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Community Connection August 2019

Thought of You Today



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This sweet boy was in our lobby giggling as he rolled these beads back and forth on the toy. He caught our eye, smiled a big smile, and made us think of **you**. Thanks to those of you who donate food, paper goods, or clothing, this child's mother can keep him fed, clothed and in clean

diapers. Thanks to our volunteers who serve, he smiles because his mother feels loved by those who help her, equipping her emotionally to project that love on him. Thanks to you who donate financially, he smiles because his lights will stay on in his home. Thanks to you, he smiles because his greatest worry is getting the bead to the other side of his toy. Thank you for all you do to support the Real Life Center with your time, donations, finances, and prayers! Join us September 12th at our Harvest for Hope Gala to support our mission of keeping smiles on the children of our community by helping our neighboring families who are hurting.

Boots and BLING

YOU ARE
INVITED!

Benefiting Real Life Center, a local nonprofit for struggling families, providing food, educational classes, financial assistance, coaching, career assistance and more.
PROVIDING NECESSITIES FOR LIVING. EQUIPPING PEOPLE FOR LIFE.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2019

GLENDALOUGH MANOR + 200 GLENDALOUGH COURT + TYRONE, GA

Doors open at 5:30 p.m. + Program begins at 6:30 p.m.

SILENT AND LIVE AUCTION + BUFFET DINNER

Interactive Bidding via Mobile Phone/Device Only

LIVE BLUEGRASS MUSIC FEATURING:

SAGEBRUSH OUTLIERS

TICKETS \$100 + AVAILABLE ONLINE AT

WWW.HARVESTFORHOPEGALA.ORG

PURCHASE BY THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

Harvest for Hope
Real Life Center Gala

REAL LIFE CENTER
Real help. Real hope.



Do you have your ticket yet? We are getting down to weeks before our exciting evening of Boots and Bling Fun! We would love for you to join us for our 4th Annual Gala! Visit

www.harvestforhopegala.org to buy your ticket as well as sponsorships. Sponsorships, available at levels starting at \$250, are a wonderful way for your business to partner with the Real Life Center!



It Just Takes One to Make a Difference

We are always blessed by large groups who do food drives for us, but we also never under-estimate the power of ONE person. This month, we saw this impact multiple times such as when **Ray Dunlap** from **Dunlap & Associates Wealth Management** brought in brand new sheets and towels when he saw our plea for donations and when **Girl Scout Troop 255** dropped off an unexpected yummy surprise by donating a special treat of boxes of Girl Scout cookies for us to give to the families we serve. One young girl and her mom, **Julie and Avery Pruett**, organized a food drive amongst friends, and **Doug Sausser** took it upon himself to

make a difference this month by collecting food amongst his neighbors knowing our shelves were getting bare. **Craig Evans State Farm Agency** helped us serve families literally during the storms of life by donating umbrellas to the Real Life Center to use while loading food in the cars in the rain. One wonderful man, **Brett Thomas**, grew and harvested 876 lbs of watermelon and 58 lbs of butternut squash for the families we serve. One person can make a considerably large difference!

Neighbor Helping Neighbor

Your Impact: July YTD



329,958

pounds food distributed
to our families



Served **897** active
families
representing
4099 visits



More than

9630

Hours served
by volunteers

35 Classes offered
regarding finances,
spiritual,
physical,
and
emotional health



8,906

clothing
items given
to families



78,618



pounds food
distributed
through the
Mobile Food Pantry



5964 pounds of produce harvested from our Orchard and Garden

*July YTD, we welcomed **185** new families into our Full Program.*



Back to School Blessings

Southside Church, Panasonic, and St. Andrews in the Pines

Episcopal Church have set our families up for success when starting school this month. Together, they have donated over 528 backpacks *filled with school supplies!* We have enjoyed seeing the confident smiles on the faces of the children, little kindergartners all the way to tall high schoolers, who come to the Real Life Center with their parents and leave with a new backpack full of school supplies on their backs. We see the smiles of relief on the parent's faces as they no longer have to worry about how they are going to provide supplies for their children on their very limited budgets. In addition to the families that we serve at the Real Life Center, we were

able to share the blessings my taking 85 backpacks to Crabapple and Burch Elementary schools in Fayette County and Poplar Road Elementary in Coweta County. What an impact this amazing donation has made. Thank you Southside, Panasonic and St. Andrews in the Pines for caring for the young in our community in this way.



A True Win-Win

The 2019 Chick-fil-A Kickoff Game featuring Alabama and Duke is at the Mercedes Benz Stadium on August 31st. Tickets are normally \$125 but you can get them for **ONLY \$40** using our Promo Code RLC19.

