

# STEWSPOT COMMUNITY SERVICES

FAITH MEETING NEEDS IN OUR COMMUNITY

SUMMER 2022 NEWSLETTER

## DIRECTOR'S CORNER

*Rev. Jill Barnes Buckley, Executive Director*



First Frisco United Methodist Church Youth Group

In early June, I pulled up to Stewspot to find a church bus parked in front of our building. This particular bus was from a Methodist church just north of Dallas, and it was full of young people ready to volunteer with us for the week.

I practically leapt out of my car and bounded over to the bus to greet them. To my surprise...and probably theirs, too....I found my eyes filling with tears! As you well know, before 2020, Stewspot's campus would be filled to the brim every summer with youth groups from all over working on projects and hanging out with our summer campers.

But the pandemic stopped all that. And Stewspot chugged along, but with many fewer hands to do the work. Staff members and a few courageous volunteers stepped in to fill the gap. But we grew to appreciate even more deeply how much energy and care and love that volunteers add to the mix.

Stewspot is so much more than a list of tasks to be accomplished on behalf of hurting people.

It is a ministry of care and presence to our neighbors in need. Volunteers are the ones who put flesh on the bones of our ministry; who, along with our staff, embody the love of God in tangible ways. And who inspire us staff members with their energy, love, and commitment.

So, to see those young people made my heart so happy. Their presence was good for all of us.

I felt a similar lift in late June when I visited Vacation Bible School at Fondren Presbyterian Church, where a handful of Stewspot's summer camp kids were invited to join the fun. I walked in during snack time and play time but stayed long enough to see art class and science class. To me, there was a distinct feeling of quiet joy that filled the spaces and the people who were here. Even amongst the news that one of their volunteers had tested positive for COVID!

I believe that the quiet joy I felt as I walked through the church was the natural welling up of both of us living into our callings, and doing it together. Fondren: being inclusive and welcoming and a place of learning about God's love; Stewspot: connecting hurting people, in this case children, with God's people in the world.

This newsletter is full of glad Stewspot moments like these, all made possible by you, our caring community of supporters.

See what great things we can do, what lives we can lift, when we do it together?



Stewspot Kids visiting Fondren Presbyterian's VBS

# JACKSON ORGANIZATIONS COMBAT HOMELESSNESS TOGETHER

Stewpot, in collaboration with the City of Jackson, the Central MS Continuum of Care, WJTV 12, Jackson Free Clinic, Jackson Hinds Comprehensive Health, and Hinds Behavioral Health, conducted a homeless outreach event on June 17, 2022. The purpose of this event was to meet people experiencing homelessness where they are by providing immediate services such as health check-ups, COVID vaccines and boosters, HIV testing, mental health assessments and support, and access to temporary emergency shelter and housing services.

This event was one of two City Sweeps we participated in this summer to address critical needs in our community. As a result of these events, twelve neighbors experiencing homelessness acquired temporary shelter and several others were assisted with obtaining IDs, finding employment, and referrals for permanent housing assistance.



## STEW POT BY THE NUMBERS JANUARY-JUNE 2022

**34,572** meals served in the Community Kitchen

**531** households received groceries from the Food Pantry

**125** households moved into or remained in permanent housing through our Rapid Rehousing Program

**52** kids and teens received after school homework assistance during the Spring 2022 semester

**109** kids and teens enrolled in Stewpot Summer Camp

**572** individuals received assistance from Stewpot Outreach Workers

**147** men had a safe place to sleep at Billy Brumfield Emergency Shelter for Men

**86** women received shelter and resources at Matt's House (not including children)

**90** individuals took shelter at Stewpot's Temporary Emergency Shelter



# STEWSPOT SUMMER CAMP HIGHLIGHTS



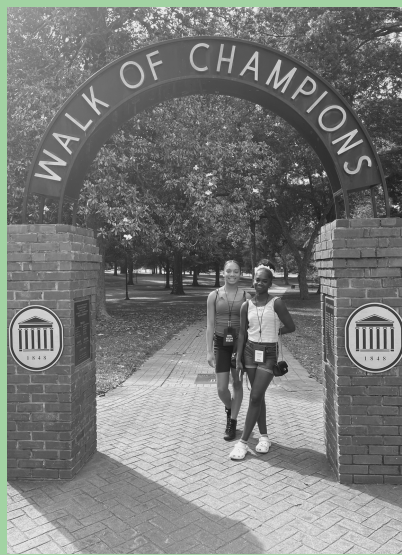
Enjoying snow cones from Nandy's Candy



Lots of smiles on the steps at Stewspot



Singing songs outside the Hut



Teens attend STEM camp at University of Mississippi



Cooking class in the Teen Center



Getting creative in art class



Learning fire safety from JFD

# REFILL JACKSON GRADUATE NAMED NEW STEWPOT FOOD PANTRY MANAGER



While enrolled in the Refill Jackson Initiative, a program that empowers and assists young people entering the workforce, Nelkoburaugh Miller completed her on-the-job training at the Stewpot Food Pantry and Community Kitchen. As the first ever recipient of the Refill Jackson Initiative Distinguished Alumni Award, Nelkoburaugh is hardworking and eager to serve her community.

