

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION DINNER

Simply put, Greenhouse Ministries **cannot** exist without our volunteers. The Independent Sector came up with a dollar amount for how much volunteer hours are worth. Using the Independent Sector's formula, with **22,747** total volunteer hours in 2016, the total dollar amount our volunteers saved us is **\$535,919.32**.

The Volunteer Appreciation Dinner is just a small way for us to say thank you. Thank you for sharing your time and talent with us. Thank you for making a difference in our community. And thank you for choosing to be a part of the Greenhouse Ministries family. We love you, volunteers!



THE PAST MONTH AT A GLANCE

-  We had another successful Second Harvest Mobile Food Pantry thanks to our sponsors, The Coffee Drop Project!
-  GM-NO partnered with Greenhouse Ministries to build a community garden in our backyard! This garden will supply members of our community with fresh, free produce.
-  Darryl Jenkins, one of our office volunteers, won Volunteer of the Week courtesy of Volunteer Rutherford.
-  Shelter Insurance volunteered at Greenhouse as a part of the United Way Days of Action campaign. Thank you Shelter Insurance!
-  Chicken Salad Chick had a fundraiser and presented us a check for around \$1,400 this month. Thank you for your partnership, Chicken Salad Chick!

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greenhousemin.org

HOURS OF OPERATION

Tuesday - Friday:
9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Tracey Binkley
Mark & Janet Blackwelder
Andrae Crismon
Phil Dodd
Steve & Teresa Howell
Rosland Rhyne
Drew & Christy Sanford
Cliff & Jane Sharp
Jon Troutt

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CLIFF'S NOTES

I (Cliff) became friends with JoJo Collier's parents when he was a teenager. Greenhouse Ministries was able to help them through some problems; most of these problems were because they could not read and they were vulnerable.

About 10 years ago JoJo came to Greenhouse Ministries by himself and said he wanted to learn to read. I started working with him on his letters, matching pictures with words, and trying to memorize the Fry sight words (300 most used words in English language). He really struggled but **he did not give up**. Our original thoughts were that he might be able to get to a reading level of reading picture books.

We contacted Read to Succeed to see if they could help and they assigned him a tutor to work with him. He was very faithful in showing up each time he was supposed to be there. He also continued to meet with his tutor at Greenhouse. He prayed that God would help him learn to read. He continued to struggle but **he did not give up**.

He got a job at Jack In The Box and faithfully rode his bicycle to work every day. He was so proud when he came by and let the VITA program figure out his income taxes and found out he was getting a refund.

He finally reached a point where he could sound out words but could not comprehend putting the words in sentences. But he kept trying and **he did not give up**. He finally reached a breakthrough and began reading low level elementary reading books and then some small chapter books. JoJo has now read hundreds of books. This month he has been reading a Hardy Boys and a Nancy Drew Mystery book. **He did not give up**.

Today he shares inspirational sayings and scriptures on Facebook. It brings tears to my eyes to think how JoJo struggled and is now encouraging others. **He did not give up. HE CAN READ.**

There is so much we can learn from this young man. So many people thought he would never learn to read. Many people we see at Greenhouse Ministries are in a pattern where they have been told that they do not have an opportunity to succeed or they can't achieve goals; so they don't try. They give up before they even start. You too, may be at some point in your life where you do not see a way to achieve a goal. Take a lesson from JoJo. **He did not give up.**

"Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, when he has stood the test, he will receive the Crown of Life that God has promised to those who love Him."
James 1:12

THE LEARNING CENTER

The Greenhouse Ministries Learning Center offers free adult education classes to anyone in the community. Due to the lack of space in the Greenhouse building, the Learning Center is across the street. Thank you to First Baptist Church on Main for allowing us to use their building! Our Learning Center offers classes ranging from budgeting to sewing; Bible study to Microsoft Powerpoint, all free of charge and taught by volunteers. To learn more about The Learning Center visit our website at <http://www.greenhousemin.org/learning-center/>

This month at the Learning Center:

27

Women participated in our sewing class where they not only learned a new skill-set but more importantly formed new relationships.

9

Individuals took our budgeting class where they learned how to be disciplined with their money.

4

Individuals took our GED/HiSET tutoring class in order to graduate.

7

Clients took our art focused drawing class.

GET TO KNOW GREENHOUSE

Our Greenhouse spotlight this month is staff member, Randy Williams. Randy is the director of the Learning Center, which includes scheduling all of the free adult education classes we offer. Randy is an enthusiastic employee and on Friday's you can usually find him teaching the music class while playing his guitar. Read below to get to know Randy more!

1. How long have you worked at Greenhouse?
I have worked at Greenhouse as a volunteer and as a full time employee for almost three years.

2. What is your favorite part about working here?
I love becoming acquainted with all of my clients that come through the door here at the Learning Center.

Be sure to follow us on Facebook and Twitter to stay up to date!

 Facebook: www.facebook.com/greenhousemin

 Twitter: www.twitter.com/greenhousemin

UPCOMING EVENTS:

May 6:
Oil Changing Event for the elderly and single parents

May 11:
Volunteer Orientation

June 3:
ReCYCLE Bike Repair Event

THANK YOU!

Amanda Huggins and her entire family, the Frost family, made over 50 Easter baskets to give to our adult and children clients. What a fun and creative way to give back to the community!

Joe Minter donated bike reflectors to use on the bicycles our clients earn. Thank you Joe!

Another thank you to Family Dollar on Memorial Blvd. for donating brand new children's clothes to give to our clients!

Yet another thank you to Cedar Grove Elementary School and MTSU's College of Education for donating 500 bars of soap to give to our clients in desperate need of toiletries.

Also, thank you to First Presbyterian Church for allowing us to use your building for our Volunteer Appreciation Dinner!

Riverdale FFA did a canned food drive which resulted in over 120 pounds of food for our food pantry. Thank you Riverdale!

GREENHOUSE NEEDS:

- Food for the food pantry including:
 - Canned fruit
 - Ramen noodles
 - Cans of vienna sausage
- Volunteer host for the waiting room
- Volunteers to help with furniture pickups