Use the link:

<https://offer.fevo.com/chick-fil-a-kickoff-game-ticket-fun>

Add our **Promo Code RLC19** and get a great deal on your tickets! Share this great news....tell your friends!

Only one team will win the Chick-fil-A Kickoff Game but your purchase is a Win-Win! \$5 of every ticket sale using our promo code will be given to the

Real Life Center to help families going through very tough times. Thank you for your support!



Even though we know that change is a part of life, it doesn't mean that going through it is easy. At the Real Life Center, we are always striving to do our best as we seek to impact lives. Many times, this means evaluating and making shifts and changes. One big modification ahead involves our Real Life Stores closing. At our Real Life Store Fayetteville location, we will be closing as of October 19, 2019. We have a commitment from the [FireChaplain.Org](https://www.firechaplain.org/) organization to become the new "owner" of the Real Life Store Tyrone location. This change



UPS employees are so good at helping us harvest fruit in our Harvest for Real Life Fruit Orchard. Last year, they helped us pick blueberries. This year, they picked 458lbs of peaches and will be back soon to help us harvest muscadines! "Robin and her wonderful group from UPS have been great and are ready to work in the orchard wherever needed." shares Steve Thomas, Orchard/Garden Coordinator. "No matter what their level in management at UPS is, they humbly serve where we need them to with such big hearts for helping others. They are such a fun group!"



[Harvest for Real Life Orchard](#)

will occur on December 1, 2019. We encourage you to still bring donations to this location through November 30th. Frank Mercer and his wife Pam, have been strong partners of the Real Life Center through their church, Rolling Hills Baptist Church. Frank and Pam have recently launched a nonprofit organization called FireChaplain.Org that exists to provide emotional and spiritual support to first responders and their families. Taking over the current Real Life Store at the Tyrone location will help FireChaplain.Org in supporting the operations of this ministry to our local fire stations as well as victims of fires.

We are also excited about some new opportunities to support our local families going through the tough times of life! Your ongoing donations are still very much needed at our Real Life Center as we offer needed clothing and housewares and other items free to our families served at the Center.



His Hands

1 Corinthians 12:27 tells us "All of you together are Christ's body, and each of you is a part of it." We are privileged to see the hands of Christ at work every day at the Real Life Center. Recently we saw Christ's hands serving breakfast to seniors at our Monthly "Take a Break". We witnessed His hands loading food in the trunks of cars at the Mobile Food Pantry. We saw His hands picking fresh blueberries in our Orchard and filling backpacks with school supplies.

Thank you to **KeyImpact**, the **Apostolic Church of Peachtree City**, other community volunteers, and all our Real Life Center, Store, and Orchard/Garden volunteers who are the hands of Christ to those who come to seek help at the Real Life Center. You are appreciated!

Cathy Berggren, Executive Director of the Real Life Center, shares the sentiments felt by the staff and volunteers at the Real Life Center and Stores, *"We are so grateful for the season we have had to serve the community at BOTH locations. We are so incredibly thankful for each one of you for the way you support us – we are truly able to help others because of each of you. Neighbor helping neighbor, strengthening our families and our community!"*

Watch for great sales at both stores as we continue to be open for business as usual until the dates mentioned above. Starting in August, your entire purchase is 25% off at the Fayetteville Store!



[Fayetteville Store](#)



[Tyrone Store](#)



Welcome Shannon to our Staff

We are thrilled to have Shannon Echevarria join our staff as our Client Coordinator. A Kansas native, Shannon moved to this area in 2013 with her two daughters. She has a Masters degree in counseling and is a Licensed Professional Counselor. Shannon is a member of Dogwood Church and is active in the Worship Team and her Lifegroup. Shannon feels blessed to be a part of the Real Life Center ministry and we feel blessed to have her and her wonderful gift of caring for people. When not working, you can find Shannon spending time with her daughters, riding her Harley, and enjoying spending time with friends



The Real Life Center is excited to have been chosen to be one of the Charity Partners in the **2019 Rotary Club of Peachtree City Dragon Boat Festival** and we are asking YOU to partner with us through sponsorship or by registering a rowing team in the Dragon Boat Races. No experience is necessary! Contact lmartin@reallifecenter.org or check out www.ptcdragonboats.org for more information on how you can support the Real Life Center and have a great time! This is a day of fun and enjoyment for everyone, we hope you can be a part of it!

and family in Kansas. Welcome, Shannon!



[DONATE NOW to support our mission.](#)

Real Life Center is an integrated auxiliary of Dogwood Church.



[Real Life Center](#)

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