



# STEWPOOT MAIL MISDIRECTED TO LOUISIANA

Most of Stewpot's mail from mid-July until the end of August was sent to a street address in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Stewpot learned about the problem when alert contributor noted on his bank statement that his contribution had been sent to "Baton Rouge Stewpot." He called Stewpot to ask if Stewpot had a branch in Baton Rouge and, of course was alerted that we did not. At that point, he called his bank to see why the bank had sent the check there and was informed him that the Post Office had instructed the bank to do so and he called Stewpot back.

At that point we picked up the investigation and called the Post Office to find out why our mail was being misdirected. After several days we were alerted that a homeless individual who was receiving his mail at Stewpot had filed a change of address form with the post office to the address in Baton Rouge. Through whatever post office misunderstandings and/or mistakes that occurred, the vast majority of Stewpot's mail was then sent to Louisiana.

In spite of repeated requested assistance from postal officials who delivered the mail to a specific address in Baton Rouge and to the postal inspectors offices, the mail has not been returned to Stewpot. Fortunately, it appears the recipient has not attempted to cash any of the checks. Stewpot has answered calls from 5 donors who wrote checks during the July and August timeframe and asked why their checks had not been cashed and we have explained the problem.

How can you help us? Please check your donations made in July and August. If they have not been processed, please put a "stop payment" on them and issue Stewpot another check. If they have been processed and endorsed with a suspicious endorsement, alert us so we can try to get some assistance from the postal Inspectors offices to apprehend the recipient. Thank goodness, once we told the post office in late August our mail has apparently returned to normal.

DOING THE

# “School Work”

## Dance with Teens

Teenager and school work seem hard to put together. Those of you that have teens can tell the countless stories of the dances you do with your teen when it comes to home work. Teens are so involved with social issues. You know the list: boyfriends; girlfriends; friends; music; dances; television; video games; and just plain being a teen. So many distractions that our young people seem to have so much more to do other than their school work. We know it's just apart of their development, but can you just imagine all of the dances that Stewpot staff must do with our Middle School and High School programs.

At times, it seems futile to even try. So we try to do the dance



of keeping them focused on school work by exposing them to many different activities that make schoolwork attractive to them. This year we received a call from the Siemens Corporation employees. Graciously, they were willing to work with our teens one on one. Every Wednesday, Siemens employees would come as a

group to study with our youth in math and other subjects one on one. Some of our teens came willingly but some needed pushing to study. Later in the semester, we received a surprise in that the teens started asking and waiting for preparing Siemens personnel to come and give them the help they needed in different subjects. The Teens even began preparing before they came for the areas in which they needed help. We were overjoyed. Now we still have some that don't like school work, but we are hopeful that the compassionate and patient assistance from the employees from Siemens' will bring them around too. The teens see when they do the once a week studying with their new friend, that it helps with their test grades that week.

It's exciting to us, because our teens have come to expect Siemens' staff and know they will receive the extra help they need. One of our students that attend Provine High School had to take her Biology I test over and studied with her tutor. She even asked for extra work to help her when they were not there so she could ask questions when they came back. When she got her test back, she

pasted it on the wall and couldn't wait to tell her tutor.

Another student who is a senior at Jim Hill said she would appreciate help for her upcoming ACT test. She said that she knew that Math was a weak subject for her and they helped make it easier to understand. “I know I will do better on the ACT this year with the extra help,” she told me and said she wanted a “really high score.” An 8th grader at Rowan always seemed to have her math ready for her Siemens' tutor and frequently asked “When will they get here?” She told me, “At first I didn't want to go meet with them, but then when they helped me, I understood the work in class much better and my grade are better!” A final student said, I didn't like studying with them and sometime I still don't, but they are good at explaining the work. Sometimes I know stuff before the teacher teaches it and I like that.”

Stewpot teens are also learning that spending time studying with a tutor helps them figure out how to study on their own. Siemens' is helping our dance with the teens become a little like the “wasp” instead of “the jig.” Stewpot can not thank them enough. If this story makes you want to join us with homework with our children or teens please call me at 601-353-2759

Come and become one of our great volunteers like the folks from Siemens.

Yolanda Kirkland  
Director of Youth Program



# DON LONDON

As reprinted from the Jackson Free Press Vol. 6 No. 10  
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At 10:30 on Saturday morning, Don London, 62 is already hard at work in his basement office at Stewpot Community Services on Capitol Street. Volunteers and service recipients come and go through his office with friendly hello and practical questions.

As facilities manager, London's work at consists of convening meetings, taking care of the grounds, playing the piano for the daily interdenominational chapel service and heading the volunteer assistants program. "The volunteer assistants are a group of folks comprised of community members turning their lives around," London says, "and they do that by donating their time to us so they can learn to become, or at least start to become, productive people."

