

# Hello and Goodbye

# 2010 Year in Review

It's hard to believe 2011 is already here! 2010 seemed to both come and go with equal swiftness but swept through like a storm at GSM.

This past year has been one that has shown growth and changes in almost every department. Each month in 2010 showed an increase in the number of families who needed help with food compared with the year before. Several months showed record numbers shopping in our clothing store. In December alone we provided food staples to more than 1,200 families!

In many businesses, a rise in year-end numbers is a good thing. Increasing those you serve from one year to the next means a successful year. However, in our case, the numbers paint a different picture.

An increase in our numbers means that there are more people in need -- without jobs, without support, without hope.

If we have done anything this year, we pray that in addition to meeting the most basic physical needs of more than 10,000 families, we have provided hope to the hopeless. We pray we have been a light in the dark and dreary world of a sometimes overlooked existence.

When all a person needed was a genuine smile, a listening ear or a kind word, we pray we were able to meet that need as well.

And, perhaps most importantly, we are excited about everything the new year holds for Good Samaritan Ministries, the people we serve and the people with whom we serve — to continue to put hands and feet to the faith we profess.

Current needs:  
Potatoes  
Corn

<b><u>FOOD PANTRY</u></b>	
Families Served	<b><u>SERVICE</u></b>
10,315	Number of volunteers
Individuals in those families 27,687	Total hours worked
Pounds of food distributed	13,559
594,816	<b><u>FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE</u></b>
Market value of food dist.	Families assisted w/ gas/electric
\$1,046,321	264
Pounds of venison donated	Families assisted w/ rent
9,750	58
<b><u>CLOTHING STORE</u></b>	Families assisted w/ water bills
Shoppers	115
13,219	Individuals assisted w/ medical
2010 Sales	158
\$51,924	

**GSM would like to say a BIG "Thank You!" to everyone who donated food or money for our Christmas boxes! With your donations we were able to give Christmas boxes to 1,262 families! What a blessing you all are!**

# Because many bowls - and stomachs- are empty

Mark your calendars for Thursday, March 31. It's the second annual Empty Bowls event!

Empty Bowls is a simple event with a simple meal and a simple message: live simply so others may live.

The simple meal of soup, bread and water will be served during lunch and dinner at the Depot Civic and Cultural Center in beautiful handmade ceramic bowls. After the event, you may take your bowl home with you as a reminder to think about those with empty bowls that night.

The event will be held for donations only and the bowls are yours to keep. We hope they will remind those in attendance that many bowls around the world and even in our own community remain empty as do many stomachs.

Everything raised through the



Empty Bowls event will go toward the Feinstein March Against Hunger campaign.

This will be our eleventh year to participate in the Feinstein challenge, a program began by Alan Feinstein who yearly puts up \$1 million as a challenge to help food pantries across America

raise awareness and support for feeding needy families. The million dollars offered by Mr. Feinstein will be divided proportionately among participating agencies according to the amount of money each organization raises during the challenge time period.

The *March Against Hunger* begins March 1, and will continue through April 30th. During March and April, the more money given to GSM's Food Pantry, the more Feinstein money we will receive.

The more area support we re-

*"Sympathy is no substitute for action."  
-- David Livingstone,  
missionary to Africa*



ceive, the more of the \$1 million dollars we get! With everyone's help last year we raised \$98,448.25 for the Food Pantry!

Area schools and Scout packs have a special opportunity to participate. Food items collected by schools and Scouts and given to Good Samaritan between March 1st and April 30th can be counted as a \$1.00 donation for each item.

Ninety percent of all of the money raised through The Empty Bowls event will be used locally to aid in the fight against hunger through the GSM Food Pantry and ten percent will be tithed to an organization that helps fight hunger globally.

## Easter Banquet

Let us take just a moment to remind you that our annual GSM Easter Banquet is coming up at the end of April. Mark it on your calendars and plan to come to the Mabee Center after church on Sunday, April 24! The annual event has become a tradition with many families in the area. Last year, 893 people dined with us!