After graduating from the program, Stewpot hired Nelkoburaugh to be the new Food Pantry Manager earlier this year. We are grateful for Nelkoburaugh and are thrilled she is a permanent part of the Stewpot family!

Refill Jackson holds an eight-week training five times a year. To apply or learn more information, visit [refilljackson.org](http://refilljackson.org).

"My favorite part of the job is working directly with the community. I really like being able to serve people in this capacity and meet them wherever they are. So far, I've learned to be more flexible and creative in this work. There will be unexpected setbacks, so it's important to stay positive and to remember flexibility and empathy often yields better results."

*Nelkoburaugh Miller, Stewpot Food Pantry Manager*

## **FOOD PANTRY NEEDS**

- Granola Bars
- Pudding Cups
- Fruit Cups
- Fruit Snacks
- Small Cookie Packs
- Small Cracker Packs
- Bottles of Water
- Juice Boxes
- Trail Mix
- Snack Crackers
- Candy
- Ready to Eat meals
- Cup-a-soup
- Beef Jerky
- Ensure
- Tuna pouches
- Crystal light packets
- Emer-gen-c Packets
- Small bags of chips
- Gatorade
- Canned mixed vegetables
- Canned greens
- Canned black eyed peas
- Macaroni and cheese
- Canned chicken breast
- Cereal
- Vienna sausages
- Pre-packaged Dinners

## **COMMUNITY KITCHEN NEEDS**

- Butter
- #10 Canned baked beans
- #10 Canned lima Beans
- Season salt
- #10 Canned fruit
- Ground beef
- Pork chops
- Chicken patties
- Brownie mix
- Cookie dough
- Tomatoes
- Cucumbers
- Mayo
- Watermelon
- Kool-Aid
- Bread

**Search for Stewpot's  
Amazon Charity Wishlist  
on Amazon to ship items  
directly to Stewpot!**





## VOLUNTEER WITH US!

### Hands-on Volunteer Opportunities

Serve lunch in the Stewpot Community Kitchen

Bag groceries for families in the Food Pantry

Deliver meals for Meals on Wheels

Sort and organize donations in the Clothing Closet

Help kids and teens with homework after school

Provide an evening meal for Billy Brumfield or Matt's House shelters

Offer special music during Chapel

**To learn more, contact**

**Contyna McNealy, Director of Volunteer Services**

**cmcnealy@stewpot.org • 601-353-2759**

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

The BankPlus Red Beans & Rice Festival Benefitting Stewpot is BACK in-person on Saturday, October 29th at the Mississippi Museum of Art! Get ready for some delicious beans, cold beverages, a great musical lineup, children's activities and more!

Visit [redbeansandrice.org](http://redbeansandrice.org) to register your team, sign up to be a craft vendor, purchase tickets, or register for the inaugural Bean Bag Toss Competition! All proceeds from this event will be used to help support the ministries of Stewpot.



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**REDBEANSANDRICE.ORG**

# STEWSPOT COMMUNITY SERVICES

*Faith meeting needs in our community*

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## RAISE MONEY FOR STEWPOT JUST BY SHOPPING AT KROGER

Don't forget that you can support Stewpot just by shopping at Kroger. It's easy when you enroll in Kroger Community Rewards®! To get started, go to [www.kroger.com](http://www.kroger.com) and click on the Community link. That will bring you to the Kroger Community Rewards page. Sign up with your Plus Card and select a local organization you wish to support (Stewpot). Once you're enrolled, you'll earn rewards for your chosen organization every time you shop and use your Kroger Plus Card!



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## BECOME A MONTHLY PARTNER TODAY!

By signing up to be a monthly donor at [www.stewpot.org](http://www.stewpot.org), your contribution will immediately be used to help some of the most vulnerable people in and around the Metro area. When you subscribe as a Monthly Partner, you become part of helping us to guarantee:

**A hot meal or groceries for people who are hungry • Safe Shelter for those who are homeless and vulnerable • A safe and nurturing environment for over 100 at-risk children and teenagers each year**

Become a Monthly Partner Today! It's the easiest and most efficient way to make an impact right now – and for years to come.

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