got all new purses that no one else had ever used, we changed their world". What a wonderful way to describe what the volunteers and donors of WHCW do every day!

Another wish list included a small radio for the bedside table. While we had large 'boom-boxes', we had no small radios and I told the office staff that we would just have to wait until the Lord provided one and I said, "someone may donate one this afternoon". Someone visiting the office overheard our conversation and about an hour later, the needed radio (newly purchased) came in the door to fill that wish list.

We have had Gospel singings in two homes this quarter by the Church of God, COGIC from North Augusta, SC. They are fast becoming a favorite with the residents.

A group from Warren Baptist cleaned and planted a patio at one home, much to everyone's enjoyment.



At another home, we were happy to provide gowns and suits for residents to attend a 'Prom Night'. They all looked elegant!!



We have been able to donate many large decorative items such as wall clocks and paintings to help 'cheer' up the interiors of the homes and give residents something new to look at. We supplied many items such as large floppy hats for garden parties, stuffed dogs for a 'Dog Days of summer' celebration, and many other specialty items as requested. We continue to supply bingo prizes and items for Birthday celebrations as well. Our cup runneth over with nice, usable in-kind donations, for which we are very grateful.

This quarter found us attending the 5th Annual Elder Rights Conference, a very important gathering sponsored by the Area Agency on Aging and orchestrated by Lauren Spivey and her team of volunteers. We also were fortunate to take place in a Senior Caring Coalition in Thomson, GA as guests of Res Care Inc. who organized the event.

We had speaking engagements with at least two other community groups and churches and as always, they are so beneficial and we are always available to address your group upon invitation. This gives us the opportunity to tell others about 'The Forgotten Ones' in our area nursing homes and what you can do to help.

Without mentioning names, we want to thank all those individuals who during these austere times for us, have donated beyond their usual contributions and to the churches who have stepped up to help in a multitude of ways, including one with cash. We have no major sponsors and no grants this year, and we're struggling, but these donations have meant the difference between our continuing to serve and closing our doors. God Bless you all and thank you for your continued support!

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When HELP Can't Wait is a 501©3 organization. All donations made to our organization are tax deductible. At the current time, there are no administrative salaries in our organization. Our Board consists entirely of volunteers, including our President and Director. We are dedicated to keeping administrative costs low. Our Board is composed of local CSRA business men and women.