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Community Connection May 2019

You are Invited!



A Word from Executive Director, Cathy Berggren

We are so incredibly grateful for our new space! This year, the Real Life Center is celebrating 20 years. I have often been reminded of God's words, and have found that looking back often reminds me of His faithfulness. We are grateful to be able to look back at all that He has done! Eugene Peterson reminds us that it's when we look back we find the courage to keep going today. Thank you for being a part of the past twenty years filled with meeting needs, sharing Christ and changing lives. I am excited to see what God has in store for the future! We hope you can join us for our Ribbon Cutting and Grand Opening celebration. May it be a time for you also to reflect on your own past and be encouraged that He has brought you through with great hope for tomorrow. Hope changes everything!



**MONDAY, MAY 13TH
5:30 – 7:30 PM**

Please join the Real Life Center for our
Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting
to celebrate our new facility.

Presented with the Fayette County Chamber of Commerce

975 Highway 74 North, Tyrone

North on Hwy 74, Right at Dogwood Trail, First Right into RLC entrance
light refreshments and open house



Dancing to Make a Difference

Hello friends! Our Marketing Coordinator, Lina Martin, is representing the Real Life Center by dancing in this year's local Fayette Dancing Stars fundraising event to be held on **June 8 at the Starr's Mill High School Auditorium**. Her partner is the talented Mercer Hill and they are having a great time learning their ballroom samba dance routine.

For the past several years, the Fayette County Board of Realtors has been sponsoring this event and last year over \$48,000 was raised to benefit local charities. This year, Dr. Joseph Giovinco and Dr. Gregory Alvarez of the **Ankle & Foot Centers of Georgia** are sponsoring this event. The Real Life Center is honored to be one of the five charity recipients of this year's event. We would love for you to consider supporting the Real Life Center by either attending the event (tickets are \$20), purchasing a personal or business ad or simply make a donation (please specify team Lina Martin/Mercer Hill). You can go to FayetteDancingStars.com for all these options of support. Our goal is to beat the \$48,000 amount raised last year. We would appreciate your support as she

kicks up her heals to help families undergoing unexpected difficulties in Fayette and Coweta counties. Thank You!

Neighbor Helping Neighbor

Your Impact: April YTD



188,978
pounds food distributed
to our families

Served **656** active
families
representing
2175 visits

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



44,161
pounds food
distributed
through the
Mobile Food Pantry

More than **4500**
 Hours served
by volunteers

3,395
clothing
items given
to families

*April YTD, we welcomed **96** new families.*



On the Radio!

Thank you to **The JOY FM** for inviting our Executive Director Cathy Berggren and one of our former clients Walter Holsten, to share about how God is using the Real Life Center to bring Hope to our community. During this interview, Walter shares, "*The Real Life Center put the water on my mustard seed.*" We hope you will take a minute to enjoy listening to Cathy and Walter's time with Jules! [Listen Now!](#)



All Saints Anglican Church, Dogwood Kids, St. Paul Lutheran Church and School, Living Faith Fellowship Youth Group, and JC Booth Middle School have all been busy collecting food to help families in need in our community. They, along with **Debbie Sanders and her wonderful group of women at Curves** and the **Beta Club of Rising Starr Middle School** have truly been "neighbors helping neighbors" this past month keeping our shelves stocked!



"I am so thankful for you and all that your ministry has done for me and my family. For when I was hungry you fed me, you encouraged me to stand on the Word of God. You prayed with me and for me and for that I am so grateful." - RLC Client



Register Your Team before May 31st for the Best Price!

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

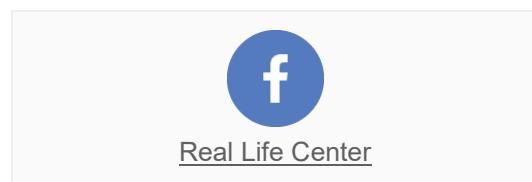


Welcome new Board Members, **Betty Crisp** and **Dan Rankin!** Betty retired from the Federal Government after serving 33 years in various positions in Kentucky and Georgia. Betty is a volunteer with the Real Life Center serving in the food pantry, as a receptionist, performing data entry, and as a substitute assessment counselor. She also currently serves in Mom2Mom at Dogwood Church.

Dan currently works as a Flight Superintendent/Airline Dispatcher for Delta Airlines. Dan has volunteered at the Real Life Center for several years and has attended Dogwood church since 1999. He leads Financial Peace University at Dogwood church for small groups. We know that both Betty and Dan will be great contributors to our Board of Directors!

As their time has come to roll off the Board of Directors, we thank Chris Clark and Missy Bryan for their

rowing team in the Dragon Boat Races. No experience is necessary! The cost to register a team is \$550 if you register by May 31st (that is only \$55 per person!) 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!



Looking to Serve?

Are you looking for a gratifying way to spend some spare time you have during the week? The Real Life Center is looking for a few men who are available on Tuesday and/or Thursday

invaluable involvement and investment of time into the Real Life Center. We appreciate them very much!



Sunrays and Raindrops

Our Harvest for Real Life Fruit Orchard has benefited greatly from the cleansing rain and the nourishing sun rays. Acts 14:17 reminds us "Yet he has not left himself without testimony: He has shown kindness by giving you rain from heaven and crops in their seasons; he provides you with plenty of food and fills your hearts with joy." Our hearts ARE filled with joy as we look across from our new facility and see the beauty of the orchard and garden knowing we can bless those in need with nutritious produce!



mornings to ride in the truck with our Operations Driver as he picks up donated food items from area grocery stores. You must be available from 8:30 am to 2:00 pm, and be able to lift loads of up to 50 lbs. Please contact Matt Lowe at mlowe@reallifecenter.org if you are interested in serving our community once a week, twice a week, or even once a month in this way. The Real Life Center would appreciate your help!



Servant Hearts and Great Big Smiles

We get so excited when the youth in our community come to serve at the Real Life

Harvest for Real Life Orchard



Shop for Spring without Over-Spending

Cold weather is OUT and lovely spring ensembles are IN! Shop our upscale thrift stores to find several styles of joyful Spring fashion. Our two Real Life Stores are located at 400 N. Glynn Street in Fayetteville and 992 Senoia Road in Tyrone and are ready to welcome you in Tuesday thru Saturday from 10-4.



[Fayetteville Store](#)



[Tyrone Store](#)



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

Real Life Center is an integrated auxiliary of Dogwood Church.

Center! They come with servant hearts and great big smiles, as they are learning early in life about the gratification received when we know we helped someone in need. **Student Ambassadors from Whitewater High School, Trinity Christian School National Honor Society, and students from First Baptist Church of Peachtree City** helped us sort food and work on a project in our Food Pantry. We are grateful!

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