It may still be cold outside and winter is hanging on a bit longer, but spring will be here before we know it!

Make plans now to enjoy an amazingly delicious meal prepared by the staff of Sodexo and served by GSM staff and board members.

It's a great meal for a great cause! All money raised from our Easter Banquet will be counted toward the March Against Hunger Feinstein Challenge,!

## Look at our new truck!



We bought a great used truck thanks to an amazing deal by Brownwood Ford! The truck has already been used to pick up donations from local grocery stores! We're so proud of it and just wanted to show it off!

# A Kind Welcome and a Fond Farewell

In December, Good Samaritan Ministries welcomed two more new faces to our staff! Jamie Espinoza joined our team December 1 as the Samaritan Aid case worker. Ernie Espinoza, began working in the Food Pantry through the Access Program, a program developed to provide older job-seekers with valuable training so they can re-enter the workforce.

After our long-time Food Warehouse manager retired in December, Ernie officially took over that role on the 27th though he had been working at GSM for a while.



Ernie said he is thankful to Charlotte at Access for giving him the opportunity to find a job which led to a permanent position, to George Cantrell, former Food warehouse Manager, for teaching him all areas of the food pantry and to Angelia Bostick, Executive

Director of GSM, for allowing him to be a part of the ministry.

“God has been good, and he does work in mysterious ways.”

Ernie’s wife, Jamie, began volunteering at GSM in September after Ernie began working here and became a part of the staff on December 1. She filled a much needed role in Samaritan Aid, assisting clients with rent and utility bills.



Jamie Espinoza

Jamie was the volunteer coordinator at West Park Elementary for two years and, through that experience, she saw first hand how important the role volunteers play really is.

She said it has been wonderful to see God work through her and her husband in plugging them both into a ministry that has become so dear to their hearts.

After more than six and a half years as Food Warehouse Manager George Cantrell retired December 23, 2010.

George began working at GSM in March of 2004 and the time following marked more than half a dozen years of faithful and dedicated service.

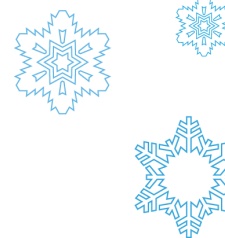


He picked up donations of food to GSM from community businesses, picked up deer donations, most often in his own pick up truck, and kept track of when we were running low on any item as he oversaw the pantry and warehouse.

GSM General Manager, Joy Edgar, said most families served by GSM will probably never know the countless hours of preparation that went into the distribution of that food.

“Every recipient knew that someone cared about them. The dedication of George made a difference for many,” she said.

We wish George all the best as he settles into retirement but pray he knows how much he will be missed.



## The Deer Project

We are well on our way to our goal of 12,000 pounds of venison with 10,090 pounds as of January 11, 2011!

That’s already 4,041 pounds more than last year and there is still more coming in!

We have been blown away by the response from the hunting community this year! They have far exceeded our expectations and hopes in bringing in so many of their legally harvested deer!

We believe the reason is because not only are our hunters commu-

nity-minded, but we’ve made it even easier to give to the worthwhile program! This year hunters can simply take their deer to one of our three participating processors and tell them they want to donate it to The Deer Project or GSM. There is no cost to the hunter!

In order to make this work, we still depend on donations from those who would like to support the program but aren’t able or choose not to hunt. One dollar a pound is all it takes to process a deer so a donation of any amount

can help tremendously!

Your gift of \$5, \$10, \$20 or more will process that



many pounds of venison that translates into fresh lean protein onto the plates of our hungry friends and neighbors! Please call us for more information.

“If you see some brother or sister in need and have the means to do something about it but turn a cold shoulder and do nothing, what happens to God’s love? It disappears. And you made it disappear.”

I John 3:17

# The Voice of GSM

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