

# The Thread

Newsletter Of Dorcas Ministries



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## TIME FLIES, IT'S UP TO YOU TO HAVE FUN

It is hard to believe that this is the last newsletter for 2018. Where did this year go? I always heard my relatives and friends say that the older you get; the quicker time passes. Now I know what they meant. It seems like only yesterday we were welcoming new members to the Board of Directors, beginning a new strategic planning process, evaluating our client services, and trying to make data driven decisions on how to maximize our facility in order to increase revenue and maintain a safe working environment for our volunteers and staff. Now that 2018 is almost over I would like to update you on some of the progress made and projections for this year.

**Facilities:** We are almost 33% complete on a massive renovation project to improve our donation receipt and processing procedures. Stay tuned for changes that will make donating easier and processing more efficient while creating a safe and efficient working environment.

**Emergency Housing:** We started our Emergency Housing Program two years ago and sponsored 36 families. This year we are on target serve **201 families** who were homeless or facing homelessness, using a model that allows families to stay in place instead of experiencing the turmoil of being institutionalized or relocating.

**Education and Economic Stability:** Our first outreach service of providing preschool childcare continues to be one of our top missions. In addition to childcare services we added a Career Advancement Program in 2016 and will be starting a Launch Cary program in partnership with The Cary Rotary Clubs in 2019 to increase the earning potential of many of our clients. Living in a thriving community such as ours is inspiring, but it can also cause many hardships for those considered "the least among us." Cost of living increases are rapidly increasing the gap between the haves and the have-nots.

**Support systems:** By continuing our practices of collaboration and maintaining a strong network of referrals with our partners (UNC School of Nursing, Advance Community Health, Step Up Ministries, Wake County Human Services, just to name a few) more services are now accessible and affordable to our neighbors in Western Wake County than ever before. The future looks brighter in terms of more services at a central location as we continue to build on a strong foundation of partnerships.

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**The bottom line:** Comparing 2018 projections to 2017 actual figures we will increase the number of clients served from 21,500 to 24,000 or 10%. Our financial expenditures on client's services will increase from \$840,00 to over \$1,255,000 or 50%. Thanks to your support and the grace of God we have increased our support network to include families who have children in our local schools and families of person who may live outside of our defined geographical area of support but are employed in Cary. With our Emergency Housing and CAP program we are spending more funds per person or family, but the results of our clients reaching self-sufficiency proves it is a profitable financial investment that benefits our entire community as well the recipient of services.

**Are we having fun yet?**

*Howard Manning,*  
Executive Director

# Join Us

7TH ANNUAL  
THANKSGIVING BREAKFAST  
FUNDRAISER



Celebrating our 50th Anniversary!

Thursday, November 1, 2018

Breakfast: 7:30

Program: 8:00

Embassy Suites Hotel,  
201 Harrison Oaks Blvd.,  
Cary, NC 27513



*Mistress of Ceremonies:*  
Debra Morgan, WRAL-TV

**Seating is limited!**

*Please RSVP*

*by contacting your table captain,  
registering online: [www.dorcas-cary.org](http://www.dorcas-cary.org)  
or call Ellen at the Dorcas office  
at 919.469.9861 ext. 101.*

***Deadline is October 19, 2018***

*For sponsorship information, contact Rose at 984.333.0059*

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

What's off to the facilities committee, staff and volunteers for planning, implementing and supporting the Back of the House Efficiency and Safety project. Completion is just around the corner and the process of receiving and distributing donations vastly improved. Dorcas Thrift Shop operations continue to exceed expectations. Also worthy of note is the committee's development of a capital improvements plan which details major building and facility projects over the next 5 – 10 years. The entire plaza is owned by Dorcas Ministries and this plan helps the Finance Committee prepare a capital budget. Roof replacement, HVAC upgrades, parking lot repairs, electrical improvements are all examples of necessary capital projects which support the Dorcas mission.