Providing daily meals, legal services, a food pantry, a clothing department, and other programs, Stewpot serves transient and impoverished members of the Jackson community. "Stewpot believes that it is only through the medium of love that communities can be changed," London says, "and that love can be expressed in many ways."

A native of Brookhaven, London graduated from high school in Hattiesburg then attended the Piney Woods School. He eventually fell into a life of alcoholism and drug addiction, which lasted several years.

London later met Matt Devenney, who was the executive director of Stewpot at the time. Devenney and Luther Ott, Stewpot's former CEO, "really reached out to me when I didn't want to accept any kind of love or help," London says. "But they stuck with it, and I just so much appreciate that."



Almost two years after he got his life back together, London began working at Stewpot, where he has been for nearly two decades.

"I was being prepared for this ministry by the defects of my life," he said. "One would have to have gone through alcoholism and drug addiction to understand how someone could take their rent money or take their house payment and buy drugs."

In addition to his work at Stewpot, London is chairman of the music department at Sweet Rock Baptist Church. "I consider myself a music minister," he says.

"I am a believer, and I guess that about sums it up."

London will spend his Christmas serving others at Stewpot. "If there are persons out there who are feeling like I was feeling, just never give up, especially during this season," London says. "It's important that people reach out to one another."

## CONGRATULATIONS

# Thanksfest

2010 Award  
Recipients



Volunteer of the Year Award—Doug Spencer

Volunteer of the Year Group Award—Siemens

Volunteer of the Year Congregation Award—Love Ministries

Matt Devenney Lifetime Achievement Award—Mike McRee

Matt Devenney Lifetime Achievement Congregation Award—  
Faith Presbyterian Church

Reverend Donnell Flowers Spirit of Stewpot Award—Janet Brunson



# Stewpot | *by the Numbers*

Everyone in Jackson seems to know that Stewpot feeds people. But what many people don't know is just how many people we feed. Here is a glimpse into how much food is needed for **ONE** average month at Stewpot.

The **Food Pantry** serves **583** people a month. This number includes all the members of the family from parents to children. Each family is given a four day supply of groceries to cover the entire household.

The **Community Kitchen** serves an average of **5,629** meals a month to any member of the community-no questions asked.

**Matt's House Emergency Shelter** for Women & Children provides around **3,360** meals a month to the homeless women and children residing at the shelter.

**Sims House Transitional Shelter** for Women & Children provides approximately **1,300** meals to the families residing at the shelter.

The **Billy Brumfield House** for Men serves the homeless men of Jackson nearly **3,600** meals a month.

The **Opportunity Center**, provides a place for the homeless and low-income of the area to wash clothes, shower, and meet with local service agencies. The Opportunity Center also provides a morning and afternoon snack and in an average month serves **3,240** snacks.

As you can see, we go through a lot of food each month at Stewpot. There is no way any of this could be possible without the support of you- our community, our family! So, from everyone at Stewpot, **Thank You!**

Many of you have not only assisted in this mass feeding effort through your donations and monetary support, but also through taking the time to cook food and bring it to the shelter.

**Thank You, Thank You, Thank You!**

If you are interested in helping any of the above feeding ministries, please contact Tara Lindsey at 601-353-2759 or at [tlindsey@stewpot.org](mailto:tlindsey@stewpot.org).

## Director's Corner

Finally, we have a committee of 12 dedicated individuals who are recruiting teams of 10 people each to each make 50 personal contacts per team to solicit funds to achieve our \$4 million goal. In early January the team members will receive simple training on how to solicit funds by personal meeting and phone calls. Do you

have the chutzpa to ask for funds to help this wonderful ministry prepare for the future? If so, please call me at 601-353-2759 to tell me and we will make rapid use of your willingness to help this ministry prepare for its next 30 years. May God bless you this holiday season and please continue to pray for the success of Stewpot.

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*Faith meeting needs in our community*

# *Happy Holidays from the Stewpot Staff*

## Gifts received in Memory of

Richard Wessman, Margaret McDaniel, Frances Irby, Janice Echols, Milton Mitchell, Mildred Y. Cowan, Dr. William Merrell, Betty W. Whitaker

## Gifts received in Honor of

Dean & Ella Mericas, Charles G. Sallis, Vicki & Dan Murrell, David & Angela Sallis, Tunde & Joyce Olutade, Thomas & Mae Grissom, M/M Mark Hyatt, M/M Jim Elliott, M/M Bill Cooke, M/M Peter Koury, M/M Frank Reilly, Tina Becker

Your Stewpot family now  
has a Facebook page!!



When you are browsing the  
social network scene look up  
the Stewpot facebook page and  
become a fan!

## Got Art?

Do you have any artwork or items you would be interested in donating to Stewpot for auction at Taste of Mississippi next year? All donations are tax deductible and can be given before year's end. Please contact Michelle' Bingham with questions you might have at 601-353-2759 or mbingham@stewpot.org.

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