Most exciting this year has been the expansion of services to more of our neighbors, especially to those who work in Cary or Morrisville but live in other communities. The Client Services staff has done an outstanding job accommodating this increasing demand. Requests for financial assistance and emergency housing have increased significantly often due to the lack of affordable housing and rent increases. Also as the cost of living has increased so has the need for groceries. We are fortunate that many wholesale companies contribute to our Food Pantry.

The future is bright yet challenging for Dorcas Ministries. We continue to work with Wake County Human Services to bring complementary services to our clients. Demand for services necessitates additional staff and space. There are competing demands and limited resources. Yet we have wise and thoughtful leaders. I am confident that Margaret Keller is, and will be, proud of Dorcas Ministries.

*David Coulter,*

Dorcas Board President

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## HURRICANE RELIEF



Because of our generous community, Dorcas Ministries was able to donate two truckloads of donations, including water, school supplies, diapers (adult and child), cleaning supplies and toiletries to our neighbors in Lumberton & Robeson County. In addition to the material goods, we delivered a \$6,000 check and over \$4,000 in gift cards. **THANK YOU FOR MAKING THIS POSSIBLE.**

# QUILT AUCTION

The quilt auction is part of Dorcas Ministries 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration. This year we had a celebration theme of **STITCHING TOGETHER A COMMUNITY - 50 Years of Service.**

Over the past year, we have collected over 50 beautiful quilts (and a dog!) that were donated by talented quilters.

Come see the quilts in person! Showings will be:

**October 22<sup>nd</sup>: 11 AM - 2 PM**

**October 23<sup>rd</sup>: 5 PM - 8 PM**

**October 24<sup>th</sup>: 11 AM - 2 PM**

**October 25<sup>th</sup>: 5 PM - 8 PM**

**October 29<sup>th</sup>: 5 PM - 8 PM**

**October 30<sup>th</sup>: 11 AM - 2 PM**



All showings will take place at **171 High House Road, the end unit at Dorcas Plaza.** If you are not available for one of the showings but would like to see the quilts in person, contact Ellen at [ellen@dorcascary.org](mailto:ellen@dorcascary.org) or 919.469.9861, ex. 101 to make arrangements.

Quilts can also be viewed online. To view the quilts and access the only bidding, visit [dorcascary.org](http://dorcascary.org). Bids will be accepted **October 22<sup>nd</sup> starting at 8 AM through November 5<sup>th</sup> at 12 PM.**

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## HELP YOUR GROUP STAY UPDATED

Dorcas Ministries has people available to come and speak to your group, neighborhood gathering, church, business or organization. “We have people who can spotlight either one specific area of our service, like our food pantry or job readiness training, or people who can give a comprehensive summary of all the ways we serve people,” said Rose Cornelious, Development Director. “Many newcomers to our area don’t know much about Dorcas Ministries, so this is a good way to introduce them. On the other hand, because we continue to expand how we serve people, it might prove beneficial to people who know us to hear current testimonies.”

Dorcas Ministries also provides tours of its facility. Visitors get a behind-the-scenes look at how donations are sorted, priced and displayed, types of donations received, Dorcas Ministries’ food pantry and job-readiness training, and many other aspects of the operation. One of the highlights of the tour is meeting and talking to the volunteers of Dorcas Ministries, its greatest asset! If you are a member of a club, civic group, Bible study or other group interested in how we serve, contact Rose Cornelious at [rose@dorcascary.org](mailto:rose@dorcascary.org) to schedule a tour.

# GIVE A GOBBLE THIS THANKSGIVING

**F**or every \$20 donation, Dorcas will provide a local family in need with a turkey or a grocery card to allow them to purchase food for their holiday table. Visit [dorcascary.org](http://dorcascary.org) to make a donation or mail your check or grocery card to Gobbles for Dorcas, 187 High House Road, Cary, 27511. Please indicate your donation is for "Gobbles."

Questions? Call Jill at Dorcas on 984-333-0058



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## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

We are proud to say we have over 600 volunteers helping us make our community better. We are looking for new volunteers to help us continue living out our mission and to fill a variety of roles. Our specific needs are:

- Cashiers
- Schedulers for Client Services
- Jewelry & Vintage volunteers

If you are interested in learning more about our volunteer program, contact Ellen at [ellen@dorcascary.org](mailto:ellen@dorcascary.org) or 919.469.9861, ext. 101. Applications can be filled out on our website: [dorcascary.org](http://dorcascary.org)

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## MAKE YOUR FOOD DRIVE FUN!

Here are some creative ideas to make your next food drive fun for everyone involved:



- Pass out **grocery bags** to your co-workers and have Whole Grain Mondays, Tuna Tuesdays, or Peanut Butter Week to encourage donations of nutritious items
- Have a **competition** between departments such as building structures out of cans.
- Consider **challenges** such as raising your weight in food or filling the CEO's office with cans.
- Offer **raffle prizes** for donations such as a paid vacation day, event tickets, books or artwork.
- Host a **party** for friends where door prizes are given for cans of food
- Ask guests to bring cans of food at **your events** such as BBQ's or dinner and birthday parties
- **Collect cans** of food at Halloween instead of candy



# Entrepreneurs Wanted

*Offering Access to Resources & Community Support*

**Do you have a service/product or small business that can generate a profit?  
Do you need help getting started or growing your small business to  
profitability?**

**Business Training**  
To Start/Grow a business

**Modest Grants**  
*Potential Funding*

**Mentors**  
Business Mentors

**Networking**  
Connect & Grow

As a **graduate** of **LaunchCARY**, in just **nine weeks** you will...

- ✓ Develop a strong business plan and be confident in your professional decision making
- ✓ Gain valuable Insights through connecting with business owners and mentors
- ✓ Confidently communicate your business idea in front of a group
- ✓ Prepare to Launch your new business or grow your current business
- ✓ Potential modest startup funding, or to assist you in growing to profitability

***Come to an Info Session & Learn More - Email***

***[LaunchCARY@dorcascary.org](mailto:LaunchCARY@dorcascary.org) or***

***Call 919-469-9861 x206 to Reserve your place:***

- November 5, 6:00pm Dorcas Ministries Training Center, 187 High House Road in Cary
- November 26, 6:00pm Dorcas Ministries Training Center, 187 High House Road in Cary
- December 10, 6:00pm Location TBD

**1<sup>st</sup> Class is January 28, 2019 -- Classes will meet for 9 weeks on Monday's  
5:30-9:00pm, dinner included**

LaunchCARY is open to entrepreneurs and current small business owners with demonstrated need who would benefit from the combination of business and financial resources that LaunchCARY provides.

For Details Visit: **[www.LaunchCARY.org](http://www.LaunchCARY.org)**

**LaunchCARY is sponsored by Dorcas Ministries, the Rotary Clubs  
of Cary and Wake Tech Center for Entrepreneurship.**

# BACK TO SCHOOL WITH PUBLIX AND THE TOWN OF CARY



**T**hanks to generous donations from the Publix at Bradford (left picture) and the Town of Cary (right picture), Dorcas was able to bless hundreds of school children with school supplies. Everything from glue to binders to crayons—the kids will be set!

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## GREEN HOPE VEGGIES FOR DORCAS



**A** big thank you to Kaleigh Ault, a junior at Green Hope, who built Green Hope's first on-campus garden as part of her Gold Award for Girl Scouts. The garden is part of Green Hope's chapter of Food Ark. The Food Ark is a student-run, nonprofit organization that has a club chapter at Green Hope and they focus on helping alleviate food insecurity as much as they can. Club members plant, harvest, and donate all the crops themselves. The garden produces over 20 types of fruits and vegetables over the year, including kale, onion, parsley, garlic, pumpkins, tomatoes, and squash. The produce grown in their lovely garden is donated to the Dorcas Food Pantry!

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## DID YOU KNOW...

**D**id you know you can donate money directly from an IRA to a 501 (c) 3 charity tax free if you are subject to required minimum distributions from an IRA? Christian Community in Action dba Dorcas Ministries, is a 501 (c) 3 nonprofit charity that qualifies for such a gift. Please consult your tax advisor for more information.